



# Crew removes over 200 tires from Cedar

*CRWD project uses Conservation Corps workers to clean river stretch south of Austin*

**AUSTIN, Minn. – Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013** – About 220 tires were pulled out of the Cedar River in late October along several miles of the waterway south of Austin thanks to a Cedar River Watershed District partnership with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa.

More than 700 tires now have been removed since 2011 from the Cedar River in Mower County – including within Austin as well as north and south of the city – under the Cedar River Watershed District’s “Adopt-A-River” initiative. CRWD has covered the cost of the tires’ proper disposal. Prior to the Conservation Corps project, almost all of the tires were removed by volunteers enrolled in the CRWD’s “Adopt-A-River” program.

“The Cedar River is a beautiful waterway in our area, and the hard work recently made by the Conservation Corps members to remove such a large number of tires will help increase the enjoyment of the river for everyone who uses it,” said Justin Hanson, CRWD resource specialist.

Austin resident Mike Hull’s group of volunteers adopted a stretch of the Cedar River from the Solafide Observatory south of Austin to the County Road 4 bridge and had identified at least 100 tires along their section of the river during two cleanups. At the advice of the CRWD, the group focused its cleanups on removing trash and debris – which filled their canoes – and leaving the tires for a larger CRWD project.

CRWD then lined up a crew from the Conservation Corps for a large tire-removal project this fall south of Austin for the Hull group’s adopted stretch of the Cedar River and continuing downstream to the County Road 6 bridge, Hanson said. Overall, 15 Conservation Corps members worked on the project, totaling about 400 individual hours of work on behalf of the CRWD, he said.

Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa provides meaningful work for young people in managing natural resources, responding to disasters, conserving energy and leading volunteers. The program provides training in numerous areas to its participants.

Additionally through its work for the CRWD, Conservation Corps members removed about 14,000 pounds of trash from a dump site north of the village of Lansing along the Cedar River. A four-person crew also worked to open a stretch of the Cedar River between the Ramsey Dam and Wildwood Park (near the Interstate 90 bridge) for canoeists and kayakers. Some areas had been blocked by fallen trees and debris.

“That stretch of the Cedar River is now fully floatable without any areas requiring you to portage your canoe or kayak,” Hanson said. “That was always an issue before this project.”

Within Mower County, the Cedar River is designated as a State Water Trail under a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources’ program. In 2011, the CRWD successfully proposed and secured the legislative approval needed for designating the Cedar River as an official State Water Trail.

## **About the Cedar River Watershed District**

In April 2007, state and local officials formed the CRWD in response to the Cedar River Watershed’s top, worst-known floods occurring in 2000 and 2004. The CRWD’s top priorities are aimed at reducing flooding and improving water quality within the Cedar River Watershed.

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[www.cedarriverwd.org](http://www.cedarriverwd.org)

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