



RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Justin Altice & Mariah Burgess

Date: 5/26/20

Starting Location and Time: Ragged Mountain Launch (4:00 PM)

Ending Location and Time: Ragged Mountain Launch (5:30 PM)

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

USGS Gauges: SF Rivanna River 3.79 ft (395 ft²/sec), Palmyra 3.76 ft (897 ft²/sec)

Water Color: Clear Water Odor: None Air Temp: 70° F

DO: 4 ppm pH: 7 Turbidity: 20 JTU Water Temp: 65° F

Water Testing Location: 38°01'51.7"N 78°33'48.2"W

Land Use:

The approximately 645 acres surrounding Ragged Mountain Reservoir are owned and managed by the City of Charlottesville. The area is designated as “natural” with passive recreation allowed on the trails that meander around the Reservoir and beyond. We observed many mountain bikers. The Ragged Mountain Reservoir serves as the secondary water supply operated by the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA).

Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Bald eagle pair, fish, geese pair, kingfishers, blue birds, as well as various water grass species found along the shoreline

People Interactions:

Many people were using the reservoir and the trails while we paddled. We saw inflatable rafts, kayaks and paddleboards. The parking lot was completely full.

Litter and Pollution:

We observed litter around the parking lot and along the bank below the parking lot. We saw a dead fish on the shore where the boat access point is located.

Hazards:



None to note

Overall Summary:

The paddle through Ragged Mountain was calm. Although the parking lot was overwhelmed, the spacious reservoir allowed for community members to disperse and everyone seemed to be complying with social distancing recommendations. The Ragged Mountain Reservoir provides a much needed outdoor recreational amenity during these times of community members being cooped up due to the COVID pandemic. It was interesting to see so many different species of grasses along the shoreline of the reservoir. The highlight was seeing the eagle pair make their way over and around the water.

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

- 2 – Organize a clean-up around the reservoir
- 3 – Contact City of Charlottesville officials in regard to the boat access conditions and develop ways for improvement



Figure 1a-c: The stairs were built in 2018 on a steep hillside and have experienced erosion since that time.



Figure 2: Many private boats scattered below the parking lot.



Figure 3: Litter around the parking lot



Figure 4: One shaded, cool pocket of peace on the reservoir.



Figure 5: People paddleboard toward the bridge.



Figure 6: Turtle along the shoreline.



Figure 7: Example of grasses found along the shoreline.



Figure 8: Dead fish seen and removed at the put in, below the stairs.



Figure 9: Yellow Iris blooming along shoreline.



Figure 10: Pair of geese gathering near the dam.