

Guide to McDuffie PFA

McDuffie PFA is located in Georgia's upper coastal plain near Dearing. The area includes the public fishing area, a warmwater fish hatchery and the McDuffie Environmental Education Center. Majestic longleaf pines and sandy soil characterize the landscape. Seven ponds ranging in size from 5 to 37 acres are available for public fishing on the 560-acre tract. McDuffie Public Fishing Area is an excellent location for a family outing.

Hours

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

Facilities

- Concrete boat ramps
- Restrooms
- Picnic tables
- Nature trails
- Tent & RV camping in designated areas (fee)
- Environmental Education Center
- 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 Thomson: Drive east on Highway 278 for 5.6 miles. At the brown DNR sign, keep right to proceed on Ellington-Airline Road for 2.8 miles. Make a sharp right turn onto Fish Hatchery Road and continue to the PFA. A check station (log cabin) is located just inside the gate where you can pick up an area map, McDuffie PFA fishing information and Georgia Sportfish Regulations.

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.

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 • Bluegill • Redear sunfish (shellcracker) • Channel catfish

Largemouth bass will usually start biting in late January or early February and fishing will steadily improve into spring. Largemouth bass will usually start bedding in late March. The bass can be caught on a variety of lures and can be found in every McDuffie PFA lake. Several lakes have trophy-size populations of largemouth. One lake, 3E, is catch and release only for largemouth bass and is open the first seven days of each month throughout the year.

There is excellent bank access around lakes for anglers who prefer to walk and cast. Fish attractors have been placed near the edges of lakes for bank anglers. Additionally, some lakes have standing trees offering good angling opportunities. Crank baits or plastic worms fished in these areas produce good catches. Please note that live baits are not permitted for use in any McDuffie PFA lakes.

Bluegill and shellcrackers (bream) like to spawn over sandy areas with firm bottoms. Many of the lakes have excellent spawning habitat. Try fishing crickets or earthworms under floats or tight-lined on the bottom in these areas during the early spring through summer months for these spawning fish. Shellcrackers will bite crickets but prefer worms on or near the bottom. When the bluegill aren't bedding, try casting small artificial lures, spinners and top-water poppers around the shallow edges. There are also very good areas suitable for bream fly fishing on the area.

The channel catfish at McDuffie PFA usually bite good most of the year. The catfish bite picks up as the water temperature increases in the early spring. Several PFA lakes have catchable size or larger catfish populations and can be caught on a variety of baits, such as chicken liver, crickets, commercially prepared baits and worms. Catfish can even be caught on largemouth bass tackle.


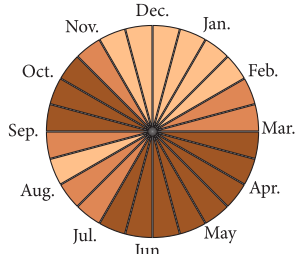

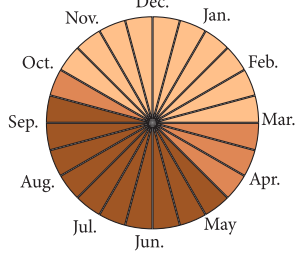

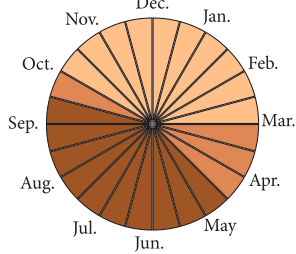

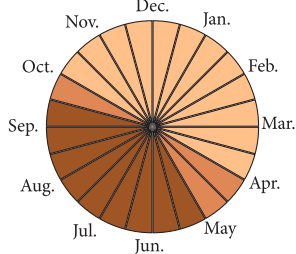


McDuffie PFA Fish by Lake

| Lake | Acres | Largemouth Bass | Redear Sunfish | Bluegill | Channel Catfish |
|--------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|----------|-----------------|
| Rod Bender* | 6 | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Willow | 37 | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Jones | 9 | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Clubhouse | 11 | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Bream Buster | 5 | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Bridge | 30 | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Beaver Lodge | 13 | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |

* In Rodbender Lake, anglers may harvest one bass 22 inches or longer.

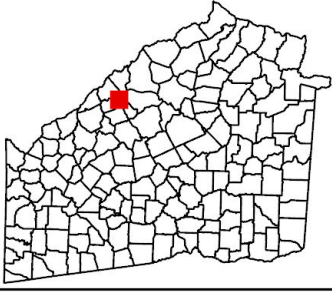
McDuffie Fish Guide

| 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> |  |

Best Fishing Times Key

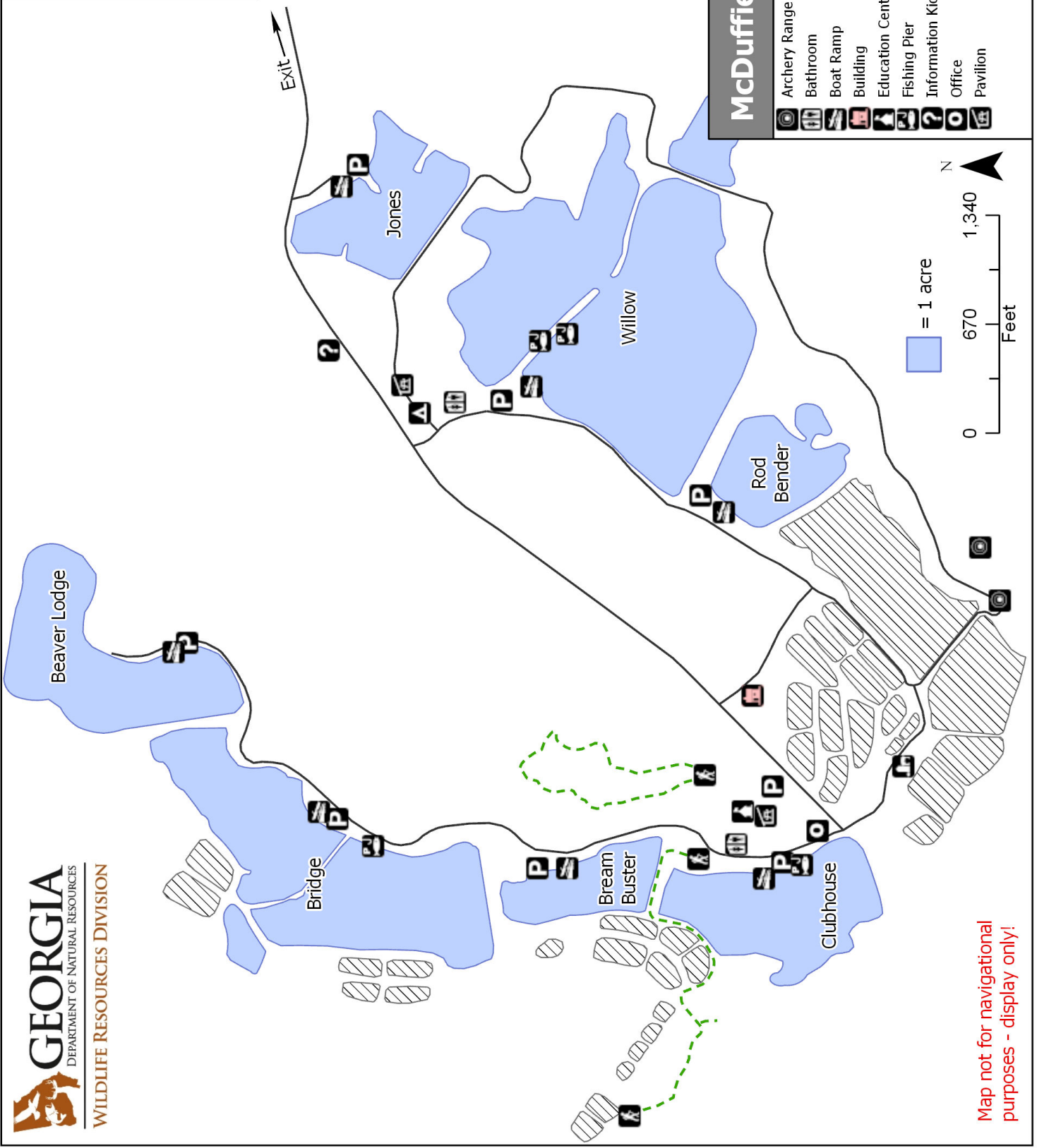


Fish images: Duane Raver/USFWS



McDuffie County PFA

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|--|-------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Archery Range | | Storage Facility |
| | Bathroom | | Trailhead |
| | Boat Ramp | | Campground |
| | Building | | Parking |
| | Education Center | | Road |
| | Fishing Pier | | Hiking Trail |
| | Information Kiosk | | Hatchery - no fishing |
| | Office | | Recreation |
| | Pavilion | | |



Map not for navigational purposes - display only!