

INFORMATION SHEET

OKLAHOMA CITY AIR LOGISTICS CENTER

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, OKLAHOMA



FISHING AT TINKER

The opportunity to catch “the one that got away” is right here on Tinker Air Force Base. The base’s five fishing ponds — Beaver, Redbud, Prairie, Primrose, and Fire — are all within or near the Urban Greenway and are stocked and ready for you to try your luck.

Sport fish in Tinker’s ponds include bass, sunfish, and catfish. Fishing docks are available on Beaver, Redbud, and Fire ponds to improve your fishing access.

Minimum length limits and catch-and-release limits have been established since the size of base ponds will not support large harvests of bass. Prairie Pond is the base’s premier bass fishery. Only barbless hooks are permitted, and all largemouth bass must be immediately released.

HISTORY OF TINKER’S FISHERY

In the past, fishing on base was marginal. Heavy fishing led to an unbalanced, stunted fish population. Today, fishing on base is improving with pond construction and expansion, habitat creation, trophy bass pond development, stocking, and public awareness efforts.

Biologists are working to establish and maintain a high-quality, sustainable sport fishery. To reach this goal, they extensively survey and assess the fishing waters and have developed a management strategy that needs help from anglers.

FISHING CODE OF ETHICS

Follow simple rules and practice good angler ethics to maintain wildlife objectives and have opportunities to catch once-in-a-lifetime fish.

- Learn and obey catch limits and pond rules.
- Return illegal-sized fish quickly and carefully to water.
- Keep only the fish you will use.
- Never stock or release plants, fish, or other animals into base waters, such as bait-bucket minnows, crappie, aquatic plants, and pet reptiles.
- Promote angler ethics.

OTHER POND WILDLIFE

Besides fish ... frogs, turtles, snakes and other critters make the ponds their home. These animals are part of the natural environment and should not be disturbed.

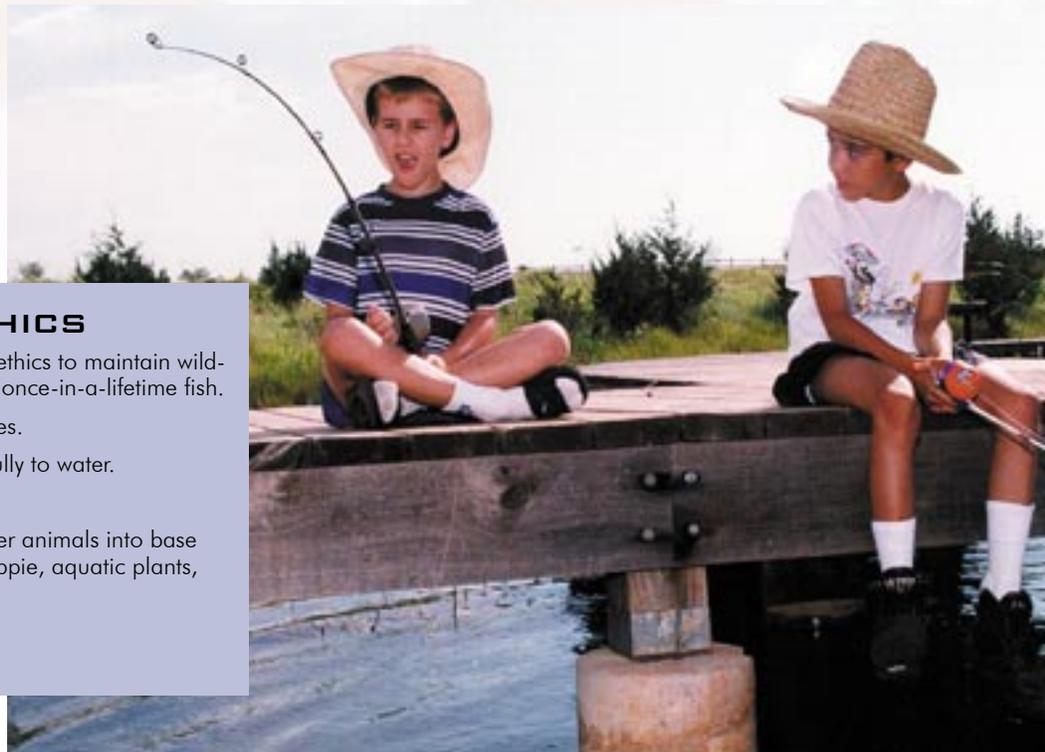
Although turtles are often blamed for eating all the fish in a pond, red-eared sliders (the most common turtles on Tinker) feed mostly on plants. Occasionally, they feed on fish that are sick, diseased, or injured. This keeps the fish population healthy.



If you catch a turtle or a fish that won’t come unhooked, just cut the line. The hook will quickly rust away and the turtle or fish will be fine.

Don’t be alarmed if you see snakes in base ponds.

Poisonous snakes are rare on base, and most are common water snakes that help the pond ecosystem. One way to tell a poisonous snake in this area is from its arrowhead-shaped head and vertical eye pupils. But, the best advice is to leave wildlife alone.



The Environmental Management (EM) Directorate, created in 1985, manages environmental issues at Tinker.

For more information, contact:

OC-ALC/EM, 7701 Arnold Street, Suite 204, Tinker AFB, OK 73145-9100

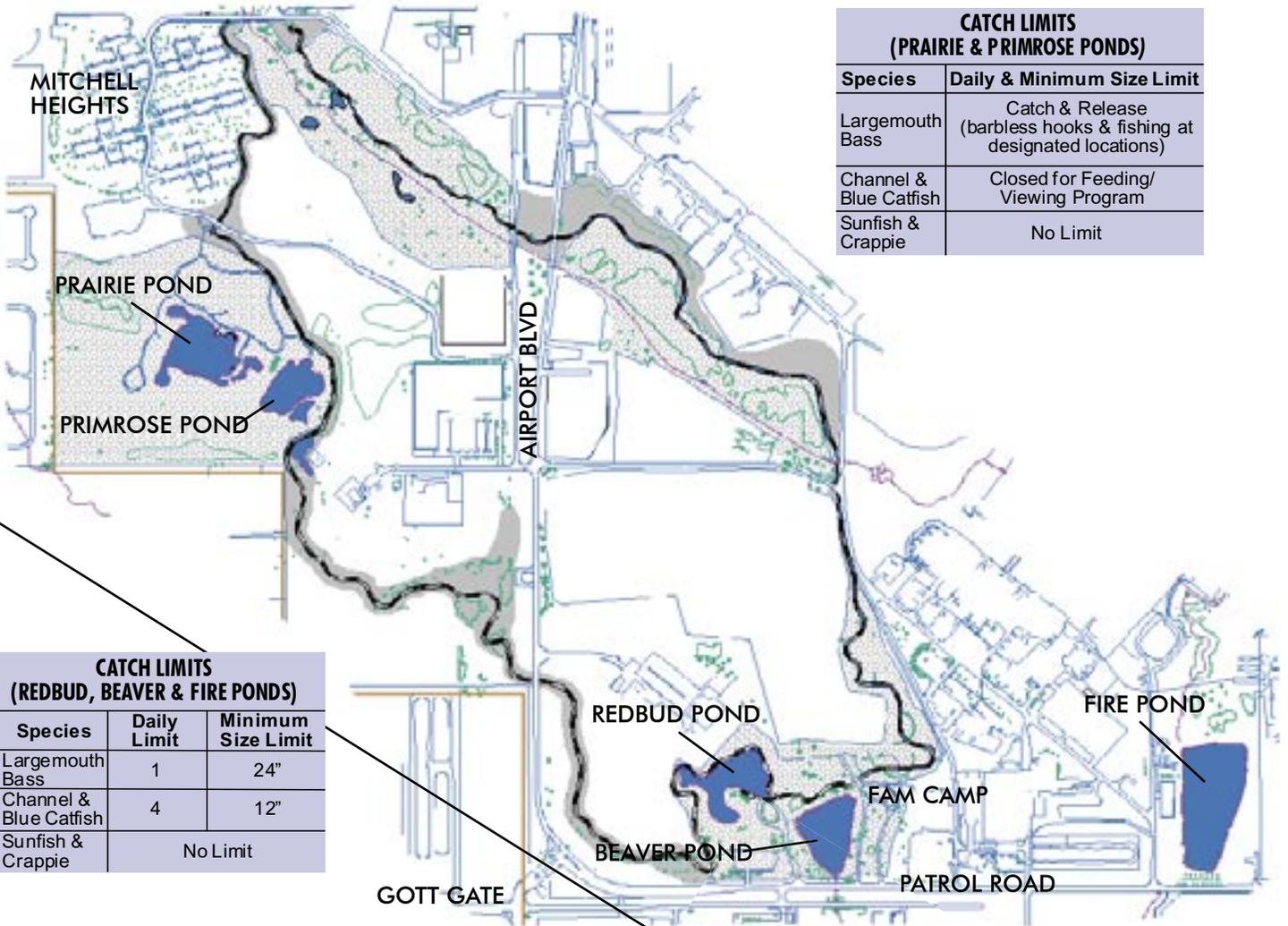
(Tel) 405.734.4111 (Fax) 405.734.4210

<http://www-ext.tinker.af.mil/em>

WHERE CAN I CATCH THE BIG ONES?

CATCH LIMITS (PRAIRIE & PRIMROSE PONDS)

Species	Daily & Minimum Size Limit
Largemouth Bass	Catch & Release (barbless hooks & fishing at designated locations)
Channel & Blue Catfish	Closed for Feeding/ Viewing Program
Sunfish & Crappie	No Limit



CATCH LIMITS (REDBUD, BEAVER & FIRE PONDS)

Species	Daily Limit	Minimum Size Limit
Largemouth Bass	1	24"
Channel & Blue Catfish	4	12"
Sunfish & Crappie	No Limit	



LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

You need a valid state of Oklahoma fishing license and a base fishing permit if you're 16 years of age or older. You can buy a permit through Outdoor Recreation, Building 5935, at 734-5875.

PERMIT FEES

ANNUAL (Individual).....	\$3
ANNUAL (Family)	\$5
DAILY (24 hours)	\$1

All proceeds are used to improve the base fishing program.