



# Adopt-A-River – Cedar River Watershed District 2011 Summary

## STRETCHES OF CEDAR RIVER CLEANED

- Mower County's north border to the south side of Lansing.
- Ramsey Dam (near Old Mill Restaurant) to County Road 4 (several miles south of Austin).
- Orchard Creek to Riverbend Campground.

## NUMBERS

- **9** Adopt-A-River routes created by CRWD staff had volunteers "adopt" them for cleanup.
- **8** out of those 9 routes were cleaned at least once during 2011 by their volunteers
- **50** or so volunteers helped clean up the Cedar River as part of the Adopt-A-River program.
- **120** tires estimated to have been removed by the Mullenbach group (Orchard Creek to Riverbend)
- **110** tires spotted in the river by the Hull group just between Solafide Observatory and CR 4 bridge.
- **Dozens** of volunteer hours and **thousands** of pounds of trash removed from the Cedar River.

## VOLUNTEER GROUPS

- **Wayde Bishop family** – Mower County's north border to County Road 1.
- **Craig Anderson** – County Road 2 to the south edge of Lansing, past the race track.
- **Pheasants Forever** – North of the Ramsey Mill Pond down to the Ramsey Dam (*not completed in '11*)
- **Rotaract** – Ramsey Dam to Mill Pond in downtown Austin.
- **Barb Wright group** – Fourth Ave. N.E. dam (Riverside Arena) to Marcusen Park
- **CRWD/Minnesota Conservation Corps** – Marcusen Park to Skjeveland Property.
- **Howie Crawford family** – Skjeveland Property to Solafide Observatory.
- **Mike Hull group** – Solafide Observatory to County Road 4.
- **Mullenbach group** – Orchard Creek to Riverbend Campground.

## ROUTES YET TO BE ADOPTED

- **County Road 1 bridge to County Road 2 bridge (just east of Lansing)**
- **County Road 4 bridge to Orchard Creek landing off Hwy. 105** – This was part of an adopted route that we made to be too long. This section did not get cleaned and needs a group to "adopt" it.
- **Riverbend Campground area to the Minnesota-Iowa border** – This is a very long stretch of river that likely could be broken down into two or three Adopt-A-River routes.

## TYPES OF ITEMS REMOVED OVERALL

- \* Bottles and cans      \* Tires      \* Rusty bicycles      \* Traffic cones      \* Metal signs      \* Plastic bags
- \* Hub caps      \* Chair frame      \* 30-gallon trash can      \* Lawn furniture      \* Parts of cars/tractors/bikes      \* Tarps
- \* House siding      \* Kitchenware      \* TV set      \* Couch      \* Carpet/Rug      \* Iron/Steel/Concrete/Rubber/Plastic/Wire
- \* Flower pots      \* 5-gallon chemical cans      \* Bicycle      \* Wood pallets      \* Car bucket seats      \* Rope
- \* Bed frame      \* Coolers      \* Swimming pools      \* Street signs (one attached to pole)      \* Microwave
- \* Computer monitor      \* Large helium tank      \* Rear-end differential      \* Barrels      \* Unidentifiable odds/ends

## ITEMS TOO LARGE/DIFFICULT TO REMOVE

- \* Tires, including ones buried and tractor tires      \* Half-buried trash barrels      \* Bathtubs      \* Car (one)
- \* Metal culverts      \* Tarp up in a tree      \* Oil tanks      \* Fence post with concrete      \* Large metal pieces

## SUMMARY

- “Adopt-A-River” seemed like a great success in its first year. We will work to find more volunteers groups to “adopt” additional routes on the Cedar River.
- Tires are a major issue – the number of tires in the river is much higher than expected but it’s difficult to coordinate their removal. We will work on determining ways to address the tire issue.
- All of the volunteers I spoke with seemed very pleased. All indicated they would do it again in 2012.
- THANKS to the City of Austin and Mower County for helping with the program.

