

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FISHING REGULATIONS

The City of Portsmouth owns four lakes in the City of Suffolk that are used as a water supply for Portsmouth and parts of Suffolk and Chesapeake. These lakes are Cohoon, Kilby, Meade, and Speights Run. The lakes and watershed areas are under the management of the Department of Public Utilities and the City of Portsmouth.

The Portsmouth lakes are open to the public for fishing all year except as noted in the regulations.

Entry to the lakes is as follows:

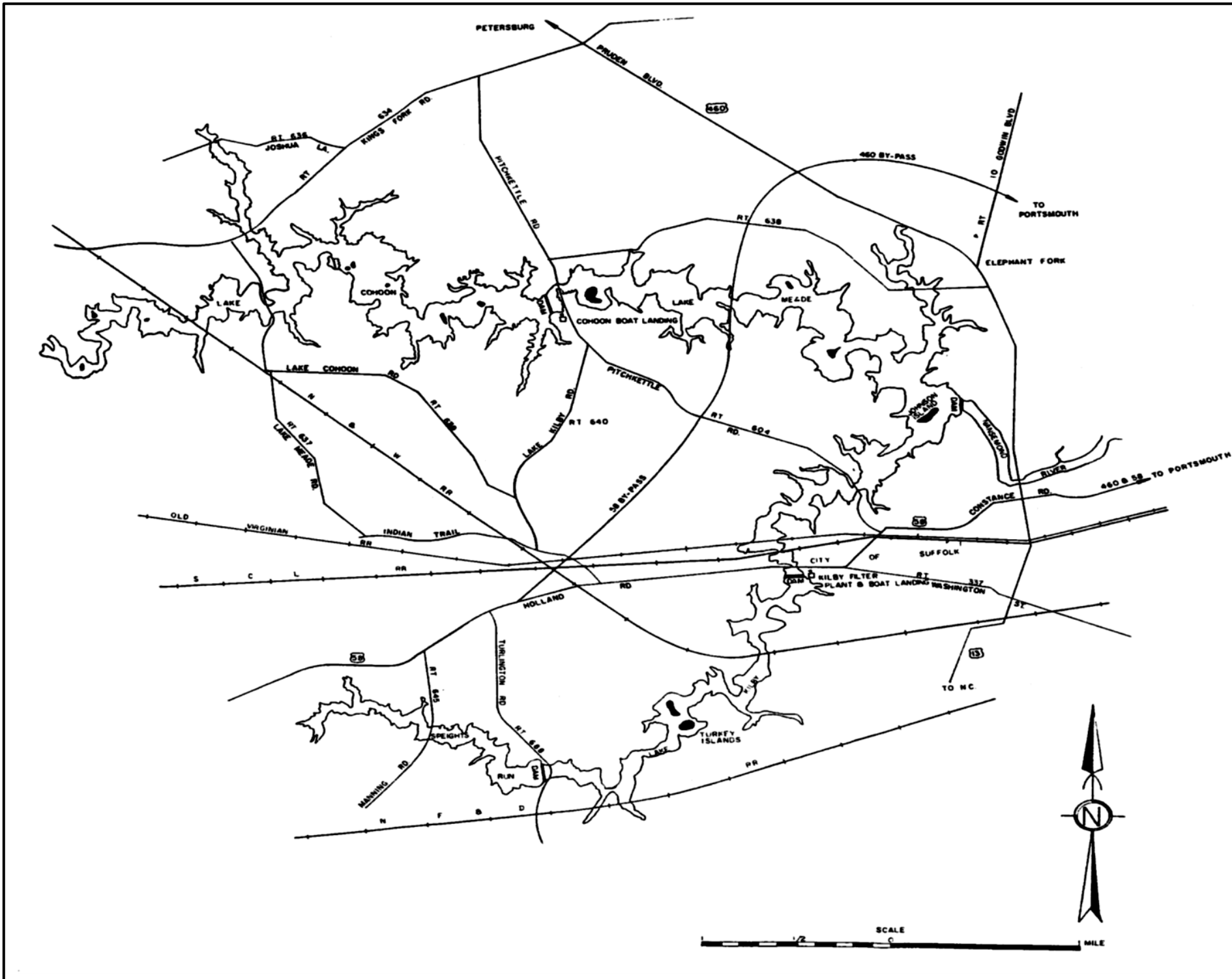
- 1) **Lake Cohoon** - Area of 510 acres. Access to the concrete public boat ramp is located at the Lake Cohoon Fishing Station, at 1805 Pitchkettle Road. (Route 604 about 2 miles from W Constance Road)
- 2) **Lake Kilby** - Area of 222 acres. Public access is not available
- 3) **Lake Meade** - Area of 510 acres. Access to the concrete public boat ramp is located at the Lake Cohoon Fishing Station.
- 4) **Lake Speights Run** - Area of 197 acres. Access to the public boat ramp is located at the dam located off of Turlington Road (Route 688).

Boat and motor rentals, bait, tackle, and snacks are available at the **Lake Cohoon Fishing Station**. Day passes are also available for persons without Annual Permits. Lake Cohoon Fishing Station day-passes and boat fees are as follows:

Daily shore fishing permit @ station	\$ 5.00
Boat Launch fee	\$ 5.00
Daily boat rental (max 3 persons)	\$20.00
Boat & trolling motor with Batt.	\$35.00

The Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries provides for the fisheries management of the lakes. The lakes are stocked with bass, striped bass (Meade), black crappie, bream, northern pike, flyers, bluegill, chain pickerel, crappie, pumpkinseed, redear, warmouth, white catfish, channel catfish, and white perch.

A City of Portsmouth permit and either a City of Suffolk or a State of Virginia fishing license is required to fish in the lakes. Children under the age of 16 do not require a City of Suffolk or State of Virginia fishing license.



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1) Fishing and boating is permitted in the City of Portsmouth's lakes for the convenience and pleasure of the public with the understanding and agreement that the City of Portsmouth, the Department of Public Utilities, and its employees, are relieved of all responsibility for loss of personal property, accidents, injuries, or drowning.

2) Fishing/boating is allowed by permit only. State boating and fishing regulations must be adhered to, and employees representing the Department of Public Utilities are authorized to enforce all rules and regulations necessary to maintain safety and order on the lakes and watershed. Game Wardens of the Commonwealth of Virginia and Police Officers are also authorized to enforce State, City, and Department of Public Utilities regulations.

Annual permits are available for purchase at the Department of Public Utilities' office in the Portsmouth Municipal Building and the Lake Cohoon Fishing Station. Application forms are available at the Suffolk Visitor's Center and the City's website (portsmouthva.gov/forms/).

Annual Fishing Permit: This permit allows the permit holder and accompanied guests fishing/boating privileges within the four Portsmouth lakes. The permittee may also keep one boat in any Portsmouth designated boat landing area or abutting the permittee's property if said property borders upon a Portsmouth lake.

FEES: Annual Permit Non-Portsmouth Resident	\$40.00
Portsmouth Resident and/or Senior Citizen (age 62 or greater)	\$20.00

3) **All boats** moored on Utility property must display a current year **Portsmouth Boat Decal** affixed to the starboard bow (right-front) of the boat near the State Registration Decal. Boats may be moored at the Lake Cohoon Fishing Station landings near the dams. Boats may also be moored behind the properties of residents with access to the lake. Second boats may require the purchase of an additional decal.

4) No boats will be allowed on the lakes before sunrise and all boats must return to shore before sunset.

5) The City may remove boats left on the lakes not displaying correct year boat decals. Confiscated boats will be returned to the owner upon proof of ownership and payment of a \$50.00 impound fee.

6) Electric and/or gasoline boat motors of up to 10 H. P. are permitted. Use of motors over 10 H. P. is expressly prohibited. The use of 4-cycle engines is encouraged. **NOTE:** Boats equipped with prohibited motors may be allowed so long as the prohibited motor is disabled (prop removed, not fueled), and propulsion is provided by a permitted motor.

7) Persons on the lakes fishing must have a valid Annual Permit or Day-pass in their possession. Day-passes may be purchased at the **Lake Cohoon Fishing Station. (757) 397-4215 (Sunrise – Sunset)**

8) Adults are encouraged to wear PFD's (lifevest) and must carry a wearable PFD for each boat occupant. Children under sixteen years of age must be accompanied by an adult in the boat and must wear a PFD at all times while in the boat or at the shore.

9) Fishing from the banks of the lakes is prohibited except in the area of the Lake Cohoon Fishing Station. Children age 12 and under may fish free when accompanied by a paying adult. (1 Adult/1 Child)

10) Any persons guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct that could endanger themselves or interfere with others will be barred from the lakes.

11) The use of firearms on the lakes or watershed properties is prohibited. Hunting is prohibited without the City's specific permission. Alcoholic beverages are also prohibited.

12) Timber cutting, clearing, camping, or the use of off-road recreational vehicles shall not be permitted on the watershed properties. Swimming or body contact watersports shall not be permitted on any lake at any time.

13) Employees of the City of Portsmouth and their accompanying family members may, upon presentation of Employee Fishing Permits, fish all lakes without charge and may use City boats free when available.

14) Holders of Official Complementary Permits and accompanying guests may fish free in any lake and use a City boat when available. This shall not exceed the use of one boat or include docking privileges.

15) Certain landowners and their immediate families have fishing privileges in Lakes Meade and Speights Run but not the use of City boats. These privileged land owners may fish free from a boat or the shore if provided for in their deed and may land their own boats on their property or on City property, previously owned by themselves, as provided for in their deed. Such boats must display a City of Portsmouth current year boat decal. (Provided free with evidence of deed rights).

16) Anyone who, in the sole judgment of the Department, permits or commits any act tending to affect the purity and aesthetic quality of the waters or otherwise damaging City of Portsmouth property will be vigorously prosecuted. All fishing privileges and permits will be revoked without refund and such persons will be barred from the lakes.

17) The Lake Cohoon Fishing Station is open sunrise to sunset weather permitting. The office may be closed weekdays from November 1 to March 31 each year. Access to all public boat launch ramps is permitted Monday through Sunday year round unless otherwise closed and barricaded by the Utility Department.

18) **Questions** or comments regarding lake or watershed issues may be directed to the Watershed Superintendent's office at **539-2201 (ext. 222)** Monday - Friday, 7am-3:30 p.m. Letters may be addressed to:

LAKE KILBY TREATMENT FACILITY, 105 MAURY PLACE, SUFFOLK, VA 23434-6217, ATT. WATERSHED SUPERINTENDENT