



Volunteers Scour Spring Lake

Hastings Environmental Protectors recruited and led a group of volunteers in collecting an estimated 52 cubic yards of trash from Spring Lake during an August 28 clean-up event. “One eye scrape and one bee sting, but otherwise no problems,” says Phil Vieth of Hastings Environmental Protectors, who coordinated close to 100 volunteers.

Spring Lake is a wide, shallow spot in the Mississippi River just upstream from Hastings, filled with small islands and lined by Dakota County’s Spring Lake Park Preserve. The one full and two half-full roll off dumpsters contained tires, Styrofoam, plastic bottles, batteries, pieces of iron, freon cylinders, propane cylinders, and even a kitchen sink! Volunteers found some potentially hazardous materials as well. Pollutants in the river can travel downstream as far as the Gulf of Mexico.

A KSTP-TV reporter filmed from a boat while volunteers collected junk from the water’s edge and the islands. While volunteers were the stars of the show, community, government, and business organizations played strong supporting roles: The Lions Club served lunch; a fleet of boats carried participants to clean-up locations (and ferried trash to shore). And, Dakota County Parks, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, C.F. Industries, Flint Hills Resources, National Park Service, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization provided financial support for containers and disposal.



Volunteers found an estimated 52 cubic yards of trash at Spring Lake on the Mississippi River upstream from Hastings.