

8th Annual Cedar River Cleanup

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On August 3rd 2021, I enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the Cedar River Annual Cleanup, led by the Little Forks Conservancy. The Cedar River is a 29 mile stretch of river and is a tributary of the Tobacco River, which itself is a tributary to the Tittabawassee River. This event served as the 8th Annual Cleanup on the Cedar River.

The 2021 Annual Clean Up consisted of paddling 4.5 miles of the Cedar River in search of trash littered along the banks and in the stream channel, from the Chapel Dam Road access to Gladwin City Park. The river was shallow this year, requiring us to get out and pull our kayaks through several areas to shallow or rocky to paddle through. Despite this, it was a perfect, sunny day to be out on the river to do our part to protect its habitat and environmental quality. Wildlife sightings included a mink and many turtles, including the Blanding's Turtle (a species of special concern in the state of Michigan).

Our clean up crew consisted of eleven people, with ten people in kayaks and one in a canoe for recovering larger, heavier items. Commonly found items included littered beer cans and wrappers. Some of the stranger items found included a metal folding chair, two wheels, and a metal garbage can (excellent for collecting even more trash!). In total, we recovered 506 pounds of trash from the river!

I am very grateful for the opportunity to participate in this important event to do my part for this watershed and the environment through trash removal, and to help to represent the Midland Conservation District by building upon valuable, local partnerships with organizations such as the Little Forks Conservancy and the Gladwin Conservation District.

