

Guide to Dodge County PFA

Dodge County Public Fishing Area is located on 444 acres southeast of Eastman in Georgia's middle coastal plain. Gently rolling terrain surrounds the 104-acre lake containing mixed pine/hardwood stands, longleaf/wiregrass communities, planted pines and a mature hardwood bottom. Coves, points, shallow creek channels, a small island and standing timber and submerged structures to attract fish characterize Steve Bell Lake. The lake is intensively managed to provide quality fishing. The peaceful surroundings provide an excellent setting for fishing and enjoying the outdoors with family or by yourself.

Hours

Open year-round, 7 days/week, 24 hours/day

Facilities

- Concrete boat ramps
- Restrooms
- Picnic tables
- Nature trails
- Group shelter (to reserve, call 1-800-864-7275)
- Archery range
- Primitive camping
- Fishing pier
- Most facilities ADA accessible

Regulations

Public fishing areas have special regulations that are posted on site as well as published in the Georgia Sport Fishing Regulations. Anglers 16 years of age and older, except honorary license holders, must possess a current fishing license. For more information, visit www.gofishgeorgia.com or call (800) 366-2661.

Directions

From Eastman: South on U.S. Highway 23/341 for 3 miles; left on Dodge Lake Road (County Road 49) for 0.6 miles to lake.

For more fishing information, visit the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division website at www.gofishgeorgia.com or call (478) 825-6151.

Trip Check List

- Check the current boating regulations about life jackets.
- Boats with enclosed areas that may trap gas or vapors are required to be equipped with a USCG approved fire extinguisher.
- Carry your current license and boat registration with you.
- Check your boat's trailer and navigation lights, and fuel before leaving home.
- Carry a first aid kit, insect repellent, sunscreen, extra clothing, food and drinking water.
- Be aware of and abide by all fishing regulations.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return. This PFA has poor cell service.

Be an Ethical Angler!

Ethical anglers fish responsibly, consider the rights of others, portray a positive image, and help to protect and conserve our natural resources. Be an ethical angler, the future depends on it.

- Know and obey the fishing regulations.
- Keep only the fish they can use and release all others.
- Pass on the tradition by taking a child fishing.
- Leave a place cleaner than it was found.
- Do not transfer fish or plants between bodies of water.
- Report violations and pollution.
- Do not litter!
- Dispose of fishing line properly.
- Do not trespass.
- Are courteous of others.
- Lend a helping hand.

T.I.P. (Turn in Poachers): To report game/fish law violations, fish kills or hazardous spills, call (800) 241-4113.



Major Fish Species & Fishing Tips

Largemouth bass • Crappie • Bluegill • Redear sunfish (shellcracker) • Channel catfish

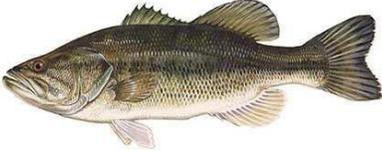
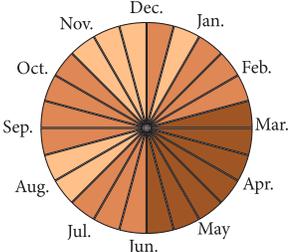
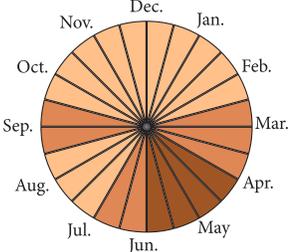
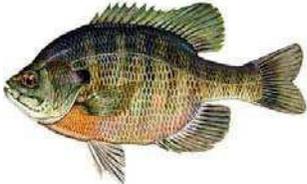
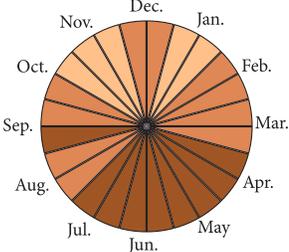
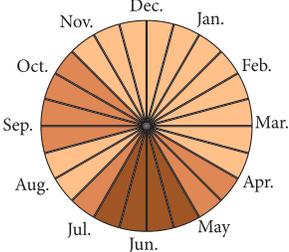
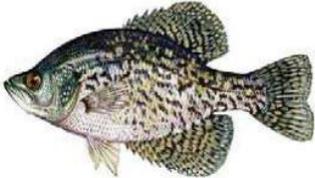
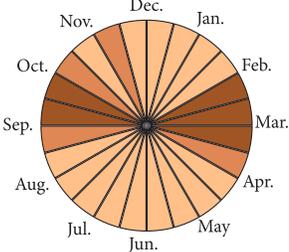
The standing timber, natural shoreline structure, riprap along the dam, and the roadbed that transects the lake just upstream of the ramp are good locations for bass. Generally in late winter and early spring, as water temperatures begin to warm, larger bass are caught using crank baits, jigs, plastic worms and lizards in 8–12 ft. deep water. In early summer fish top-water lures or spinner baits in the mornings. In summer and fall try fishing for suspended bass in standing timber. As the water cools in late fall, fish will become active again and move to the banks. Small bass are caught all year casting small plastic worms in shallow, shoreline cover.

Standing timber, fish attractors, piers, docks and steep shorelines are good locations for crappie. A good technique is casting or trolling jigs. Vertical jigging or using corks to fish a jig at a specific depth works well during the summer and early fall. Traditional chartreuse, white, yellow and black jigs work well. Bluegill and redear sunfish (shellcrackers) like to spawn over sandy areas with hard bottoms. Successful anglers fish flat areas on both ends of dam, shoreline points, the island and fertilizer platforms (orange & white markers) in late spring through early fall. Fish earthworms and crickets on or near the bottom in 4–6 ft. Casting small lures, spinner baits and poppers along shorelines is also productive during the late spring and summer when the fish are more active.

For catfish, fish with liver, worms, mullet gut or prepared commercial bait. In the late spring concentrate near shoreline vegetation. During summer, fish on the bottom in 6–8 ft. of water or try fishing with a float and bait suspended 3–6 ft. deep in the standing timber or the rip-rap along the dam. During the summer and early fall months, fish will concentrate in the upper 6–8 ft. of the water column, near the bottom in water to 8 feet, and suspended offshore to depths of 8 feet.



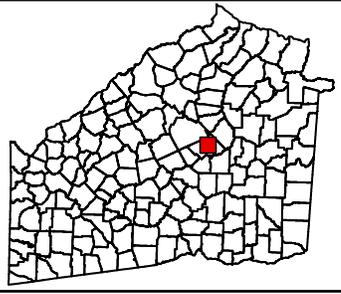
Dodge County Fish Guide

| Fish Species | Biology | Best Fishing Times |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Largemouth Bass</p>  | <p>Bass spawn from February to May. Occupy a variety of habitats in reservoirs and rivers. Feed both day and night motivated by hunger or striking. Females are typically larger and more aggressive than males. Bait: Crankbaits, plastic worms & jigs</p> |  |
| <p>Redear Sunfish</p>  | <p>“Shellcracker” feed primarily on aquatic insects including midge larvae to snails. Unlike bluegill, shellcracker typically do not stunt. Fast growth, larger size and good flavor make these a desirable fish. Bait: Crickets, Red Wigglers & small top water lures</p> |  |
| <p>Bluegill</p>  | <p>Most likely the first fish caught by children. They aggressively guard nest during spawns. Bluegill are hard fighters, hit a variety of baits, and are abundant in most rivers and lakes. Known as a tasty panfish. Bait: Crickets, Red Wigglers & small top water lures</p> |  |
| <p>Channel Catfish</p>  | <p>Channel catfish are a highly adaptable and desirable fish that are easily caught. They can reach Sizes up to 20 lbs and use their barbells for taste. Larger individuals are often confused with Blue catfish. Bait: Chicken livers, worms, “stink bait” & crickets</p> |  |
| <p>Black Crappie</p>  | <p>As one of Georgia’s most popular and desired panfish, crappie may be caught around flooded timber or fish attractors from fall through early spring. Often found near vegetation during spawns. Bait: Minnows, jigs & red wigglers</p> |  |

Best Fishing Times Key



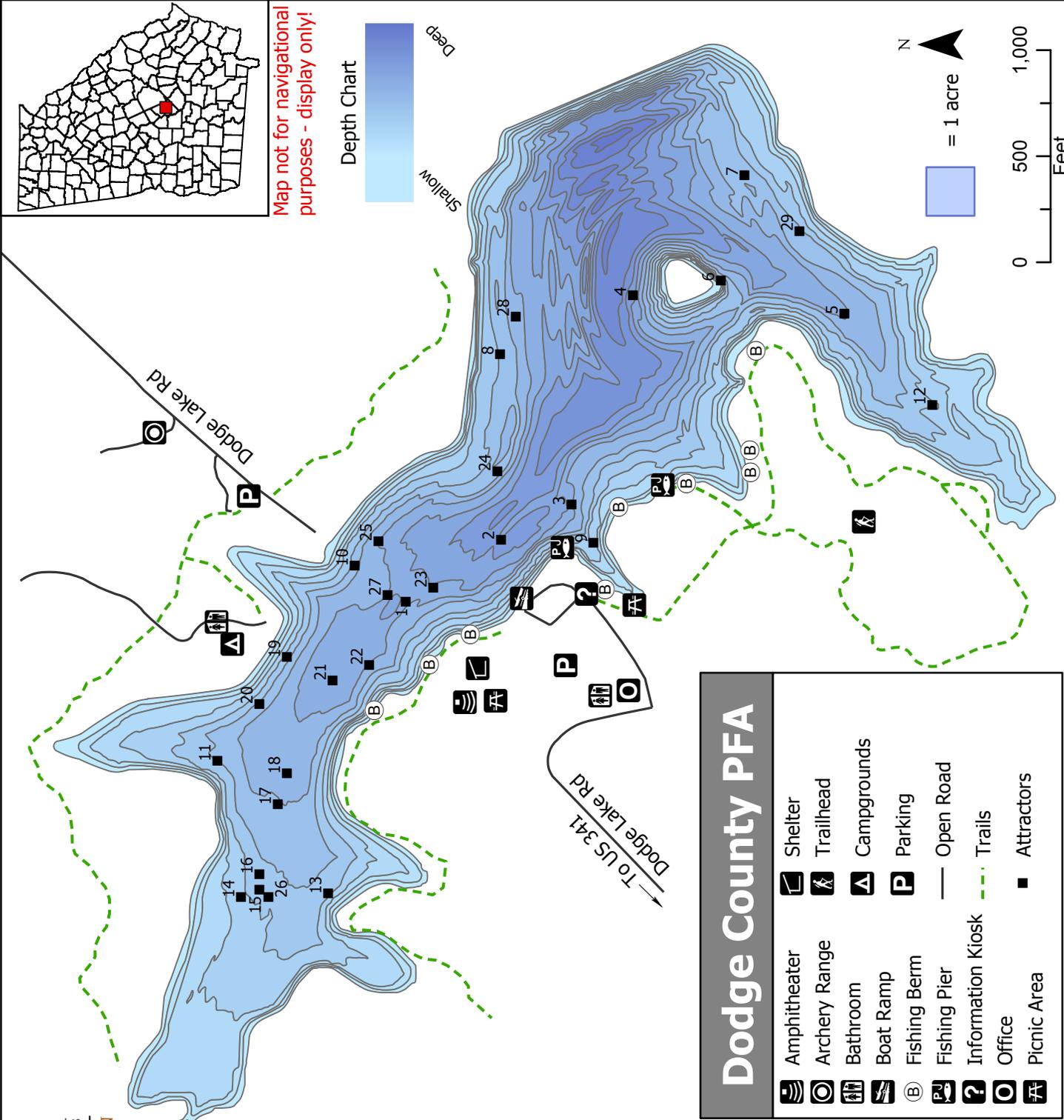
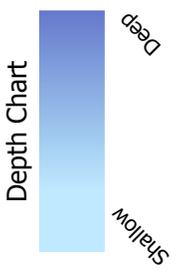
Fish images: Duane Raver/USFWS



Map not for navigational purposes - display only!

Attractor Coordinates

| ID | Latitude | Longitude | Units |
|----|----------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | 32.16 | -83.13238 | 1 |
| 2 | 32.15896 | -83.13158 | 1 |
| 3 | 32.15819 | -83.13113 | 1 |
| 4 | 32.15752 | -83.12843 | 1 |
| 5 | 32.15521 | -83.12867 | 1 |
| 6 | 32.15656 | -83.12824 | 2 |
| 7 | 32.1563 | -83.12688 | 3 |
| 8 | 32.15897 | -83.12919 | 2 |
| 9 | 32.15795 | -83.13162 | 2 |
| 10 | 32.16056 | -83.13192 | 3 |
| 11 | 32.16206 | -83.13444 | 3 |
| 12 | 32.15425 | -83.12984 | 7 |
| 13 | 32.16085 | -83.13615 | 2 |
| 14 | 32.1618 | -83.1362 | 1 |
| 15 | 32.1616 | -83.1361 | 1 |
| 16 | 32.1616 | -83.1359 | 1 |
| 17 | 32.1614 | -83.135 | 1 |
| 18 | 32.1613 | -83.1346 | 1 |
| 19 | 32.1613 | -83.1331 | 1 |
| 20 | 32.1616 | -83.1337 | 1 |
| 21 | 32.1608 | -83.1334 | 1 |
| 22 | 32.1604 | -83.1332 | 1 |
| 23 | 32.1597 | -83.1322 | 1 |
| 24 | 32.159 | -83.1307 | 1 |
| 25 | 32.1603 | -83.1316 | 1 |
| 26 | 32.1615 | -83.1362 | 1 |
| 27 | 32.1602 | -83.1323 | 1 |
| 28 | 32.1588 | -83.1287 | 1 |
| 29 | 32.1557 | -83.1276 | 1 |



Dodge County PFA

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|--|-------------------|--|-------------|
| | Amphitheater | | Shelter |
| | Archery Range | | Trailhead |
| | Bathroom | | Campgrounds |
| | Boat Ramp | | Parking |
| | Fishing Berm | | Open Road |
| | Fishing Pier | | Trails |
| | Information Kiosk | | Attractors |
| | Office | | |
| | Picnic Area | | |

