



RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Justin Altice & Mariah Burgess

Date: 3/26/20

Starting Location and Time: UVA Boathouse – SF Reservoir (12:30 PM)

Ending Location and Time: UVA Boathouse – SF Reservoir (3:00 PM)

Weather: Clearing skies, windy Recent Precipitation: Rainfall for the week was $< \frac{1}{4}$ "

USGS Gauges: Earlysville 5.62 ft (76.8 ft² / sec) Palmyra 3.2 ft (448 ft² / sec)

Water Color: Clear Water Odor: None Air Temp: 58° F

DO: 2 ppm pH: 7 Turbidity: 10 JTU Water Temp: 52.2° F

Water Testing Location: 38°07'15.1"N, 78°30'04.2"W

Land Use:

Wooded area with residences on both sides. The river right side is more developed with clear cuts and manicured lawns. The river left side is kept in a more natural setting.

Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Otter, Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, Frog, Turtles, Canada Geese, Mallard, Autumn Olive, Dogwood

People Interactions:

Observed vehicles parked at the boat ramp but only saw two people in a fishing boat. Two rowers were bringing down boats as we were leaving. We are currently under a "social distancing" directive due to COVID-19 so interaction was minimal.

Litter and Pollution:

Removed a few trash items (bottles, plastic bag) but not much else was observed.



Overall Summary:

Great paddle with lots of wildlife sightings, including an otter. Paddling up the river was smooth and lots of turtle and geese were along the shore. We noticed a downed utility line with one side of the downed line in the water on river right (location 38°07'03.2"N, 78°30'06.0"W).

The wind was to our backs on the way up river, but challenging on the return. We maintained effective social distancing during the paddle although unfortunately the Stewards will not be able to invite the community to join our paddles until mandates have expired.

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

1 – Inquire with Water Authority and local officials in regard to checking the downed utility line



Figure 1: Looking down river, natural vs. manicured use of residential lawn



Figure 2: Example of grasses and clarity of water



Figure 3: A young frog sits on our kayak



Figure 4: Lots of turtles were out sunbathing today



Figure 5: Good wetland habitat transitional zone.



Figure 6: Flowering dogwood tree.



Figure 7: Blue Heron finishing in the distance.



Figure 8: View of utility line that is down.
water.



Figure 9: View of utility line down and in the



Figure 10: Example of River grasses along the shoreline.



Figure 11: Turtles and Geese hanging out together.