



RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Dan Triman and Justin Altice Date: 11-16-17

Starting Location and Time: Riverview Park (12:00 PM)

Ending Location and Time: Milton (3:15 PM)

Weather: Sunny Recent Precipitation: Light Rain Previous Night

USGS Gauges: Earlysville 1.48 ft (39 cfs), Palmyra 2.67 ft (154 cfs)

Water Color: Brownish Water Odor: None Air Temp: 60° F

DO: 5 ppm PH: 7 Turbidity: 20 JTU Water Temp: 16° C

Water Testing Location: Riverview Park River Right (38°01.4'N 78°27.2'W)

Land Use:

Residential mainly, with some commercial use and park property

Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Turtles, 1 Great Blue Heron, Small Fish, Geese, Kingfishers, Small Birds, 1 Eagle, Vultures, Crow. Vegetation is as expected for this time of year.

People Interactions:

The purpose of this paddle was to remove the remaining pieces of the trailer that was reported buried in the Rivanna River near Milton earlier this year. On August 31st, 2017, members of Albemarle County Fire Rescue and Albemarle County Parks and Rec, were kind enough to volunteer their time and equipment to pull the trailer from the River and cut it up into smaller pieces. Due to the size of the trailer and amount of time it took to remove it and cut it into pieces, another team had to go back out in September to float the pieces in canoes down to the Luck Stone property for removal. They were able to remove just about all of the pieces of the trailer during this outing, except for the 2 wheel assemblies, which were dragged up onto the bank for future removal. Photos are included below in this report of the initial removal and cutting of the trailer.

Due to lack of rain the past few months and low water levels, we needed to wait until we had favorable conditions to go back and retrieve the last pieces of the trailer (the 2 wheel assemblies). Today we were finally able to get out on the Rivanna River and complete the trailer removal project, by removing the 2 wheel assemblies.



No other paddlers were seen on the Rivanna today during our paddle, although several other people were at Riverview Park. Chris Gensic from Charlottesville Parks & Rec joined us on the paddle today. He provided his canoe and towed it during the paddle, so we could put all the trash items we collected in it (including the 2 wheel assemblies). We were also assisted with our efforts today by Albemarle County Parks and Rec, as they provided a dump truck and met us at the Milton boat ramp at the end of the paddle to help us lift everything out of the water, shuttle us and our boats, and dispose of the items removed from the Rivanna River.

We want to say a very special thank you to everyone who helped RCA complete this trailer removal project (as it would not have been possible without their time and assistance), including the following:

Albemarle County Fire Rescue: John Oprandy, David Puckett, Matt Ascoli, Philip Burkett, Matt Walker, and Gilbert Monroe.

Albemarle County Parks and Rec: Dan Mahon, Tucker Rollins, Colby Pegg-Joplin, Matt Smith, Joe Clark, and Ryan Grant

Charlottesville Parks and Rec: Chris Gensic

Luck Stone: Tom Fleming

Litter and Pollution:

Collected 2 large bags of smaller pieces of trash (such as bottles and cans), several pieces of sports equipment (balls and boogie board), 1 large piece of metal, and removed 7 tires from River (2 of the tires were the wheel assemblies from the buried trailer near Milton, and the other 5 tires were found along the banks of the Rivanna River).

Overall Summary:

We took advantage of the warmer than usual temperatures for this time of year, and were able to go and remove the remaining pieces of the trailer from the Rivanna River today (the entire trailer has now been removed). There was a lot more trash and litter found today than usual. Downed power lines at Railroad bridge, just past I-64 bridge overpass will need to be removed (see photos below).

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

1 – Remove downed power lines in River (38°00'58.7"N 78°26'52.0"W)

Note: Chris Gensic mentioned he has a contact at Buckingham Railroad he can call to help with this.



Figure 1: Downed power line in River at Railroad Bridge



Figure 2: Another photo of downed power lines

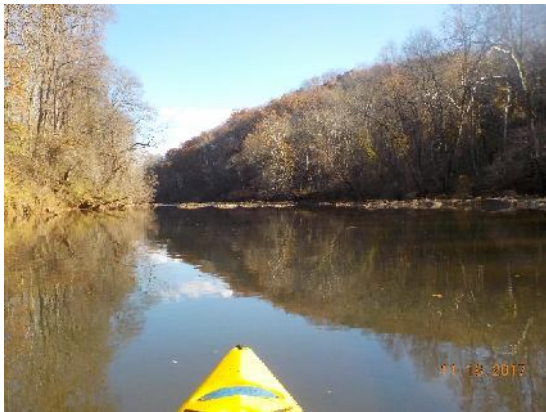


Figure 3: View of the Rivanna River today



Figure 4: Heron taking flight

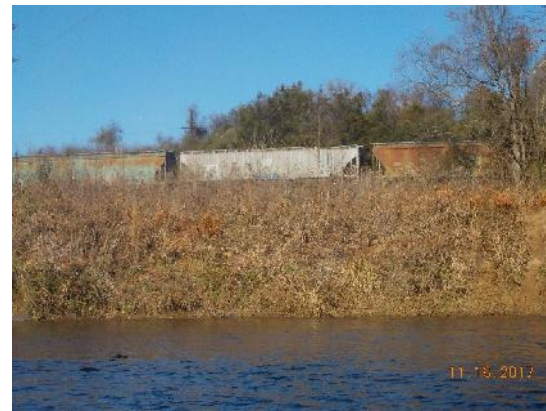


Figure 5: Train passing by near the River



Figure 6: Eagle's nest on power line tower



Figure 7: Area where trailer was buried before removal



Figure 8: One of the two trailer wheel assemblies removed



Figure 9: Second of the trailer wheel assemblies removed



Figure 10: Canoe loaded up with trash



Figure 11: Chris towing the canoe with the trash in it



Figure 12: Showing off some of our finds today



Figure 13: All the trash removed from the River today



Figure 14: Trailer coming up out of the River
(Photo taken on August 31st by Matt Ascoli)



Figure 15: Trailer being removed from the River
(Photo taken on August 31st by Matt Ascoli)



Figure 16: Trailer pieces after being cut up
(Photo taken on August 31st by Matt Ascoli)