



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Savannah District

## News Release

# Recent rains and adaptive water management at Corps lakes enables boat ramps to re-open

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Savannah, Georgia** – Recent rainfall and adaptive water management practices being used by Corps of Engineers hydrologists has resulted in re-opening many of the boat ramps on both Lakes Hartwell and J. Strom Thurmond. The reservoirs are operated by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers-Savannah District and although both are still well below average elevations for this time of year or normal pool, the lake levels are improving. The Corps is committed to maintaining reduced outflows out of Thurmond Dam of 3,100 cubic feet per second (cfs) as a daily average through the end of January. Flows out of Hartwell Lake were stopped following the heavy rains in the lower basin allowing the projects to come back into balance.

The average elevation for Hartwell Lake for Jan. 14 is 655.4 feet mean sea level (ft.-msl). With the runoff and the recent rainfall, it now stands at 644.97 ft.-msl. In December, the lake reached 637.49 ft.-msl, its lowest elevation on record. Since the beginning of this year, the lake has received 4.15 inches of rain, in addition to the five inches that fell in December.

Thurmond Lake's average elevation for Jan. 14 is 324.33 ft.-msl, although it's hitting 316.84 ft.-msl now. Rainfall to date for the month of January at Thurmond is 2.23 inches.

Ramps were recently re-opened at Hartwell Lake at: Asbury, Big Oaks (right lane), Broyles (middle lane), Camp Creek, Choestoea, Coneross, Crawfords Ferry, Double Springs, Duncan Branch, 18 Mile Creek, Elrod Ferry, Fairplay, Friendship (right lane), Glenn Ferry, Green Pond, Gum Branch, Hattons Ford, Jenkins Ferry, Martin Creek, New Prospect, Paynes Creek, Poplar Springs (right lane), Richland Creek, River Forks (left lane), Rock Springs, and Singing Pines.

Ramps at 18 Mile, Broyles, Friendship, and Fairplay (right lane) are open due to extensions that were constructed under the Challenge Partnering Agreements with two organizations to add concrete extensions to boat ramps on Hartwell Lake due to extreme low lake levels. The agreements were signed with Friends of 18 Mile to extend the 18 Mile Creek Ramp located in Anderson County, S.C. and with Hartwell Ramp Betterment Partners to extend the center ramp at Broyles Recreation Area in Anderson County, S.C. The Hartwell Ramp Betterment Partners also helped the Corps to complete the right lane at Friendship, Oconee Co., S.C. and the right lane at Fairplay in Anderson Co., S.C. To view the Partner's sponsored website, [CLICK HERE](#).

Challenge Partnership Agreements are a way for the Corps to accept funds, services or materials from non-Federal agencies or private organizations to accomplish recreation and natural resources work consistent with its mission. In certain partnerships, the Corps will provide labor, equipment and materials to grade and prepare the work area, construct forms, and finish and clean the area. The partner may provide materials, equipment, labor and/or services. The partnership can be used to extend boat ramps and repair public docks, among other projects.

Thurmond Lake ramps currently open are: Amity, Big Hart, Cherokee, Clarks Hill Park, Dordon Creek, Gill Point, Key Creek, Lake Springs, Leathersville, Modoc, Morrahs, Mt. Carmel day use, Parksville, Petersburg, and Scotts Ferry. In an effort to make a positive impact to these facilities while the lake is low, the Corps' operation and maintenance contractor completed several ramp repairs and extensions to include repairs at Mt. Carmel day use, Rosseau Creek, Dordon Creek, Mt. Pleasant and Cherokee. Ramp extensions were completed at Amity, Cherokee, Chamberlain Ferry, Leroy's Ferry, Double Branches and Modoc Campground. Also, a second lane was added at Modoc 7 boat ramp in anticipation of a significant

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increase in boat launching activity when parking lot renovations and a new waterborne restroom are completed as part of the new oxygenation system planned to begin this spring at this location.

All ramps on Russell Lake in Georgia except the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' Wilson Creek Boat Ramp are open. Russell Lake's current elevation is 470.37 ft.-msl.

Corps park rangers remind lake users to wear life jackets and to watch out for hazards that are exposed or may be just beneath the surface of the water.

For more information on Hartwell Lake, call toll free 1-888-893-0678; Thurmond Lake, call 1-800-533-3478; or Russell Lake, call 1-800-944-7207. Or visit their website at [www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/](http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/)