

S O S

Stewards Of Secession

A Voluntary Guide to Preserve and Protect Lake Secession

Associated With The Abbeville Hydroelectric Project
(FERC Project No. 11286)

City of Abbeville, S.C.

May 16, 2001

1. VOLUNTARY SHORELINE STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES

1.1 GENERAL: As partners with the City of Abbeville and adjoining property owners in the custodial care of Lake Secession, owners property owners can voluntarily do many things to help prevent future degradation of Lake Secession water quality. The less we change the shoreline or introduce substances around the shoreline that could get into the water, the better. By designing and planning natural shoreline landscapes, as well as strategies to manage them, we can all work to protect Lake Secession.

1.2 LAWN MAINTENANCE: For many adjoining property owners, lawn maintenance can be labor intensive and costly. Mowing, fertilizing, watering, and controlling weeds can take hours each week and costs can be significant. Property owners can reduce this burden and help save Lake Secession by considering the landscaping of their property. Unused lawn areas can be converted to shrubs, gardens, trees, or meadows. Lawns can be replaced with attractive shrubs and ground covers which require low maintenance.

1.3 WATER USE: Using water wisely on the lawn and along the lake shoreline is also important. Constant watering can lead to pollutant runoff into the lake. Water only during the coolest part of the day and use soaking hoses or drip irrigation which apply water slowly. Use organic mulches, including shredded bark, leaves and wood chips to retain moisture and reduce runoff. Table 1.3.1 on page 3. Is a Summary of Voluntary Actions Adjoining Property Owners can take to help preserve lake water quality.

1.4 WILDLIFE HABITATS: Adjoining property owners can also help to provide and improve wildlife habitats for birds, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies and other animals. As development around Lake Secession continues, wildlife habitat is increasing lost. By providing wildlife with its most basic needs, property owners can convert their backyards into small nature preserves. Creating wildlife habitat means providing food, water, shelter, and nesting sites. Many plants produce fruits, nuts, or berries that wildlife need for food. Deciduous and evergreen shrubs and bushes provide excellent cover and nesting sites, and these also create a transition zone between lawns and trees.

2. SHORELINE STABILIZATION

Erosion of the Lake Secession shoreline is a naturally occurring phenomenon resulting from wave action upon the land. All owners of property adjoining the Lake have to expect some amount of shoreline erosion over time and this is consistent with preserving a naturally forested or shrubbed shoreline. Prevention of severe erosion is the responsibility of the owner of the property adjoining the Lake. No shoreline stabilization measures may be placed in the Lake below the 548 foot contour.

3. PROTECTION OF FISH HABITAT

Wetlands and aquatic vegetation are critical for many species of fish and wildlife and are particularly important as a nursery areas for juvenile fish. Protection of aquatic vegetation is one of the most important things that can be done to help maintain a healthy reservoir fishery. Downed trees, lap trees, logs, stumps and brush all create excellent cover for juvenile and adult fish and are places most likely to be inhabited by many important game specifiers.

4. VOLUNTARY FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

Lake development, forest management and timber harvesting can have significant impacts on water quality. To Help reduce the potential impacts of timber harvesting and forest management on Lake Secession and its shorelines, the City requests that you consult a representative of the South Carolina Forestry Service when planning any forestry activities. Property owners must abide by all state and federal laws concerning performance standards in Forest Practice Guidelines related to Water Quality (15NCAIJ.0201-.0209) for erosion and sediment control related to logging operations and road construction.

5. IN CONCLUSION.

As a FERC licensee, the City of Abbeville, S.C. manages Lake Secession in accordance with the terms of its license and the applicable rules and regulations of FERC. The City of Abbeville, S.C. takes this stewardship responsibility very seriously and is committed to the protection and enhancement of the lake resources. But the City cannot do it alone. The responsibility for protecting and preserving the Lake must be shared by all who use the Lake and its shorelines. We are all *SOS*, Stewards Of Secession and must work together.

Table 1.3.1

**Voluntary Actions Adjoining Property Owners Can Take
To Help Preserve Lake Water Quality**

Activity	Action
Property Development	Plan your home site to minimize the opportunity of drainage of water from your house, driveway, or lawn directly into the reservoir.
	Establish a building setback and establish or maintain a natural forested buffer between your lawn and the reservoir shoreline, even where not required for eligibility for a private pier or reservoir access.
	Keep clearing of vegetation and creation of lawns to a minimum.
	Install, or be sure that your builder installs, silt fences and other appropriate forms of erosion and sedimentation control on your property to prevent runoff of sediment into the reservoirs.
	Minimize the size of paved driveways and parking areas on your property.
Yard Care	Minimize use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides on your lawn and in your yard.
	Convert unused portions of lawn into gardens, shrubs, trees, or meadows.
	Plant native species and hardy grasses, which require little or no specialized care (see Table 3 in the Shoreline Stewardship Policy).
Boating	Use petroleum products with caution and take steps to prevent them from getting into the water.
	Wash boats away from the water and use biodegradable, non-phosphate detergents.
Household Maintenance	Keep septic systems and drain fields well maintained. Have septic tanks pumped and inspected routinely. Have drain fields inspected, particularly if any odor is observed.
	Wash cars and other vehicles away from the water.
Agricultural Activities	Maintain a forested shoreline buffer.
	Install fencing to keep farm animals out of the reservoirs.
	Institute best-management practices as recommended by the State and USDA for crop and animal production.