



**Padre Dam Municipal Water District  
Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve  
Rules and Regulations  
January 2023**



#### **9.4.8 Responsibility for Loss or Damage**

Boat rental customers shall be responsible for any loss or damage to boats, life jackets, boat paddles or oars, and/or any other District property.

#### **9.4.9 Boating Hours**

Boats may be rented to the public only during posted hours. All boats must be returned to the dock no later than one-half hour prior to Park Office closing time unless otherwise specified by Park Staff.

### **9.5 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 7 and 15 years of age may fish without a valid junior fishing permit. One child under 7 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. The Teen Bass Pass, which is part of our annual permit program for catch and release bass fishing, may be purchased by youth 16 and 17 years of age. 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.

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. Fees for fishing permits shall be paid by Park visitors as stated in section 9.12.3 (Fishing Permit Fees).

#### **9.5.3 Fishing License**

The District may require anglers over the age of 16 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 pm to 11:00 pm 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 pm and 11:00 pm. The 9:00 pm 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 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. Fees for noncompliance with daily creel limits and fishing restrictions imposed by permit or otherwise at the Park shall be paid by Park visitors as stated in section 9.12.5 (Non-Compliance Fees).

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 live bait is not permitted except for worms. 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 a non-compliance fee, which shall be paid by Park visitors as stated in section 9.12.5 (Non-Compliance Fees).

### **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. Fees for use of Lakes 6 and 7 shall be paid by Park visitors as stated in section 9.12.3 (Fishing Permit Fees).

### **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. Fees for noncompliance with daily limits and fishing restrictions imposed by permit or otherwise at the Park pursuant to this section shall be paid by Park visitors as stated in section 9.12.3 (Fishing Permit Fees) and 9.12.5 (Non-Compliance Fees).

### **9.5.11 Sportsmanship**

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

## **9.6 PICNIC AND RECREATION AREAS**

### **9.6.1 Reserved Day Use Areas**

Groups and organizations may reserve designated day-use areas in the Park for picnics, recreation, and other special events.

The Park Office must be contacted in advance regarding availability of group day-use locations, reservations, and the payment of related fees including event deposit. Peak Demand fees may be collected during periods of higher consumer demand; a time at which a product is at its strongest sales. Groups must reserve appropriate areas for the number of people in attendance. Horseshoe pits are available by reservation only with a refundable deposit. All Park visitors including those with a reserved group area must pay the vehicle parking/entrance fee. Prepaid parking/entrance tickets may be purchased at the Park Office. Payment and cleaning deposits are due at time of reservation. Group Areas are non-refundable except for rain as determined by the Park and Recreation Coordinator in his or her sole discretion on the day of event.

Fees for reservation and use of the day-use areas shall be paid by Park visitors as stated in section 9.12.6 (Event Deposits) and 9.12.7 (Picnic Area Fees).

Groups given authorization to use the Park after normal operating hours will be required to pay additional fees for patrol, security, maintenance, and gatehouse staff. Park management, at their sole discretion shall determine how many additional staff will be required.

### **9.6.2 Equipment Rentals**

Park visitors may rent various picnic and recreation equipment from the Park Office. Equipment is available by reservation only with a refundable deposit. Fees related to equipment use shall be paid by Park visitors as stated in section 9.12.4 (Miscellaneous Fees for Day Use Services) and 9.12.8 (Rental Equipment).