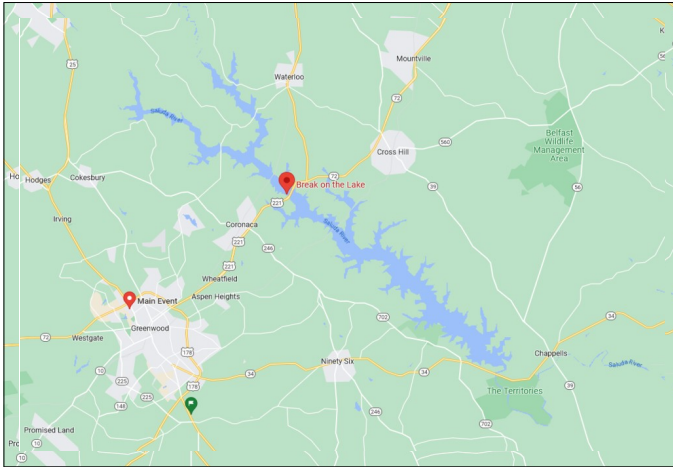




About Lake Greenwood



Lake Greenwood was formed by a hydroelectric dam built across the Saluda River near Chappells SC. The lake has 212 miles of shoreline and covers an area of 11,400 acres with an average depth of 21.8 feet. While the waters of Lake Greenwood extend into three counties (Greenwood, Laurens and Newberry counties), Greenwood County actually owns the entire lake bed, having purchased all properties comprising the bed of the lake from farmers along both sides of the rivers in the late 1930s. Funding was provided by loans from the Public Works Administration during the Great Depression. All loans were later repaid in full.

The Saluda River, the Reedy River and Rabon Creek come together to feed Lake Greenwood. There is also a local watershed surrounding the basin from which local rain also drains into the reservoir. Water released from Lake Greenwood feeds into the Saluda River at Chappells, which ultimately feeds into Lake Murray.

The impoundment was licensed by the Federal Power Commission, predecessor to the current Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), as the Buzzards Roost Project. The project was re-licensed by FERC in 1995. The FERC Project No is P-1267 Because the Buzzards Roost Project was formed to provide hydroelectric power to the local area, in direct competition with Duke Power Company, and at significantly lower rates, Duke Power vigorously challenged the project on various legal grounds. However, a ruling by the United States Supreme Court ultimately cleared the way for the project to be built using the federal loans.

Greenwood County, via the Greenwood County Electric Power Commission, a special purpose directed created by Act of the S.C. General Assembly, operated the Buzzards Roost Project until the mid-1960s. At that time, Duke Power made an offer to purchase the county's electric distribution network and customer base for \$10,000,000, as well as to lease the hydroelectric facility from Greenwood County, for a period of 40 years, at an annual rental of \$250,000 per year. Some local residents favored the sale. Others opposed the sale. Articles published in the local Greenwood newspaper, the Index Journal, present a wealth of information about different views of the proposed sale. The S.C. General Assembly ultimately decided to put the matter to a referendum before the voters in Greenwood County. The referendum was passed by the voters.

Residential and commercial uses adjoining Lake Greenwood have contributed tremendously to the economic development of this rural area. Lake Greenwood is also used for recreational boating and fishing, and Greenwood County regularly stocks the lake with fish in consultation with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.