



# RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Justin Altice & Mariah Burgess

Date: 6/8/20

Starting Location and Time: Reas Ford Bridge (1:00 PM)

Ending Location and Time: UVA Boat Dock (3:00 PM)

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

USGS Gauges: Moormans River 3.48 ft (53.2 ft<sup>2</sup>/sec), Mechums 4.75 ft (70.4 ft<sup>2</sup>/sec)

Water Color: Clear Water Odor: None Air Temp: 80° F

DO: 4 ppm pH: 8 Turbidity: 30 JTU Water Temp: 76° F

Water Testing Location: UVA Boat Dock

## Land Use:

The area along this stretch is held by private landowners as well as the City of Charlottesville. It is kept wooded for the most part with a few exceptions on the reservoir where residents have installed residential lawns down to the water.

## Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Great blue herons, turtles, osprey, fish, deer, ducks, and large gatherings of geese.

## People Interactions:

Several kayakers were out paddling and fishing.

## Litter and Pollution:

We saw a lot of litter where we put in along Reas Ford Rd. A road paving project was occurring on the road and equipment and trucks were parked in that area.

We found styrofoam bait boxes and beer cans just below the Reas Ford bridge put in.

## Hazards:

We observed that the downed utility line we reported from our 3/26/20 paddle was still in the reservoir. The utility company was working in the area, but we were unable to determine if they were working to remove the line from the water.



### Overall Summary:

The paddle was slow as there is not much flow to the SF Rivanna on this stretch due to the reservoir. We had great wildlife sightings of blue herons hunting for fish. We saw one catch and swallow a ~5" fish. The plants and trees have leafed out, adding some shade along the edges of the water. A few community members were out enjoying the natural beauty of the river and the solitude that day.

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

4 – Follow up with utility company about downed line previously reported

Images:

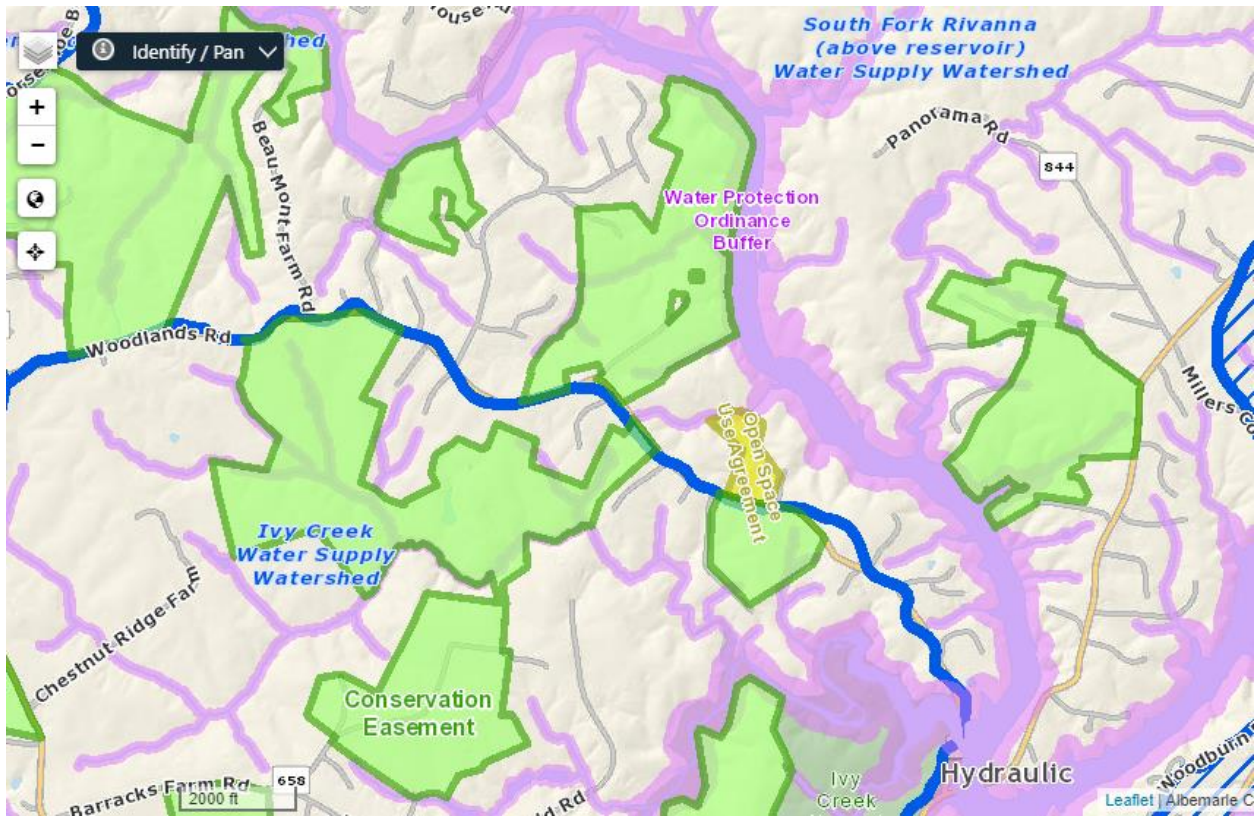


Figure 1: Albemarle County GIS shows water protection buffers and conservation easements. Stars indicate starting and ending points.



Figure 2: Several bait boxes were along the bank, as well as beer cans

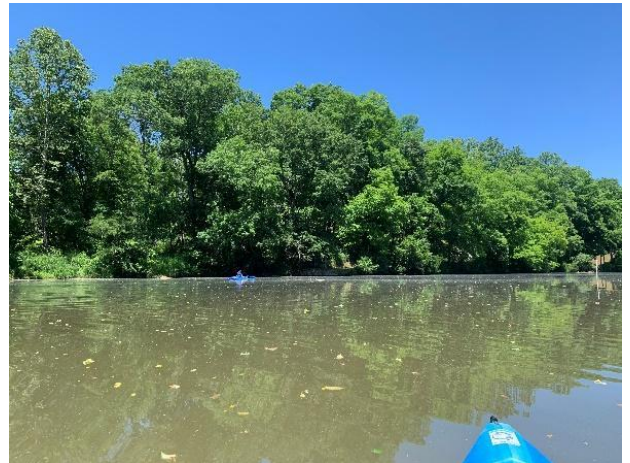


Figure 3: Reservoir slows the water





Figure 4: Rock structure on the left bank



Figure 5: Great blue heron hunting for fish



Figure 6: Dead crappie in the reservoir

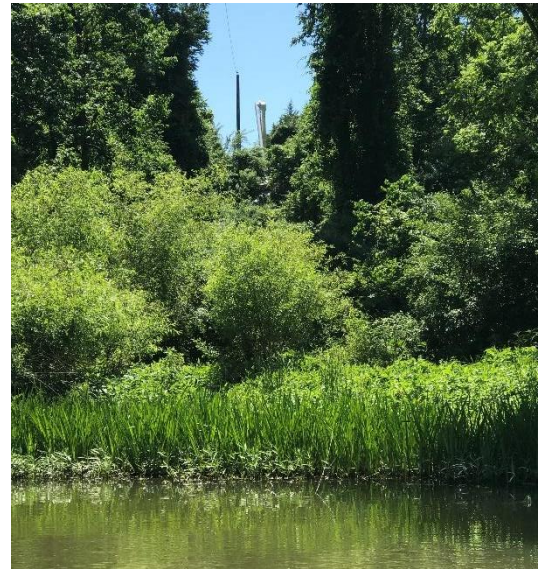


Figure 7: Utility company seen working near downed line previously reported and still in the water.



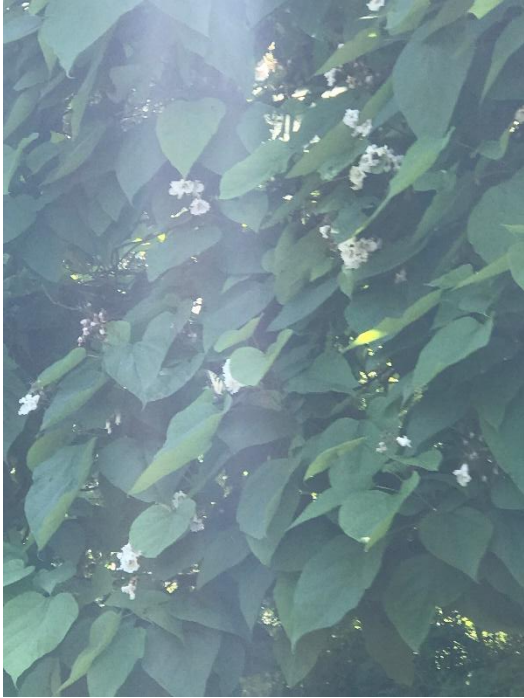


Figure 8: Blooming flora along the riverbank.



Figure 9: Stillness of water, lacking flow.



Figure 10: Grasses found along the riverbank.



Figure 11: Large gaggle of geese congregating along the river.