

“Quick Facts” About South Fork Reservoir

- Dam constructed by City of Charlottesville in 1966; land purchased in 1962
- Dam located behind Doubletree Inn
- Watershed area is 259.1 square miles
- Watershed almost entirely in Albemarle County (only small area at headwaters of Mechums River is in Nelson County)
- Surface Area of pool equals 390 acres; watershed to surface area ratio very large by comparison to most reservoirs in the mid-Atlantic region – South Fork has often been described as a “run-of-the-river reservoir”.
- Current storage for urban water supply estimated at 740 million gallons
- Sediment and nutrients considered most significant public issues
- Engineers designing the original dam predicted loss of 19.6 million gallons of water per year to sedimentation – measurements to date average about 15 million gallons lost per year
- Hydro-Plant installed in 1988, with one megawatt of capacity. Hydro-Plant operates continuously when the natural water inflow to the reservoir is adequate.