



RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Dan Triman and Justin Altice Date: 07-15-19

Starting Location and Time: Rivanna River Company (1:30 PM)

Ending Location and Time: Milton (4:30 PM)

Weather: Clear Skies Recent Precipitation: Some Rain Last Night

USGS Gauges: Earlysville – No Data Reading, Palmyra 3.28 ft (311 cfs)

Water Color: Brownish Water Odor: None Air Temp: 90° F

DO: 5 ppm PH: 8 Turbidity: 20 JTU Water Temp: 33° 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:

Turtles, Green Heron, Fish, Small Birds, Butterflies, Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Damselflies, Dragonflies, Kingfisher, 4 Deer. A few large trees down in the River, otherwise green and abundant vegetation along the banks, with some colorful flowering blooms spotted.

People Interactions:

This was an RCA staff paddle, where we got all 5 of us (Dan Triman, Justin Altice, Lisa Wittenborn, Julia Ela, and Rachel Pence) on the River for the first time. The paddle was somewhat of a farewell paddle for River Steward Dan Triman, who will be leaving RCA later this month. Rivanna River Company (RRC) provided us with kayaks and shuttle today. There were a significant amount of people out on the River today, which was nice to see. The River was a great place to be with the current heat wave we are experiencing. The majority of the people we saw were tubing, but there were also a handful of people in kayaks, and just swimming in the River at places like Riverview Park. Once we paddled past Riverview Park, we only saw two more people, who were using a rope swing on one of the banks.

Litter and Pollution:

Collected 4 large bags of trash (mostly bottles, cans, plastic bags, fishing bait containers, Styrofoam), a construction cone, a trash can lid, a small butterfly net, and a basketball. Some of the recent rain likely caused these smaller pieces of trash to accumulate in spots with downed trees.



Overall Summary:

It was a successful paddle today, and everyone enjoyed a good trip. There were some clouds overhead for most of the trip that helped with the heat, and towards the end of the trip, there were some approaching thunderstorms, but they never got too close to us. The water level and flow in the River were a little lower than they had been in recent weeks, but they were still manageable for this stretch of the Rivanna. There was some good wildlife viewing today as noted above, and we were glad to see so many people out enjoying the Rivanna River today.

There weren't any significant safety hazards identified at all during the trip, even though there were a couple of downed trees. There was a decent amount of trash found and removed, as well as a couple of other larger items identified that will need to be removed at a later date.

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

4 – remove larger items identified during today's paddle.



Figure 1: RCA Staff photo at RRC



Figure 2: RCA staff getting in the River



Figure 3: Julia and Lisa investigating invasive vegetation



Figure 4: Group of people enjoying one of the rope swings



Figure 5: Group of tubers relaxing on the River



Figure 6: Metal piece of a wheel hub just upstream of Riverview



Figure 7: View of Woolen Mills



Figure 8: Blue Heron looking for a snack in the water



Figure 9: Osprey flying overhead



Figure 10: Cardinal flower in bloom



Figure 11: Justin and Lisa collecting trash along the bank

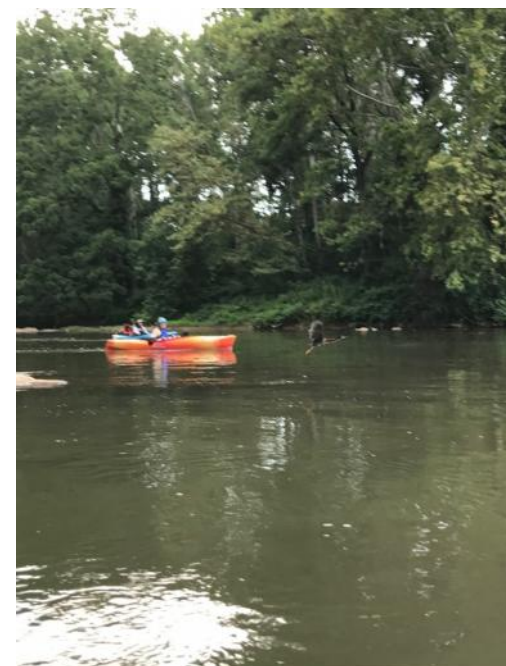


Figure 12: Green Heron in fight



Figure 13: Purple flowering blooms



Figure 14: Dan paddling with lots of trash attached to kayak



Figure 15: Nearing the end of the paddle



Figure 16: Trash collected from the River today