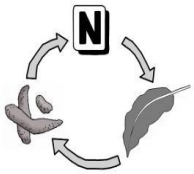
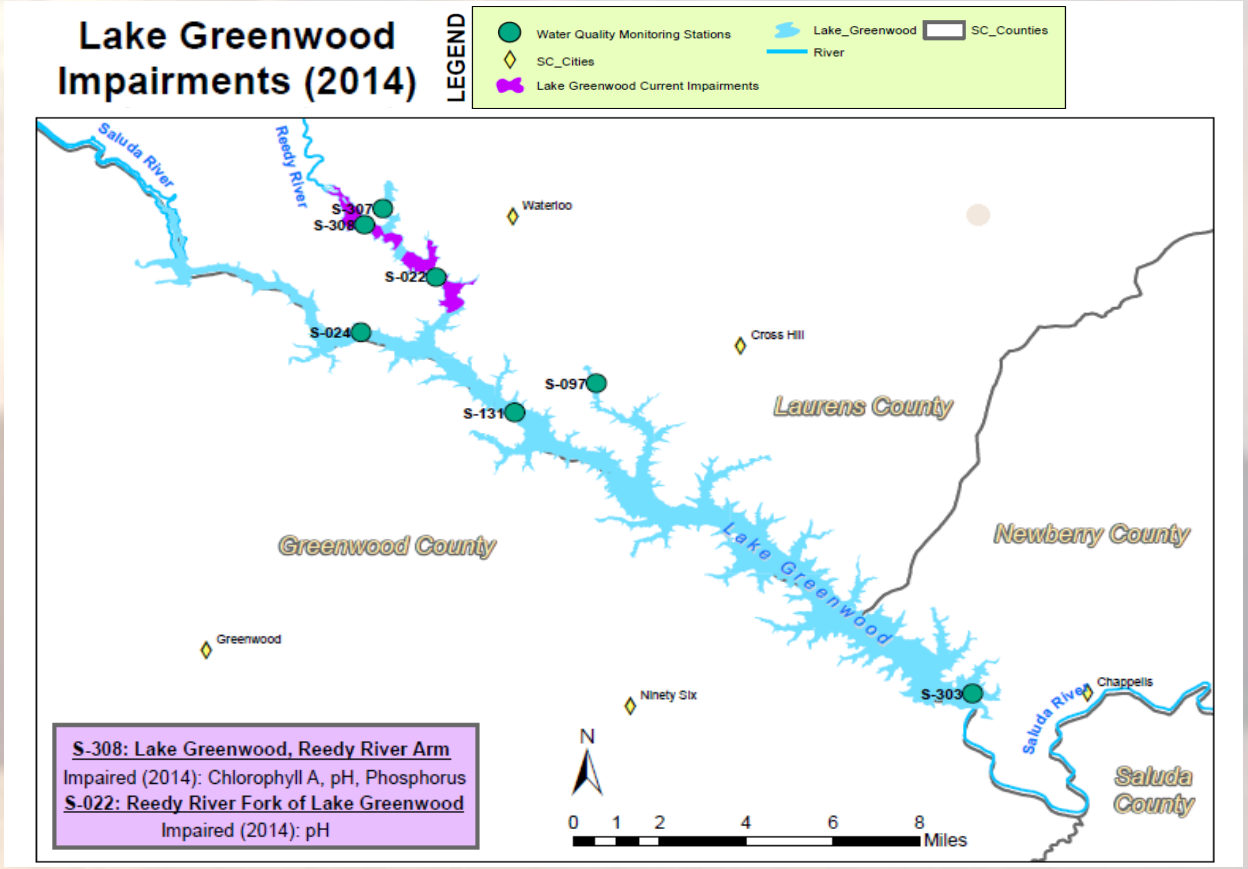
LAKE GREENWOOD 2015 REPORT CARD

Designated Use	Metric	Grade	Description
Aquatic Life			Dissolved oxygen (the amount of oxygen absorbed in the water) is the most important indicator of a healthy lake and its capacity to support a balanced aquatic ecosystem of plants and animals. Dissolved oxygen levels that are too high or too low can put aquatic life under stress and may lead to the death of marine organisms. Low levels of dissolved oxygen are usually the result of untreated wastewater or excessive algae, which depletes the water of oxygen levels as they decompose. Lake Greenwood has a positive record of healthy levels of dissolved oxygen.
	Dissolved Oxygen	100% A+	
	Nutrients	nitrogen 89% B+ / phosphorus 100% A+	Elements required for the growth of plants are called nutrients. Nitrogen, phosphorus, and carbon are the three most important nutrients for aquatic plants. Lake Greenwood is a nutrient-rich reservoir, so it is sensitive to excess levels and high inputs of nutrients. Too much nitrogen and phosphorus in the lake makes algae grow and negatively impacts fish, aquatic animals, and plants. Common sources include untreated wastewater and fertilizers that wash into the lake from farms, golf courses, and lawns when it rains. Historically, high levels of phosphorus have impaired the lake but due to recent efforts that trend has reversed. However, levels of nitrogen have been increasing.
	Clarity	97% A+	The more algae or sediment (dirt) in water, the less clear it is. Clarity is also described by terms like turbidity, cloudy, or muddy. Generally, the clearer the water, the fewer the nutrients and the better the water quality. Water that is not clear may be less productive because sunlight cannot penetrate deeply. Muddy waters also clog fish gills and smother spawning beds. Poor clarity is typically due to stormwater runoff from construction sites and eroding stream banks, which can be exacerbated by wave action from boats.
Recreation			High levels of coliform bacteria indicate potential health risks and can be caused by leaking septic tanks and sewer lines, sewer overflows, and stormwater runoff carrying waste from pets, livestock, and wildlife. Effective standards, citizen engagement, and compliance are necessary to achieve the goal for all waters to be "swimmable." Bacteria levels in Lake Greenwood are generally safe although it is always recommended to avoid recreation in waters after rain events, which is when bacteria levels typically rise.
	Bacteria	93% A	
Fish Edibility			Fish are collected and tested to see if their tissues contain concentrations of contaminants that may affect human health. In general, older and larger fish have been in the water longer and may contain more contaminants. Young children and women who are nursing or pregnant should limit the consumption of contaminated fish, however, the fish in Lake Greenwood are considered safe to eat. For more information, visit http://www.scdhec.gov/FoodSafety/FishConsumptionAdvisories/AdvisoryMap/noadvisories/.
	Fish Tissue	100% A+	

Scores are reported as the percentage of SCDHEC 2014 sampling results (fish tissue is from 2013 data) meeting the state water quality standards. The information contained in this publication is based on data available at the time of writing. Users are reminded to ensure that information upon which they rely is accurate and up-to-date.

PRESERVING LAKE GREENWOOD is a grass roots conservation nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and restoring the quality of Lake Greenwood for current and future generations through education and advocacy. Responding to conditions that led to an algae bloom on the lake, a group of concerned citizens formed a community-based task force to influence positive growth and development while preserving the quality of life for all lake users. This "report card" is our interpretation of regular water quality sampling in order to educate and to inspire community support for Lake Greenwood.



SUMMARY

Waters that are too polluted or otherwise degraded to meet water quality standards are identified as "impaired." In 1999, an algae bloom on portions of Lake Greenwood spurred several groups to take action to improve the health of the lake. Studies revealed that sediment from upstream development and nutrients from wastewater, failing septic systems, and agricultural runoff were the primary sources. In 2012, wastewater treatment facilities on the Saluda River agreed to a nutrient-trading program to curtail the amount of phosphorus entering the lake. Since the Saluda River provides most of the flow to Lake Greenwood (74%) – with the rest coming from the Reedy River (20%) and other tributaries (6%) – reducing nutrient inputs from the Saluda River provided the first step to improving water quality in the lake. The statewide ban on phosphorus in detergents has also helped. Currently, most impairments are occurring only in the Reedy River arm of the lake, which has higher concentrations of pollutants during periods of low rainfall, but is diluted when it meets the higher flows of the Saluda River. As a result the lake is improving and perhaps in the best shape in ten years, but there is still much work needed to improve the health of the Reedy River and Lake Greenwood.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

1. Have your septic tank inspected every two years and pumped out when necessary.
2. Compost or mulch leaves and other yard debris rather than blowing them into the lake.
3. Do not mow or clear lawns to the lakeshore. Maintain a buffer and consider using native vegetation.
4. Pay attention to conditions on the lake around you. Report problems to Greenwood County Lake Management at 864-942-8560.
5. Do not feed waterfowl and use landscaping that discourages waterfowl.
6. Regularly scoop up pet waste in your yard.
7. Avoid the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals as much as possible.
8. Join Preserving Lake Greenwood. For information visit www.preservinglakegreenwood.org or Preserving Lake Greenwood/Facebook.com.