



PRESS CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOX LANDING TEMPORARILY CLOSING TODAY

MOBILE, July 26, 2021-- MAWSS is closing recreational access to Big Creek Lake today, July 26, 2021, at sundown due to the presence of an invasive plant species around the reservoir. It is known as Giant Salvinia, which can quickly spread by boat to other bodies of water. To prevent further spread, we have closed Fox Landing boat ramp until further notice.

Under ideal conditions, Giant Salvinia doubles in size every five to seven days. Wind and boat traffic in and around Big Creek Lake are the primary reasons these plants have spread. The Great Salvinia plants tend to cluster near banks and shores, cutting native species and plants off the lake's oxygen supply. These mats of Giant Salvinia grow up to three feet deep, which kills aquatic life in the lake and results in higher cleanup costs. These plants exist on all sides of the lake, clustering near Fox Landing and around the shoreline.

To fight this invasive species, MAWSS has temporarily closed public access to Big Creek Lake. We plan on reopening Fox Landing once we have eradicated the invasive plants. It is not feasible to remove these plants with recreational boat access. Recreational access to the lake disturbs the water, moving plant spores and clusters to new locations. Stopping the spread of these plants is essential to us, which is why we are working to protect our local water supply.

Once we have treated the Giant Salvinia plants in a manner that will not degrade drinking water, our teams will be hard at work removing the mats of plants from the reservoir. Public Relations Manager Monica Allen says, "This process must occur because left unattended the plants could clog vital intake infrastructure for our lake. When these steps have occurred, then we will alert the public that the lake will reopen. Until we remove these plants, Big Creek Lake will remain closed to protect our reservoir."

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ABOUT MAWSS

MAWSS is committed to protecting and enhancing our community's health, safety, and economic well-being through responsible management of water services while providing superior customer service. Since 1954, we have worked hard to enrich our community by protecting and creating resources for future generations.

GIANT SILVANIA AREAS

**CROOKED CREEK
VIDEO SITE**

FOX LANDING

**POSSIBLE BOOM
LOCATION**



