

4-H Conservation Club Fugitive Tire Removal from PV Park

Bright and early Saturday, April 26th, five members of our group arrived in the parking lot to begin removing tires that we had located around the park.

After picking up the first couple tires, we decided to drive back the farm road to what used to be Anna's farm, and work our way out from there. We planned on stopping at the three other dump areas on the way out.

When I had been out walking the trails in the fall when we were deciding on what to name the trails, I had seen three tires out around Anna's former house site. But since the weeds had been high, and I hadn't really been searching for tires at the time - I missed A LOT of the tires that were actually in this location.

On Saturday, when I parked the truck out on the farm road above Anna's and I told the kids to scout around to find those three tires - they found more like 50-60 tires.

Most of them had been there for years and years, cause they were well dry-rotted. Some had rims, and if the tire would not come up if we tugged on them - we left them there. (The program we were collecting tire for will not take tires with rims.)

It was a good thing I had brought along a hoe, shovel, rake and long handled shears. When I loaded the tools on the truck - I was thinking of using them to prod the tires to make sure nothing had taken up residence before the kids picked the tires up. But we ended up using them to dig and pry the tires from the ground. They also came in handy for dragging some of the tires to the truck. We even had to use the shears to cut down some multi-flora rose bushes that had grown up inside of a few of the tires, so that we could get the tires out.

We loaded the pickup truck up once, drove to Export Tire and then went back for a second load of tires. If I had known there were that many tires in the park, I would have made arrangements to bring a larger truck. LOL

The kids tried to mutiny after the first load of tires, because we wouldn't be able to have them picked up and back to Export Tire by 12:00 Noon. But when we dropped off the first load, Export Tire told me that as long as we were back by 1:30 with the second load of tires, they would take them for us. So we headed back out to try to get the rest of the tires.

We picked up 26 tires in the first load and 29 in the second load. If we had more time and a larger truck, we could have picked up a few more, because we didn't even go to two of the trash dump areas that I had scouted out earlier. But, the truck was full and we just couldn't load another tire on it the second time. However, when we clean the trash from those areas sometime this year, we will just pick the tires up with the other trash.

Our group had fun doing the Fugitive Tire Program. They worked hard for those 55 tires, but probably enjoyed the reward at the end a bit more. We stopped at Sheetz for drinks and snacks after we were done.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Belak
Organizational Leader
4-H Conservation Club