

Healthy Lakes

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

News and information
brought to you by Spartanburg Water.

QUESTIONS: (864) 592-2240
spartanburgwater.org/healthylakes
USE HASHTAG: #healthylakes



Lake Alerts: Important Information Delivered Digitally!

Want to Stay Updated? Sign-up for Lake Alerts!

To stay up-to-date on the latest
reservoir news, be sure to sign up for
Spartanburg Water Lake Alerts.

Whether sharing inclement weather
and boating notifications, or
communicating an upcoming DNR
visit – we want you to be informed.

Subscribe today by sending an e-mail to
healthylakes@spartanburgwater.org.



Boating Safety This Summer

Before you plan for a day at the lake this summer, make sure you consider these important reminders to keep everyone safe while enjoying your time on the water.

If you're planning to go out on a watercraft, there are some key steps to complete before you even get out on the water:

- Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Check the weather.
- Ensure your watercraft is in good working order. Always do a test run before you go out on the lake, and ask any of our wardens to help you do a safety check.

Another essential step is making sure you have all the required safety equipment on board, including:

- Life Jackets – enough for each passenger, U.S. Coast Guard approved and in good condition. Life Jackets only work if you wear them, so be sure to keep a properly fitting floatation device on at all times when you are on the water.
- Retrievable floatation cushion – in case someone goes overboard.
- Fire extinguisher – required by law, dependent on the size of your boat.
- Navigation lights – on between official sunset and sunrise.
- Sound device – horn, air horn, or whistle.

You should take ownership of your own personal safety, but also keep an eye out for others. If you see something, please say something. Contact the Lake Bowen Wardens' Office at 864-592-2240 or the Lake Blalock Wardens' Office at 864-578-5442 to report a safety issue or concern.





Planning a Day on the Lake?

It's a good idea to carpool.

With our 2022-23 boating season already underway, the busiest days of the season are coming up this summer. With more visitors to our Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks during this time, it is always a great idea to carpool with the other members of your party.

Both parks have limited parking for vehicles and boat trailers, so parking is a strictly first-come, first-serve basis. Any additional vehicles that arrive after our parking areas are full will not be allowed to enter until a spot opens up.

We appreciate your consideration to carpool. We look forward to welcoming you to the lakes this summer.



Trash Spoils the Experience for Everyone

Whether discarded cans and bags or even fishing line and hooks, trash in our reservoirs and on the shoreline is an unwelcome sight – and can even prove dangerous to those visiting to fish or recreate.

So, for anytime you are planning on packing a picnic or spending a day fishing from the shore, always remember the “Pack in, Pack Out” rule. Whatever items you bring with you, be sure they also leave with you or end up in one of our convenient trash receptacles.

Thank you for helping us keep our reservoirs and lake parks clean and safe for all visitors!



Even better than a hard copy of our newsletter?

Make the move to digital and save paper and postage by signing up to have Healthy Lakes delivered to your inbox. Go to our website and enroll to make the switch:

<https://www.spartanburgwater.org/Healthy-Lakes-newsletter>

Healthy Lakes

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

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Plans for Annual Drawdown of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock

Spartanburg Water's commitment to watershed maintenance is a critical component of our mission to preserve and maintain the reservoirs and rivers that supply our drinking water.

Our watershed management strategy includes a wide variety of routine maintenance and monitoring activities, and beginning this year we hope to include the annual lowering of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock as part of this strategy.

With the current low levels of precipitation, however, the drawdown of the reservoirs has begun naturally, and at this time, Municipal Reservoir #1 requires an additional flow of water in order to achieve optimum levels for drinking water operations and treatment.

For this reason, we are focusing on allowing more water from Lake Bowen to flow into Reservoir #1 as soon as possible, since this process does take time. With this movement of water, you will begin to see lower lake levels, with an attempted overall drawdown of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock of approximately 2.5 – 3 ft. through the end of February 2023.

While we are currently experiencing a very dry weather pattern, wetter weather (especially heavy rainfall) may cause the lake level to fluctuate during the drawdown period. Rainfall levels may also affect our ability to reach and maintain these lower levels.

For our lake residents, the lowering of the reservoirs will provide the opportunity to perform permitted maintenance to marine structures and seawalls, as well as work on shoreline stabilization projects.

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Lake Alerts:

Important Information
Delivered Digitally!

Stay Informed with Lake Alerts

Spartanburg Water Lake Alerts provide important news and information for our lake residents and boat permit holders through e-mail – and now through text messages!

Whether safety information, weather and boating updates or anything else pertaining to our three reservoirs, join your neighbors by staying informed.

To sign-up, visit www.spartanburgwater.org/lakealerts. After sign-up, you will receive a separate e-mail asking if you would like to opt-in to receiving messages via text as well. If you are already subscribed with your e-mail address, be on the lookout for an e-mail that will offer you the opportunity to also opt-in to receiving text messages.

For questions regarding your subscription, please contact our Communications Manager, Jennifer Candler, at (864) 580-5693 or by e-mail – jcandler@spartanburgwater.org.



Plans for Annual Drawdown

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If you are considering a shoreline management or other project during this drawdown period that may require a permit, please contact our Lake Wardens' Offices to start the permitting process. For more information about permits, please visit www.spartanburgwater.org/policies-and-guidance or call the Lake Bowen Wardens' Office at (864) 592-2240, or the Lake Blalock Wardens' Office at (864) 578-5442.

Though the water levels will be lower, we still plan to keep our boat landings at Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks open and available for use. In order to ensure safety, we will place bright yellow warning buoys at certain intervals from shore to note potential shallow water hazards. If you are a lake resident with a boat lift, plan on removing your boat from the lift during the drawdown process. It is also important to properly secure your boat during the eventual raising of the lakes.

If you would like to view additional FAQs related to our planned drawdown, please visit www.spartanburgwater.org/lake-drawdown

Irrigation Permit Renewals Coming in December



As the holiday season approaches, your mailbox will start to fill up with cards, catalogs and gifts – so be sure to be on the lookout for your yearly irrigation permit renewal letter that will arrive in December.

Irrigation permits are required for those properties adjacent to Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock, and should be renewed each year – or removed for non-renewal.



Interested In Installing Irrigation For The First Time?

For those who are interested in installing irrigation on their property at Lake Bowen or Lake Blalock, a Land Permit Application can be completed and submitted with appropriate fees to either the Lake Bowen or Lake Blalock Wardens' Office. For questions, please call the watershed staff at Lake Bowen (864) 592-2240, or Lake Blalock (864) 578-5442.

To access the application, as well as pricing information and all Rules and Regulations governing our three reservoirs, please visit: www.spartanburgwater.org/our-lakes.



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