



Fishing at the Eno River State Park and Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area

Fishing is permitted in the Eno River and the ponds at Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area. North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Regulations apply, visit ncwildlife.org/Fishing/

A **fishing license is required for people age 16 and older** to fish in any public water in North Carolina. Fishing licenses can be purchased online through ncwildlife.org, at Wal-Mart, or at local Bait + Tackle shops.

Catch + release is how many people fish the Eno and the ponds. For this we recommend barbless hooks, or hooks with the barb pressed against the hook.

Rules & Regulations for fishing the Eno River and Occoneechee Mountain Ponds:

- Fish may be caught only with a hook and line.
- Spear guns, bows, and arrows are not permitted.
- **Bait collecting is not permitted in the park.**
- Release, unharmed, any fish of any species that you do not intend to take home.
- Only campers or persons with special activity permits may fish during closed hours.

Fish species: Over 60 species of fish have been recorded in the Eno River and 6 species in the ponds at Occoneechee Mountain. Ask the park office for a checklist or download one from our [Natural Resources Inventory Database](#).

Most Commonly caught fish:

Bull Chub

Bullhead Chub

Bluegill Sunfish*

Green Sunfish

Redear Sunfish

Roanoke Bass

Largemouth Bass*

Black Crappie*

*most commonly caught in the Occoneechee Mountain ponds

Tips for Fishing the Eno River

The Eno River is a series of alternating slow stretches and fast moving riffles. The slower stretches have pockets of deeper water general two to four feet deep. It is best to work up or down the river to locate these deeper spots and to fish near rocks or downed trees. The fish move around a lot, so the areas where the fish are biting are constantly changing.

Fly fishing tends to catch the most quantity, but they tend to be smaller fish. For “keeper”-size fish while fly fishing, crickets, worms, spinner lures, and artificial minnow lures tend to do best.

Creek & Size Limits:

There are **creel limits and size limits** for some of the fish in the Eno River including the Roanoke Bass. Please consult NC Wildlife regulations to learn these and note that they can change from year to year: eregulations.com/northcarolina/hunting-fishing/nongame-fish-regulations/

Suggested locations for fishing

- **Fews Ford:** A long stretch for bank fishing from Fews Ford and along the Buckquarter Creek Trail. Areas can be over 6 feet deep. Closest Access: 150 yards from the Piper Cox House parking lot.
- **Pleasant Green Access:** (4770 Pleasant Green Road, Durham) This location offers close access to the parking lot and offers several places along the bank to fish.
- **Bobbitt Hole:** This is the deepest place in the river with several bank locations for open casting. Access this location by parking at the Cole Mill Access (4390 Old Cole Mill Rd, Durham) and hike the Cole Mill Trail to the Bobbitt Hole Trail. Bobbitt Hole is at the end of the trail.
- **Fly Fishing** tends to good everywhere.
- **Pea Creek Trail:** There is deep water ranging up to 8 feet here and an open bank for casting. Access this by parking at the Cole Mill Access (4390 Old Cole Mill Rd, Durham) and hike the Pea Creek Trail.
- **Ponds at Occoneechee Mountain:** (625 Virginia Cates Road, Hillsborough) These are old farm ponds. Portions of the banks and dams are mowed for access. The ponds are a great location for people learning how to fish. The main parking area is 275 yards away from the main parking area. A few pond-side parking spaces for people with limited mobility are available along Virginia Cates Road.

Tackler Loaner Program: The Eno River State Park participates in the North Carolina Tackle Loaner Program. The Park Office has fishing rods and tackle that can be checked out for free. Contact the Park Office for more details or visit ncwildlife.org/Fishing/Learn-Resources/Programs/TLP

Fishing programs are offered occasionally by Park Rangers and staff. Visit our websites or call the office for more details.

ncparks.gov/eno-river-state-park/events-and-programs

ncparks.gov/occonechee-mountain-state-natural-area/events-and-programs

Park Office: 919-383-1686

Additional resources to learn about Fish in North Carolina:

- NC Wildlife Species Profiles ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species#8682105-fish
- Freshwater Fishes ncfishes.com/freshwater-fishes-of-north-carolina/freshwater-fishes-gallery/
- Fantastic Fish of the Eno Video from the Eno River Association youtube.com/watch?v=xegrxHhsDWk