



February 4, 2025

Dear Lake Blalock Neighbors and Lake Blalock Recreational Users,

We have received quite a few questions regarding the re-opening of Lake Blalock Park to the public. As I communicated in December, an act of nature as financially destructive as a storm like Hurricane Helene that downed thousands of trees on our property, damaged infrastructure, and caused millions of dollars in damage, forced us to set well-defined post-storm priorities for our organization.

These priorities meant that we had to address infrastructure needs and assessments first, with definitive timelines for park cleanup and safety checks. Lake Bowen Park had very little damage and was able to re-open within a week of the storm. The situation for Lake Blalock, however, was quite different.

We have been working diligently, awarding a bid for tree removal and mulching in January. Work was expected to take 6-8 weeks, weather permitting, and we are on schedule to have the park re-opened by March 1, 2025, as I noted in my communication to the community on December 20, 2024.

The storm was unprecedented, unplanned and an act of nature, and we as a utility have been working responsibly and in the best interest of public safety, to re-open the park, as well as providing reasonable alternative accommodations over the past few months. Safety to all users of the park, including families with children, has been our focus. Since the amount of damage and contractor work involved was similar to running a medium-sized logging operation, we were not going to compromise safety at any cost, until we were sure that the park posed no apparent risks. The use of Lake Bowen Park will remain available to Lake Blalock watercraft permit holders until Lake Blalock Park safely re-opens for boating and recreational use.

Progress towards Re-opening

I feel it is important to remain transparent, so I wanted to share a few “before” photos of Helene’s destruction, and photos of the amazing progress that has been made to date to get the park and facilities open again for use. Our goal remains to re-open the park on Saturday March 1, 2025.

Photos From Immediately After the Storm



Photos Following Clean-up



Next Steps & Refunds of Partial Permit Fees

Over the past month, I have also reviewed all of Lake Blalock permit holders with our Chief Warden. We are working on a refund initiative that will refund a portion of the 2024/2025 permit fee based on the closure months of October 2024 through February 2025. The table below reflects the value of the refund that will be issued to the permit holder of record and mailed to the permit holder’s address on file at Spartanburg Water during the next several weeks.

If you have not received your refund by March 31, 2025, please call the Warden’s office at 864-809-1295.

| <u>Permit Type - Blalock ONLY</u> | <u>Permit Fee</u> | <u>Value of Lake</u> | | <u>Monthly Equivalent</u> | <u>Refund October - February (5 Months)</u> |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---|
| | | <u>Blalock Permit in</u> | <u>Combo Fee</u> | | |
| Lake Blalock Only (Spartanburg County) | \$ 100.00 | N/A | | \$ 8.33 | \$ 41.67 |
| Lake Blalock Only (SC Resident but outside Spartanburg County) | \$ 200.00 | N/A | | \$ 16.67 | \$ 83.33 |
| Lake Blalock Only (Out of State) | \$ 500.00 | N/A | | \$ 41.67 | \$ 208.33 |
| <u>Permit Type - Combo</u> | | | | | |
| Lake Blalock Combo (Spartanburg County) | \$ 175.00 | \$ 75.00 | | \$ 6.25 | \$ 31.25 |
| Lake Blalock Combo (SC Resident but outside Spartanburg County) | \$ 350.00 | \$ 150.00 | | \$ 12.50 | \$ 62.50 |
| Lake Blalock Combo (Out of State) | \$ 950.00 | \$ 450.00 | | \$ 37.50 | \$ 187.50 |

Please feel free to reach out directly to our Chief Lake Warden, Jon Morgan, with questions you may have regarding any of the topics in this letter. Jon can be reached at **(864) 809-1295**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Most sincerely,



Guy Boyle
Chief Executive Officer