



RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Justin Altice & Mariah Burgess

Date: 4/29/20

Starting Location and Time: Brook Hill River Park (3:00 PM)

Ending Location and Time: Darden Towe Park (5:30 PM)

Weather: Clear skies Recent Precipitation: Rainfall for the week was <1"

USGS Gauges: SF Rivanna River 3.9 ft (440 ft²/sec), NF Rivanna River 6.3 ft (259 ft²/sec)

Water Color: Green Water Odor: None Air Temp: 62° F

DO: 5 ppm pH: 8 Turbidity: 20 JTU Water Temp: 59° F

Water Testing Location: Darden Towe Park Boat Ramp

Land Use:

The first stretch of this paddle moving away from the South Fork River Rivanna Reservoir dam includes intensive Route 29 corridor commercial development on river right with soccer fields on river left. After a few more secluded rural bends, a large residential property with a commercial aspect appears on river left followed by more soccer fields. The river passes underneath a railroad bridge before turning to more secluded rural settings. After passing by the South Fork Rivanna River's confluence with the North Fork Rivanna River, the resulting main stem of the Rivanna River then passes through several residential development areas on both sides of the river. These residential developments contain their own trails to access the river. This paddle then ends by traversing through Penn Park (City) on river right and Darden Towe Park (County) on river left.

Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Osprey, deer, turtles, eagle, blue heron, green heron and geese.

People Interactions:

We observed a few people at Brook Hill River Park where the paddle began. We also saw groups of people at two of the residential development access areas and on the trails along the river. We observed a large group of kids using the river access land below the Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center in Darden Towe Park and many community members either fishing or



getting in or out of the river at the Darden Towe Park boat ramp. We also observed a firetruck at the Darden Towe boat ramp engaging in a water pumping drill.

Litter and Pollution:

We removed a bag of trash from the river, comprised mostly of various bottles, cans, and other small items. Overall the amount of debris was low on this section of the river.

Overall Summary:

Brook Hill River Park offers parking and a public access point that was previously unavailable prior to Albemarle County ownership in 2019. The water for the paddle was at a perfect level to cover up almost all of the rocks within the river, offering a smooth experience and ample current. The banks along the river were in relatively good shape, although a couple locations are suffering from erosion issues. The number of community members we observed recreating in the areas adjacent to the residential developments and the Darden Towe boat ramp was also notable and seems to have increased with the current state of affairs due to COVID-19.

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

- 4 – Continue to work with Albemarle County to support river access improvements at Brook Hill River Park
- 5 – Develop educational materials and gather information on financial resources available for residential riparian buffer improvements



Figure 1: Put in under the Route 29 bridge at Brook Hill River Park.



Figure 2: Many old beer cans were found downstream of the Rt. 29 bridge

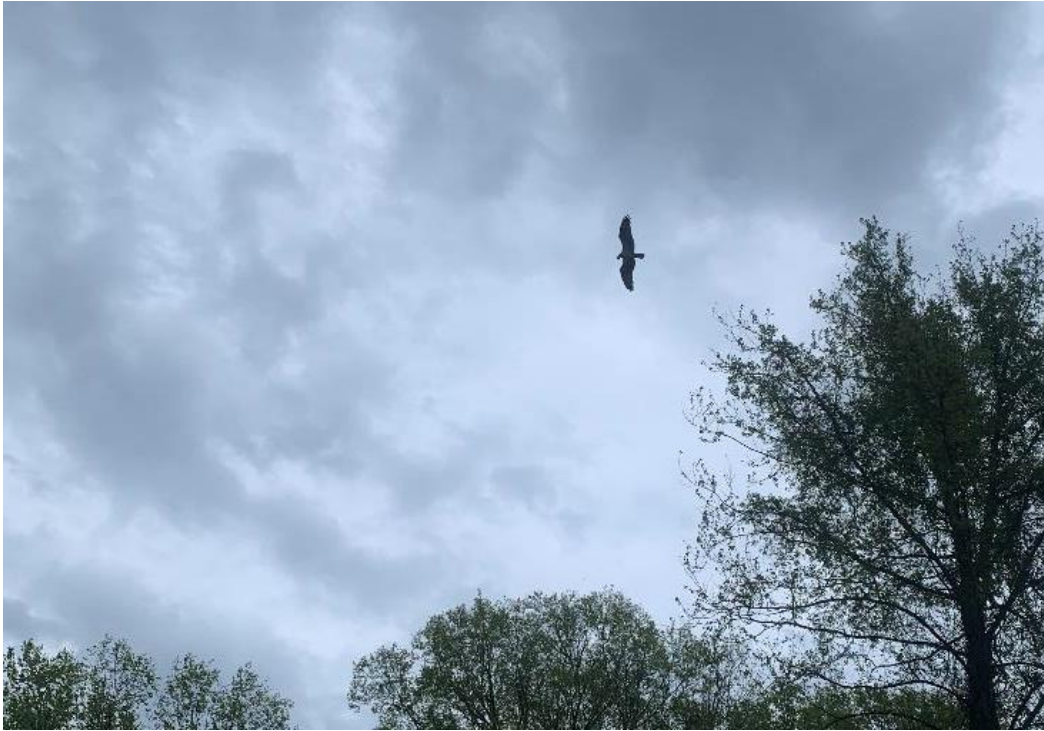


Figure 3: Osprey takes flight overhead.



Figure 4: Asian clam (invasive) observed along the bank.



Figure 5: Rocky banks occurring along river right.



Figure 6: Blooming flora along the bank.



Figure 7: View from the river.



Figure 8: Community members at Darden Towe Park boat ramp.



Figure 9: Local Fire Dept. water pumping drill at Darden Towe Park boat ramp.