

Virginia Lake



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

General information: Virginia Lake is 12 feet deep when full, covers 24.5 acres, and has a flat bottom. Water enters the lake via Cochran Ditch and exits through a screened, submerged concrete drain. Game fish currently found in the lake include a very limited population of Rainbow, Brown, and Bowcutt Trout (Rainbow x Cutthroat hybrid). Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Common Carp and Black Crappie also exist. If you like to fish for carp, this lake has some big ones. Cormorants congregate at the lake and feed heavily on trout, which must be stocked late in the year to reduce predation.

Location and Access: From US 395, exit onto Plumb Lane and turn west, continue on past Virginia Street and turn south on Lakeside Drive. Parking lots and street parking are available along the lake.

Management: Virginia Lake is managed by the City of Reno. Fish stocking by the Nevada Department of Wildlife probably started from its inception, but since 1951, Rainbow Trout have been the primary species stocked.

<u>General Info</u>	<u>Previous stocking</u>	<u>Fishing notes</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No boats or float tubes are allowed on the lake. Numerous Park areas, benches, docks, and public facilities are available around Virginia Lake, and it is a great place to take your family. Virginia Lake has a large population of birds and other wildlife, please refrain from feeding the wildlife during your visit to the lake. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fishing Regulations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open year round, during public park hours. Limit is 3 game fish. 	<p>2024</p> <p>Rainbows 2026 8-12 Inches</p> <p>2023</p> <p>Rainbows 2017 8-12 Inches</p> <p>Bowcutts 930 8-12 Inches</p> <p>Channel Catfish 800 8-12 Inches</p> <p>2022</p> <p>Channel Catfish 500 8-12 Inches</p> <p>2020</p> <p>Rainbows 2000 8-12 Inches</p> <p>Channel Catfish 1100 8-12 Inches</p> <p>2019</p> <p>Rainbows 2000 8-12 Inches</p> <p>Channel Catfish 1100 8-12 Inches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virginia Lake is best to fish directly preceding the stocking events for Rainbow Trout and Channel Catfish. These events occur generally in May for Channel Catfish and October for Rainbow Trout. Fish blood bait and drip baits for channel catfish, they will typically be most active in the morning and evening during low light conditions. Rainbow Trout fishing will be best during the spring and the fall and due to better water conditions, many larger holdover Rainbow Trout can be caught year round. Use powerbait or small nightcrawlers, kastmasters and panther martin lures and midge/calibaetis flies suspended under an indicator if targeting with an artificial lure or fly. Common Carp also reside in the lake and can be caught by using various carp baits or corn on the lake bottom. Largemouth Bass make up the other species in the lake and target using plastic bass baits, buzz baits, crank baits, and spinnerbaits.

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2025 Fishing Forecast

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Water levels - Virginia Lake will be maintained at reasonable levels throughout the 2025 season, Spring and Summer will have the highest water levels in the lake.

Rainbow Trout and Bowcutt Trout

In 2024 there were 2,026 Rainbow Trout stocked in Virginia Lake. Holdover stocked Rainbow Trout in Virginia Lake allow for these fish to be caught throughout the fishing season. Rainbow Trout in the lake average 8"-12" but there is the opportunity to catch a larger fish in the 14"-18" range. Bowcutt trout are also stocked in Virginia Lake which are Rainbow Trout x Cutthroat Trout hybrids. These fish tend to fight harder and get bigger than your average rainbow trout. For the best chance at catching Rainbow Trout in Virginia Lake, use Powerbait and/or small flies or lures (panther martins, midge or calibaetis flies) for the most success while targeting these fish. Rainbow Trout are heavily predated on by the resident cormorants so plan your outing to Virginia Lake to coincide when the trout are stocked.

Channel Catfish

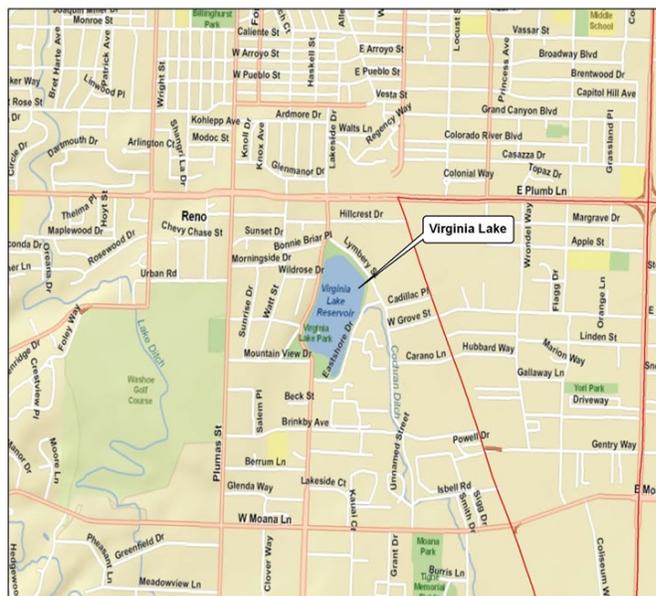
No Channel Catfish were stocked in Virginia Lake in 2024 but holdover catfish that were stocked in 2023 can be caught in the lake. Catfish make up a sizable portion of the fish population in Virginia Lake and rely on sensory organs called barbels, which give them their cat like whiskers, to sense or "taste" their prey. Catfish will eat nearly anything that comes their way and can be caught on a wide assortment of bait and lures. Stocked and holdover catfish provide opportunities for the public to catch this excellent game fish year-round. Expect to catch Channel Catfish in the 2-5 lb range and the record catfish for Virginia Lake was 21 lbs, 8 oz.

Largemouth Bass

Largemouth Bass are a popular sportfish that exist in Virginia Lake, all Largemouth caught in the lake are wild and they thrive in the water temperatures that persist in the lake year-round. Although they do not grow extremely large in the lake, you can catch them on swimbaits, spinnerbaits and rapalas or crankbaits with similar colors to Rainbow Trout or a brown/tan color. Fish shallow water and structure in the spring and summer that exists along drop-offs which are areas that transition from shallow to deep quickly.

Common Carp

Common Carp are ever present in Virginia Lake and grow to large sizes, these introduced fish are generally bottom feeders and prey on aquatic invertebrates and small minnows or fish. You can catch catfish on both bait and with fly gear and provide a fun sight fishing opportunity as they cruise the shallows looking for prey. Look for large golden-brown shapes along the shoreline when trying to spot or cast to one of these fish.



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