

# Healthy Lakes

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

News and information  
brought to you by Spartanburg Water.

QUESTIONS: (864) 592-2240  
[spartanburgwater.org/healthylakes](http://spartanburgwater.org/healthylakes)  
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## Watercraft Permit Renewals Begin March 15

**If you have previously purchased a watercraft permit, please look for a permit renewal in the mail beginning March 15**

After reviewing your form, if no changes are required, please send us the signed form along with a check or money order for the permit fee.

If changes are needed or if this is your first time permitting a watercraft, please visit our Lake Bowen Office (8515 Hwy. 9, Inman) or Lake Blalock Office (1925 Sandy Ford Rd., Chesnee) for assistance. Our watershed team is more than happy to assist you at both locations from 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily.

Watercraft permits are available for

both seasonal and daily use, and fees are assessed based on your county or state of residence. To view a full list of permit pricing and requirements, please visit our website [www.spartanburgwater.org](http://www.spartanburgwater.org).

As a reminder, if you have purchased a non-powered watercraft permit in the past year, these permits are a one-time fee and do not need to be renewed annually.

Please remember, a current permit sticker must be purchased and properly placed on your vessel. Watercraft without valid permits are not allowed on the lakes.

Permits are good through March 31 the following year. For boat permit renewal questions, please contact the Lake Bowen Office at: (864) 592-2240 or the Lake Blalock Office at: (864) 578-5442.

### Lake Alerts:

**Stay Informed and Now  
By Text!**

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](http://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](mailto:jcandler@spartanburgwater.org).



# Lake Drawdown - Update

As we shared in our previous issue of Healthy Lakes, the first annual lake drawdown attempt began at the beginning of December. Our hope was to bring the levels of both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock down approximately 3 ft.

With the wet weather patterns we have experienced since November, lake levels have fluctuated, and it has affected our ability to reach and maintain these lower levels, especially on Lake Bowen. We do plan to continue in our drawdown attempt through the end of February, and will alert you when the drawdown process has ended.

We appreciate your support throughout this drawdown attempt as part of our watershed management strategy. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our team at Lake Bowen: (864) 592-2240 or Lake Blalock: (864) 578-5442.

## Before you trim, don't forget to check the website!

For our neighbors around Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock and Municipal Reservoir #1, our website – [www.spartanburgwater.org](http://www.spartanburgwater.org) – is a great resource to access all of the rules and regulations that govern the buffer areas around each reservoir.

Both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock documents were recently updated in October 2022, and the rules and regulations document for Municipal Reservoir #1 was recently added in December 2022.

The documents help provide guidance on permitted activities in the buffer area that extends to the 827' MSL (Mean Sea Level) around Lake Bowen, 720' MSL around Lake Blalock and the 780' MSL around Municipal Reservoir #1. Residents will also find important information on activities requiring a permit from Spartanburg Water, as well as specifications for marine structures, and regulations related to landscaping activities.

Should you ever have any questions related to the available rules and regulations documents, our Watershed Team is more than happy to assist. Our Lake Wardens and staff can be reached at the Lake Bowen Office at: (864) 592-2240 or the Lake Blalock Office at: (864) 578-5442.



**Even better than a hard copy of our newsletter?**

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# Healthy Lakes

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

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## Stay Safe this Summer While Out on the Lake

Before planning a day at the lake this summer, be sure to 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.
- Don't forget to sign-up for our Lake Alerts to ensure you have the latest news and alerts: [spartanburgwater.org/lakealerts](http://spartanburgwater.org/lakealerts)

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.
- USCG approved Type IV Retrievable floatation device – For watercraft greater than 16'.
- Fire Extinguisher
- Navigation lights – on between official sunset and sunrise.
- Sound device – horn, air horn, or whistle.



### Have questions about your watercraft or safety equipment?

Our team is always happy to help! Check out the smiling faces of our Lake Wardens and Watershed Specialists: [spartanburgwater.org/watershed-team](http://spartanburgwater.org/watershed-team)

Please stay safe and 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.

### Lake Alerts: Important Information Delivered Digitally!

**Stay Informed  
with Lake Alerts**

Want to stay updated with news and alerts regarding the Spartanburg Water reservoirs – Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock and Municipal Reservoir #1? It's now easier than ever to sign-up to receive Lake Alerts! Scan this QR-Code to subscribe to e-mail and/or text notifications:

Or visit our website: [spartanburgwater.org/lakealerts](http://spartanburgwater.org/lakealerts)



**Spartanburg  
Water**

# Healthy Lakes

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

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## 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 this year we will again attempt an annual lowering of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock as part of this strategy.

With the current low levels of precipitation, the drawdown of the reservoirs has begun naturally. Beginning December 1 and lasting through February 2024, we will try to bring both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock down approximately 2.5 – 3 ft. in total.

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.

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](http://www.spartanburgwater.org/policies-and-guidance) or call the Lake Bowen Wardens' Office at (864) 592-2240, 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](http://www.spartanburgwater.org/lake-drawdown).



## LAKE ALERTS Help You Stay Informed

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## Want to Install 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 to either the Lake Bowen or Lake Blalock Warden's 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](http://www.spartanburgwater.org/our-lakes)

## Irrigation Permit Renewals Coming in December

The holiday season can mean more mail in your mailbox, 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.



### Even better than a hard copy of our newsletter?

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# Lake Bowen Park – Shoreline Stabilization Project

Did you know that grass, plants and trees can help serve as a natural filter and barrier to keep excess nutrients from entering Lake Bowen? If you have visited Lake Bowen Park recently, you have probably noticed areas around the shoreline that would benefit from the addition of more grass, plants and trees. So, this summer Spartanburg Water will kick-off the first phase of a multi-phase project to improve and stabilize the shoreline around Lake Bowen Park.

Using native plant species, the project will address shoreline erosion and impervious surface run-off that can negatively impact Lake Bowen, as a drinking water reservoir.


The Lake Bowen Park will remain open throughout the project, which is expected to last through August. Monday through Friday, some parking spaces in the peninsula loop will be blocked off, but will re-open on weekends.

Visitors with questions about the project are invited to reach out to the Spartanburg Water watershed staff and lake wardens at the Lake Bowen Park office – (864) 592-2240.

## A 319-Grant Project

This shoreline stabilization project is part of a 319 Grant awarded by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to Spartanburg Water.

319 Grants are awarded to fund projects that are intended to help reduce pollutants in an area of a watershed that will help lead to measurable water quality improvements. The grants are funded from an annual grant allocation from the EPA under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.



Did you know that grass, plants and trees can help serve as a natural filter and barrier to keep excess nutrients from entering Lake Bowen?

**Phase One**



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