

**NEWS RELEASE**  
and  
**GENERAL RESULTS SUMMARY**  
of  
**THE 2ND ANNUAL GREAT ROCK RIVER SWEEP of 2011**  
(A river clean-up)

On Saturday, September 10, 2011, 284 volunteers from 15 registered sections along the Rock River in Wisconsin and Illinois banded together to remove an approximate 18,560 pounds of debris, along with 123 tires from our beautiful Rock River. Unlike last year, with the massive flooding experienced, this year's clean-up truly was a one-day river sweep event.

With 15 of our 16 registered sections reporting in, 44 boats, canoes, kayaks, hovercraft, jet skies, and many bank walkers participated to remove, in addition to the tires, 269 bags of trash along with the following items from the river.

- Brake drum, pier deck, bicycles
- Truck rim, folding chair, steel barrel, swing set parts
- Shopping cart, swing set
- Metal barrel
- Wire garden sculpture, plastic chair, plastic bucket, parachute
- Section of eight-foot chain link fence complete with concrete footings, 2 barrels, 5 chairs, and some boat seats, a large political campaign sign washed down from Wisconsin, several short sections of railroad iron and spikes, hundreds of feet of electrical cord and garden hose, and two rusted brake drums
- Tricycle, basketball hoop, steering wheel, basketball, lots of insulation, Styrofoam and hundreds of plastic bottles/cans
- Several old sand bags, shoes
- Barrels, dock parts, bottles and cans, refrigerator, two car batteries, mannequin head. Three of the tires were large, tractor/earth-mover size
- Car bumper, 2 van bench seats, 2 car bucket seat, 1 plastic yard shed, 2 plastic lawn chairs, goose decoy, cast iron sink, mining rr track 4', 100# LP tank, window weights, boombox, Basketball hoop base and pole, 5-5gal buckets of wire, twin bed frame and mattress spring, 3'x4' steel box, fuel can, 20' misc steel pipe, lil tykes plastic car, toy wagon front axle and handle, bench press 15# weight

Along with the individual volunteers that participated, this would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of our Section Coordinators to organize, advertise, and conduct their local event. Rock River Sweep.org wishes to thank these individuals and organizations, along with the sponsors that supported their individual communities with donations of goods, services, and financial support. Thanks to authors, Chad Pregracke, Lina Lukashevich, and Nels Akerlund, along with the American Canoe Association, for their combined generosity toward making the door prizes available once again. Thanks also go out to American Rivers for their invaluable assistance in making this river sweep a success, Boulder Canyon Foods for their generous support by providing healthy snacks for our registered volunteers, and to Specialty Premium Group in Evanston, Illinois and supporter Sigrid Pilgrim, for providing Rock River Sweep.org bumper stickers.

Success is a journey, not a destination... And this successful journey continues as an ongoing celebration of our great Rock River, through annual clean-ups of our river and increased environmental awareness, made possible by partnering individuals and groups along the river valley toward common goals of conservation and responsible stewardship of this wonderful natural resource.

With sections consisting of communities and areas between, and section coordinators ranging from individuals to municipalities, we have proven that it can be done... We can (and will) have a cleaner and healthier Rock River for ourselves, and future generations to enjoy.

Our registered sections and coordinators for 2011 are as follows:

- Section: #1a - Waupun, WI  
Coordinator: Waupun Area Chamber of Commerce
- Section: #1- Horicon, WI  
Coordinator: Horicon Phoenix Group
- Section: #2- Hustisford, WI  
Coordinator: Lake Sinissippi Improvement District
- Section: #3- Watertown, WI  
Coordinator: Rock River Rescue
- Section: #8b- Happy Hollow Park, Rock County, WI  
Coordinator: Rock County Parks
- Section: #8a- Janesville (North), WI  
Coordinator: Rock'n'Janesville
- Section: #8a- Janesville (City of), WI  
Coordinator: Rock'n'Janesville
- Section: #9- Beloit, WI  
Coordinator: City of Beloit
- Section: #11- Rockton, IL  
Coordinator: Rockton Friends of the Rock
- Section: #15b – Rockford (South), IL  
Coordinator: The Illinois Paddling Council, partnered with the Prairie State Canoeists and the Rock River Times
- Section: #16 – Byron, IL  
Coordinator: Byron Forest Preserve District
- Section: #17 – Oregon, IL  
Coordinator: Forward Oregon
- Section: #18 – Grand Detour, IL  
Coordinator: [campingislands.com](http://campingislands.com)
- Section: #19 – Dixon, IL  
Coordinator: Dixon Main Street
- Section: #20 – Sterling, IL  
Coordinator: A Group of Friends
- Section: #24 – Cleveland, IL  
Coordinator: Rex Grove

For additional information and photos please visit our web-site at [www.rockriver sweep.org](http://www.rockriver sweep.org).

**Mark your calendars...**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Great Rock River Sweep**  
**Saturday, September 8, 2012**

Submitted by: The volunteer staff at Rock River Sweep.org  
[www.rockriversweep.org](http://www.rockriversweep.org) October 7, 2011

