

MWA

Morse Waterways Association

Morse Waterways Association Newsletter August 2024 Lake Cleanup Special Edition!

LAKE CLEANUP 2024 BROKE ALL RECORDS:

Friday July 19th and Saturday July 20th celebrated the 20th annual Morse Waterways Association Lake Cleanup. The results were extraordinary! The logs and debris removed from the lake on those two days set a record by an amazing amount. When everything was finally removed from the park on Thursday the 25th the final count was 9 30-yard dumpsters of logs and 1 20-yard dumpster of debris. The previous record was 15 dump truck loads and, to put this year into perspective, we estimate an equivalent of at least 30 truckloads. It was absolutely amazing and a tribute to everyone who helped with this event.

PRODUCTIVE DAY FOR DUKE ENERGY VOLUNTEERS:

The work started on Friday morning with volunteers from Duke Energy meeting at the town docks to remove all the logs and debris that had accumulated in and around the town docks and the BoatHouse docks. This is the second year in a row that volunteers from Duke Energy have helped with the cleanup. They worked from 8:00 am until noon removing logs and debris. The MWA provided boats to tow the logs to Red Bridge Park, where the town of Cicero provided an operator and front end loader to remove the logs, have them cut by volunteers if necessary, and deposit them into the dumpsters. The result was two full dumpsters.





When the work was finished, the BoatHouse Restaurant generously provided lunch for all the Duke Energy and MWA volunteers.

THE MAIN EVENT:

The official 2024, Saturday Lake Cleanup, began promptly at 8:00. As always, volunteers arrived to help pull the logs to shore. Boats came towing logs, limbs, and debris. The city, again, provided the loader and operator to pull the logs out of the water and the MWA had the chainsaw gang to cut the logs as needed.

There was, however, a change in the procedure for 2024. In an attempt to minimize damage to the park property, on Friday, two 30-yard dumpsters were provided by Thomas Docks for logs and one 20-yard dumpster for debris. The two large dumpsters were emptied on Friday and ready for refill on Saturday.

A short time after the work began, however, Thomas Docks arrived with a barge filled with logs and the level of activity increased considerably. It took a couple of hours to empty the barge and, by that time, a major que of logs from the volunteers had accumulated at the shore. Unfortunately, the large volume of logs quickly resulted in two filled dumpsters. With that, it became necessary to start a pile of logs on the ground between the dumpsters. That space, in turn, filled and another pile was started at the east end of the dumpsters.

We finally ran out of time and space and the work stopped at around 3:30 pm, well beyond the scheduled stopping time of noon. It was certainly a day to remember and a sincere note of gratitude to all those who worked for so many hours to get this all done.

Although cleanup day had ended, the work continued the following week. Thanks again, to the town, Thomas Docks, and MWA volunteers, the two dumpsters were emptied and reloaded 3 times with one final dumpster emptied on Thursday, for a total of 9 dumpsters of logs. Lake Cleanup 2024 was an extraordinary event!



Lake Cleanup was a huge success thanks to many companies and individuals. It is appropriate that we extend special recognition and gratitude to the following:

Town of Cicero-Terry Cooper – Street and utility Director.

Shannon Fiddler for his patience and many hours of driving the loader.

Jimmie Hunter – Cicero Parks Superintendent.

Thomas Docks for supplying the dumpsters and bringing a barge of logs and debris.

Dan Derda and his chainsaw who came all the way from Danville to help.

Greencycle for taking the logs and debris.

Duke Energy volunteers (Mark LaBarr, J.D. Cox, Don McDuffy, Travis Krick, Ryan Delphia, Kristin Gong, & Nico Kennerly)

Edward Jones for donating the water for the volunteers.

Martin Marietta materials for helping with restoration of Redbridge Park.

Mike Berry for the wonderful pictures of all this activity.

Most importantly, thank you to all the volunteers that made this happen and those who generously donated to help with the additional expenses.

THOUGHTS FOR 2025:

1. To all volunteers who brought logs to the park and had to wait or had difficulty getting the logs to shore, while the barge was being unloaded, we appreciate your patience and understanding.
2. To all those who worked the extra hours to get this job completed, thank you for your dedication. We will be reviewing the event to avoid having such a long day in the future, should we encounter a similar situation.
3. While the Thomas Dock barge was instrumental in providing a significant portion of the material that was removed from the lake, and we greatly appreciate their efforts, the MWA will be considering other options for unloading, so as not to interfere with and delay the work of the volunteer boats.
4. The cost of removing 9 dumpsters of logs and 1 dumpster of debris was a major expense that the MWA did not have in previous years. We will be reevaluating this process for next year.
5. Remember: Do not bring logs to the ramp on any other days during the year. While we realize that this can be an inconvenience, the Parks Department does not have the manpower and equipment to remove logs every day of the year.

DONATE TO THE MORSE WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION:

The MWA is dedicated to protecting and preserving the Morse Reservoir so that it can be a source of enjoyment for many years to come. Please consider supporting this mission.

Donations can be made to Morse Waterways Assoc., P.O Box 422, Cicero, IN 46034 or by using PayPal as found on the website (morseh2o.org).

Please consider that our expenses are increasing. To preserve the quality of Red Bridge Park we will be required to pay to have logs and debris hauled away. These are new expenses for this event.

The MWA board has also been paying fees to write and submit L.A.R.E. grants and additional funding will be needed if we are to be able to proceed with the Safety Sign.

So, please consider donating to the MWA and supporting these important projects.

ONE LAST NOTE:

A very special note of gratitude to **Dave Vanette** and **Art Hall** for all the time and energy they invested in making the 2024 lake cleanup a success.

Current MWA Board Members:

Matt Clarke	Roger Goings	Pat Kelleher	John Weis
Andy Sheets	Dean Denhart	Art Hall	Eric Harley
John Myer	Dustin Dixon	Jeff Derda – President	
Dave Vanette – Vice President	Chuck Watkins – Secretary	Jerry Schwier – Treasurer	

Thank you to all of those who have contributed to the Morse Waterways Association.

Jeff Derda, President – Morse Waterways Association

