

Newsletter

Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve



General Store

Pedal Boats

Pedal Boats are open daily from 10:00AM-4:00PM.

Standard boats \$17/half-hour
Specialty boats \$24/half-hour



New Mugs

New mugs feature a mom and chick Wood duck created by using a photo taken by a local birding photographer: Tammy Kokjohn. These handmade mugs are \$28+tax.



Reservations for September are now open! Think STOCKZILLA.



October is SPOOKTACULAR at Santee Lakes! Nonstop events and activities will make your stay memorable. Book your October stay online April 30th at 8:00pm

santeelakes.com

General Store Hours:
9:00AM - 5:00PM
Daily



Spring Camping

Come stay with us!



The Sprayground is back!

It will be warming up and the best way to cool off is at the Sprayground! April Sprayground hours will be open daily from 10:00AM-6:30PM. For \$3 Monday through Friday or \$5 on weekends, it's a great way to spend a warm afternoon.

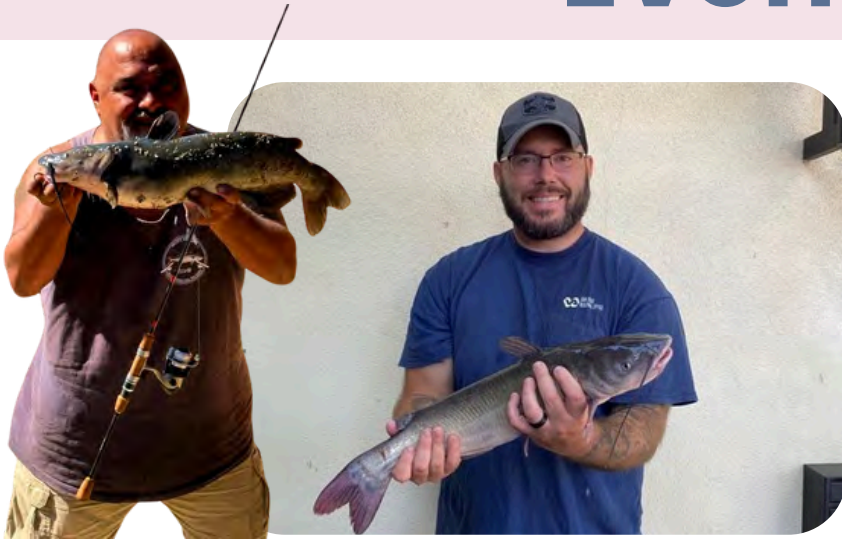
Bring your friends!



Camper Egg Hunt

Get ready to meet the Easter Bunny, gather some eggs, make some crafts and have a blast! All the fun begins at the Clubhouse on April 19 from 10:00AM-12:00PM. All egg hunters will receive a goody bag while they last!

Events



Turkish Grill

Turkish Grill will be here for Catfish Opener on Saturday, April 12th from 9:00AM-7:00PM.

Big Boyz Tacos

Big Boyz will be here for Catfish Opener on Sunday, April 13th from 8:00AM-6:00PM.

Catfish Opening Weekend – April 12 & 13

Get ready for the biggest Catfish Opener ever! We are stocking 3,000 lbs. of Channel catfish stocked in Lakes 2, 3, 4, and 6. Be part of our social media Fishing Derby and win prizes. There will be trophy-sized fish stocked.



Fish with a Ranger

Need some tips or refresher on catching fish at Santee Lakes? You are in luck. Ranger Chris will be on site to help everyone from beginner to seasoned anglers.

Meet at the General Store on Saturday, April 12 at 8:00AM until 9:30AMish. Purchase your permit from Chris or at the Gatehouse, bring your bait and lures.

Easter Sunday, April 20th, in the Park

- Park hours are **6:00AM-7:00PM**.
- Picnic areas are first come, first served.
- Parking will be limited.
- There will be no re-entry if parking is full.
- The **Gate Fee is \$10**.
- Blue Annual Parking Passes are not valid.
- Pedal boats will be open **10:00AM-4:00PM**.
- No RV parking available.
- No confetti, it harms the birds.
- Be patient, it's one of our busiest days of the year.
- When your day at the Park is over, **please remove your trash**.
- Have a great time and a **Happy Easter!**



Upcoming Events

Memorial Day Weekend Concert

Join us at the Lake 5 Amphitheater for a Memorial Day Weekend Concert! BAND-CO will be joining us on Sunday, May 25 from 2:00PM-4:00PM Bring your lawn chairs/blankets and some snacks OR grab some food from the Food Trucks on site.



Summer Jams

This summer beginning Saturday, June 7th we will be having concerts on our deck every Saturday from 5:00PM-7:00PM (even some Fridays). Music will be from all genres and something for everyone to enjoy!

Cornhole Tournament

Our annual Father's Day Weekend Cornhole Tournament is back! Tournament is Saturday, June 14 from 12:00PM to 6:00PM. Bring your teammate and maybe some sunscreen. \$20 Per Person | Cash Prizes Southern California Cornhole will be running the event.



Come see us at these Events

Santee Bunny Trail

Date: Saturday, April 12, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Location:

Santee Trolley Square
9884 Mission Gorge Road
Santee, California

[More info. here](#)



La Mesa Earth Day Fair

Date: Saturday, April 19, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location:

Macarthur Park
4900 Memorial Drive
La Mesa, CA

[More info. here](#)



Community



PLNU Biology Students working together

In March we hosted a group of 9 volunteer Biology students from Point Loma Nazarene University. This is a program that in the past has helped us prep our wood duck boxes in the fall, but has expanded in to a Spring session as well. This group helped us to develop some artificial fish habitats. These five structures should provide year round protection for juvenile fish and hatchlings from predators. The hope is that structures such as these will allow more of our bait fish to survive, in turn providing a larger food source for our more targeted species like bass, trout and catfish.



Senior Art Class - By Becky

We hosted our first Senior Art Class in partnership with the City of Santee! Keep an eye out for more Art with Becky classes at Santee Lakes! Painting fees were subsidized by the Santee Lakes Foundation. THANKS!

Community funded Wood duck boxes

We love when community orgs. make a difference at Santee Lakes! Rancho Coastal Humane Society & The Santee Lakes Foundation have both purchased Wood duck boxes through our Adopt-A-Wood Duck Box Program.



News

Santee Lakes/Sycamore Canyon Cell Tower



Construction is currently underway on a brand new wireless telecommunications tower at the north end of Santee Lakes. This essential upgrade will support stable connectivity throughout the park, campground, and the surrounding neighborhood. The improved connectivity will not only boost the overall user experience but also enhance fire, life, and safety response times in the area. Contractor ADB Companies is optimistic to have the tower stacked by the end of the month.

A Winning Team

The Santee Chamber of Commerce hosted their Business Awards Night and this year, celebrated 70 years of this annual gathering. We are excited to announce that Santee Lakes, as voted by our community, was awarded Santee's Favorite Recreation & Hospitality Business! This marks our 13th win since 2012.



Santee Lakes Food and Beverage Program RFQ



Santee Lakes has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on March 7, 2025 for the Food and Beverage Program at Santee Lakes. Interested parties had until March 31, 2025 to submit letters and qualifications to our staff. Beginning in April, the team at Santee Lakes will invite qualified firms to present their vision for the kitchen and outdoor dining venue. Santee Lakes is currently targeting a June opening and looking forward to bringing a new eatery to the best backyard in San Diego.

Special Offer for Campers

Priority Campsite Program



**SPECIAL
OFFER**

Exciting News for Catfish Opener 2026 and More!

We're giving you an exclusive opportunity to book your spot for next year's special events before anyone else! Here's how it works:

Book for 2026 During Your 2025 Stay:

- If you're camping for Catfish Opener 2025 (April 12th-13th), you'll have the chance to reserve your spot for Catfish Opener 2026 (April 11 & 12) during your 2025 stay—on-site, over the phone, or online when logged into your profile.
- You can book your 2026 dates anytime during your stay.
- To hold your 2026 spot, a \$50 non-refundable deposit will be required at the time of booking. This deposit will be applied toward your 2026 reservation fee.
- Remaining Balance:
- The rest of your 2026 reservation balance will be due 6 months before your check-in date.
- Cancellation Policy:
- If you decide to cancel, the \$50 deposit will not be refunded, as per our cancellation policy.



Spotlight & Babies

Volunteers ~ Julie & Ed

What is the best part about your position at Santee Lakes?

We enjoy greeting the guests and telling them all the things the Park has to offer

Favorite vacation destination?

Looking forward to traveling the US to find our favorite vacation destination

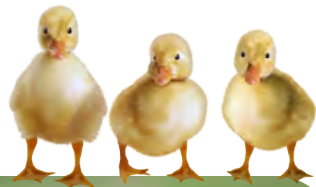
What is your favorite food?

Mexican food in Southern California

What do you like to do for fun when you are not at the Park?

Visit our Sons

Gatehouse



Babies

The baby birds are coming soon (end of April-early May) here at the Lakes. In the meantime, you can enjoy feeding the birds some healthy duck food-you can get that in the General Store.

Did you know:

- Bread can fill ducks up quickly, preventing them from foraging for their natural food sources like seeds, insects, and aquatic plants, which are much more nutritious.
- Uneaten, soggy bread can decompose and pollute water, leading to increased growth of algae, disease and pests.

Vendors in the Park

Burly & the Bean Coffee Roasters

Burly & the Bean Coffee Roasters have been hanging out on deck serving up some delicious coffee and other great drinks! They are here Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 7:00AM-2:00PM.



Big Boyz Tacos

Big Boyz Tacos will be serving up their delicious food each Saturday & Sunday in April (with exception of 4/12). They will be located right outside the General Store from 10:00AM-5:30PM. Big Boyz will be here for Catfish Opener on Sunday, April 13th from 8:00AM-6:00PM.

Dilly's Ice Cream

Dilly's will be serving up sweet treats in the Park Saturdays in April! You will find them at the Kiwanis Playground Parking lot from 11:00AM-4:00PM.



Kona Ice of Coronado

Kona Ice will be in the Park serving up their famous shaved ice! You can find them on Sundays in April and select Fridays, at the Kiwanis Playground parking lot from 11:00AM-4:00PM.

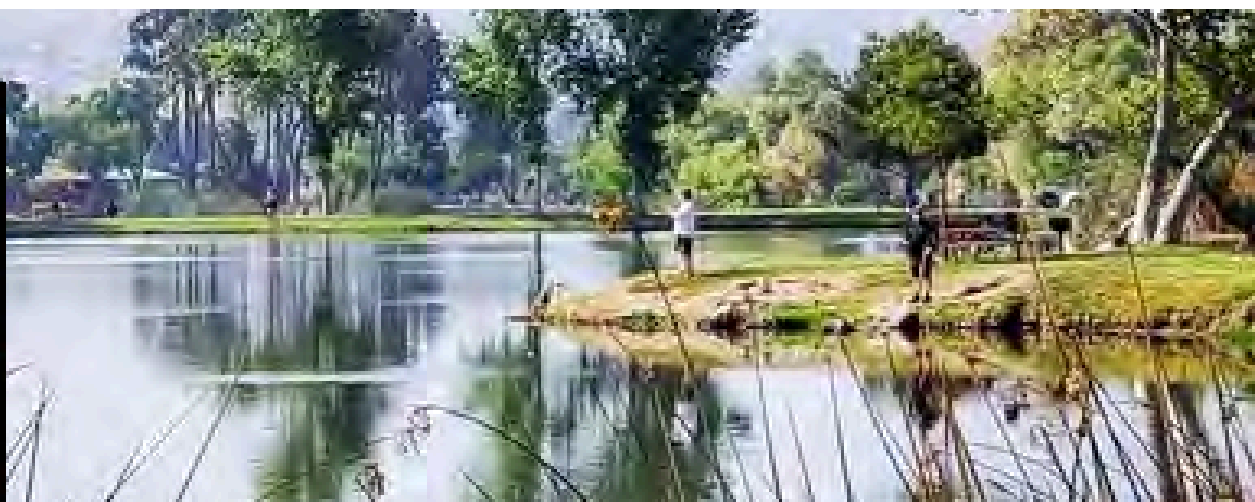
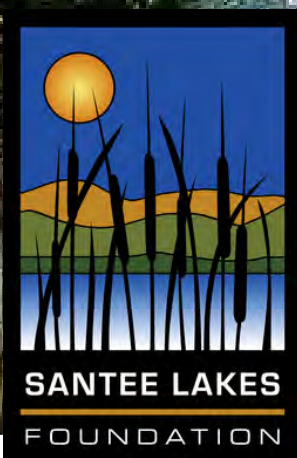
Pacific Beach Golf Cart Rentals LLC

Need a better way to explore the Lakes when you are camping? You may want to try a super cool golf cart! PB Golf Cart Rentals is part of our Preferred Vendor List and will drop off the cart at your site.



Pacific Beach Golf Cart Rentals LLC | San Diego, CA 92109
T +1 (858) 888-9156 | Rent@PBgolfcartrentals.com
PBgolfcartrentals.com

Santee Lakes Foundation



The Santee Lakes Foundation's primary purpose is to raise funds to support projects in design and to enhance the guest experience at Santee Lakes. The Foundation is committed to promoting the importance of outdoor recreation in conjunction with habitat maintenance through educational opportunities and financial support.

The Foundation is dedicated in our mission to promote the importance of outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental sustainability at Santee Lakes through charitable support in the following areas:

All donations to the Santee Lakes Foundation are tax deductible.

You can make your donation at the Santee Lakes Park Office or mail your donation to:
Tax Id: 27-1296867

Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve
Attn: Santee Lakes Foundation
9310 Fanita Parkway
Santee, CA 92071



- **Recreational Programs**
- **Habitat Restoration and maintenance**
- **Environmental education programs**
- **Park improvements and maintenance**

Find out more at santeelakesfoundation.org

Campground FAQs



- Do campers need to purchase a fishing permit?
 - Yes, campers will need a permit. You can purchase a permit at the General Store, Gate house, or Park Ranger.
- How late are campers able to fish in Lake 6 and 7?
 - Campers may fish until 11 PM.
- Do we have to bring our own fire pit?
 - Yes, please bring your fire pit, there are no ground fires allowed.
- Can we set-up a tent on our RV site?
 - No, there is only one camping unit per site. If you wish to set-up additional camping units you can reserve one of our designated tent sites.
- What time is checkout?
 - 11:00AM is checkout for campers, Cabin guest's checkout time is 10:30AM.
- Where is the Campground Bark Park located?
 - The Bark Park is located in the very north west corner of the Campground.
- Can we use an inflatable pool?
 - No, due to safety issues, inflatable pools are not allowed.
- What time is quiet time?
 - 9:00PM is Campground quiet time.
- What time does my fire have to be out?
 - Please have your fire extinguished by 10:00PM
- How many people are allowed on my campsite?
 - Campers can have a maximum of 6 people on each site.
- Can we hang up a hammock?
 - No. Hammocks can be harmful to trees, as well as other safety issues.