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## Volunteers Help Make Mullens Shine

Nearly 20 volunteers turned out on Saturday, April 16th to help make this year's Make It Shine/Keep America Beautiful event, sponsored by the City of Mullens and the Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association, a huge success. Beautiful weather, good company, and a delicious home-cooked meal made for an enjoyable day spent on the river. Cleanup volunteers collected over 30 bags of trash from the banks of the Guyandotte River, covering much of the distance from the Mullens Opportunity Center to the Mullens city limits. Thanks to the efforts of these hard-working volunteers, drivers entering south Mullens will now have a view of the river that is not littered with trash.

The efforts of the Make It Shine volunteers inspired others to pitch in, and community-minded individuals could be seen cleaning up all over Mullens last Saturday. Mullens Moose Lodge members cleared brush for the planned Caboose Museum and Linear Park. All area citizens, church groups, civic organizations, and school groups are encouraged to participate in future cleanup events.

The Wyoming County Solid Waste Authority also participated in the Make It Shine program this year. Mike Kennedy and the Southern Regional Jail litter crew spent three days in early April collecting 3 tons of litter from illegal dumps along Rte. 16 between the Mullens city limits and Elmore Bridge.

Overall, Wyoming County showed outstanding participation in the program with Herndon Heights/Bud Mt. Neighborhood Watch and US Army Corps of Engineers at RD Bailey Lake also conducting cleanup projects.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of this event! Louise Hess, Peg McClain, Jason Mullins and the Coffee Pot staff, Coal Heritage Highway Authority, City of Mullens, and Little General provided the food and supplies for breakfast and lunch. Rev. Brad and Sherry Palmer of the Presbyterian Church prepared a delicious spaghetti dinner for the cleanup volunteers. Americorps NCCC volunteers took time away from their Tater Hill trail project to help out. The following people spent four hours picking up trash: Butch McNeely, Kay King, Frank "Bucky" Blackwell, Mark Blackwell, Terry Tilley, Dave Worley, Kathy Lusk, Daniel Hogan, Severin Behrer, Lara Neece, Amanda Reese, Bart Houck, Morgan McKinney, Patrick Corcoran, Kelly Jo Drey, Allie Litton, and Erin Haugh.

Local sponsors for the event included the City of Mullens, Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association, Americorps NCCC, and Upper Guyandotte Chapter Trout Unlimited. WV DEP, WV DOH, and WV DNR sponsor the Make It Shine program and provided trash bags, gloves, hauling, and landfill fees.