

Sparks Marina



ANGLER AND FISH SURVEY INFORMATION Sam Sedillo - Fisheries Biologist, Reno Office 1100 Valley Rd, Reno, NV (775)-688-1882

General information: Sparks Marina was previously a large gravel pit owned and operated by Helms Construction Company after a petroleum spill, mitigation money was made available to the city, which was used to construct the park and make the pit into a recreational pond which is what you'll see today. Sparks Marina is 100 feet deep and covers approximately 77 acres. Rainbow, Cutthroat, and Brown Trout, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Green Sunfish, Channel Catfish, Bullhead Catfish, Sacramento Perch, and Common Carp have been introduced into the lake. Water records include a 19 lb 7 oz Common Carp, an 8 lb 13 oz Rainbow Trout, a 25 lb 7 oz Channel Catfish, and a 4 lb 6 oz Spotted Bass. There is a small concrete boat ramp located at the south beach on the west side of the lake and parking lots are located on the west side by the beaches and on the southwest corner of the lake.

Location and Access: The Park is situated alongside Interstate 80 in Sparks. Exit on East McCarran Blvd and turn north. Turn east on Nichols.

Management: NDOW manages the lake as a put and take fishery and stocks trout yearly in Marina. To keep Sparks Marina at a desirable level, water is pumped into the Truckee River each day to ensure proper management and access.

General Info

- Only vessels without motors and vessels which are powered by electric motors are permitted on Sparks Marina Pond. Vessels are prohibited in areas designated by signs or buoys at the swimming and diving areas. Fishing from a stand-up paddle board is possible in Sparks marina.
- Fishing is prohibited in swimming and diving areas of Sparks Marina.
- Sparks Marina has a variety of facilities including docks, picnic tables, and non-fishing recreation areas

Fishing Regulations

- Season is open year-round, 1 hour before sunrise to 2 hours after sunset. Limit is 3 game fish.

Previous Stocking

2024

Rainbows	16,848	8-12 Inches
Brown Trout	5,311	8-12 Inches
Tiger trout	2500	8-12 Inches
Channel Catfish	3000	4 Inches

2023

Rainbows	26,226	8-12 Inches
Brown Trout	3,003	8-12 Inches
Tiger Trout	4,406	8-12 Inches
Smallmouth Bass	1607	8-12 Inches
Channel Catfish	3000	8-12 Inches

2022

Rainbows	20,063	8-12 Inches
Brown Trout	6,678	8-12 Inches

2021

Rainbows	19,410	8-12 Inches
Brown Trout	3,054	8-12 Inches

2020

Rainbows	23,360	8-12 Inches
Brown Trout	3,099	8-12 Inches

Fishing Notes

- In the early season—end of winter and spring—you have the chance of catching holdover trout that move out of deeper water, as well as the first round of stocked trout, on PowerBait, small midge flies, and slowly retrieved Kastmasters.
- Cooler temps make fishing for Carp and Channel Catfish challenging but they will take bait balls and sunken nightcrawlers. Fish small black jigs for Smallmouth.
- Summer is the best time to fish for trout from a boat or float tube as they move to the deeper part of the lake. Fish jigs, powerbait, or nightcrawlers sunk to the bottom, catfish and carp will move closer to shore throughout the day and can be caught on bait. Smallmouth will take crank baits, rapalas and other small lures.
- Fall/ early winter fishing can be good but downsize any of the gear you fish with and go small with your lures and flies. Mealworms or small nightcrawlers work for bait selections. Use lighter line to have more consistent bites in winter. Fishing can be slower at this time of year.

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2025 Fishing Forecast

Sam Sedillo– Fisheries Biologist
Reno Office



Water levels - Sparks Marina will be maintained at a reasonable water level to allow for angling access throughout 2025.

Rainbow Trout Tiger Trout and Brown Trout

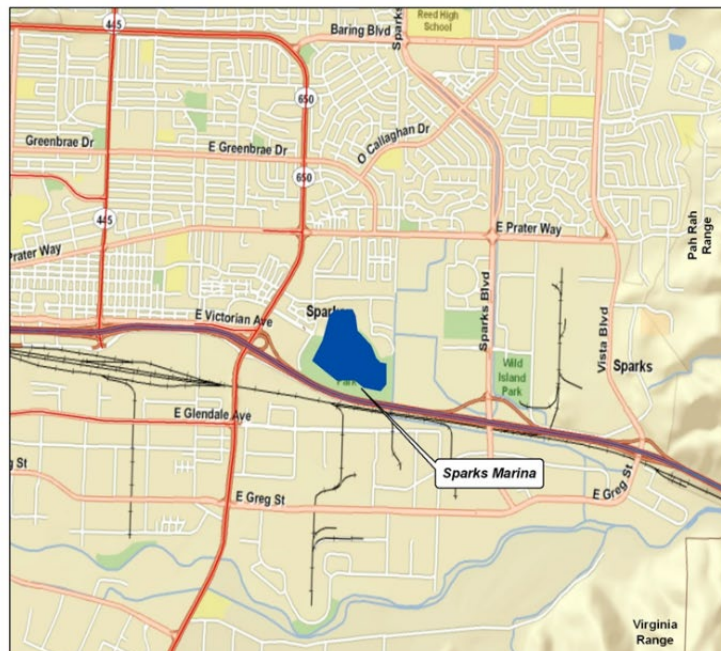
In 2024 there were 16,848 Rainbow Trout, 5,311 Brown Trout, and 2500 Tiger Trout stocked in Sparks Marina. In 2025, a similar number will be stocked throughout the year. Rainbow Trout, Tiger Trout, and Brown Trout caught in Sparks Marina are likely to be 8"-12" based on the size they are stocked, but there are chances of catching fish over 18". Holdover stocked Rainbow Trout, Tiger Trout and Brown Trout allow larger fish to be caught throughout the fishing season, particularly in winter and spring. Spring and late season after stocking events are the best times to catch these fish on small lures (kastmasters or panther martins), powerbait, nightcrawlers, and midge flies.

Smallmouth Bass and Sunfish

No Smallmouth Bass were stocked in 2024 but in 2023 there were 1,607 Smallmouth Bass stocked in Sparks Marina. Along with resident sunfish, Smallmouth Bass are well adapted to tolerate the high-water temperatures that the lake endures throughout the summer and reproduce naturally in the lake. Smallmouth Bass and sunfish are most active from spring until fall as water temperatures rise and both these fish will voraciously eat small nightcrawlers, feather and plastic jigs, and larger fish will eat lures such as rapalas and spinnerbaits.

Channel Catfish and Common Carp

Channel Catfish and Carp can grow to be exceptionally large and are tolerant of the high-water temperatures and low oxygen that can occur in Sparks Marina. These fish naturally reproduce and represent an opportunity to catch a trophy warm water fish. Carp are visible cruising the shore year-round and are easily identifiable by their golden color. 3,000 Channel Catfish were stocked in Sparks Marina in 2024 and tend to lurk in the depths throughout the day but are active in low light conditions in the morning and evening. Fishing during these times will give you the best chance at catching either of these fish. Fish bait balls, scented baits, and nightcrawlers on the bottom of the lake for a chance at hooking into a true monster.



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