

# Healthy Lakes

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News and information  
brought to you by Spartanburg Water.

QUESTIONS: (864) 592-2240  
[spartanburgwater.org/healthylakes](http://spartanburgwater.org/healthylakes)  
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## Lake Alerts: Important Information Delivered Digitally!



Want to get important information about Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock, and Municipal Reservoir #1 delivered straight to your e-mail inbox? Remember to sign up for our free Lake Alerts! This is the quickest way to receive information about issues related to our drinking water reservoirs.

Visit [spartanburgwater.org](http://spartanburgwater.org) and click News and Events to register.

## A New and Improved Lake Bowen Park

With your family's safety and convenience in mind, Spartanburg Water began work on the Lake Bowen Park Improvement Project, and we're happy to report some exciting changes for park visitors.



You'll notice added parking for vehicles without boat trailers, as well as a designated parking area for vehicles with boat trailers. We have also added an additional boat ramp for motorized watercraft and designated an existing boat ramp in the upper loop of the park for the use of non-motorized watercraft.

By centralizing motorized boating and water activities and providing a separate space for visitors enjoying the park for walking, picnicking or fishing – the new flow of traffic and parking will make the park safer and easier to navigate. A new ramp and special safety handrails will also make Lake Bowen Park more accessible for our visitors.

As part of the next phase of the project, strategic landscaping will be performed to better protect Lake Bowen from erosion and storm water runoff. This will prevent excess nutrients from entering our largest drinking water reservoir.

To learn more about the project and ongoing updates, please visit:  
<https://www.spartanburgwater.org/bowen-project-info>



# Sunglasses? Check! Sunscreen? Check! Life jackets?

Life jackets are one of the most important items to bring along while boating this summer. The key is not just wearing them – but wearing them correctly. Here are a few reminders to make sure you're doing so:

## INSPECT IT. → TRY IT ON. → ZIP IT, OR BUCKLE → WEAR IT. ALL STRAPS.

All life jackets should be Coast Guard approved (look for the stamp on the life jacket) and in good condition (no rips, waterlogging, or mildew).

Put it on to check for fit. Check the label on the life jacket for weight and size limits. Remember, life jackets for adults do not work for children.

Discard any life jacket with torn fabric or loose straps.

South Carolina requires everyone on board to have a proper fitting and serviceable life jacket.

## Wondering how your life jacket should look?

Here are some major faults with fit:



**X Too Big**



**X Too Small**



**X Not Buckled**



**X Buckled Incorrectly**



**✓ Correct**

Life jackets are appropriately named, as they do just that – save lives; so no matter what style you choose or what activity you're doing, please remember to be responsible and wear one at all times while on the water!

## Summer Boating Safety

The water is warm and the sun is shining! It's the perfect weather for a day on the lake! But as you soak up the summer, it's imperative to do so safely.

There are several important precautions to take before even getting out on the water. Some of these steps include:

- **Filling out a float plan.**  
This includes pertinent information about your boat, your route, and the passengers on board.
- **Checking the weather.**
- **Letting someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.**



Another crucial step is making sure you have all the required safety equipment on board, such as:

- **Personal flotation devices** – enough for each passenger, US Coast Guard approved and in good condition.
- **Throwable flotation cushion** – in case someone goes overboard.
- **Fire extinguisher** – required by law, dependent on the size of your boat.
- **Navigation lights** – on between official sunset and sunrise.
- **Sound device** – horn, air horn, whistle.

It's important to not only take responsibility for your personal safety but to also keep an eye out for others. If you see a potentially dangerous situation, please contact the Lake Bowen Wardens' Office at 864-592-2240 or the Lake Blalock Wardens' Office at 864-578-5442. Safety is the top priority as you kick, back, relax, and recreate on the reservoirs this summer.



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<https://www.spartanburgwater.org/Healthy-Lakes-newsletter>