

An 'awesome' cleanup

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

ATTLEBORO - More than 100 volunteers, including Mayor Kevin Dumas, removed trash and other debris from the Ten Mile River on Saturday as part of the city's Third Annual Ten Mile River Cleanup Day.

Participants wore rubber boots and waders to go into the river to remove a variety of items - including tires, branches, aluminum cans and pieces of metal - that had been clogging the waterway.

Other volunteers brought rakes and brush cutters with them to clean up the river, while at least one volunteer used a chainsaw to trim branches jamming the river.

The massive cleanup effort extended from Balfour Riverwalk Park to Mechanics Pond.

"It's just an awesome effort every year," Dumas said, adding the cleaning of the river alleviates flooding problems for residents. "It pays off tenfold." Volunteers met at the Attleboro Community Gardens at the junction of Mechanic Street and Riverbank Road at 8 a.m.

The event was sponsored by the City of Attleboro, the Friends of Attleboro Interested in Revitalization or FAIR, and the Attleboro YMCA's Activate Attleboro initiative, and was organized by the Attleboro Recreation Department, the Attleboro Redevelopment Authority, the Ten Mile River Watershed Alliance, the Attleboro Department of Public Works, the conservation agent, the health department, the park and forestry, the mayor, the city council and other citizens.

"It's definitely a worthwhile effort," said Linda Alger, Attleboro City Council Administrator who was one of the organizers of this year's event.

Alger noted there was less trash being removed from the river compared to last year, a byproduct of the efforts to keep the river clean from debris.

There were other cleanup efforts at other locations as well.

For instance, there were people picking up trash behind the CVS pharmacy store on North Main Street, a Boy Scout troop did cleanup work at Blackinton Pond, and volunteers from a local church also pitched in to beautify the area.

Other local businesses also contributed to the cleanup.

For example, Attleboro Sand and Gravel donated stone dust to restore the existing paths along the Ten Mile River and Dunkin' Donuts on Pleasant Street donated food and beverages.

In addition, the city's park and recreation department worked to remove brush along the river across from Willett Field, the Attleboro Health Department supplied gloves and trash bags, and the

Members of the Attleboro Republican City Committee provided sandwiches for the volunteers. Joseph S. Siegel is a freelance writer for The Sun Chronicle. He can be reached at joesiegel@cox.net.