



## RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Justin Altice and Dan Triman   Date: 04-27-18  
Starting Location and Time: Rio Mills Rd Below the Dam (1:00 PM)  
Ending Location and Time: Free Bridge (4:00 PM)  
Weather: Cloudy, some sun   Recent Precipitation: Rain previous night  
USGS Gauges: Earlysville 2.80 ft (285 cfs), Palmyra 5.85 ft (2600 cfs)  
Water Color: Orange / Brown   Water Odor: None   Air Temp: 65° F  
DO: 6 ppm   PH: 7   Turbidity: 60 JTU   Water Temp: 15° C  
Water Testing Location: 38°02.5'N 78°27.2'W Darden Towe Ramp

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### 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, Butterflies, Tree Swallows, Crow, Vultures, Smaller Fish jumping out of the water, Groundhog, Deer, 3 Eagles, Cardinal, Geese, Ducks, and Woodpecker. Some flowering colors along banks, vegetation getting greener and denser after recent rains we have gotten.

### People Interactions:

Rivanna River Company (RRC) shuttled us and provided the kayaks for our paddle today. Only saw a couple of people fishing in Darden Towe, people walking along the trails, and 1 person at the Darden Towe boat ramp.

### Litter and Pollution:

Collected ½ bag of small trash. Larger trash items also (1 tire, abandoned bicycles, railroad bridge trash, piece of a car, and sheet metal object).

### Overall Summary:

This was our scouting paddle for the Spring Sojourn Cleanup Paddle coming up on Sunday this week. Water levels and flows were extremely high today, but it actually made for a smooth paddle. A lot of good wildlife seen, and a lot of large trash items to look into removing this year.

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

- 3 – Remove the rest of the small trash;
- 3 – Remove larger items (railroad scrap, car, tree, and sheet metal)



Figure 1: View of the Dam looking upstream



Figure 2: Some of the many turtles seen today



Figure 3: Hawk flying overhead



Figure 4: 1<sup>st</sup> photo of scrap material under Railroad bridge



Figure 5: Steel tie plates under Railroad bridge



Figure 6: More scrap under Railroad bridge





Figure 7: Wooden ties under Railroad bridge



Figure 8: Abandoned bicycles along the bank



Figure 9: Large sheet metal object found on the bank



Figure 10: Eagle sitting up in a tree



Figure 11: Closer view of the Eagle



Figure 12: Eagle taking flight





Figure 13: View upstream of the Forks Confluence



Figure 14: Large downed tree River Right after Confluence



Figure 15: Raft tied to a tree along the bank



Figure 16: 2 of the Geese we saw today



Figure 17: Car at River Left just before Darden boat ramp



Figure 18: View of the Rivanna from Darden Towle boat ramp



Figure 19: Water level at Free Bridge



Figure 20: Some of the trash collected on the trip