

**2023**  
Popular  
Annual  
Financial  
Report

# Spartanburg Water

*Meeting the needs of a growing community.*





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and Executive Team

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**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT**  
 GENE JACKSON P.E.  
 Chief Capital Projects Officer  
 CAM COLE  
 Chief Financial Officer  
 GUY F. BOYLE  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 TRISH HEATHERINGTON  
 Clerk to the Commissions  
 Executive Assistant to the  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 ROBERT WALDEN  
 Chief Operations Officer

**NOT PICTURED**  
 RICK JOLLEY  
 Vice President of Plant  
 and Field Operations



## A Message from Our Chief Executive Officer and Executive Team

Though I am still relatively new to Spartanburg Water, having started this exciting stage of my career in July 2022, I already know without a doubt that our team represents the best of the best, and we are poised to continue this success in the years to come.

Spartanburg was a destination of choice for me and my wife, Debby, and when the opportunity arose to make both a career and life move, we jumped at the chance. In the drinking water and wastewater industries, Spartanburg Water is well-known and admired throughout the United States. This is because the men and women who have chosen a career with Spartanburg Water are passionate about serving their community.

I am always the first to share this particular statement with anyone who will listen – “Nothing can happen in a community without reliable water or wastewater services.” Can our hospital system function? No. Can our schools operate? No. Can we continue to lead the entire country in economic growth, development and relocation opportunities?

Without a doubt that is a resounding “no.”

The knowledge and expertise found throughout our organization ensures that our customers and community can rely on us to offer the highest quality

of drinking water and wastewater services 365 days a year, so that our community and residents can continue to thrive.

Throughout this report I hope you will see just how exciting 2023 has been for our entire Spartanburg Water team. From installing miles of water and sewer lines to accommodate new residential and industrial growth, to putting our new Advanced Oxidation System online for drinking water treatment; and making a memorable impact in our community through our Choose Tap program – our entire Spartanburg Water team continues to set our sights high.

I know I speak for all of us when I say that we are proud to serve our community and act as stewards of our environment and regional resources. Thank you to our customers and community partners for your ongoing support and partnership with our Spartanburg Water team, as we work to maintain trust and collaboration with all we serve.

My best,

*Guy F. Boyle*

Guy F. Boyle

## Meet Our Commissioners

### Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District



LOUIE W. BLANTON  
Chairperson



BARBARA J. BARNES  
Vice Chairperson



WOODY WILLIARD, JR.



JEROME RICE, JR.  
Mayor of the  
City of Spartanburg



JOHN D. MONTGOMERY



HORACE C. LITTLEJOHN



ANGELA M. VINEY

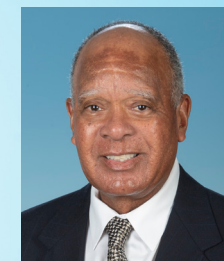
### Commission of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg



JOHN D. MONTGOMERY  
Chairperson



ANGELA M. VINEY  
Vice Chairperson



HORACE C. LITTLEJOHN  
Commissioner

Spartanburg Water is comprised of two entities – the **Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District (SSSD)** and **Spartanburg Water System (SWS)**. The Spartanburg Water System is overseen by three, elected commissioners to the Commission of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg, who serve six-year terms. The Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District is overseen by three, elected commissioners who serve four-year terms, the current Mayor of the City of Spartanburg, and the three commissioners from the Commission of Public Works.

Both commissions meet monthly, and work closely with the Spartanburg Water operations and management team to ensure the continued reliability of the Spartanburg drinking water and wastewater systems for the residents of the City of Spartanburg and Spartanburg County.



# Spartanburg Water in the Community

Community outreach and engagement is a very special part of Spartanburg Water's mission. Whether attending an outdoor event with our Oasis water dispenser, providing a grant to assist a community partner share an educational watershed program, or sharing the message of Choose Tap with a donation of reusable water bottles – we enjoy supporting the residents and community we serve.



Did you know that it takes three-gallons of water to make one, single-use plastic bottle of water? As part of our mission to promote the many benefits of choosing tap water over bottled water, Spartanburg Water regularly supports community initiatives and events in our service area with water stations, coolers available for loan and free, reusable water bottles.

As the word continues to spread about the Choose Tap Program, and events are once again returning to in-person attendance, Spartanburg Water has had the opportunity to share our mission and message with an ever-growing audience. 2023 was a great year, and we are looking forward to continuing to highlight "Choose Tap."

## 2023 IN REVIEW

**48 events supported**

**5,173 reusable bottles handed out**

(More than 26,000 bottles since program's inception in 2016)

**119 coolers loaned**

In 2023 we also launched a new program as part of our Choose Tap initiative that provides filled, 98 percent landfill biodegradable water bottles to some of our community partners.



## SYSTEM AWARD HIGHLIGHT

### All Nine Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Facilities Recognized for Outstanding Compliance

In 2023 the Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District (SSSD) celebrated the awarding of Peak Performance Awards from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) to all nine of its wastewater treatment facilities.

Platinum Awards are given to facilities that meet full compliance with permits over a consecutive five-year period. When 100 percent compliance is maintained beyond the initial award, Platinum Award status continues, noted by the number of years. The following Spartanburg Water-owned facilities have earned Platinum status:

- Fingerville Wastewater Treatment Facility – Platinum 11
- Clifton-Converse Wastewater Treatment Facility – Platinum 10
- Page Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility – Platinum 10
- Cowpens-Pacolet Wastewater Treatment Facility – Platinum 9
- Pacolet Mills Wastewater Treatment Facility – Platinum 7

Gold Awards recognize facilities that have achieved 100 percent permit compliance for an entire calendar year. The following Spartanburg Water-owned facilities have achieved Gold status for 2021:

- South Tyger River Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Lower North Tyger River Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Chesnee Wastewater Treatment Facility

Silver Awards recognize facilities with no more than five violations per calendar year. Those facilities are:

- A. Manning Lynch Wastewater Treatment Facility

NACWA's Peak Performance Awards recognize the commitment, innovation, and achievements of individuals and public agencies in the clean water community.

*"Our teams and facilities strive every day to not only meet the guidelines outlined in regulatory permits – but to exceed them,"*

**Vice President of Plant and Field Operations, Rick Jolley**

*"For our treatment plants to receive Peak Performance recognition, it is evident just how committed we are to protecting the public health of our community by maintaining the highest standard of wastewater treatment."*



# Spartanburg Water in the Community

## United Way Annual Campaign

Each year, Spartanburg Water employees come together to collectively raise money to benefit the United Way of the Piedmont and its many community partners and resources. For the 2023 employee campaign, our team members generously gave more than \$53,000 to help ensure that the United Way can continue its work in supporting so many residents in the community we serve.



## Spartanburg Water Team Members Answer the Call for Help from Jackson, Mississippi

The City of Jackson, Miss., experienced a weeks-long infrastructure failure worsened by river flooding in the month of August. South Carolina Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (SCWARN) officials reached out for help, and our Spartanburg Water team did not hesitate to answer the call. Three of our Above Ground Maintenance (AGM) team members traveled to Mississippi to share their expertise for more than two weeks, giving up time with their families and other events.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT  
Wes Earles, C&D AGM Coordinator; John Harris, WWT AGM Coordinator and Scott Duff, Facilities Maintenance Manager

# Watershed Ecology Center, PAL and TreesUpstate/ Noble Tree Foundation Grants

Each year, Spartanburg Water accepts grant requests from local organizations committed to programming that supports environmental stewardship, clean water initiatives and educational opportunities that provide younger generations with the knowledge and passion for protecting our natural resources.

In 2023, the Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District and Commission of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg awarded three such organizations with grants to further their programming. The Watershed Ecology Center received a grant totaling \$23,000 to assist in their mission of encouraging the appreciation of our local watershed through education, experience,



and community outreach. This grant will help them reach their goal for 2023 of reaching 23,000, K – 8th grade students through watershed-based, hands-on educational programming.

PAL (Play.Advocate.Live Well) received a grant for more than \$3,500 to assist with the success of their Trail Stewardship Program. The grant provided by Spartanburg Water will help fund the creation of videos and signs that will outline the “what-why-how” of invasive plants and why it is important to remove them from the natural landscape. Specifically, they will produce six videos and five different signs to be placed in two locations (10 signs total).



TreesUpstate and The Noble Tree Foundation received a grant for \$10,000 to provide funding assistance for a large-scale tree canopy mapping project that will offer important data related to urban planning, stormwater management and water quality for all of Spartanburg County.

Their joint tree canopy study project will produce tree canopy maps and reports for the City of Spartanburg and Spartanburg County, which will include ecosystem services. It will aid County objectives and state level initiatives, as well as providing better understanding of the impact of trees in the Broad River watershed. This watershed area includes Spartanburg Water’s reservoirs, Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock and Municipal Reservoir #1, as well as the North and South Pacolet Rivers.





# The Spartanburg Water Reservoirs

## AT A GLANCE

### Municipal Reservoir #1

- Constructed in 1926
- 15 miles of shoreline
- 342 acres

### Lake William C. Bowen

- Constructed in 1960
- 33 miles of shoreline
- 1,534 acres

### Lake H. Taylor Blalock

- Constructed in 1983
- 45 miles of shoreline
- 1,105 acres

The three, Spartanburg Water drinking water reservoirs help supply more than 26 million gallons of drinking water each day to Spartanburg Water’s more than 200,000 customers. The oldest of the three reservoirs, Municipal Reservoir #1 was created in 1926 along with the construction of our R.B. Simms Drinking Water Treatment Plant, and serves as our primary drinking water reservoir.

While no recreation is allowed on Reservoir #1, both Lake William C. Bowen and Lake H. Taylor Blalock offer the Spartanburg community opportunities for watercraft recreation and enjoyment.

Spartanburg Water has a dedicated team of watershed staff that help oversee the maintenance and safety of our drinking water reservoirs, including lake wardens, who are actually deputized officers and serve as our Spartanburg Water law enforcement department.



JON MORGAN  
Chief Lake Warden/  
Watershed Manager



HANNAH DAVIDSON  
Lake Warden



MEAGAN ROY  
Watershed Management  
Coordinator



ANTHONY MARTINEZ  
Watershed Specialist



JAMES WEST  
Watershed Specialist



MELISSA ALLEY  
Watershed Support  
Administrator

# Ski Bash

Upstate Community Abilities Network (UCAN) is an adaptive sports program of Roger C. Peace Rehabilitation Hospital, founded 24 years ago. The UCAN program provides adaptive sport opportunities for people with physical disabilities across the Upstate.

Since 1998, the organization has hosted their special Ski Bash adaptive waterski clinics at Lake Bowen during the months of July and August.



The adaptive sit skis allow anyone who is unable to stand and ski to still be pulled behind the boat. Similar to that of a stand-up skier, participants with more physical ability are able to grasp the rope and perfect jumping and riding the wake. Those with less physical ability can be pulled behind the boat using the ski and outriggers.

Our Lake Bowen watershed team and lake wardens help ensure that participants can enjoy the speed and exhilaration of water skiing each summer.



# Watershed Work Days

Spending approximately eight hours over two days (October 17 and 18), 165 Spartanburg Water employees helped remove 38,402 pounds of trash from around the utility’s three reservoirs – Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock and Reservoir #1. Over half of our employees were able to participate in the event investing more than 800 hours over the two day period to beautify and protect areas around the reservoirs.

This incredible amount of litter, which equates to just over 19 tons, included approximately 815 - 55 gallon bags of trash; along with many larger items, such as a lawn mower, toilets, televisions, refrigerators, mattresses and a gas grill. A total of 231 tires were also removed from the watershed – enough to benefit 58 cars.

The hard work by dedicated Spartanburg Water team members, including the cost of clean-up supplies, equals a total investment of more than \$46,000 to help improve the watershed directly impacting the organization’s drinking water reservoirs.

We want to extend our thanks to our neighbors who live on the lakes, and who continue to take pride in their property. This enabled our employees to focus their attention on areas that bordered our reservoirs, along state and county roads, bridges and neighborhood entrances, as well as small tributaries that flow into the reservoirs.





FINANCIAL SUMMARY

# Spartanburg Water System

The fiscal year for Spartanburg Water System (SWS) began on July 1, 2022 and concluded on June 30, 2023.

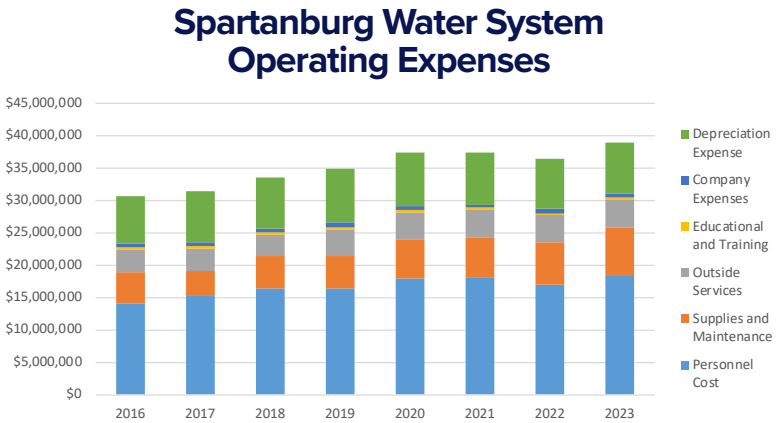
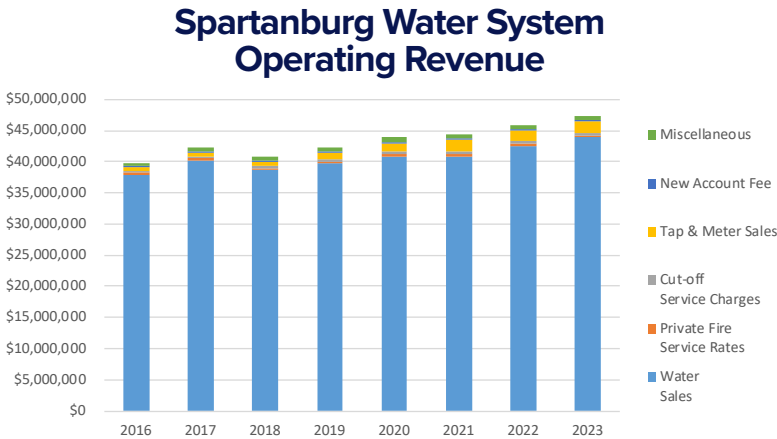
**Operating Revenue: \$47,360,418, an increase of 3.4%.**

**Spartanburg Water customer base increased by 1,443 accounts, or 2.2%, for fiscal year 2023. The average annual growth rate over the past five years was 2.1%.**

**Water Sales increased by \$1,268,153 for 2023, an increase of 3%**

**Total Operating Expenses: \$38,980,634, an increase of 6.9%.**

A recent rate survey of comparable utilities in the region indicated that the System’s customer rates compared favorably with the majority of the agencies in the survey.



To view the complete Spartanburg Water Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, please visit [spartanburgwater.org](https://spartanburgwater.org).



# Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District

The fiscal year for Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District (SSSD) began on July 1, 2022 and concluded on June 30, 2023.

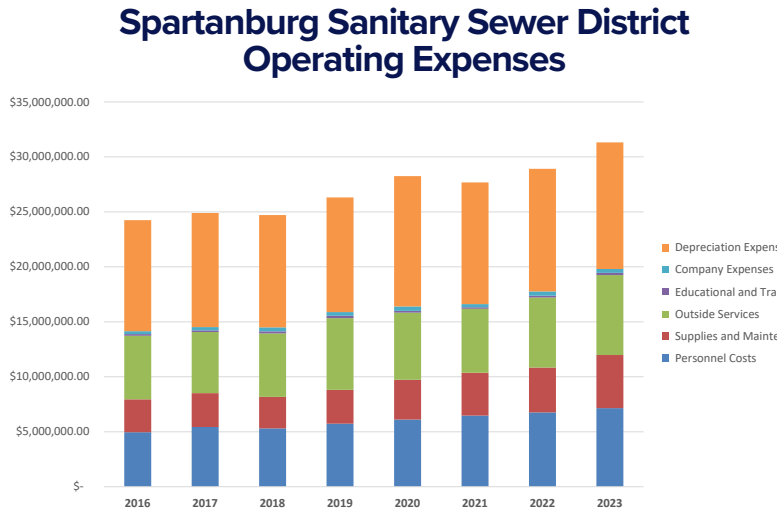
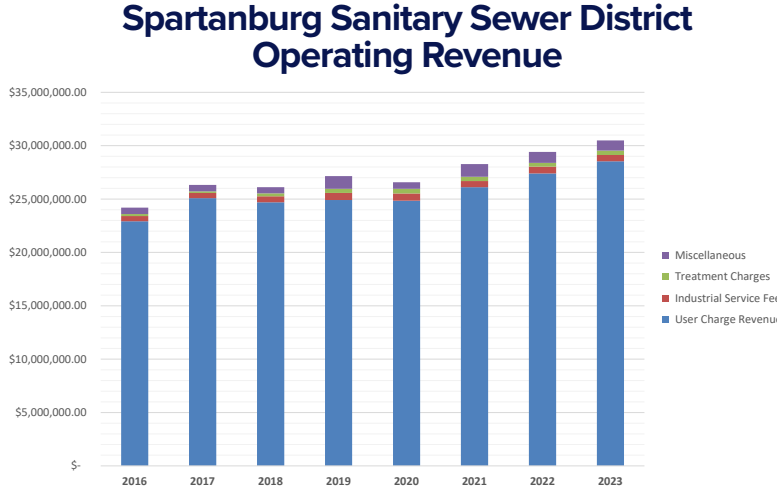
**Operating Revenue: \$30,489,339, an increase of 3.6%.**

**Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District customer base increased by 1,298 accounts, or 2.5%, for fiscal year 2023. The average annual growth rate over the past five years was 3.4%.**

**Sewer User Collection Charge (UCC) revenues increased by \$1,137,505, or 4.2%**

**Total Operating Expenses: \$31,324,640, an increase of 8.3%.**

A recent rate survey of comparable utilities in the region indicated that the District’s customer rates compared favorably with the majority of the agencies in the survey.







## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE Advanced Oxidation System

In 2019 Spartanburg Water embarked on an exciting project to bring advanced technology to drinking water treatment for our more than 200,000 customers. Working with partners, Harper General Contractors and HDR, the Spartanburg Water Engineering and Drinking Water Treatment teams began the more than three-year process to construct and implement an Advanced Oxidation system and process at our R.B. Simms Drinking Water Treatment Plant.

Considered to be on the forefront of drinking water treatment technology, Advanced Oxidation is one of the most environmentally-friendly treatment options available today.

Beginning in 1926 with the construction of our Municipal Reservoir #1 drinking water reservoir and R.B. Simms, Spartanburg Water has always looked to the future to provide our Spartanburg community with the best drinking water services. With the growth in our area, we committed to investing in our treatment process to ensure that we will continue to be able to provide clean, safe and reliable drinking water for decades to come.

On October 31, 2023, the new AO system was dedicated and the R.B. Simms Drinking Water Treatment Facility team officially began using the system daily for drinking water treatment operations.

## What is Advanced Oxidation?

Advanced Oxidation for drinking water treatment involves the creation of ozone through the addition of an electrical charge to gaseous oxygen. The ozone is then injected into the source water coming into the R.B. Simms Drinking Water Treatment Plant before the water travels through the normal drinking water treatment process. If needed, hydrogen peroxide can be added to the ozone, which creates an Advanced Oxidation Process that can address elevated levels of naturally occurring taste and odor causing compounds even before the water reaches the regular drinking water treatment process.

Why Did Spartanburg Water Decide to Install an Advanced Oxidation System?

- Ozone eliminates bacteria, viruses and most other organic and inorganic contaminants, even prior to the normal drinking water treatment process.
- Ozone provides excellent taste and odor control, providing an alternative approach to algacide treatments used on Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1 to combat naturally occurring Geosmin and MIB, which are taste and odor compounds released by certain microscopic algae. These compounds can cause water to have an earthy or musty smell and taste.
- Ozone can replace, and significantly reduce, levels of chemicals such as chlorine, as well as aiding in the removal of minerals, such as iron and manganese, creating better water quality to our customers.
- Ozone leaves neither chlorinated or non-chlorinated by-products, nor unpleasant chemical tastes or odors.

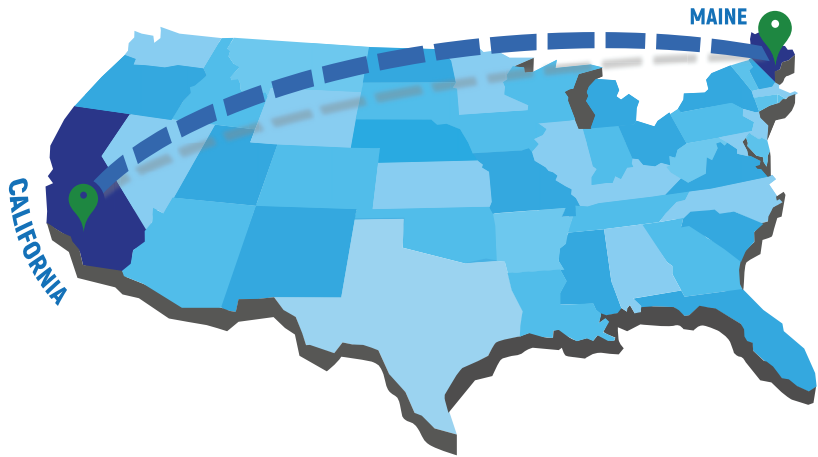
## Expansion of Infrastructure Helps Foster Growth and Economic Success in Spartanburg County

Spartanburg County is currently experiencing unprecedented growth as both new residents and businesses look to our area to build new lives and economic success. With this incredible growth and development, having access to reliable and quality drinking water and wastewater services is essential to ensure this momentum can both continue and remain sustainable.

To meet the demands of our ever-growing population of both residents and industry, Spartanburg Water works closely with local community partners, such as OneSpartanburg, Inc., the City of Spartanburg and Spartanburg County, to help prepare, plan and execute on the expansion of our water and wastewater infrastructure.

This investment in new infrastructure is key, but the ongoing maintenance of our current infrastructure is also vital to the health and reliability of our entire system.

In fact, if you could lay end-to-end the current infrastructure that we have in the ground, it would stretch from Portland, Maine, to Bakersfield, California. That's a distance of more than three thousand miles!



For new infrastructure projects, 2023 for our Spartanburg Water team was an exciting and busy time – with miles of new infrastructure laid, and the groundwork provided to welcome thousands of new residents and businesses to our community.

### 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

#### 24 Completed Water Projects

- 10.7 Miles of Water Line
- 58 New Fire Hydrants
- 13 New Fire Services
- 1,466 Lots for Tap Sales

**Total Value = \$3,484,000**

#### 51 Completed Sewer Projects

- 26.6 Miles of Sewer Line
- 755 New Manholes
- 3,063 Lots for tap sales

**Total Value = \$11,498,000**

#### 10 Completed Participation Projects\*

- 1.5 Miles of Water Line
- 7 New Fire Hydrants
- 75 Lots for tap sales

**Total Value = \$783,000**

\*Participation Projects:

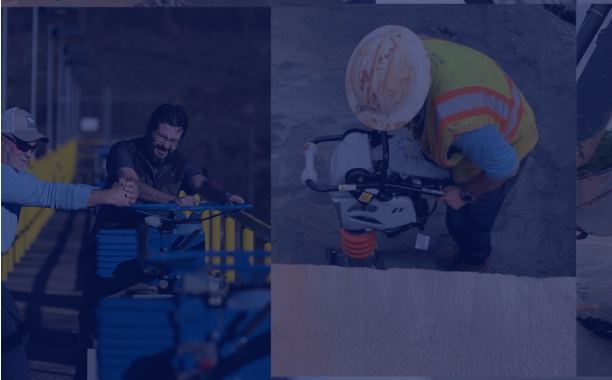
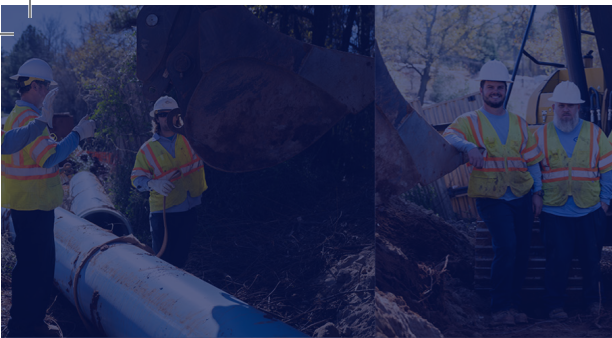
Projects in which a property owner—along an existing public roadway— 'participates' in cost of a water main extension project in order to obtain water service.

Follows commission's "Participation Policy," and requires at least 25% financial participation by the property owners.

Spartanburg Water's financial participation is between 40% to 75%, depending on the amount of the property owner's participation.

Once minimum participation has been committed, engineering team designs the water main extension, coordinating with the Spartanburg Water Collection and Distribution team, or local contractors.





Spartanburg Water  
200 Commerce St.  
Spartanburg, SC 29306

[spartanburgwater.org](http://spartanburgwater.org)

