

# Banks Lake

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

Cindy McIntyre/USFWS



Discover Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge one mile outside Lakeland, Georgia in Lanier County. Recreational opportunities such as fishing and wildlife observation are available year-round.

**Fishing:** Many species of fish including crappie, largemouth bass, bream, warmouth, chain pickerel, bowfin, and several kinds of catfish can be found at Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Sport fishing is allowed 24 hours a day; but all other activity is prohibited after legal sunset. Only the use of pole and line or rod and reel are permitted. No trotlines, limb lines, or fish traps are permitted in refuge waters.

**Wildlife Observation:** The refuge contains a variety of habitat types (1,000 acres of marsh, 1,644 acres of cypress swamp, 900 acres of open water, and 15 acres of uplands) which provide wonderful wildlife watching opportunities both by boat and by land. A short walking trail, boardwalk, and observation platform are great areas to observe osprey, bald eagle, wood storks, red-shouldered hawks, alligators, and wading birds. Large numbers of sandhill cranes visit the refuge during the winter months.

# Experience Nature



USFWS



Located 20 minutes from Valdosta, Georgia and I-75  
307 West Highway 122  
Lakeland, Georgia 31635

**Sport fishing** is allowed 24 hours a day; but all other activity is prohibited after legal sunset.

**Boat Access:** A boat ramp is available on Banks Lake for both motorized boats and canoes/kayaks.

**Public Events:** A youth fishing derby is held each spring/summer in conjunction with the City of Lakeland.

**Prohibited activities include:** Swimming, wading, jet skiing, water skiing, and the use of airboats. Marking of paths or navigational routes is prohibited.

**Directions:** Two miles west of Lakeland, Georgia along State Highway 122

[www.fws.gov/refuge/banks\\_lake](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/banks_lake)