

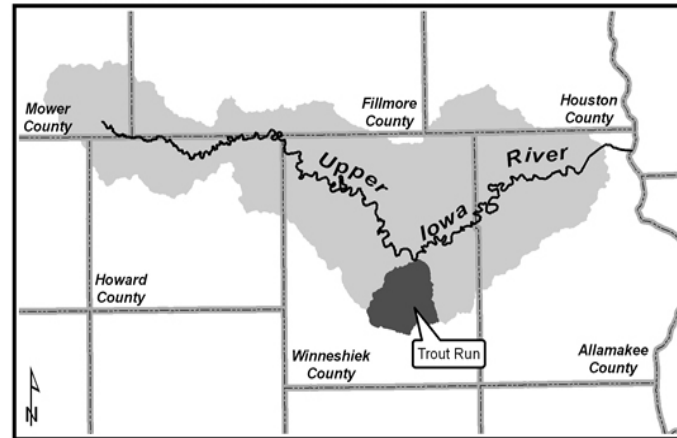
Trout Run Reforestation Project Aims to Improve Water Quality in Area Watershed

The Trout Run Reforestation Project succeeded in enrolling nearly 42 acres of highly erodible cropland in the Trout Run Watershed into a reforestation program. The project was implemented with the goals of reducing soil erosion and positively impacting water quality in the Trout Run Sub-watershed and the encompassing Upper Iowa River Watershed.

Through support and landowner incentives provided by the Iowa Farm Bureau, Winneshiek County Farm Bureau, Iowa DNR-Forestry Bureau, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Division of the USDA Forest Service, the McKnight Foundation and Northeast Iowa RC&D, landowners were encouraged to reforest highly erodible cropland that had a slope of over 12% and was based on fragile forest-formed soils.

In 2003, 24 total acres were enrolled by two landowners and during the 2004 sign-up, an additional 18 acres were enrolled by three landowners. The acres enrolled in the program will most likely be both direct seeded and planted with hardwood seedlings. Reforesting these designated "hot spots" will effectively reduce soil erosion, not only saving valuable soil, but also improving the water quality of the Upper Iowa River and its tributaries. Along with reducing erosion, the added timber will provide increased habitat for wildlife and serve as a long term financial investment for the landowner. The project also heightened landowner awareness of soil erosion and water quality within the Trout Run Watershed.

Trout Run Sub-watershed



For more information on the Trout Run Reforestation Project, please contact Forestry Coordinator Richard Kittelson at the Northeast Iowa RC&D office at (563) 864-7112 or by e-mail at kittelson@netins.net.

This project has been funded in part by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Non-point Source Management Program (Section 319 of the Clean Water Act).

Be sure to check out our website: www.northeastiowarcd.org/uirw

2004 Friends of the Upper Iowa River

Many thanks to the following individuals and organizations that contributed to the Friends of the Upper Iowa River Fund during 2004.

- Randy & Cheryl Brenton
- Fred Carlson Co.
- City of Decorah
- Conservation Districts of Iowa
- Craft's at Bluffton
- Jon & Mary Hart
- John Hoines
- Dave & Jane Jensen
- Paul & Pat Johnson
- Palisades Chapter
- Izaak Walton League
- Ronald R. Reis

- Kevin & Leslie Sand
- Larry & Deanna Stevenson
- Lime Springs Fish & Game Club
- Steve & Donna Story
- Ted Wilson
- Winneshiek County
- Winneshiek County Conservation
- Jean Young
- In-Kind Sponsors**
- Decorah Bicycles
- Chimney Rock Campground & Canoe Rental

Volunteers Make 2004 Upper Iowa River Clean-up a Success

The third annual "Upper Iowa River Clean-up" took place September 25th, 2004 and was a tremendous success. Nearly 75 volunteers floated the 17-mile stretch from Kendallville to Bluffton in canoes and kayaks removing over 1300 pounds of trash and recyclable materials from the river.

The project was a collaboration between Chimney Rock Canoe Rental and Campground, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation & Development. Northeast Iowa RC&D Forestry Coordinator Richard Kittelson, who co-directed the clean-up, was impressed with the volunteer turnout.

"The attitude and effort of the volunteers was absolutely terrific. It's great to see such a large turnout of individuals that are committed to making sure we all have clean rivers to enjoy," stated Kittelson. Including travel time, the volunteers logged over 965 hours to improve the water quality and scenic beauty of the Upper Iowa River.

Special thanks go to the many sponsors whose contributions helped make the clean-up possible. Chimney Rock Canoe Rental and Campground donated the use of canoes and campsites to volunteers. Food and drinks were provided by K&S Grocery, Fareway Grocery, Subway of Decorah, Mike's Fruit Market, Wal-Mart of Decorah, Casey's of Decorah, Kwik Star of Decorah and Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Decorah.

Door prizes were provided by Ozzie's Outdoors, Upper Iowa Marine, Fred Carlson Co., Cabela's, Wal-Mart of Decorah, Happy Joe's Pizza & Ice Cream Parlor, Mabe's Pizza, Pizza Hut of Decorah, Oneota Lanes, Subway of Cresco, O'Henry's Stitches & Prints, Valley Inn of Kendallville and RV Sales & Service of Cresco. Recycling partners for the clean-up included; Spectrum Recycling, Decorah Tire and Service, McCaffrey Scrap Metal, Rockweiler's Appliance and Clayton County Recycling.

For more information on the Upper Iowa River Clean-up Project and/or NE IA RC&D's other projects please contact Northeast Iowa RC&D at (563) 864-7112 or by e-mail at netrcd@ia.usda.gov.

Donations Sought for 2005 Water Quality Testing
Northeast Iowa RC&D is currently seeking donations to fund monthly water quality testing in the Upper Iowa River and its tributaries in 2005. Continued water quality monitoring is crucial to the success of our watershed improvement projects. Please fill out the pledge card below and help us protect the Upper Iowa River.

Become a Friend of the Upper Iowa River!

Don't miss your chance to provide much needed financial assistance to continue water testing in the Upper Iowa River and its tributaries. Just clip the form below and send with your tax deductible contribution. Together we can make a difference!

2005 Annual Pledge Card

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Yes! I/We would like to become a Friend of Upper Iowa River with a gift of:

- _____ \$25
- _____ \$50
- _____ \$100
- _____ \$250
- _____ \$500
- _____ \$1000

- _____ Other Amount
- _____ Please check here if you wish to remain anonymous

Please make your check payable to Northeast Iowa RC&D, Inc. Send to: PO Box 916, Postville, IA 52162