Since the program was first implemented on October 1, 2018, Spartanburg Water has been working with adjoining property owners to approve authorizations. Throughout the 14-month “Pause” window, adjoining property owners on Lake Bowen have had the opportunity to establish a baseline of permits, licenses, and/or agreements for improvements and structures below the 827’ MSL Spartanburg Water property line.

All existing improvements, semi-permanent or permanent structures, that existed on SWS property as of October 1, 2018, and are in good condition, will receive an authorization from Spartanburg Water to be able to remain on SWS property after December 1, 2019. Any improvements placed after October 1, 2018, do not qualify for the program, as they should have been properly permitted.

**Why are these permits important?**
As of midnight on December 1, 2019, all planned or future investments below the 827’ MSL contour will be subject to the rules and regulations in place at the time. Spartanburg Water is partnering with adjoining property owners to offer this opportunity so you can keep prior improvements on SWS property after the December 1, 2019, deadline.

All you have to do is visit our website or call our staff and request a “Press Pause Review.” Our staff will assess Spartanburg Water’s records with you directly to ensure all permits, licenses, and agreements have been filed and reflect the current owner.

Please note some permanent or semi-permanent structures on SWS property may not have been permitted by a past owner. This is your opportunity to ensure all authorizations are in place so the items may remain. The adjacent property owner will be responsible for paying all applicable fees associated with additional permits, licenses, and agreements that are issued during this period.

The program is voluntary, but remember, it’s your chance to get improvements below the 827’ contour authorized and placed under your name before they are subject to any current or future rules and regulations. We know the improvements you have made are important to you. That’s why it is important to us to work together to reach a resolution that will make allowances for improvements, while also protecting the integrity of our watershed.

Take action today and sign up at www.spartanburgwater.org/pause.

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**Do you have any of these? They are some examples of what may be included in “Press Pause!”**
- Sea walls, in good condition
- Docks, in good condition
- Sitting area
- Planters
- Boat ramps, in good condition
- Playground equipment and structures
- Fire pit structures
- Walkways
- Decks
- Outbuildings
- Retaining walls
- Benches
- Lawn furniture
- Picnic tables
- Flagpoles
- Beaches
- Recirculating fountains
- Fences, in good condition
Aquatic Hitchhikers

BOATS AND PERSONAL WATERCRAFT MAKE FOR A FUN DAY ON THE LAKE, BUT DID YOU KNOW YOU COULD BE TRANSPORTING AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS?

What exactly are these unwanted guests tagging along?
They are aquatic invasive species – organisms that live in bodies of water, like lakes or oceans, and have been spread to locations where they do not naturally occur, causing harm to the environment, the economy, and even human health. Additionally, they negatively impact the quality of outdoor recreation experiences.

Behind habitat destruction, the number-one reason for threatened and endangered species is loss caused by introduced invasive species. Introduced species are a greater threat to native plants and animals than pollution, harvest, and disease combined. They are also a leading factor in freshwater fish extinctions and endangerments.

In recent years, an aquatic invasive plant species known as Hydrilla has plagued lakes across the Southeast. While largely under control, this plant is dubbed “South Carolina’s Most Wanted” and poses the biggest threat to waters statewide.

Through rapid spread and growth to 25 feet long, this submersed plant clogs water intakes, blocks boat access and navigation, displaces beneficial native vegetation, and impairs recreational water activities and water quality. In 1991, this “aquatic Kudzu” caused the shutdown of the St. Stephen hydroelectric plant on Lake Moultrie in Berkeley County, South Carolina.

Aquatic hitchhikers can be transported to other waterbodies by recreational activities, including fishing, boating, and even swimming. Some aquatic invasive species can attach to boats themselves, while others can cling or get tangled on propellers, anchor lines, and boat trailers. Aquatic invasive species can hide in the mud, dirt, and sand that cling to nets, buckets, anchors, and waders. Some organisms may even be unknowingly released with the dumping of bait.

So how can the spread of aquatic invasive species be stopped?
It only takes a few simple steps to reduce the risk. Most species can be stopped by the “Clean, Drain, Dry” procedure. Clean off visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from all equipment before leaving water access. Rinse equipment and boat hulls with high pressure, hot water, and rinse interior compartments with low pressure, hot water. Don’t forget to also flush the motor
with hot water for about two minutes. 

Drain the motor, bilge, live well, and other water-containing devices. Many species can survive in these parts that collect water.

Dry everything for several days, or wipe with a towel before the next use. Drying times vary depending on the type of equipment, temperature, and humidity. The outside of a boat can dry relatively quickly, but bilge, live wells and other parts of the boat not reached by the sun or lacking good air circulation will take longer. The general rule of thumb is to let equipment dry at least five days in dry, warm conditions, but the key is to make sure all equipment is completely dry before using it in a new water body. Wiping all areas with a towel will also help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

You can take these precautions one step further and also dispose. Get rid of unwanted bait, worms, and fish parts in the trash. When keeping live bait, drain bait containers and replace with spring or de-chlorinated tap water. Never dump live fish or other organisms from one body of water into another.

Our reservoirs are a great place to spend time with family and friends, but it’s important to remember that they contribute far more than just fun memories – they supply the drinking water to nearly 200,000 people in our community, and preserving the water quality is critical. Learn to recognize these aquatic hitchhikers and familiarize yourself with where to look for them. Follow the “Clean, Drain, Dry” method on all watercraft, trailers, motors, and gear every time, everywhere; and report sightings of aquatic invasive species to the appropriate authorities.

In a continued effort to work with our customers and our community, Spartanburg Water opened a window of opportunity to submit public comments on a draft set of Rules and Regulations between August 1, 2019, and August 30, 2019.

These draft Rules and Regulations were a compilation of existing SWS policies into a single, comprehensive document. To encourage maximum participation, we made this document available in digital flip and print-ready formats on our website, at the wardens’ offices at both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock, and distributed hard copies to five Spartanburg County Public Library branches (Downtown, Boiling Springs, Chesnee, Inman, and Landrum) for your review. We accepted comments both electronically and by mail.

Now that the 30-day period is over, all comments that included a name and address are under consideration. Following approval by the Commission, the final Rules and Regulations will supersede all previous policies and apply to all SWS-owned property along Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock, Municipal Reservoir #1, the North Pacolet River, the South Pacolet River, and the Pacolet River.

The Watershed and Reservoir Management Rules and Regulations serve as a framework to manage the reservoirs and the SWS property surrounding them. These policies will give adjoining landowners – and the general public who wish to enjoy these resources – guidelines on allowed activities, as well as the required permits and the permitting processes.

When it comes to these guidelines, we want you to know we are listening, and we value your feedback. Spartanburg Water is confident that with the insight so many of you provided, we will be able to establish a set of Rules and Regulations that will encourage the responsible use of these valuable natural resources, while continuing to help us achieve our mission – to provide quality water and wastewater services to our region in a reliable manner.
Update to the Land Access Agreement

BACKGROUND
Originally, the Land Access Agreement (LAA) was designed as a mechanism to ensure that future adjoining property owners on Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock and Municipal Reservoir #1 were made aware of the Spartanburg Water System Rules and Regulations prior to the purchase of property, and so they fully understood that Spartanburg Water System owns and manages the land immediately adjacent to the reservoirs.

The LAA would be added to a property’s deed and recorded by Spartanburg County.

WHY WAS THE LAND ACCESS AGREEMENT (LAA) CREATED IN THE FIRST PLACE?
In the listening sessions with adjoining property owners conducted by Spartanburg Water in the summer of 2018, it was expressed by many that they “did not know” about Spartanburg Water’s ownership and management of the land immediately adjacent to the reservoirs, and that their realtors had not disclosed this information. By recording this information through the LAA on a property’s deed, this would ensure all information was disclosed to a buyer.

WHY ARE WE REMOVING/DROPPING THE LAND ACCESS AGREEMENT (LAA) REQUIREMENT?
The requirement to obtain a signed LAA, prior to acquiring any permit from Spartanburg Water System has been a point of concern for many adjoining landowners. Many of the comments received during the recent public comment period in August for the draft Watershed and Reservoir Management Rules and Regulations pointed to an issue with the LAA.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
Rather than wait for the full Watershed and Reservoir Management Rules and Regulations document to be approved by the Commission, on September 6, 2019, the Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg announced that Spartanburg Water System would no longer require the Land Access Agreement as a prerequisite to any action, permitting or enforcement.

Spartanburg Water System will begin the process of removing the LAA’s that have been recorded, and returning the agreements to property owners that have not been recorded with the County.

For adjoining property owners on Lake Bowen, the LAA will no longer be a component of the “Press Pause program.”

For questions and additional information, please contact the Lake Blalock or Lake Bowen Wardens’ offices.