

2022 Lake Alerts

December 19 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1 Planned for December 20 and 21

Spartanburg Water plans to perform a strategic and targeted algaecide application starting Tuesday, December 20, and ending Wednesday, December 21, to targeted areas on Lake Bowen and on Municipal Reservoir #1. The application by a licensed commercial applicator will likely be completed within two days. The application targets those areas identified through our ongoing monitoring strategy, and will take place dependent on the weather conditions.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our reservoirs to ensure the highest quality drinking water for our community.

December 13 Lake Alert: Municipal Reservoir #1 – Commission Approves Rules and Regulations Document

Spartanburg Water recently approved a set of Rules and Regulations that became effective on December 7, 2022, for the successful management of the reservoir and buffer area surrounding Municipal Reservoir #1.

Included are updates to specific landscaping activities now allowed with a permit, construction of a stationary 12 ft. x 18 ft. dock with permit, and adjoining property owners may now also utilize the entire buffer area that adjoins their property to fish with their family and friends, provided that state fishing licenses are obtained.

Though access for surface recreation and irrigation use were suggestions made by adjoining property owners, these activities will remain prohibited. This is to continue in our efforts to protect the health of the drinking water reservoir that is the source water for more than 200,000 customers, as well as the safety of our adjoining neighbors. Please remember that all activity in the buffer area requires that all the proper permitting is completed prior to any action taken by adjoining property owners.

We hope these outlined Rules and Regulations will be helpful for all of our adjoining neighbors on Municipal Reservoir #1. These Rules and Regulations will also continue to help our Spartanburg Water team provide our community with the highest quality drinking water services.

To review the Rules and Regulations document online and/or print, please visit:

<https://www.spartanburgwater.org/municipalreservoir1>. We will also have printed copies available at both the Lake Bowen office (8515 Hwy 9) and Lake Blalock office (1925 Sandy Ford Rd.) after December 16, 2022.

November 15 Lake Alert: Reminder – Please Remove Watercraft from Lifts

We shared information previously about our lake drawdown process. With the rain we have received, our reservoirs are currently at full pool. We hope to continue moving forward with our drawdown plans to last through the end of February 2023.

We wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that now is a great time to remove any watercraft you have on lifts, with the current water levels. If we are successful in our drawdown attempt, watercraft that stay on lifts will have to remain until the water level increases following the end of the drawdown period in February.

October 21 Lake Alert: Lower Lake Levels and Planned Drawdown Process

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, but

beginning this year we hope to include the annual lowering of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock as part of this strategy.

Our initial plan was to begin the lowering of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock on December 1; however, with the current low levels of precipitation, the drawdown of the reservoirs has begun naturally. 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 sooner than originally anticipated. We plan to make the overall drawdown of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock approximately 2.5 – 3 ft., with it lasting through the end of February 2023.

As the lake levels begin to fall, please plan to remove boats from boat lifts. For additional safety, we will have strategically placed, bright yellow warning buoys at certain intervals from shore to note potential shallow water hazards.

In the coming days please look for a letter from us with similar details, as well as a sheet of “Frequently Asked Questions.”

Our team is committed to keeping you informed, and we appreciate your partnership and support as we move forward with this process. As a Lake Alert subscriber, you will now have the option to also receive text message notifications in addition to an e-mail message. A separate e-mail will arrive in your inbox soon to allow you to request this option.

October 7 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water Monitoring Lake Levels

As many of you have probably observed recently, the lake levels on both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock are lower than full pool at this time. This is due in part to our proactive preparation for the rain event that was anticipated from Hurricane Ian, but that did not end up occurring. We are actively working to try to raise our lake levels, but with the current weaker stream flows and low levels of rain, this process is taking a longer period of time.

We appreciate your patience and support, and ask that you exercise caution and pay attention to water depth as you are using watercraft on the reservoirs.

October 1 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Re-opening Saturday, October 1

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas have re-opened for use today, Saturday, October 1.

September 29 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Closed Friday, September 30, and Saturday, October 1

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas will be closed all day tomorrow, Friday, September 30, and Saturday, October 1, in anticipation of the upcoming weather events.

Please refrain from using any watercraft on either lakes for safety concerns, and ensure your watercraft is properly secured.

September 27 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water Proactively Preparing for Impending Rainfall

In anticipation of the rainfall amounts forecasted for the next several days, Spartanburg Water is closely monitoring the weather and lake conditions, and is proactively making adjustments to the levels of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock in order to help minimize increased water levels. Since our dams were created to hold water as a drinking water source, any release of water may be gradual.

As with all rain events, because the risk of higher streamflow's and elevated lake levels still remain, SWS recommends ensuring your boat is well-secured – either to your dock or elevated and secured to your boat lift. Please exercise caution in the days after any significant rainfall event, as there may be more floating debris.

September 26 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 Planned for September 28

Spartanburg Water plans to perform a strategic and targeted algaecide application starting Wednesday, September 28, on Municipal Reservoir #1 with a licensed commercial applicator. The application will likely be completed within one day. The application targets those areas identified through our ongoing monitoring strategy, and will take place dependent on the weather conditions.

September 6 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen Planned for September 7-8

Spartanburg Water plans to perform a strategic and targeted algaecide application starting tomorrow, Wednesday, September 7, on Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen with a licensed commercial applicator. The application will likely span two days. The application targets those areas identified through our ongoing monitoring strategy, and will take place dependent on the weather conditions.

May 26 Lake Alerts: Getting Ready for the Holiday Weekend? – Some Reminders

With Memorial Day Weekend kicking off the official start to summer boating season this weekend, we wanted to reach out with a few reminders:

If you are planning a trip to Lake Bowen, be sure to carpool! Our park has great amenities, but limited parking spaces. Share a ride with other members of your party to ensure you can secure a spot. Once the park is at capacity, we will have to turn away visitors until parking spaces are once again available.

Always remember safety first and make sure everyone has a properly fitting lifejacket when out on the water. If you need an extra lifejacket, check out our Lifejacket Loaner Boards at both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks.

Not sure if you have everything you need on board? Our Lake Wardens are more than happy to provide a safety inspection and suggestions to help keep you and your loved ones safe while having fun on the water.

We look forward to welcoming you this weekend at both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock. Our Lake Wardens and Watershed Staff are always happy to answer any questions you may have – Lake Bowen (864) 592-2240, Lake Blalock (864) 578-5442; 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., seven-days-a-week.

May 25 Lake Alert: Tomorrow SCDNR Restocking Triploid Grass Carp in Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1

Tomorrow, May 26, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) will be conducting a maintenance restocking of sterile Triploid Grass Carp in Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1. This is strictly annual upkeep to account for the loss of carp from natural causes.

Triploid Grass Carp are certified by biologists as being sterile and cannot reproduce. They feed primarily on aquatic plants and algae and do not consume other fish. Grass Carp are an effective biological tool to control nuisance vegetation and algae. They are used around the world for this purpose, and are one of the approved methods used by SCDNR.

Please remember, it is illegal to take Triploid Grass Carp from public waters. If you hook one while fishing, you must release it back into the same body of water or risk facing penalties.

There are a few ways to tell the difference between the common carp and the stocked Triploid Grass Carp. The major difference is the length of the dorsal fin. The Triploid Grass Carp has a significantly shorter fin than the common carp. They also do not have barbels (“whiskers”) around the mouth.

We thank you in advance for being mindful of this and for helping us to maintain a beneficial population of Triploid Grass Carp.

May 1 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen Planned for May 2 and 3

Spartanburg Water will perform a strategic and targeted algaecide application starting the afternoon of Monday, May 2, 2022, on Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen with a licensed commercial applicator. Pending weather, water quality and environmental conditions, the application will take place over two days.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our reservoirs to ensure quality drinking water for our community.

April 1 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen Planned for April 3 and 4

Spartanburg Water will be performing an algaecide application starting on Sunday, April 3, 2022, on Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen with a licensed commercial applicator (pending weather, water quality and environmental conditions).

This is a maintenance application targeting some early season Geosmin producers that we have identified through our monitoring strategy.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our reservoirs to ensure quality drinking water for our community.

February 28 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen Planned for March 1

Spartanburg Water will be performing an algaecide application starting on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 on Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen with a licensed commercial applicator (pending weather, water quality and environmental conditions).

This is a maintenance application targeting some early season Geosmin producers that we have identified through our monitoring strategy.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our reservoirs to ensure quality drinking water for our community.

February 15 Lake Alert: SCDOT to Begin Maintenance on I-26 Bridge Over Lake Bowen February 15

Beginning today, February 15, SCDOT will begin conducting maintenance on the I-26 bridge that crosses over Lake Bowen.

The left two passages moving upstream may close during this scheduled maintenance, which should last approximately 2-4 weeks.

Those using watercraft should exercise extreme caution and avoid these areas at this time.

January 18 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Re-open January 19

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas will re-open for use tomorrow, January 19, at 7:30 a.m.

January 17 Lake Alert: Winter Weather: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Closed January 18

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas will be closed again tomorrow, January 18, due to current safety concerns following our recent winter weather.

We will re-open both parks as soon as we deem it safe to do so.

January 16 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Closed Tomorrow

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas will be closed tomorrow, January 17, due to the current winter weather situation.

Please refrain from using any watercraft on either lakes tomorrow for safety concerns.

January 15 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Closed for Winter Weather Tomorrow

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas will be closed tomorrow, January 16, in anticipation of winter weather concerns.

Please refrain from using any watercraft on either lakes tomorrow for safety concerns.