

Are Lake Athens residents allowed to treat aquatic vegetation this year?

Yes, residents will be able to request vegetation treatment permits, as in years past.

When can we submit vegetation treatment permit applications?

You may begin submitting permit applications at 8:00 A.M. on Monday, March 2. No permits will be accepted before this date, whether by mail, in person, or in AMWA's drop box prior to 8:00 A.M. on Monday, March 2.

TPWD and AMWA will accept permit applications through 4:00 P.M., Friday, May 29. Any application received after 4:00 P.M. on Friday, May 29, whether by mail, in person, or in AMWA's drop box will not be considered.

How much vegetation are we able to treat?

The maximum treatment area is 5,625 square feet (75' x 75', or approximately 0.13 acres). The maximum treatment area is the same regardless of what type of treatment you are requesting a permit for. This is the same maximum treatment area that was used for vegetation management in 2017, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Each Lake Athens property owner will be allowed to apply for one treatment area, regardless of the number of lots or linear footage of frontage owned.

What types of treatment are available for 2026?

Chemical, traditional mechanical, and automatic mechanical treatments are allowed for 2026.

What is an "automatic mechanical" treatment?

An automatic mechanical treatment is any mechanical treatment that you can install on Lake Athens, program that treatment to run, and moves water and/or vegetation. Examples of these treatments would be underwater fans (such as AquaThrusters, AquaSweeps, and other kinetic water features), aerators, rollers (such as Beach Groomer, Lake Roller, etc.).

For these types of devices, you will need to submit a permit application each year. If you already have this type of device, you must still submit and receive approval prior to operating it for 2026.

What are the restrictions on these "automatic mechanical" treatments?

For the roller type, arms may not be longer than 38 feet (for a total treatment diameter of ~75 feet). For fans and aerators, the pump size may not exceed 3/4 horsepower, or whichever the manufacturer recommends for a treatment diameter of 75 feet. Additionally, the fan or aerator devices may not be placed closer than 12" from the lake bed. Automatic mechanical devices must remain off until May 1. They can be run any time after May 1, until December 31, 2026.

For 2026, you may combine other treatment methods with an automatic mechanical treatment.

When can traditional mechanical treatments occur?

Traditional mechanical treatments (cutting, pulling, whether by hand or with a powered machine), may not begin until May 1. You may perform mechanical treatments until December 31, 2026, after May 1. There are no restrictions as to the frequency you may perform mechanical treatments, as long as it always occurs within the treatment area approved.

What are the chemical treatment windows for this year?

The two chemical treatment windows, where your chemical applicator may apply chemicals to Lake Athens, are:

June 8 – June 19 (must have approved permit no later than May 21)

August 3 - August 14

When can we begin mechanical and automatic mechanical treatments?

No treatment may begin prior to May 1, 2026. After that time, mechanical treatments may occur at any time, through December 31.

What is the permit process for this year?

The permit process is nearly identical to last year. If you are applying for both chemical and traditional mechanical treatments, you must submit a separate application for each treatment type.

Chemical treatment applications:

- Page 1 of the AMWA application for aquatic vegetation treatment
- Contractor information/signature of page 2 of AMWA application
- Map with treatment area highlighted
- TPWD Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Proposal
- Non-refundable application fee

Traditional Mechanical Treatments

- Page 1 of the AMWA application for aquatic vegetation treatment
- Contractor information/signature portion of AMWA application
- Map with treatment area highlighted
- TPWD Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Proposal
- Non-refundable application fee

Automatic Mechanical Treatments

- Page 1 of the AMWA application for aquatic vegetation treatment
- Automatic mechanical vegetation management equipment info and applicant signature of page 2 of AMWA application
- Map with treatment area highlighted
- TPWD Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Proposal
- Non-refundable application fee

Permit application may be submitted in person at 5302 FM 2495, via physical drop box at 5302 FM 2495, by mail to P.O. Box 229, Athens, TX 75751, or via email to permits@athenstxwater.org. If you email your application, be sure to also send a credit card authorization form. Applications are not complete without payment.

Applications for permits will not be considered if submitted incorrectly, are illegible, or are incomplete.

If you have additional questions, please visit the Aquatic Vegetation Management page at www.athenstxwater.org and the 2026 Vegetation Plan, found there. If you still have questions, please contact the AMWA office or email permits@athenstxwater.org