RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Justin Altice and Dan Triman  Date:  04-16-17
Starting Location and Time:  Rio Mills Bridge (10:30 AM)
Ending Location and Time:  Darden Towe Park (2:15 PM)
Weather:  Mostly Clear / Some Clouds  Recent Precipitation: Dry this week
USGS Gauges:  Earlysville 1.59 ft (52 ft² / sec), Palmyra 2.96 ft (280 ft² / sec)
Water Color: Clear  Water Odor: None  Air Temp.: 80 deg F
DO: 4 ppm  PH: 7  Turbidity: 10 JTU  Water Temp.: 22 deg C
Water Testing Location: 38°06.1’N 78°27.7’W River Left Under 29 Bridge

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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, Crows, Green Heron, Cardinal, Tree Swallows, Raven, Deer, Hawk, 3 Great Blue Heron, Geese, Ducks, 1 Bat, Spiders, Butterflies, Kingfisher, Sandpiper, and Fish. Vegetation very green with Spring flowers blooming.

People Interactions:
We saw about 10 people total today, with some kayaking, some fishing, and some on the beaches along the River banks.

Litter and Pollution:
We picked up 1 large trash bag worth of Styrofoam, plastic, drink containers, and other litter today. Saw 15 buried tires, and the piece of a car on the bank near Darden Towe. Construction trash on the bank below the shopping center just past the 29 bridge overpass at River Right. There continues to be significant litter and pollution issues on Schroeder Branch where it crosses under Rio Mills Rd (38°06.4’N 78°27'51.5.8”W)

Overall Summary:
Water levels were pretty good today, and water was pretty clear. We scouted out this stretch of the Rivanna in prep for our Spring Rivanna Sojourn event next week. Schroeder Branch area still has same trash from last year. Bridge project near Dam has progressed further in recent months as well, and appears to be nearing completion.

Actions Needed – level of priority (1 highest/5 lowest):
1 – Address issues at Schroeder Branch; 4 – Remove tires & large objects
Figure 1: View of the Dam looking upstream

Figure 2: Duck swimming in the water

Figure 3: Bridge work just below the Dam

Figure 4: Construction Debris along bank at River Right below the shopping center just past the 29 Bridge

Figure 5: Pipe outfall at River Right just past 29 bridge

Figure 6: Underwater vegetation near 29 bridge
Figure 7: One of the buried tires in the River

Figure 8: Turtle sunning on a log

Figure 9: Green Heron perched in a tree

Figure 10: Yellow flowers blooming along the bank

Figure 11: Large tank found floating in the River (GPS Coord: 38°05.649'N 78°26.666'W)

Figure 12: Spider catching a ride in the kayak
Figure 19: Pipes hanging into the River (GPS Coord: 38°05.701’N 78°26.697’W)

Figure 20: View of the River looking down River

Figure 21: Example of the trash found in Schroeder’s Branch which was previously reported to the County last year, but has not been cleaned up.