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Catch the Big One! : Fishing Spots

The County offers an abundant array of fishing opportunities with over 30 square miles of water. Whether you are a seasoned professional or a novice beginner will find a special spot in the County to land the big one.

Recommended Fishing Spots

- Beeswax Creek Park
- Joe Tucker Park
- Orr Park
- Stephen's Park
- Gorman Park
- Oak Mountain State Park
- Sonny Penhale Park

One of the larger fishing destinations is Lay Lake. Lay Lake is a 12,000-acre reservoir located thirty-five minutes south of Birmingham off I-65 and fifteen miles south of Columbiana in east-central Alabama. Lay Lake borders St. Clair, Talladega, Shelby, Coosa, and Chilton Counties. The primary uses for this reservoir are hydroelectric generation and recreation. Lay Lake is popular for tournament fishing and boating recreation. Below are the parks that border Lay Lake.

Since being impounded in 1914 by the Alabama Power Company, Lay Lake is best known for its spotted bass and largemouth bass fishing. A high quality largemouth bass and spotted bass fishery exists at Lay Reservoir. Largemouth bass up to 18-inches are abundant and with moderate numbers of larger bass. Spotted bass up to 18-inches are very abundant with moderate numbers of larger fish. Crappie 9- to 12-inches are moderately abundant and are found throughout the lake associated with woody cover and weed beds. In 1993, a 9-inch minimum length limit was implemented on crappie to help protect younger fish. Anglers have supported this length limit overwhelmingly. Bream fishing is also very popular in Lay Lake. Bream offer a good summer fishery in creeks with woody cover and around weed beds. The best fishing for largemouth bass, crappie, and bream occurs in creeks and shallow water sloughs. Anglers targeting spotted bass should fish riverine portions of the lake.

Beeswax Creek Park on Lay Lake features a four-lane public boat launch, an ADA accessible fish weigh-in pavilion with fish release area with nearby restroom facility, and parking for 155 truck/trailers. The facility has hosted numerous local, regional and national fishing tournaments including the 2017 Carhartt College B.A.S.S. Series Wild Card Tournament, BASS High School Southern Open, is an annual host site for the Alabama Bass Trail Series, and hosted the 40th Annual BassMaster Classic, the fourth Classic on Lay Lake. **Beeswax Creek Park** is located off AL Highway 145 in the Columbiana/Wilsonville area. The Park is located on property leased from Alabama Power Company and was built and is maintained by Shelby County.

Beeswax Creek Park has many water based and outdoor enthusiasts amenities including two fishing piers, one is handicap fishing accessible pier, two picnic pavilions, two canoe in only



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camp sites, over 2 miles of hiking and walking nature trails, playgrounds, benches along the lake front with grills, a basketball court, and two restroom facilities.

In the upstream end of Lay Lake, the tailwater fishery below Logan Martin Dam is excellent for hybrid striped bass and catfish. Striped bass are also present. The tailwater area is also popular with anglers who enjoy fishing for largemouth bass and spotted bass when shad are running along the banks. The 2002 Bass Masters Classic was won in this area. The Logan Martin tailwater is an extremely high use fishery, very popular with local anglers.

Fishing license information may be found at www.outdooralabama.com.

Possession and creel limits for Alabama public waters are listed at www.outdooralabama.com.

State fish management information and Alabama reservoir location, size and elevation are listed at www.outdooralabama.com.

Lay Lake has fish consumption advisories due to PCBs. Information on the consumption advisories may be found at the Alabama Department of Public Health Web site, www.alabamapublichealth.gov. Consumption advisory information is found in "A-Z Contents" under "Fish Consumption Advisories".

**Supplied by: Fisheries Section, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries,
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