



# RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Justin Altice & Mariah Burgess

Date: 4/17/20

Starting Location and Time: Advance Mills Dam (12:00 PM)

Ending Location and Time: RT 29 Bridge (3:00 PM)

Weather: Clear skies Recent Precipitation: Rainfall for the week was 3+”

USGS Gauges: NF Rivanna River 6.6 ft (250 ft<sup>2</sup> / sec)

Water Color: Green/Brown Water Odor: None Air Temp: 50° F

DO: 2 ppm pH: 8 Turbidity: 10 JTU Water Temp: 49° F

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

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## Land Use:

Mostly wooded riparian area along the way with a few residences within view 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. A few large housing developments back up to the River as you move towards the Route 29 bridge.

## Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Beaver, Kingfishers, Swallows, Cardinals, Ducks, A few groups of Deer, and Blue Jays

## People Interactions:

We paddled in complete solitude on the North Fork as no formal public access is available on this section of the River.

## Litter and Pollution:

Removed a few trash items, larger items including a vinyl row boat and trailer frame were observed but unable to be retrieved at this time due to a bigger boat being necessary.



### Overall Summary:

The North Fork is a serene stretch, especially a few days after substantial rains when the water is up. There is a low water dam near a RWSA facility a bit before the Route 29 bridge that warrants caution and necessitates the portaging of the River.

Unfortunately, many of the banks have experienced significant erosion due to being stripped of trees holding them together subsequent to the flooding events of 2018.

RCA River Stewards access the North Fork through private property with permission from the landowner. A public access point would ensure accessibility for all.

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

4 – Contact local water rescue squads who may be able to assist in removing larger items.

3 – Assess bank conditions further and discuss possible mitigation efforts

4 – Notify appropriate utility company about a downed tree on a utility line along the NF Rivanna River.

2 – Begin discussions with Albemarle County and other partners about creating a public access point along the North Fork Rivanna River.

Images:



Figure 1: Downed tree weighing down utility line.



Figure 2: View from Advanced Mills Bridge.



Figure 3: Example of bank erosion due to trees being torn away.



Figure 4: Severe bank erosion.





Figure 5: Newly updated Dickerson Road bridge over the River.



Figure 6: Newly installed stormwater feature on adjacent Camelot Subdivision development expansion project, draining directly into River.



Figure 7: Exposed roots along right bank.



Figure 8: Bittercress seen along the bank at the put in location.





Figure 9: Trailer frame upriver from Dickerson Road bridge.



Figure 10: Multiple large trash items were found along the left shore.