



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Savannah District

News Release

Corps extends boat ramps on Hartwell Lake with help from partners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Savannah, Georgia – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently entered into Challenge Partnership Agreements with two organizations to add concrete extensions to two boat ramps on Hartwell Lake. The agreements are with *Friends of 18 Mile* to extend the 18 Mile Creek ramp located in Anderson Co., SC and with *Hartwell Ramp Betterment Partners* to extend the center ramp at Broyles Recreation Area in Anderson Co., SC. The work at 18 Mile Creek is complete and the Corps began work at Broyles on Dec. 15, 2008.

Challenge Partnership Agreements are a way for the Corps to accept funds, services or materials from non-Federal agencies or private organizations to accomplish additional recreation and resource work. In this case, the Corps will provide labor, equipment and materials to grade and prepare the work area, construct forms for the concrete, finish the concrete upon delivery, and complete final clean-up of the area. The partner is providing the concrete.

“The goal is to extend ramps in different areas of the lake to maintain access during periods of extreme low lake levels, which hopefully will be experienced very rarely. These extensions will not make ramps usable immediately as they can only be poured to the waters edge. However, these ramps will become available sooner as lake levels recover,” said Natural Resources Program Manager Kenneth Bedenbaugh.

Concrete extensions have also been added to ramps at Twin Lakes and Twelve Mile Recreation Areas in Pickens Co., SC. These extensions were completed by the Corps but a lack of funding prevented work at additional locations without the help of partner organizations. The Corps continues to seek additional partnering opportunities. “We are very appreciative of the partner organizations who have stepped up to help and any other organizations or individuals interested in partnering with the Corps in this effort are encouraged to contact us as soon as possible,” said Bedenbaugh.

Due to record low lake levels and continuing drought conditions, all Corps operated boat ramps on Hartwell Lake are considered “closed”, however the Corps will continue to place rock at the end of Green Pond and Hattons Ford ramps in Anderson Co., SC in an effort to keep them usable for as long as possible. The Corps has discontinued rock extensions at Big Oaks and Crawford's Ferry located in Hart Co., Ga. and at Martins Creek in Oconee Co., SC due to unfavorable lakebed conditions in those areas.

Boaters are reminded to use these areas at their own risk and evaluate conditions carefully prior to launching

For more information related to ramp conditions or partnering opportunities, please contact Kenneth Bedenbaugh, toll free at 888-893-0678, ext. 337. -30-

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