



## RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

**River Stewards:** Dan Triman and Justin Altice **Date:** 10-09-18

**Starting Location and Time:** Riverview Park (1:30 PM)

**Ending Location and Time:** Milton (6:00 PM)

**Weather:** Cloudy **Recent Precipitation:** Mostly dry this past week

**USGS Gauges:** Earlysville 1.96 ft (112 cfs), Palmyra 3.50 ft (650 cfs)

**Water Color:** Somewhat Clear **Water Odor:** None **Air Temp:** 80° F

**DO:** 6 ppm **PH:** 8 **Turbidity:** 20 JTU **Water Temp:** 24° C

**Water Testing Location:** Milton Boat Ramp River Left (38°00.3' N 78°23.9' W)

### Land Use:

Residential mainly, with some commercial use and park property

### Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Blue Heron, Eagle, Fish, Turtles, Dragonflies, Damselflies, Crow, Small Birds, Snakes, Frog. Good number of trees are dropping their leaves are started to look more bare than they have recently.

### People Interactions:

Saw several people at Riverview Park and another two vehicles at Milton. There were 2 other people out in kayaks fishing at Riverview when we started the paddle, but otherwise, didn't see anyone else on the River. We had 8 of us total on the paddle today included the 2 RCA River Stewards Justin and Dan, RCA River Guardian Volunteer Pat Burkett, Chris Gensic from Charlottesville Parks and Rec, and 4 members of the Albemarle County Water Rescue Team – Matt Ascoli, Alex Colley, Roger Wilkins, and Chris Wyatt. We also ran into the Albemarle County Parks and Rec truck dropping off the dumpster for us at Milton when we were shuttling vehicles at the beginning of the paddle trip.

### Litter and Pollution:

The purpose of this paddle was to remove tires and other large objects from the Rivanna River. So we collected a pretty large amount of trash and debris in the process. We managed to remove about 20 tires from the river, several large pieces of metal and plastic, several pieces of pipe, a broken piece of a kayak, a trash can, some inner tubes, kid's bicycles, sporting equipment, etc. We were able to fill about 1/3 of the dumpster that Albemarle County Parks and Rec provided for us at Milton.

**Overall Summary:**

We attempted to do this paddle several weeks ago but had to cancel it due to high and fast water levels. So we were glad to be able to have a successful paddle trip today. The river was still a little higher than would be ideal for these types of paddles to remove tires (as well as is typical for this time of year), but we were able to make it work out. We removed a significant amount of trash and debris from this stretch of the Rivanna River today, but even so there were still another 10 tires and some other larger trash and debris we spotted that we weren't able to get out of the River today. Also, we lost a couple of Carlisle black canoe paddles today during the trip in one of the rapids near the power lines, so if anyone happens to find them, we sure would appreciate getting them back.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this project possible, including the following: Albemarle County Water Rescue for pulling our RCA canoe trailer and providing on the water assistance, Albemarle County Parks & Rec for providing the dumpster at Milton and disposing of the trash we removed from the river, Charlottesville Parks & Rec for on the water assistance, The Nature Conservancy for letting us borrow tools, and Pat Burkett for volunteering her on the water assistance.

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

4 – Remove remaining tires and larger debris items from the River.



Figure 1: Matt and Chris digging up a tire out of the water



Figure 2: Loading tire into the canoe



Figure 3: Alex paddling canoe with trash can in it



Figure 4: Justin with a pipe on his kayak



Figure 5: Nice view of the river



Figure 6: Roger and Alex paddled a canoe





Figure 7: Canoe full of tires and other trash



Figure 8: Eagle's nest on power line tower



Figure 9: Justin and Pat loading tires into canoe



Figure 10: Taking a break before loading up more trash

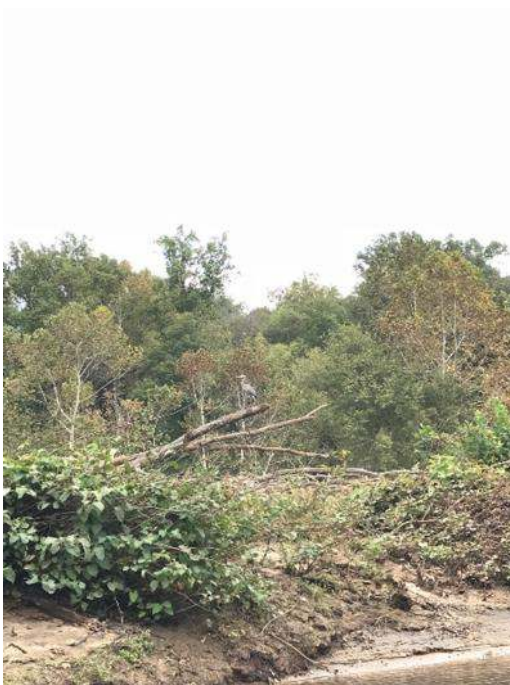


Figure 11: Blue Heron



Figure 12: Sun coming out from behind the clouds





Figure 13: Chris and Dan paddling a canoe



Figure 14: Realizing we are at full capacity for tires and trash



Figure 15: Matt using simple pulley system for canoes



Figure 16: Dumpster full of trash removed from river today



Figure 17: Group photo at Milton



Figure 18: Another group photo at Milton