



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

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 13: Person fishing in the River



Figure 14: Confluence of South & North Forks looking upstream



Figure 15: Erosion on bank at River Left before Confluence



Figure 16: Great Blue Heron



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



Figure 18: Trash collected during the paddle



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.