



RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Justin Altice and Dan Triman Date: 06-26-18

Starting Location and Time: Rio Mills Rd Below the Dam (2:00 PM)

Ending Location and Time: Free Bridge (4:00 PM)

Weather: Cloudy Recent Precipitation: Heavy rain previous week

USGS Gauges: Earlysville 3.50 ft (390 cfs), Palmyra 4.90 ft (1700 cfs)

Water Color: Orange / Brown Water Odor: None Air Temp: 75° F

DO: 6 ppm PH: 7 Turbidity: 80 JTU Water Temp: 24° C

Water Testing Location: 38°02.5'N 78°27.2'W Darden Towe Ramp

Land Use:

Starts at 29 corridor as commercial use, then residential use along Polo Grounds Rd, next is open space, and then Penn Park & Darden Towe Park.

Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Turtles, Hawk, Tree Swallows, Smaller Fish jumping out of the water, Deer, Eagle, Ducks, Osprey, Kingfisher, 3 Blue Herons. A lot of downed trees and sediment covered vegetation from recent storms and flooding. One large tree down just above Darden Towe boat ramp blocking the majority of the river (River right). The large tree that had been down on the River right side of the Rivanna for several years (just below the Confluence of the North and South Forks was no longer there, so must have been washed down river during the big storms recently.

People Interactions:

We were joined on the paddle by Matt Ascoli from Albemarle County Fire and Rescue. We saw a couple of people on the beach near the Camelot neighborhood, and a couple people at the Darden Towe boat ramp.

Litter and Pollution:

Collected ½ bag of small trash. There were several larger objects found as well (some high up in trees) including tires, lawn furniture, a recycling bin lid, 2 buoys (likely from the Reservoir), a large sheet metal object, a large metal object buried in one of the beaches at Darden Towe, and the same railroad bridge debris mentioned in previous reports. The piece of a car near Darden Towe appeared to have been washed down river.

Overall Summary:

Water levels and flows meant a mostly smooth paddle trip, with some good wildlife seen. The wooden dock that was at the 29 bridge put in is now gone (likely washed down river). Lots of sediment still on the Darden Towe boat ramp and parking lot area. The recent storms and high water levels has changed the look of the Rivanna River, as there are many downed trees, debris piles, and highly eroded banks.

Actions Needed – level of priority (1 highest/5 lowest):

- 3 – Clear sediment on Darden Towe boat ramp;
- 3 – Remove larger items (railroad scrap, tree, sheet metal, buried metal object at Darden beach)
- 3 – Replace floating dock at 29 bridge below the Dam



Figure 1: Location of missing wooden dock at 29 bridge



Figure 2: One of the heron seen today



Figure 3: View of the Dam looking upstream



Figure 4: Example of debris caught in trees



Figure 5: 1 of 2 orange buoys found (likely from Reservoir)



Figure 6: Scrap metal in river under Railroad bridge



Figure 7: Wooden ties under Railroad bridge



Figure 8: Railroad tie plates under the bridge



Figure 9: Example of downed tree and eroded banks



Figure 10: View of the North Fork looking upstream



Figure 11: Kingfisher sitting in a tree



Figure 12: Mimosa tree blossoms



Figure 13: Turtle perched on a log



Figure 14: Large metal object buried at Darden beach



Figure 15: Tree down across river above Darden boat ramp



Figure 16: Sediment at Darden Towe boat ramp



Figure 17: Trash collected during the paddle



Figure 18: Sediment in Darden Towe parking lot