



Goodhue County

509 W. Fifth St.
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office (651) 385.3001

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Scott Arneson, County Administrator
Date: 6/6/2023
Re: Mighty Mississippi Cleanup Challenge

At the 2023 Board of Commissioner yearly goals workshop, Commissioner Flanders had requested for the Mighty Mississippi Cleanup Challenge to be an unofficial board goal. At this time, we can declare this unofficial goal has been a wild success.

Following this workshop, Commissioner Flanders was able to work with County staff and create an intergovernmental working group between County and the City of Red Wing staff to create and issue a state-wide cleanup challenge. At the Commissioner's guidance, staff were able to make a website page, a communications kit, countless press releases, and videos to aid in the challenge.

On March 16th, 2023 the challenge was issued to hundreds of Minnesota county, city, and watershed officials along the Mississippi River. As the issued challenge stated, 'The Challenge is simple but the prospects are endless.' Challenged officials were asked to create a local cleanup project of their choosing, advertise it, and send photos to County staff before June. The local government with the most local participation wins bragging rights and a certificate from Goodhue County/City of Red Wing as well as a certificate from the Governor's Office!

Goodhue County received three submissions from the challenge:

Anoka County

- 85 Volunteers
- 74 bags of trash
- 53 bags of recyclables
- 2 truckloads of larger debris

Dakota County

- 178 Volunteers
- 335 participation hours
- 2,387.5 lbs. of trash removed

Ramsey County

- 50 Volunteers
- 50 bags of trash

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Red Wing, MN 55066

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Goodhue, MN 55027

SUSAN BETCHER
5th District
30133 Lakeview Ave
Red Wing, MN 55066

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We'd like to congratulate Dakota County for winning the 2023 Mighty Mississippi Cleanup Challenge! Additionally, we'd like to thank all those who participated in either scheduled events or by providing supplies to the general public to help aid in the cleanup.