

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **West Des Moines, IA – July 19, 2021:**

Middle, South & North Raccoon Rivers – Iowa Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition) traveled a total of 48.8 miles on the Middle, South and North Raccoon Rivers to clean up trash, last week. Each year, for a full week, hundreds of volunteers assemble to clean up trash, learn about the environment and Iowa as well as have a true impact on the community and environment around them. Starting at Henderson Park in Jefferson, IA on Monday the 12th and ending at Van Meter Access in Van Meter, IA on Friday the 16th.

Iowa Project AWARE's goal is to improve the health of Iowa's rivers. Each year they choose a different river or stream to clean out as their project. While doing the cleaning portion, Iowa Project AWARE is committed to the education of participants in the land's history, culture, geology and ecology of the watershed, water safety and give them the tools to lead a cleanup on their own.

This year, to help Iowa Project AWARE, the Heartland Co-op location in Redfield cleared a designated spot for them to pile up tires that the volunteers removed from the rivers. By the end of the week, there was an impressive amount of tires piled up. This is not necessarily a positive thing as they shouldn't be in the river, but the pile shows the hard work these volunteers have accomplished.

The best way to make an impact is to do what Iowa Project AWARE is doing: act, educate and share.

To learn more about Iowa Project AWARE, visit their website: <https://www.iowaprojectaware.org/>

See below, the tire pile at the Heartland Co-op location in Redfield, IA.



Heartland Co-op Redfield location & tires



Redfield Location Manager, Lee Erwin, in front of tire pile