



Fishing Rules & Regulations

FISHING AT SANTEE LAKES

The District operates a fishing program at the Park, and various lakes are periodically stocked with fish.

9.5.1 Park Fishing Regulations

Park visitors shall obey all Park fishing rules and regulations as promulgated by the District. Fishing is allowed only in designated lakes.

9.5.2 Park Fishing Permits

No person 16 years or older shall fish without a valid adult fishing permit. No child between seven and 15 years of age may fish without a valid junior fishing permit. One child under seven years of age may fish without a permit when accompanied by an adult with a valid permit; the fishing limit shall be that of one person. An additional permit may be required for taking trout during specified times of the year.

All permits are non-refundable and non-transferable. Permits may be obtained from various outlets throughout the Park. *Refer to the section regarding fees and charges for current fishing permit rates.*

A Park fishing permit entitles anglers to utilize only one closely attended fishing pole with a maximum of three hooks. A second fishing pole may be utilized only with the purchase of a second pole permit. *Refer to the section regarding fees and charges for current second pole permit rates.*

9.5.3 Fishing License

The District may require anglers over the age of sixteen to obtain a valid California State Fishing License issued by the California Department of Fish and Game.

9.5.4 Fishing Hours

Day-use visitors may fish only during posted Park hours unless authorized by the Park and Recreation Director. Registered campers may fish from sunrise to sunset with a Day-Use Fishing Permit and from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. with a Night Fishing Permit.

9.5.5 Night Fishing

Anglers must be a registered camper, have a light at all times and be at least 16 years of age or accompanied by an adult. Anglers may only night fish on Lakes 6 and 7 between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. The 9:00 p.m. campground quiet hour must be observed. Anglers may not fish directly behind or within close proximity to a campsite not registered under their name.

9.5.6 Daily Creel Limits

Authorized District staff reserves the right to inspect the creel catch of any angler fishing on District property. Anglers may only place their catch in one single location. Creels may not be shared among two or more anglers.

Creel limits for all fish with the exception of bass which is strictly catch and release, and carp which does not have a limit, shall not exceed a combined total of five (5) fish per person, per day. When Carp are caught, they shall not be released back into any of the lakes within the Recreation Preserve. Incentives for the catch and removal of carp from Santee Lakes may be provided at the discretion of the Director of Park and Recreation. Anglers in possession of fish in excess of the creel limits or in violation of any fishing Rule or Regulation are subject to a non-compliance fee. *Refer to the section regarding fees and charges for current Non-Compliance Fee.*

Creel limits and fishing regulations may be changed as deemed necessary by the Park and Recreation Director.

9.5.7 Bait Restrictions

The use of minnows, frogs, goldfish, or other game fish as bait is not permitted. The use of any type of attractant or chum is not permitted. Corn may not be used as bait.

9.5.8 "Catch and Release" of Fish

The practice of "catch and release" of catfish is strongly encouraged. The "catch and release" of trout and carp is prohibited. Bass fishing is limited to catch and release only. All bass caught in any of the lakes must be released back into the lake that it was caught in. Persons in violation of the catch and release policy are subject to the non-compliance fee. *Refer to the section regarding fees and charges for current Non-Compliance Fee.*

9.5.9 Lakes Designated for Fishing

Fishing in Lakes 6 and 7 is restricted to registered campers only. All other lakes are open for public fishing unless otherwise designated and posted. Non-registered campers, may purchase a stamp along with a daily fishing permit to fish Lakes 6 and 7. The District may limit the number of stamps sold in order to fish Lakes 6 and 7. All other fishing rules covered in section 9.5 will apply unless special privileges are requested in advance and approved by the District. *Refer to the section regarding fees and charges for current fishing permit and Lake 6 and 7 permit rates.*

9.5.10 Non-Compliance Fee

Visitors observed fishing without a Park Fishing Permit or in violation of any fishing Rule or Regulation will be required to pay an additional fee called a Non-Compliance Fee. This fee is in addition to the Park Fishing Permit and will be required to be paid prior to obtaining permission to continue to fish at Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve. Any angler fishing or in possession of fish without a valid permit is subject to prosecution of applicable State Penal Code violations and may be required to purchase all fish in possession at the established cost per pound. *Refer to the section regarding fees and charges for current Non-Compliance Fees and Purchase of fish.*

9.5.11 Sportsmanship

The Santee Lakes fishing program is committed to promoting sportsmanship and fairness. Permitted technique for taking fish is limited to only that of pole fishing. Drop lines, trout line, spearing, netting and other techniques are not permitted. Anglers are urged to respect the rights of others, and allow fair distance between each other.