

# Be a Responsible Boater...

*...Be part of the solution, not part of the problem!*

There are two common problems effecting Lake Greenwood today, **invasive aquatic species** and **nonpoint source pollution**.

**I**nvasive aquatic species are plants not native to the area that are known to be aggressive and competitive. They crowd out natural species as well as impede irrigation and boating. They also degrade water quality, reduce property values, and increase habitats for mosquitoes. Lake Greenwood is currently experiencing issues with two invasive plants: hydrilla and eelgrass. Boats are the most common means of transporting invasive aquatic species – the weeds get chopped up by boat motors, sticking to the undersides of boat hulls, propellers, and trailers, and then are released again into the lake.

**N**onpoint-source pollution generally results from land runoff, rain, and drainage. As rainfall runoff moves along the ground, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, depositing them into lakes, rivers, and ground waters. Nonpoint source pollution is the leading cause of current water quality problems. Because nonpoint source pollution comes from so many places, addressing it requires the help of everyone. As boaters on the lake, you could be contributing to nonpoint source pollution through your boats, waste disposal, and household chemicals.

## What You Can Do to Protect Lake Greenwood while boating:

- Avoid producing a wake within 50 feet of shore.
- Be a considerate boater with respect to other people's property – including their docks and shore line.
- Stow trash safely from blowing off your boat and bring it ashore for recycling or disposal. If you see something fly out of your boat, try your best to recover it. Be extra careful with empty beverage containers, meal wrappings, and bait containers.
- Watch for leaking motors and be careful when gassing up, it is common to find petroleum spills washed into our coves.
- Take pictures of concerns on the lake such as weeds, floating logs, and dirt bypassing silt fences. Be sure to report these as well as any smells that seem out of place to Greenwood County Lake Management.
- Make sure you do not leave personal items behind at boat ramps.
- Have a check list of what needs to be done every time you launch your boat and when you remove the boat from the water. This can prevent boats from sliding off trailers onto the ramp and ensure props are up when you come out of the water to prevent damaging them and the ramp.
- Rinse and remove aquatic plants or invertebrate hitchhikers, such as snails, from your boat hull, propellers, and trailer.
- Scrub boats with a brush and water instead of routinely using soap or detergent. If cleansers are needed to remove stains, use phosphate-free detergents.
- Take a free boating safety course through SC DNR.



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