



# E-Currents

Electronic Newsletter of the Crow River Organization of Water

January 2007

## Citizen Volunteers Clean Up Crow River

Muddy feet, a sore back and pride in a job well done are the rewards of the volunteers that took part in the third annual Crow River Clean Up Day on Saturday, September 16. The event, coordinated by the CROW involved over 250 citizens from 14 communities across the Crow River Watershed. These citizens donated their time to remove garbage and debris from the banks of the Crow River and its tributaries.

In addition to the many citizens that donated their time, 46 local businesses, organizations and communities also contributed to the event.

Communities that participated in the event included Buffalo, Dayton, Delano, Glencoe, Hanover, Hassan Township, Hutchinson, Lake Lillian, New London, Paynesville, Rockford Township, Spicer, St. Michael, and Sumter Township. In total, the clean up resulted in the removal of approximately 5.1 tons of trash from 29 miles of shoreline.

Some of the more noteworthy items removed from the water include: 190 tires, florescent light bulbs, a newspaper stand, a snowmobile, a stove, and a refrigerator. Items identified that could not be pulled out during the event, but will be removed at a later time: vehicle frame, V8 engine block, snowmobile and Jet Ski.

Planning is already underway for the 2007 Crow River Clean Up Day. If you would like to participate, please contact Diane Sander at 763-682-1933 Ext. 3.

### Contact Information

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## **CROW Partners with MFCRWD on Volunteer Monitoring Grant**

The CROW and the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District teamed up to submit a grant application for Clean Water Legacy funds to enhance volunteer monitoring in the Crow River Watershed. The application was one of only 13 applications that were funded through the Surface Water Assessment Program.

This program will improve upon our existing volunteer monitoring programs by providing training opportunities for volunteers and expand the distribution and accessibility of data. The grant will provide \$50,000 to be used to cover training sessions, data management and coordination and laboratory costs. Grant money will also be used to purchase equipment for use by volunteers

The project is expected to begin this spring and be completed by June of 2009. We are looking forward to coordinating volunteer monitoring efforts with the MFCRWD and establishing a more comprehensive volunteer monitoring program throughout the Crow River watershed.

## **CROW working on Strategic Plan**

In order to ensure that the CROW continues to work in an effective manner, the CROW has determined that it is time look at what we have accomplished over the past 7 years, and to determine what course we would like to take in the future. We are inviting our partners to participate in a day long strategic planning session in Hutchinson on January 26, 2007.

This will be an interactive work session, and contributions from our partners will be used by the CROW staff and Board to reexamine our mission and our current workload. This information will be related into a plan for the next 5 years and beyond. We want to make sure that the CROW and our partners are ready to optimize on any new opportunities in the most efficient manner possible. The University of Minnesota Extension Service will be facilitating this effort. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jenny Gieseke at 507-766-0173 or crowriverorg@yahoo.com.

We would like to thank the Upper Mississippi River Source Water Protection Project for funding this effort.

## **CROW completes Data Enrichment Project**

The CROW is currently wrapping up our Data Enrichment Project, funded by the MPCA. This project served as a precursor to TMDL work that is scheduled to begin in 2007. Data gathering and water quality monitoring conducted under the C.R.O.W.'s diagnostic study ceased in 2003. By continuing monitoring on select sites, we avoided a gap in data gathering that would have otherwise occurred. Sampling sites for this project were concentrated in the Lower Crow area based on the upcoming TMDL project. As part of this project, the CROW developed a series of maps of the Crow River Watershed using GIS. These maps are available on a cd in Arc View and JPEG forms to anyone who is interested. Please contact Diane Sander at 763-682-1933 Ext 112 if you would like to receive a copy.