



GREAT WATER HEALTHY LAKES

CHOOSE TAP | SPARTANBURG WATER

Lake Alert:

LAND SALE REPORTS ARE FALSE

A small number of our customers have called to ask us about a rumor that Spartanburg Water has orchestrated the sale of an unspecified tract of land to an outside entity without the public’s knowledge—in fact, we’ve heard reports that an environmental group—and even a local fish camp—have either bought or sold property in transactions behind closed doors. **These claims are false and have no basis in fact.**

To be clear, Spartanburg Water is not selling any property around any of our reservoirs, nor have we purchased any additional property.

Spartanburg Water’s number-one priority continues to be the fulfillment of our mission to provide quality water in a reliable manner. Reliance on facts allows us to address this issue and get back to the business at hand: Ensuring the delivery of safe, quality water to more than 200,000 people.

Drawdown:

LAKE LEVELS LOWERED THIS WINTER

While a drawdown of the lake is not an annual process, our watershed management team does lower the levels when necessary in our reservoirs. We last organized a “maintenance” drawdown between December 2014 and February 2015. We also recently dropped both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock for a short time before Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael. In both of these instances, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Dam Safety Program officials requested that dam owners in South Carolina start lowering lake levels several days ahead of the storms. This was further supported by the governor’s office in preparation for significant rainfall in the state during this time.

Our schedule is to begin this project in early December. This process will require the lower level to remain in place until the end of February, providing our watershed management staff and you, as property owners, an opportunity to examine the shoreline and perform other routine maintenance. A lot of different variables may cause lake level fluctuations during the

drawdown period, the most significant being heavy rainfall. This may result in a longer time to reach our target drawdown level and, if wet weather patterns persist, may actually prevent us from reaching or sustaining these lower levels.

While we don’t expect this project to have any drastic impact on normal recreation activities like fishing, there may be areas of the lake that may be harder to navigate during the drawdown. Our staff will be posting signs to alert boaters of the potential hazards of using their watercraft while the lake is at a lower level. As always, we encourage safety. Please speak with a lake warden to ensure that your plans don’t include taking your boat into a portion of the lake that may be difficult to navigate in the months of December, January and February.

Homeowners may benefit from the lower levels, which provide perfect conditions to survey

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**DID YOU KNOW THE
SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
OPERATES SIX
FISH HATCHERIES
THROUGHOUT THE
STATE?**

Fish hatcheries play a vital role in the management of our state's fishery resources. The mission of the SCDNR fish hatchery program is to propagate those species of fish in sizes required to accomplish fishery management objectives as recommended by the biological staff and approved by administrative personnel. This helps ensure that our fishery resources are enjoyed by many generations to come.

Fish Restocking:

MORE THAN 500K FISH RELEASED THROUGH NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH SCDNR

Approximately 267,800 fish have been restocked in Lake Bowen (85,000 bluegill and 182,800 red eared sunfish) and approximately 268,000 red eared sunfish have been stocked in Municipal Reservoir #1 this fall. This brings the total fish stocked this fall to around 535,800 between the two lakes. We anticipate that SCDNR will continue with stocking efforts in the spring of Spring 2019 with a focus on largemouth bass.

Spartanburg Water's reservoirs provide a clean, safe water supply to a population of more than 200,000 people but they also are home to a number of aquatic species, including typical gamefish found in southeastern freshwaters. In May 2018 approximately 200,000 fish were lost after an algacide application was used to control taste and odor causing algae in Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Spartanburg Water have developed the final arrangements of a partnership that will ensure the proper investments necessary to ensure the drinking water reservoirs are

appropriately managed and allow us to continue providing quality recreational opportunities for the public while and protecting our community's precious natural resources.

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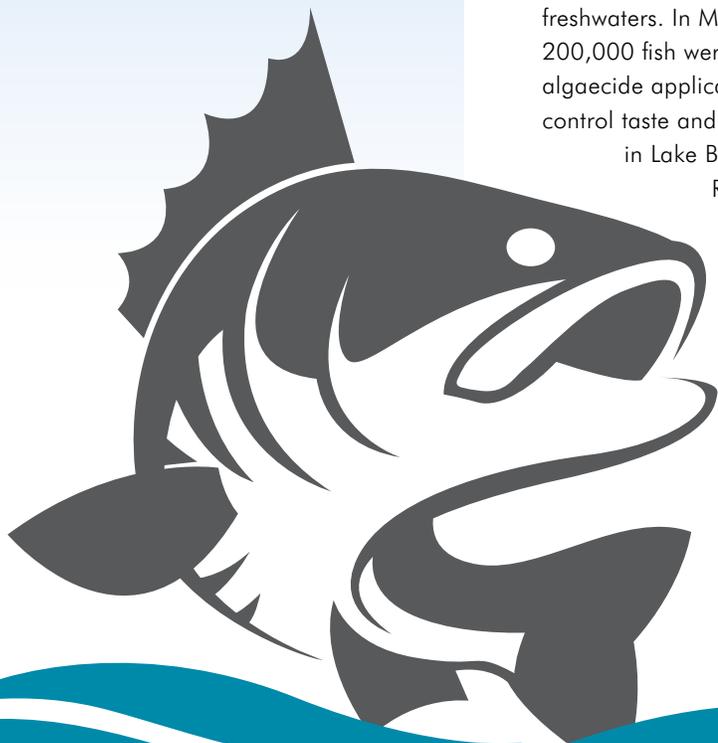
This partnership furthers the commitment between SCDNR and Spartanburg Water to improve communications and establish processes to reduce the chance of future fish mortalities when algacide applications are made.

Spartanburg Water will provide the replacement cost of the fish lost last May, as well as any SCDNR staff time in the management of the fish loss investigation, at a total of \$110,357.08.

SCDNR will use the above-mentioned monies to fund a research study to assess restocking needs and those efforts on Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1. SCDNR will also use the monies to restock the two lakes with the appropriate species, size and quantity as the study determines.

SCDNR began a fish restocking study this fall.

During this assessment phase, SCDNR staff are evaluating a variety of factors to determine how many fish will be added to the lakes, in addition to a timeline.





Land Access Agreement

In response to a high-volume of stakeholder feedback and input from adjacent landowners, Spartanburg Water has made a number of improvements to the permitting process, including the introduction of the Land Access Agreement—a universal agreement that protects and preserves your rights as a property owner on both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock.

Because our lakes are the drinking water reservoirs for the community, there are rules and regulations that we must have in place to protect water quality. However, many of you and your neighbors shared a number of questions and concerns about how information is recorded, not to mention the efficiency of the permitting process itself.

FAST FACTS

- The LAA serves as a primary land use agreement between Spartanburg Water and the adjoining landowners.
- It establishes an agreement between Spartanburg Water and the adjoining landowner that provides access to recreation and enjoyment of SWS's property below the MSL 827' or 720' contour lines.
- The LAA establishes the procedures for the adjoining landowner to apply for permits for docks, boat lifts and other items that enhance the landowner's enjoyment of the lake.
- The LAA is required of every landowner with property adjoining the MSL 827' or 720' contour line, regardless of whether or not they are applying for permits to place other improvements below the applicable contour.
- It is not transferable to subsequent landowners (a new agreement would be required of every subsequent landowner).
- It requires a named party for the agreement, regardless of the use of an LLC
- It is attached to the adjoining landowners chain of title
- It can be revoked by Spartanburg Water if the landowner is non-compliant with the rules and policies governing the lakes.

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erosion and perform shoreline maintenance projects, including the construction or repair of docks, shoreline stabilization structures, and walkways. Spartanburg Water is providing advance notice of the drawdown to allow you the appropriate time needed to consider and schedule any maintenance or upgrades to lakefront property, including those that may require obtaining permits. Adjacent property owners are reminded that maintenance activities may not include pushing yard debris or any other material into the lake. In addition, no fires are allowed around the shoreline of the lake on property that Spartanburg Water owns.

Other than minor maintenance as defined by Spartanburg Water, permits are required for any work that falls below the 827' contour line for Lake Bowen or below the 720' contour line for Lake Blalock. We encourage you to make permit applications now to ensure adequate time for them to be processed and issued by our watershed management team and lake staff. Assess your needs and start planning now—do not delay in submitting a permit if you plan to perform work during the drawdown period.

Although it is not required, we recommend that any boats be removed from the water during the drawdown. Please call either our Lake Bowen office at (864) 592-2240 or Lake Blalock office at (864) 578-5442 if you have specific questions regarding watercraft on the lake.

It is expected that the lake level will fluctuate during the drawdown period due to projected weather patterns during the December–February period being wetter than normal. As property owners consider and begin to implement permitted projects, it is recommended that weather forecasts be monitored on a regular basis, especially when planning key shoreline work.

If you are interested in a project on Spartanburg Water property this winter during the lake drawdown period, we encourage you to contact the lake warden's office quickly to ensure that your questions can be answered and the required permits are issued for your project. Additional information on the lake drawdown project is available at www.spartanburgwater.org.

Press Pause:

PROGRAM UNDERWAY TO PROVIDE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR EXISTING STRUCTURES BELOW CONTOUR LINE

Spartanburg Water recently launched its “Press Pause” program to provide adjacent landowners the opportunity to gain authorization for any existing improvements below the 827’ contour line around Lake Bowen.

Running from October 1, 2018 to December 1, 2019, the program offers participating property owners the chance to register to keep all of their **existing structures** and improvements in place. Landowners may request to “Press Pause” and establish a baseline of permits for all existing improvements below the 827’ Spartanburg Water property line. This baseline adds to any existing permits—such as dock replacements, boat lifts, and seawalls—and offers the chance to permit or license established structures that would not necessarily be approved under existing policies and procedures.

With the submission of a Press Pause application, adjacent property owners are eligible to receive an authorization from Spartanburg Water for all existing improvements in good condition. This includes semi-permanent or permanent structures, as well as playground equipment, beaches, and fire rings.

Upon registration, applicants submit those structures they wish to index. Spartanburg Water staff members create an inventory on-site of all structures and improvements, and ensure that all eligible structures and improvements are included in the Press Pause process. Once issued, the license or permit places the existing structure in the adjacent property owner’s name and allows the continued existing of said structure on Spartanburg Water property. Provided the structures and improvements remain in good condition, they will be able to remain in place for as long as the property owner desires to keep them.

Property owners participating in Press Pause will be required to pay any associated fees for their permits and licenses. These are the same as existing permit fees, and may be found at spartanburgwater.org/. **Press Pause applicants who register prior to March 31, 2019 will receive 25 percent off of all relevant permits and/or licenses.**

In order to establish the mutual rights and obligations of Spartanburg Water and adjacent property owners regarding use of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock, participating property owners will also be required to complete a Land Access Agreement upon issuance of their Press Pause permits and licenses. This document is required of all individuals seeking permits around Spartanburg Water reservoirs and documents their understanding of Spartanburg Water’s management approach to the property below the 827’ contour.

HOW TO ‘PRESS PAUSE’

To apply for the Press Pause program, interested property owners may contact Spartanburg Water staff in person at the Lake Bowen office, call **864-580-2095** to register by phone, email presspause@spartanburgwater.org, or register online at spartanburgwater.org/pause. This one-time program is open to every adjacent property owner living around Lake Bowen with property abutting the 827’ MSL contour.

The program is entirely voluntary, but is an excellent opportunity for all property owners with structures below the 827’ contour to get all of these improvements approved, permitted or licensed, and placed under your name.

