

2025 Lake Alerts

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 - Reminder: There is Still Time to Join Us! October 28 – Lake Bowen Trunk-or-Treat

There is still time to participate with your trunk at our 2nd Annual Lake Bowen Trunk-or-Treat on Tuesday, October 28, from 6 – 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

There will be lots of fun, candy and trophies for the most creative trunks! A food truck will also be available with food for purchase.

If you are interested in participating with a trunk, or would like to instead make a candy donation to the event, please contact Melissa Alley with our Watershed team at (864) 592-2240 Ext. 2514, malley@spartanburgwater.org, or you can visit her to sign-up at the Lake Bowen Wardens' Office (8515 US Hwy. 9).

Monday, September 22, 2025 - October 28: 2nd Annual Trunk-or-Treat at Lake Bowen

With the incredible success and positive feedback we received from our very first Trunk-or-Treat event at Lake Bowen Park last year, we will once again be hosting the event on Tuesday, October 28, from 6 – 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

There will be lots of fun, candy and trophies for the most creative trunks! A food truck will also be available with food for purchase.

If you are interested in participating with a trunk or would like to instead make a candy donation to the event, please contact Melissa Alley with our Watershed team at (864) 592-2240 Ext. 2514, malley@spartanburgwater.org, or you can visit her to sign-up at the Lake Bowen Wardens' Office (8515 US Hwy. 9).

Thursday, July 31, 2025 - For Our Customers and Neighbors: Current water levels in Lake Bowen

Over the past week, we have had several inquiries from community residents and our neighbors residing around Lake Bowen regarding the current water level of the reservoir.

At this time, our customer demand levels and flow into our R.B. Simms Drinking Water Treatment Plant remain in the 35.0 Million Gallons a Day (MGD) range, which is not unusual for the summer season. What is a little unusual, is the continued lack of rain and the extended heat wave. A heat wave that has now set a record for the most 90+ degree days in the Upstate at 40 days and counting.

From July 1, we have only received 4.75” of rain. In order to make any meaningful difference to the streamflow entering Lake Bowen from the South Pacolet River, which in the early part of this week stood at approximately 19.0 MGD a day, we need consistent rain events over multiple days, rather than the one to two-hour rain events we have seen.

The extreme heat wave we have been experiencing is also a major contributing factor, with daily evaporation levels from the surface area of Lake Bowen estimated between 8.0 MGD and 12.0 MGD, with the average daily evaporation rate being 10.0 MGD due to the extreme prolonged temperatures.

While it may be concerning for those wishing to utilize Lake Bowen for recreation, the reservoir is serving its intended purpose well as a drinking water reservoir. Even with the factors mentioned, including the 35.0 MGD in demand, there is no concern regarding the available supply of drinking water for our customers from Lake Bowen.

As of today, July 31, we are at 1.72 ft. below full pool, which is about a 1.0 ft. drop from where we were on July 1. Full pool for Lake Bowen is 815 ft. Mean Sea Level (MSL). Until we receive some meaningful precipitation Lake Bowen will continue to drop in elevation in order to keep supply in line with demand.

We will continue to monitor the situation and appreciate the support of our customers and community.

Wednesday, July 9, 2025 - Spartanburg Water Service Area Considered to be in “Normal” Status as of July 9, 2025.

Spartanburg Water has recently received questions concerning the water level of its largest drinking water reservoir, Lake Bowen. Similar to other South Carolina area lakes, Lake Bowen has recently seen a slow downward trend in elevation with water levels currently measuring about 9 inches (3/4th of a foot) below “full pool.” As in years past, those owning property adjacent to the reservoir in shallow water cove areas typically notice water fluctuations first.

Streamflow into Lake Bowen from the South Pacolet River has decreased since May due to unusually high temperatures that have hovered in the mid to upper 90’s, as well as lower than average rainfall in late June through early July. Current rainfall through the first eight days of July was only .70 inches. Officially, the Spartanburg Water service area IS NOT currently designated to be in “drought” status.

The South Carolina Drought Response Committee meets regularly and reported as of July 1, 2025, that Spartanburg Water’s service area, and Spartanburg County as well as the entire state, is in “normal” status, with no areas designated in “drought” status. However,

noting the projected forecast for hotter/drier weather, the State Drought Response Committee has proactively scheduled two placeholder meetings (July 23 and August 5) to reconvene, should drought conditions escalate. Spartanburg Water has likewise been monitoring the projected forecast and is only withdrawing the minimum amount of water from our water supply reservoirs as needed to serve our customers with exceptional quality drinking water.

Be assured, Spartanburg Water has more than a sufficient amount of water for its customers for the long term, even during certain drought conditions. This includes supplying water for our wholesale partners such as SJWD, Liberty-Chesnee-Fingerville, Meansville-Riley, Jonesville, Metro B and Goucher Water Districts.

Friday, May 30, 2025 – Lake Bowen Parking Lot Re-striping Begins June 2

Please be aware that some parking spaces at Lake Bowen Park will be unavailable Monday, June 2 and Tuesday, June 3, while being re-stripped. Thank you for your patience as we work to improve your lake experience.

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 – Lake Bowen Oxygenation System Repairs

We will be performing repairs to the oxygenation system that runs under Lake Bowen beginning today, April 1, and should complete by Friday, April 11, weather permitting.

The repairs will not prevent you from your normal recreation on the reservoir, however, please be cautious and observant when you are in the proximity of the watercraft set up at the work site.

Friday, March 28, 2025 – Lake Bowen Kayak Launch Closed March 31

The kayak launch at Lake Bowen Park will be closed beginning Monday, March 31, as we begin work on the second phase of shoreline improvements around the peninsula.

For more information on this project that is included as part of a 319 grant received by Spartanburg Water, please visit: [Spartanburg Water 319 Grant Projects](#)

Should you have any questions, please contact our Lake Bowen office at (864) 592-2240.

Friday, February 28, 2025 - Lake Blalock Park Re-Opens March 1

Following extensive clean-up work and repairs to Lake Blalock Park and boat ramp caused by Hurricane Helene, the park will re-open officially tomorrow, March 1.

Thursday, February 20, 2025 - Winter Drawdown Complete

With the recent precipitation we have received, both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock have reached full pool, following the drawdown of the past three months.

With this rise in reservoir levels, our winter drawdown has officially concluded.

Thursday, January 9, 2025 - Lake Bowen Park is closed due to hazardous weather conditions

For the safety of our residents and visitors, Lake Bowen Park will be closed Friday, January 10, due to expected hazardous weather conditions. We appreciate your patience and we will announce the re-opening of the park on our social media channels.