

RIVER RUN GARBAGE GRAB

August 16, 2008

“Down by the Riverside”



MISSION: Reconnect people of Des Moines with the Des Moines River

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide a hands-on experience that benefits the river and the public
- Raise awareness about river issues and opportunities for river stewardship
- Celebrate the Des Moines River Water Trail

BACKGROUND:

For five years, Izaak Walton League and Central Iowa Paddlers partnered to conduct an annual cleanup event on the Des Moines or Raccoon River in the Des Moines area. Ten to fifteen paddlers typically participated.

In 2007, Central Iowa Paddlers, Iowa Whitewater Coalition and Izaak Walton League expanded the event to include river and land trail cleanup from Cottonwood Recreation Area to Birdland Access, invited the support of additional partners (Corps of Engineers, Iowa DNR, Polk County Conservation, City of Des Moines, Metro Waste Authority, Des Moines Rowing Club) and volunteers (paddlers, rowers, power boaters, walkers, hikers, bicyclers, mountain bikers, birders, etc.). 200 volunteers and 30 staff participated. Ten miles of river and land trail were impacted. Volunteers removed 10 tons of scrap metal (all recycled) and 14 tons of trash. Afterward, lunch and live music were provided for volunteers at Prospect Park.

Check out www.riverstewards.org for information about the 2007 event (2008 information will be rolled out in early April 2008)

PLAN FOR 2008:

- Double the river miles impacted: Cottonwood Recreation Area to Yellow Banks County Park (volunteers with boats may help clean up a section of the river or one of the trails adjacent to the river)
- Engage downtown Des Moines business community and City of Pleasant Hill, and invite broader public support
- Double participation to 400 volunteers
- Provide food and music at the Simon Estes Amphitheatre in the evening
- Invite river-related groups to set up exhibits at the amphitheater

Contacts:

John Wenck, board member-Iowa Whitewater Coalition and event co-chair, at John@winninglistings.com or 515-274-5660

Robin Fortney, board member-Central Iowa Paddlers and event co-chair, at rbfortney@midamerican.com or 515-281-2951 (office)