

GILLS CREEK WATERSHED

A connected system at the breaking point — let's manage it together.

Sunday, Oct. 4, 2015

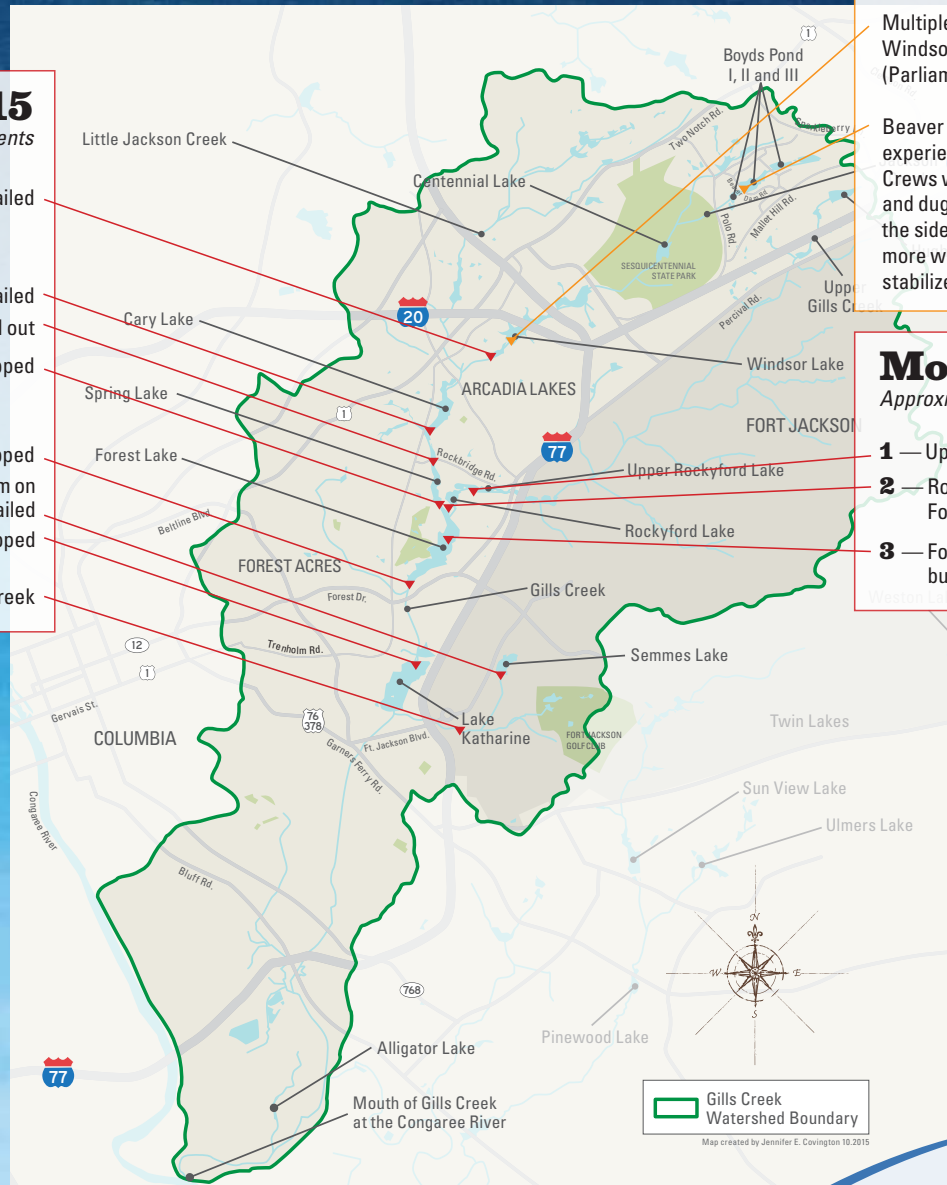
Approximate times and sequence of events

- 1 — Pine Tree Lake dam failed
- 2 — Cary Lake dam failed
- 3 — Bridge at Rockbridge Rd. washed out
- 4 — Spring Lake dam overtopped
- 5 — Forest Lake dam overtopped
- 6 — Around 3am, Semmes Lake dam on Ft. Jackson failed
- 7 — Lake Katharine dam overtopped
- 8 — Water came surging down Wildcat Creek

This storm created a tipping point of extreme conditions — reported to be 3-5' over Lake Katharine at times — with catastrophic consequences.

WHAT HAPPENED AT GILLS CREEK:

- 20 inches of rainfall based on a Forest Acres rain gauge
- 16 inches fell in just 6 hours early Sunday morning
- Several major lakes in the watershed lowered their reservoir levels in anticipation of the storm
- That one day (Sunday) was the wettest day in the history of Columbia



Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015

Multiple false reports of the Windsor Dam failing. Windsor Dam is fine, as is the Upper Windsor Lake Dam (Parliament Lake).

Beaver Dam (Boyd's Pond) off Polo Road was experiencing erosion and was at risk of failing. Crews worked all day Tuesday to stabilize the dam and dug an emergency "controlled breach" around the side of the dam to alleviate pressure and move more water downstream. The Beaver Dam was stabilized and is not expected to fail.

Monday, Oct. 5, 2015

Approximate sequence of events

- 1 — Upper Rockyford Lake dam failed
- 2 — Rockyford Lake dam failed sending water into Forest Lake
- 3 — Forest Lake had lowered enough by this time to buffer the excess water



**GILLS CREEK
WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION**

THE GILLS CREEK WATERSHED

ASSOCIATION IS AN ADVOCATE for improved conditions in the watershed, through smart land use, implementation of innovative storm water practices and low-impact development. Over the past 50 years, the network of small creeks and various lakes in its 75-square-mile area has handled increasing amounts of stormwater run-off, leading to stream bank erosion, degraded water quality and habitat, increased flooding, and sediment build-up in lakes and creek bottoms.

The Association is a non-profit 501(c)3 environmental community organization. It does not have any regulatory role or authority, but rather seeks to increase awareness, educate residents, and lead the community conversation on improved resilience of the creek system.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS DISASTER, WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP,
AND HOW TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED, VISIT WWW.GILLSCREEKWATERSHED.ORG.**

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