



RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Justin Altice & Mariah Burgess

Date: 6/26/20

Starting Location and Time: Beaver Creek Reservoir (3:00 PM)

Ending Location and Time: Beaver Creek Reservoir (4:30 PM)

Weather: Mostly Sunny Recent Precipitation: Rainfall for the week was <1"

USGS Gauges: Mechums River 4.68 ft (58.3 ft²/sec)

Water Color: Clear/Green Water Odor: None Air Temp: 87° F

DO: 4 ppm pH: 8 Turbidity: 10 JTU Water Temp: 79° F

Water Testing Location: Steps leading from parking lot to the water

Land Use:

Beaver Creek Reservoir and Park is owned and managed by the County of Albemarle. The area surrounding the water is wooded with trails, presumably for fisherman. The Albemarle County schools and local rowing club operate on this reservoir as well.

Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Largemouth bass, bluegill, turtles, American trumpet vine, blackberry, herons, button bush and gallinules

People Interactions:

There were several family groups on the water today. We talked with several fishermen who said they caught largemouth and perch. The majority of boaters were on SUPs, paddling and tanning.

Litter and Pollution:

A few trash items were found but not much.

Overall Summary:



This park is a great outdoor resource to the western part of the county and beyond. The formal dock for boat access is well maintained with many other informal places near the parking lot to access the water as well. We saw families scattered along the grassy shoreline, mostly fishing.

The overall size of the reservoir allows for a relatively large amount of community members to enjoy the water without being on top of one another, this is especially important during the pandemic. The reservoir is relatively open with a few little cove areas that provide shade and habitat. There were plenty of largemouth bass and blue gill seen in the downed trees and shoreline grasses.

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

5 – Work with Albemarle County to add some educational materials and/or contextual materials to deepen the communities use of the park.

Images



Figure 1: American trumpet vine grows along the eastern shore of the reservoir.



Figure 2: A largemouth bass swims among a fallen tree.



Figure 3: A blackberry plant grows along the eastern shore.



Figure 4: Various grasses and shrubs grow along the eastern shore.



Figure 5: View of the rowing dock.



Figure 6: A windsurfer on the lake.



Figure 7: View looking towards the entrance of the park.



Figure 8: Informal boat access area near parking lot.



Figure 9: Heron observed.



Figure 10: Blooming button bush. (try saying that five times fast)



Figure 11: Open skyline in middle of reservoir.



Figure 12: A gallinule sharing a log with a turtle.



Figure 13: Swampy cove teeming with aquatic life.



Figure 14: Underwater plant life rampant in back cove with an abundance of turtles residing in that area.