

St James Plantation



Ponds Fishing Guidelines

November 1, 2018

ST. JAMES PLANTATION PONDS FISHING GUIDELINES

St. James Plantation (SJP) offers residents and their guests excellent fishing opportunities in its numerous ponds. These guidelines provide information to enhance your fishing experience while protecting the interests of the community and promoting the health and productivity of our ponds. Included are:

- Rules for fishing in SJP ponds
- Tips on how to handle a live fish
- Guidance on protecting the environment
- Information on how to fish in these ponds and the fish species stocked
- Reminders of angling ethics to make fishing a pleasant experience for everyone
- Maps and information for recommended fishing ponds

The SJP Property Owners Association (POA) Ponds Committee has improved the fishing stock and habitat of fourteen ponds (see pond maps at the end of these guidelines). It will monitor these recommended fishing ponds to maintain a well-balanced population of healthy fish. The POA plans to stock additional ponds in the future, as resources permit, to provide additional fishing opportunities.

In accordance with the St James Plantation POA Rules and Policies Handbook, anyone conducting any activity on common property including ponds or lakes does so at his or her own risk and is responsible for any accident, injury or damages that may result. Hands should be thoroughly washed following contact with fish or pond water.

In addition to freshwater ponds, our area offers numerous other freshwater and saltwater fishing opportunities. The St. James Fishing Club offers opportunities to enhance your local fishing knowledge and improve your fishing success (<http://stjamesfishingclub.org>).

PLEASE NOTE:

ALL FISHING IN SJP PONDS IS CATCH-AND-RELEASE.

ALLIGATORS MAY BE PRESENT IN SOME PONDS. BE AWARE! THEY SHOULD NOT BE DISTURBED. (See page 5 for more information.)

RULES FOR FISHING IN ST. JAMES PLANTATION PONDS

Fishing is allowed in community ponds subject to the following rules. These rules are provided for the protection of our ponds, fish, plant life, as well as the wellbeing of our residents and guests. Violation of these rules can result in the loss of pond fishing privileges. Violations should be reported to the POA Office, preferably in writing, by clicking on the "Contact Us" envelope on the front page of the POA website www.stjamespoanc.org , or by phone at (910) 253-4805.

Residents should obtain a copy of the St James Plantation Fishing Guidelines from the POA office or website for additional information on pond fishing and the location of recommended fishing ponds that have been enhanced with fish habitat and stocking.

- North Carolina fishing regulations apply to our community ponds. As such, residents and their guests that are at least 16 years old must have a NC Fishing License in their possession while fishing at the ponds.
- Only St. James residents and their guests are permitted to fish the community ponds. Residents must accompany their guests while fishing. In addition, property owners and their guests may fish on their own private property.
- Fishing is not permitted:
 - On golf courses property or on other residents developed and undeveloped lots.
 - Within construction zones or areas restricted by the St James POA, Town, Developer, or their representatives.
 - From wetlands and areas with sensitive or protected plant life.
- Fishing is only permitted from sunrise to sunset.
- Fishing in SJP ponds is catch-and-release. Caught fish must be returned to the pond immediately.
- Parking is not permitted in areas that impede traffic or cause damage to private or community property, including irrigation, landscaping or terrain.

- Common sense courtesy should be exercised so as not to disturb neighboring residents, and conservation practices should be observed for the protection of natural habitat.
- Be responsible. Make sure you don't leave debris, including cans, bottles, fishing tackle, unused bait, etc.

TIPS ON HOW TO HANDLE LIVE FISH

- Have your de-hooking tool, measuring devices and camera ready. The fish should not be out of the water longer than you can hold your breath.
- Use barbless hooks or mash down the barb.
- Set the hook quickly to reduce the chance of the fish swallowing the hook.
- Play the fish rapidly; the longer it fights, the greater the stress on them.
- Grasp the fish with a wet hand to minimize disturbing the slime coat, which protects the fish from infection.
- If the hook does not come out easily, use a de-hooking tool.
- If the hook has been swallowed, cut the line. Stomach acid will dissolve the hook. Do not use stainless steel hooks.
- For photos, hold large fish firmly by the lower jaw while gently supporting the belly.
- Place the fish gently in the water head first; do not throw the fish.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

St. James Plantation encompasses a wide variety of ecological systems and habitats that sustain many living organisms. Ecological integrity is only preserved by people who have an appreciation of the significance of these systems and habitats. Please make an effort to learn about the characteristics of the natural environment around us. Otherwise the environment sustaining our natural reserves of animals and plants will continue to deteriorate. Understanding the environment and our place in relation to nature will allow us to become better stewards of our valuable natural inheritance.

It is illegal to feed alligators! Residents are encouraged to report any abuse or feeding of alligators to St. James Security at 910-253-7177. Feeding causes the alligators to lose their natural fear of humans. An alligator begins to associate any human with food and that can be dangerous to you and your neighbors.

If you feel an alligator needs to be removed because it is a danger to humans, do not contact St. James Security but rather contact the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Division of Wildlife at 866-318-2401.

Snakes, like alligators, have a natural fear of humans. Obviously, they gain nothing by biting a human. When they encounter a human, they either become still to see if they have been discovered and are subject to attack from you or they try to escape from your presence.

Upon seeing a snake, don't take time to try to determine what kind of snake it is, just walk slowly away in the opposite direction. Venomous snakes in St. James include Copperheads, Cottonmouth water snakes and several species of Rattlesnakes – the Eastern Diamondback, the Timber and the Pigmy. Coral snakes are uncommon in North Carolina as they prefer more southern climates.

The National Poison Center reports that most snake bites occur from people stepping on or near a snake. Leave the snake alone and it will move away as soon as it doesn't feel threatened. Remember that snakes have their place in the environment and should be respected. If you are concerned about the presence of a snake, there are companies and individuals in the area that will remove them. Check your local directory or the Internet for a name.

FOR SAFETY FIRST: Remember that if you leave alligators and snakes alone, they will generally leave you alone.

FISHING TIPS

Keep in mind that most fishable areas in the SJP ponds are less than five feet deep and during the warmer months the ponds may have substantial underwater vegetation. You will also want to downsize from lures that you would normally use on a lake or river.

Just about any rod and reel will work but stay within the parameters of ultralight, medium light or medium action rods. Fishing line from 4-lb. test to 8-lb. test should work fine for most of the fishing on these ponds.

FISH SPECIES

Pursuant to the *N.C. State University Pond Management Guide*, the POA stocks POA-designated ponds with the fish species described below. Regency Pond has also been stocked with the Florida Strain Bass, which grows larger than the northern strain. While the team that manages our ponds will stock catfish and grass carp where needed to control weed growth, the pond committee DOES NOT recommend stocking of these species in your pond. See our pond stocking guidelines and the help we offer to those of you who would like to stock the pond you live on.

NORTHERN STRAIN LARGEMOUTH



FLORIDA STRAIN LARGEMOUTH



The largemouth bass is the best known and most popular game fish in North America. They are commonly found along vegetation or underwater structure, but schooling bass are also found in the middle of ponds. Plastic worms are the most dependable artificial bait for largemouth bass. A weedless Texas or Carolina rigged worm is especially effective with heavy plant cover. Soft plastic lures with curly tails, ribbon tails, or shad tails are also good choices. Use weights up to 1/8 ounce. Hard

baits should be small and run shallow. Topwater baits, including popper and walking-type baits work well in the spring and summer. Good colors are chartreuse and purple. Baits that you use for bluegill, Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker) and catfish will also catch bass. Small spinner baits work well.

BLUEGILL



Bluegills eat mostly insects and their larvae. Bluegills spawn throughout summer, congregating in large "beds." Live worms or crickets are the best bait, either fished on the bottom or suspended below a float. Crickets, grubs, sand maggots or grass shrimp will also catch bedding bluegill. Gulp nuggets are a good choice if you do not want to use live bait. For artificial baits, a 1/8 oz. "beetle spin" with a white or chartreuse body on ultralight tackle is excellent. Use a small hook, #6 or #8, with a split shot sinker about 6 inches up the line. Concentrate on water less than 6 feet deep.

REDEAR SUNFISH (SHELLCRACKER)



Redear (Shellcracker) prefer hard bottoms, congregating in deeper water than bluegill. They prefer snails and clams, giving them their common nickname. Shellcracker grow larger than bluegill, with fish over 1 pound common. They are caught most often on earthworms around the full moons of March and April when their spawning activity peaks.

CHANNEL CATFISH



Channel catfish spawn in holes and crevices. Primarily bottom feeders, channels also feed higher up. Major foods are aquatic insects, crayfish, mollusks, crustaceans and fish - not detritus or decaying material. Use baits with strong odors: chicken liver or gizzards, shrimp, cut mullet and commercial stink baits. Catfish are most active just before dusk and at night. Fish on the bottom with a sturdy #2 to #4 hook and a heavy split shot sinker. Be careful of their sharp spines when handling these fish.

GRASS CARP



Grass carp consume aquatic plants and submerged grasses. They will also eat detritus, insects and other invertebrates when necessary. Because of their feeding behavior, they are used to help manage aquatic plant problems. Sometimes taken by anglers, especially those fishing for catfish, they must be released immediately and unharmed since they are stocked deliberately for aquatic plant control purposes. The POA pond maintenance contractor will decide if there is a need and execute the stocking of grass carp in POA ponds. Residents should not stock grass carp on their own.

ILLUSTRATIVE HARD BAITS



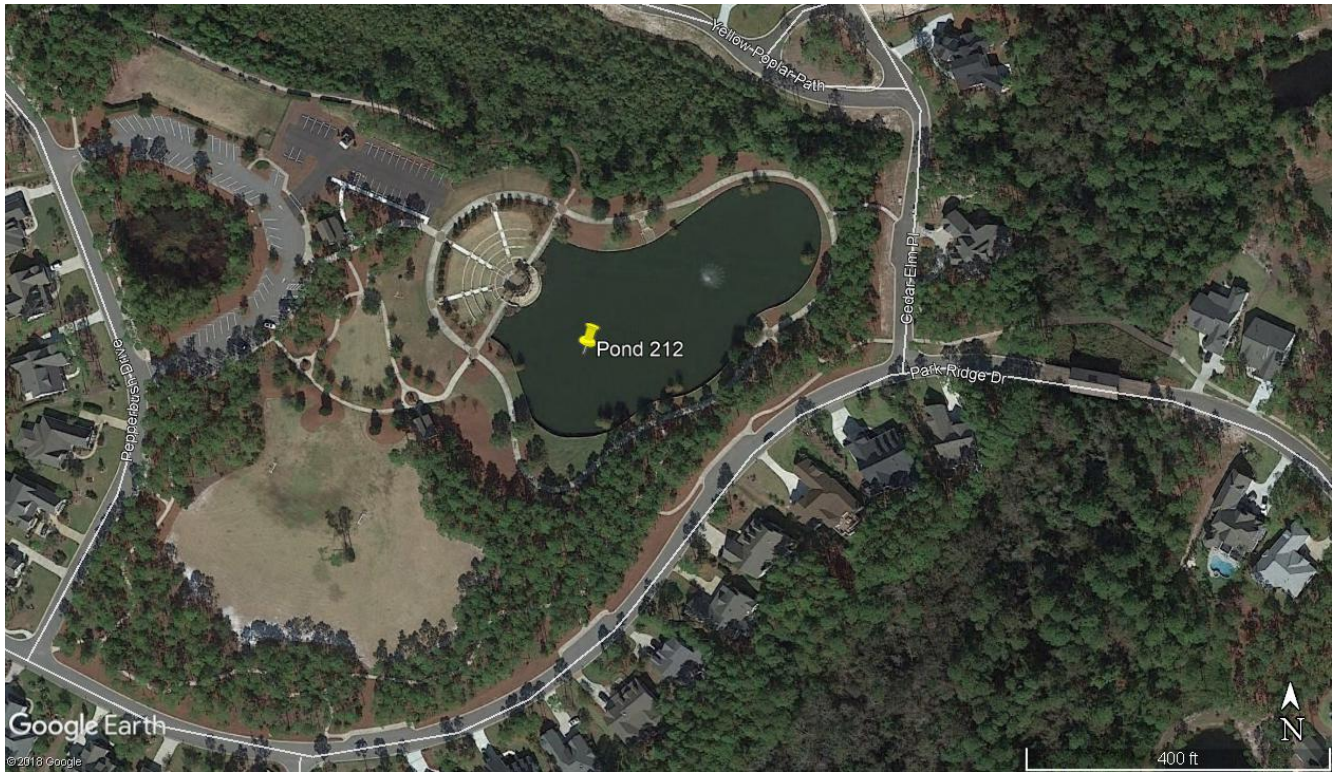
ILLUSTRATIVE SOFT BAITS



THE ETHICAL ANGLER

- Values and respects the aquatic environment and all living things in it.
- Avoids spilling and never dumps any pollutants on land or in the water.
- Disposes of all trash, including worn-out lines, leaders, hooks, unused bait, food and drink and helps to keep fishing sites litter-free.
- Takes all precautionary measures necessary to prevent the spread of exotic plants and animals, including live baitfish, into non-native habitats.
- Learns and obeys angling regulations treating other anglers and property owners with courtesy and respect.
- Respects property rights and never trespasses on private lands or waters.
- Carefully handles and releases all fish as well as other animals that are accidentally hooked.
- Uses tackle and techniques which minimize harm to fish when engaging in catch-and-release angling.

POND 212: WOODLANDS PARK POND



DIRECTIONS: Enter Seaside Gate; at roundabout, exit on Pine Forest Drive; at next roundabout, exit on Parkridge Drive; cross covered bridge; Woodlands Park Pond is on the right by the amphitheater.

POA-DESIGNATED ACCESS: Fishing is permitted on all areas of the pond.

PARKING: Numerous parking spaces surround the pond.

SIZE: 2.565 acres; Average Depth 2.8 feet; Maximum Depth 8.5 feet.

SPECIES STOCKED: Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker), and Channel Catfish.

AMENITIES: Fishing platforms, fountain, sidewalks, restrooms, covered picnic areas, amphitheater, dog park and nature trail.

POND 150: REGENCY CIRCLE POND SE



DIRECTIONS: Enter Regency Gate; at roundabout continue on Regency Crossing Road; Regency Circle Pond SE is the first pond on the left.

POA-DESIGNATED ACCESS Fishing is permitted only on the street side of the pond that parallels Regency Crossing Road (**between the red lines**). No trespassing on homeowner properties.

PARKING: Shoulders on Regency Crossing Road.

SIZE: 1.384 acres; Average Depth 3.8 feet; Maximum Depth: 7.5 feet.

SPECIES STOCKED: Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker), and Channel Catfish. Pond also contains undesirable fish including Warmouth Perch, Shad, and Eels. If caught, dispose of them in a trash can.

FISH HABITAT: Christmas trees installed April 2015.

AMENITIES: Easy walking access to pond.

POND 4: REGENCY CIRCLE POND SW



DIRECTIONS: Enter Regency Gate; at roundabout continue on Regency Crossing Road; Regency Circle Pond SW is the first pond on the right.

POA-DESIGNATED ACCESS Fishing is permitted only on the street side of the pond that parallels Regency Crossing Road (**between the red lines**). No trespassing on homeowner properties.

PARKING: Shoulders on Regency Crossing Road.

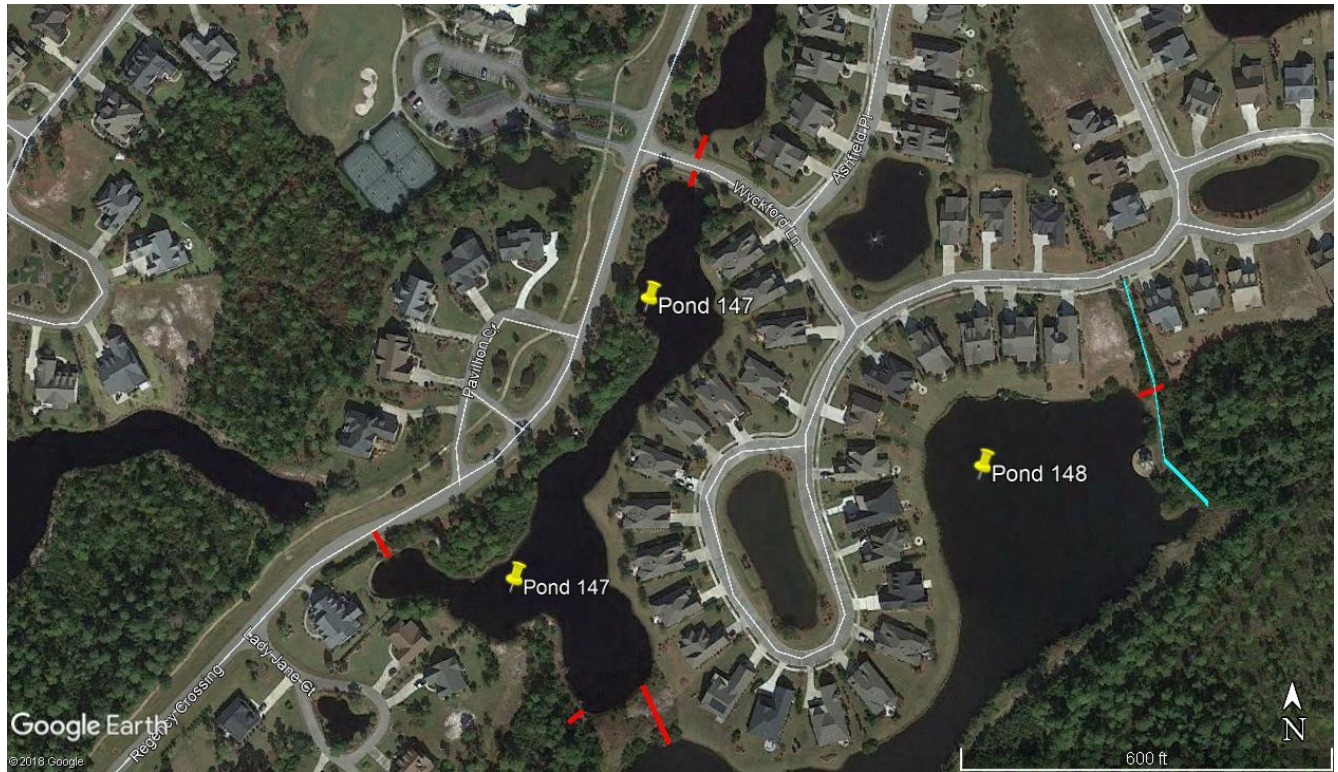
SIZE: 0.914 acres; Average Depth 4.0 feet; Maximum Depth 6.9 feet.

SPECIES STOCKED: Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker), and Channel Catfish. Pond also contains undesirable fish including Warmouth Perch, Shad, and Eels. If caught, dispose of them in a trash can.

FISH HABITAT: Christmas trees installed April 2015.

AMENITIES: Easy walking access to pond.

POND 147: REGENCY CROSSING POND



DIRECTIONS: Enter Regency Gate; at roundabout continue on Regency Crossing Road; Regency Crossing Pond is the second pond on the left.

POA-DESIGNATED ACCESS: Fishing is permitted only on the street side of the pond that parallels Regency Crossing Road (**between the red lines**). No trespassing on homeowner properties.

PARKING: Shoulders on either side of Regency Crossing Road.

SIZE: 2.532 acres; Average Depth 4.7 feet; Maximum Depth y 8.3 feet.

SPECIES STOCKED: Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker), and Channel Catfish. Pond also contains undesirable fish including Warmouth Perch, Shad, and Eels. If caught, dispose of them in a trash can.

FISH HABITAT: Christmas trees installed April 2015.

AMENITIES: Walking path providing fishing access to pond.

POND 42: FOUNDERS CLUB POND



DIRECTIONS: Enter St. James Drive Gate; continue on St. James Drive until you pass Lakeside Common Drive on the left; Founders Club Pond is on the left.

POA-DESIGNATED ACCESS: Fishing is permitted on the street side of the pond that parallels St. James Drive (**between the red lines**). No trespassing on golf course or homeowner properties. **PARKING:** Tree line along St. James Drive and adjacent to the pond.

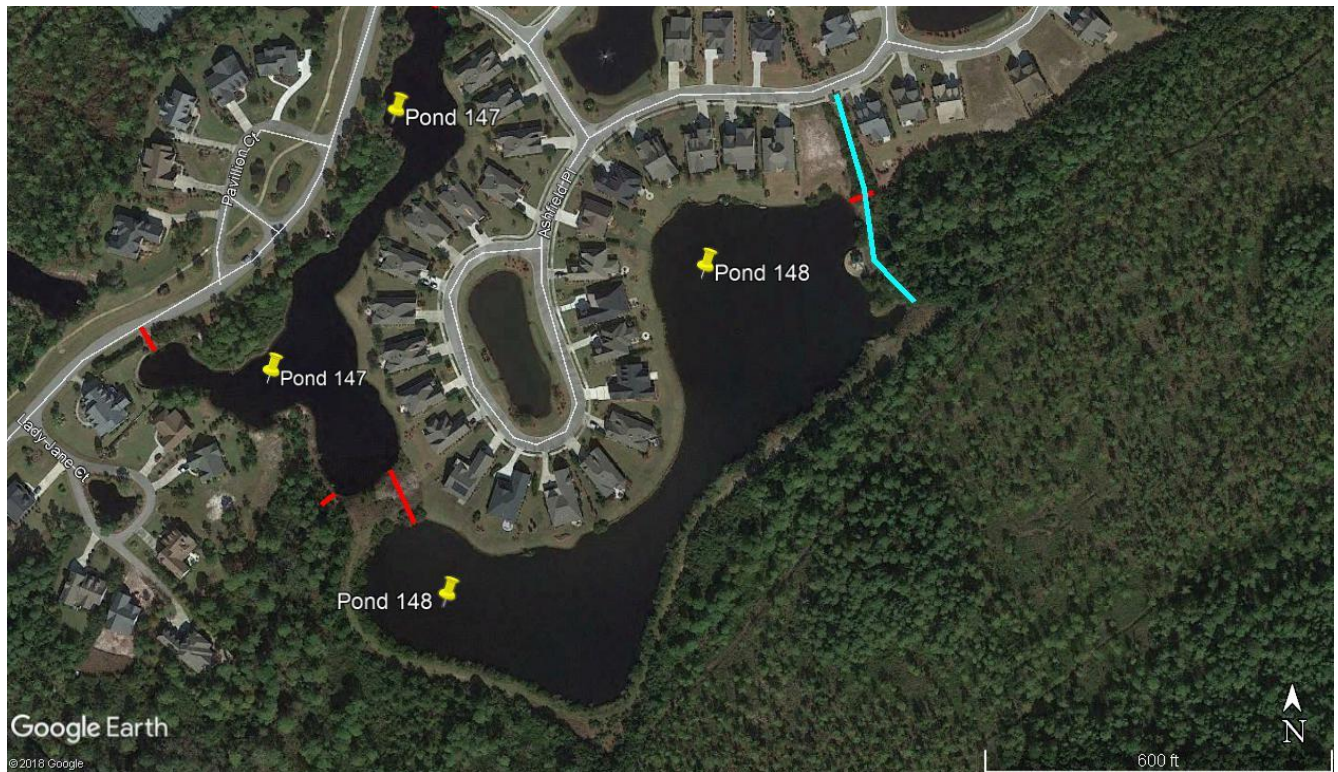
SIZE: 1.943 acres; Average Depth N/A; Maximum Depth N/A.

SPECIES STOCKED: Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker), and Channel Catfish.

FISH HABITAT: Christmas trees installed April 2015; Honey Hole Shrubs (12) installed September 2015.

AMENITIES: Easy walking access to pond.

POND 148: REGENCY POND



DIRECTIONS: Enter Regency Gate; at roundabout continue on Regency Crossing; turn left on Wyckford Lane; turn second left on Ashleigh Plaza, drive to tree-lined walking path on right; Regency Pond is on the right. The **blue line** marks the access entrance to the pond.

POA-DESIGNATED ACCESS: Fishing is permitted on the back side of the pond (**between the red lines**). No trespassing on homeowner properties.

PARKING: Shoulders on Ashleigh Plaza.

SIZE: 6.844 acres; Average Depth 4.6 feet; Maximum Depth 8.3 feet.

SPECIES STOCKED: Largemouth Bass, Florida Strain Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker), and Channel Catfish.

FISH HABITAT: Christmas trees installed April 2015. Thirty Honey Hole Shrubs installed June 2018

AMENITIES: Walking path on back side of pond; fountain, gazebo.

POND 10: PRINCE REGENT



DIRECTIONS: Enter Regency Gate; at roundabout continue on Regency Crossing; pass fitness club entrance on right; Prince Regent Pond is first pond on the left.

POA-DESIGNATED ACCESS: Fishing is permitted on all areas surrounding the pond.

PARKING: Shoulders on Prince Regent Court.

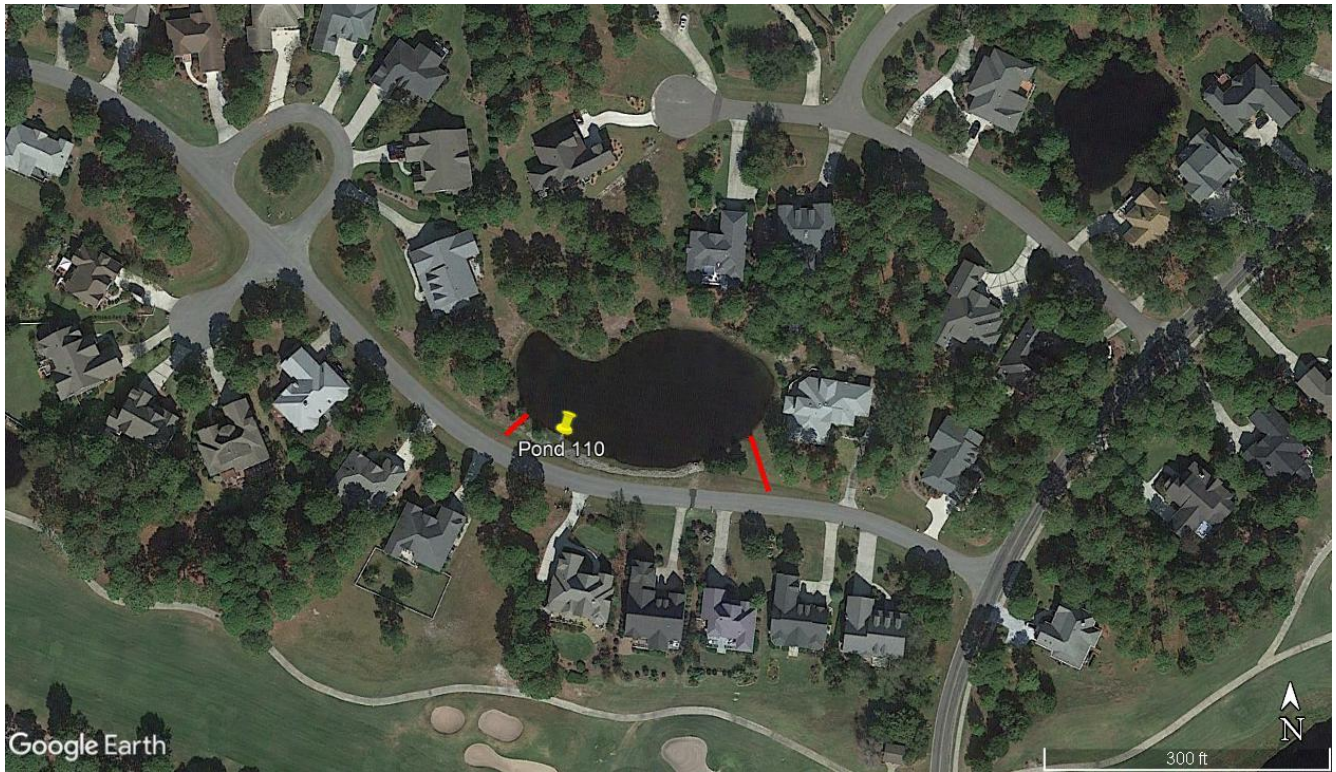
SIZE: 0.7500 acres; Average Depth 4.7 feet; Maximum Depth 7.5 feet

SPECIES STOCKED: Largemouth Bass, Bluegill and Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker).

FISH HABITAT: Six Honey Hole Shrubs installed September 2015.

AMENITIES: Easy walking access to pond.

POND 110: GAUNTLET DRIVE



DIRECTIONS: Going south on St. James Drive Turn right on Gauntlet drive (before Waterway Park). Pond 110 is the first pond on the right (approximately 400 ft).

POA-DESIGNATED ACCESS: Fishing is permitted on POA property (**between the red lines**). Fishing is **NOT** permitted on private property without homeowners' permission.

PARKING: Shoulder parking on Gauntlet Drive.

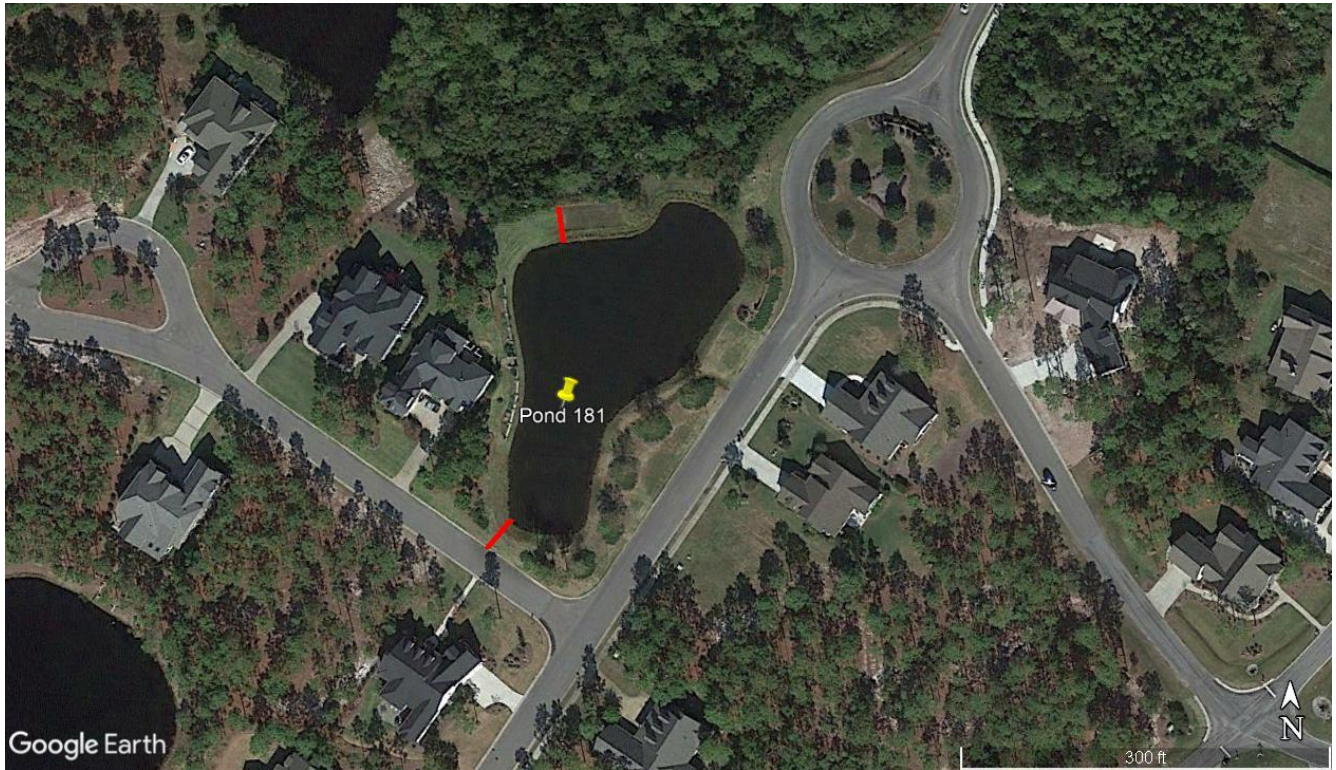
SIZE: 0.7500 acres; Average Depth 4.7 feet; Maximum Depth 7.5 feet

SPECIES STOCKED: Bluegill and Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker).

FISH HABITAT: None

AMENITIES: Easy walking access to pond.

POND 181: WOODLANDS CIRCLE



DIRECTIONS: Going south on Pine Forest Drive thru the traffic circle the pond is on the right between Morningdale Drive and Oak Forest Drive. This is also a Ponds Committee Showcase pond for buffer plants.

POA-DESIGNATED ACCESS: Fishing is permitted on street access (**between the red lines**). Fishing is **NOT** permitted on private property without owner's permission. **PLEASE** be careful walking in the Showcase planting area to prevent damage.

PARKING: Shoulder parking on Parkridge Drive and Oak Forest Drive.

SIZE: 0.500 acres; Average Depth 4.7 feet; Maximum Depth 7.5 feet

SPECIES STOCKED: Bluegill and Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker).

FISH HABITAT: Six Honey Hole Shrubs installed September 2015

AMENITIES: Easy walking access to pond.

POND 250: SANDY COVE POND



DIRECTIONS: Going East on Oceanic Drive the pond is accessed from Drift Tide Way or Sandy Cove Lane.

POA-DESIGNATED ACCESS: Fishing is permitted on the whole pond.

PARKING: Street parking is permitted. Be courteous. Don't block driveways.

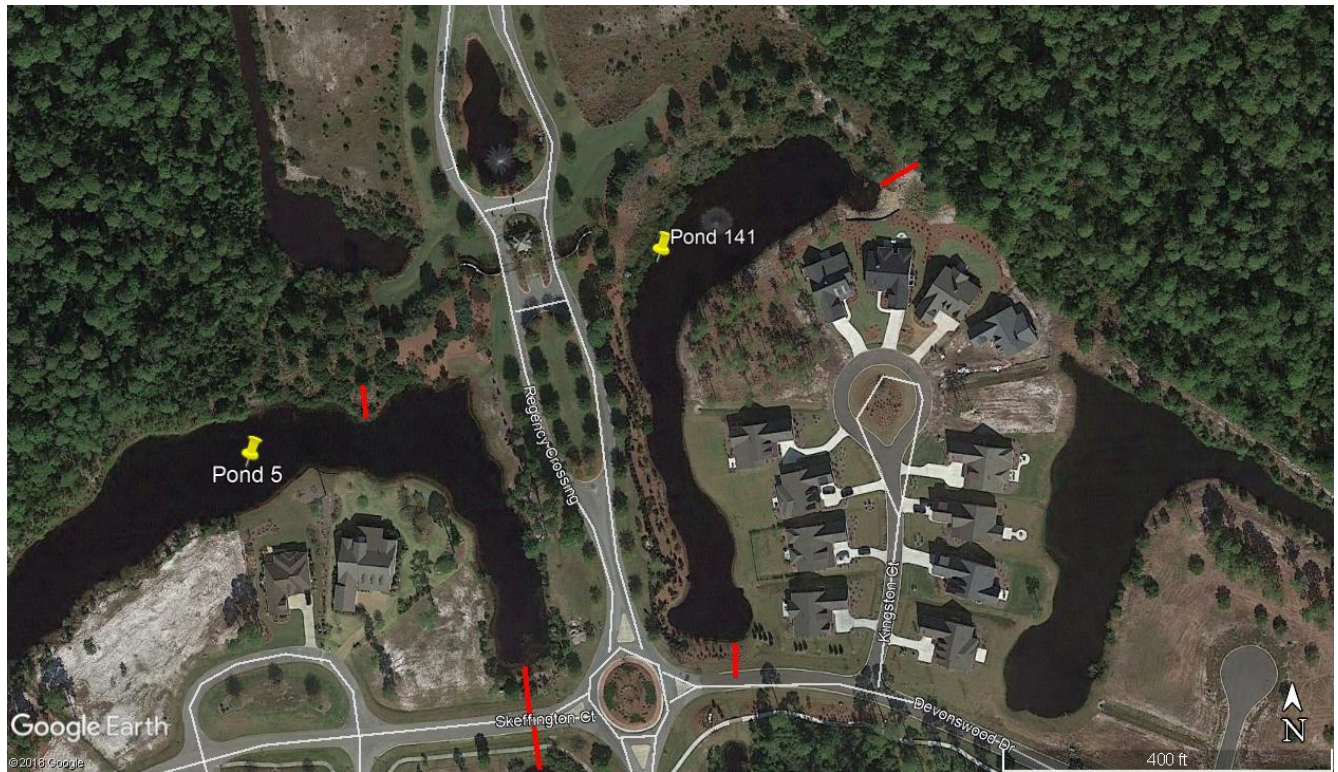
SIZE: 0.600 acres; Average Depth 4.7 feet; Maximum Depth 7.5 feet

SPECIES STOCKED: Bluegill and Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker).

FISH HABITAT: Six Honey Hole Shrubs installed February 2016.

AMENITIES: Easy walking access to pond.

POND 141: REGENCY CIRCLE NE



DIRECTIONS: Enter Regency Gate on Regency Crossing Road; Regency Circle Pond NE is the first pond on the left.

POA-DESIGNATED ACCESS: Fishing is permitted only on the arm of the pond that parallels Regency Crossing Road (**between the red lines**). No trespassing on homeowner properties.

PARKING: Shoulders on Regency Crossing Road.

SIZE: 1.1 acres; Average Depth 3.8 feet; Maximum Depth: 7.5 feet.

SPECIES STOCKED: Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker), and Channel Catfish. Pond also contains undesirable fish including Warmouth Perch, Shad, and Eels. If caught, dispose of them in a trash can.

FISH HABITAT: Christmas trees installed April 2015.

AMENITIES: Easy walking access to pond.

POND 216: OCEANIC DRIVE POND



DIRECTIONS: Going East on Oceanic Drive the pond is on the right between West Seagrass Court and Moss Hammock Wynd.

POA-DESIGNATED ACCESS: Fishing is permitted on street access (**between the red lines**). Fishing is **NOT** permitted on private property (**between red lines**) without owner's permission.

PARKING: Shoulder parking on Oceanic Drive and West Seagrass Court. **DO NOT** park on Shell Isle Drive.

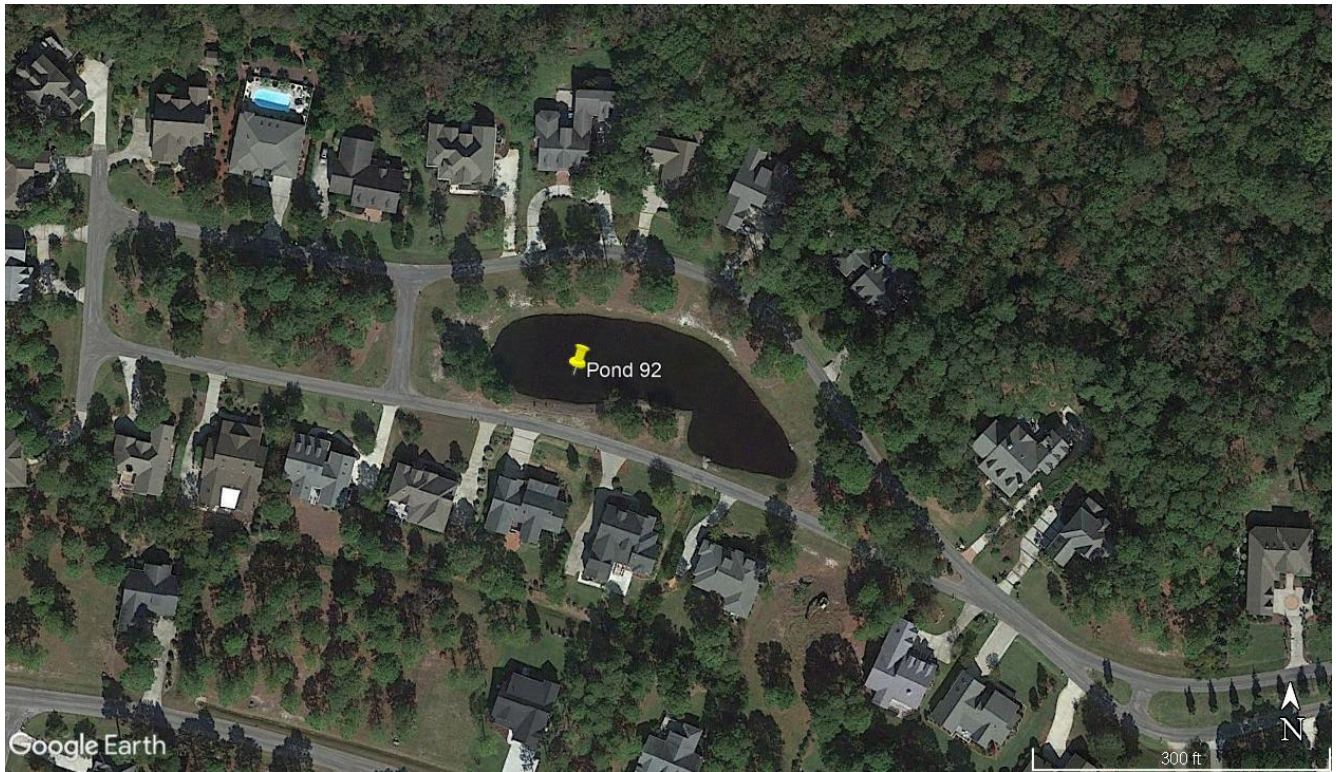
SIZE: 1.500 acres; Average Depth 4.7 feet; Maximum Depth 7.5 feet

SPECIES STOCKED: Bluegill, Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker) and Largemouth Bass.

FISH HABITAT: Sixteen Honey Hole Shrubs installed May 2016

AMENITIES: Easy walking access to pond.

POND 92: LOBLOLLY CIRCLE POND



DIRECTIONS: Going South on Saint James Drive after the Polly Gulley Bridge turn right on Trailwood Drive then turn first right on Loblolly Circle.

POA-DESIGNATED ACCESS: Fishing is permitted on the whole pond.

PARKING: Street parking is permitted. Be courteous. Don't block driveways.

SIZE: 0.500 acres; Average Depth 2.5 feet; Maximum Depth 4.5 feet

SPECIES STOCKED: Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker), and Channel Catfish. Pond also contains undesirable fish including Warmouth Perch, Shad, and Eels. If caught, dispose of them in a trash can.

FISH HABITAT: None

AMENITIES: Easy walking access to pond.

POND 5: REGENCY CIRCLE POND NW



DIRECTIONS: Enter Regency Gate; continue on Regency Crossing Road; Regency Circle Pond NW is the first pond on the right before the traffic circle.

POA-DESIGNATED ACCESS Fishing is permitted only on the street side of the pond that parallels Regency Crossing Road (**between the red lines**). No trespassing on homeowner properties.

PARKING: Shoulders on Regency Crossing Road.

SIZE: 0.914 acres; Average Depth 4.0 feet; Maximum Depth 6.9 feet.

SPECIES STOCKED: Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker), and Channel Catfish. Pond also contains undesirable fish including Warmouth Perch, Shad, and Eels. If caught, dispose of them in a trash can.

FISH HABITAT: None

AMENITIES: Easy walking access to pond.