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**Eight tons of trash and recyclables hauled out at seventh annual Spokane River clean-up; date set for 2010 clean-up**

Over 750 volunteers turned out for the seventh annual Spokane River Clean-up, held Saturday, September 26, to clean up the Spokane River Gorge and a stretch of the Spokane River in the University District. City of Spokane Solid Waste Management crews picked up bags of recyclables and garbage collected by volunteers weighing 16,447 pounds of trash, or 8+ tons, up from 12,020 picked up in 2008. Of that total, Earthworks Recycling processed 5,207 pounds of various recyclables, from scrap metal to glass and plastic, up from 4,101 pounds recycled in 2008.

Hundreds of people combed the banks; a crew of kayakers and rafters handled in-river finds; and a dozen or so hardy bicyclists tackled a stretch by the Bowl & Pitcher. According to the organizers of World Rivers Day, an international effort to bring awareness to the world's rivers held September 27, the Spokane River Clean-up was the biggest hands-on clean-up event taking place that weekend as far as they know. This year's event also fell on National Public Lands Day and during Sustainable September Spokane.

This year, the "most interesting trash" competition was judged by Spokesman-Review columnist Doug Clark, working with local artist and garbologist Gabriel Brown. Entries in four categories—most characteristic of Spokane, "best outfit," useful, and beautiful—filled the picnic shelter at High Bridge Park. Prizes were donated by Geo Engineers, Domini's, Neato Burrito, The Scoop, Farmgirl Candy/Omo, Merlyn's, Wild Walls, Forza Coffee Shop, Community-Minded Enterprises, and the Trailer Park Girls, the band with which Doug Clark plays. Northwest Whitewater Association donated the grand prize, a raft trip for four people.

Next year's Spokane River Clean-up will be held Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010—once again the same weekend as World Rivers Day on Sunday, Sept. 26, and the same day as the 2010 National Public Lands Day.

The event comes together each year through the coordination efforts of Friends of the Falls, which works to engage people directly with the Spokane River so they will love it and work to keep it clean, safe and accessible for generations to come. Three dozen team leaders, on-site

volunteer medics and incident commanders, a dedicated recycling crew, and a large steering committee representing many of the event's partner organizations all work on the event details.

The Spokane River Clean-Up is made possible by event sponsors and the contributions of many community partners.

**Sponsors:** Avista, Alt29, Spokane River Stewardship Partners, Spokesman-Review/Down to Earth, Wheelabrator, Burlington Northern, City of Spokane.

**Partners:** Bike to Work Spokane, David's Pizza, Department of Ecology, Downtown Spokane Partnership, Earthworks Recycling, Fat Tire Mountain Bike Club, FLOW Adventures, Futurewise, Gonzaga University, Jensen Distributing, Mountain Gear, Mt. Spokane Ski Patrol, Northern Lights Brewery, Northwest Whitewater Association, Out There Monthly, Providence Associates Medical Labs, REI, Rings & Things, Sodexo, Spokane Canoe & Kayak Club, Spokane Community College/Water Resources Program, Spokane Falls Community College, Spokane Fire Department, Spokane Fly Fishers, Spokane Mountaineers, Spokane Regional Health District, Spokane River Forum, Spokane Riverkeeper, Spokane Transit Authority, Sustainable September, The Lands Council, Thinking Cap Communications, Thomas Hammer Coffee, Troika Triathlon, Trout Unlimited, Veterans Conservation Corps, Waste Management Inc., West Central Community Center, WSU Spokane.

#### **On the Web:**

- Friends of the Falls: [www.friendsofthefalls.org](http://www.friendsofthefalls.org)
- KHQ story Sept. 26, 2009: <http://www.khq.com/Global/story.asp?S=11204895>
- KREM story Sept. 27, 2009: <http://www.krem.com/news/local/stories/krem2-092609-cleanup.1bf7cfd5c.html>
- Spokesman-Review photo gallery: <http://www.spokesman.com/photosets/2009/sep/26/spokane-river-cleanup/>
- Spokesman-Review article Sept. 26, 2009 online version: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2009/sep/26/volunteers-find-river-trash/>
- Spokesman-Review article Sept. 27, 2009: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2009/sep/27/spokane-river-cleanup-yields-heaps-of-trash/>
- Spokanarama: <http://spokanarama.blogspot.com/2009/09/spokane-river-clean-up-2009.html>
- Down to Earth Northwest: <http://www.downtoearthnw.com/photosets/2009/sep/26/spokane-river-cleanup/>
- Whitworthian: <http://www.whitworthian.com/news/river-cleanup-draws-hundreds-1.1915923>
- Gonzaga Bulletin: <http://media.www.gonzagabulletin.com/media/storage/paper375/news/2009/09/25/OnlineExclusives/Spokane.River.CleanUp.Largest.Event.Internationally.At.World.Rivers.Day-3784549.shtml>