



**US Army Corps  
Of Engineers**  
Mobile District

# News Release

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## **CORPS TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE SOME RECREATION FACILITIES AT LAKE SIDNEY LANIER AND ALLATOONA LAKE, GEORGIA**

Mobile, Alabama — The Fiscal Year 2006 budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers included a ten percent cut to all multipurpose lake projects. Two Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer projects, Lake Sidney Lanier and Allatoona Lake, will be temporarily closing some recreation areas to meet this budget cut.

“We looked at a variety of cost cutting measures at these projects to absorb the ten percent cut,” said E. Patrick Robbins, Chief, Public Affairs, Mobile District. “But when all was said and done, funds were not available to keep all areas open.

At Lake Sidney Lanier three campgrounds and five day use areas will be affected. Shady Grove Campground, Bolding Mill Campground and Chestnut Ridge Campground will be closed entirely. Day use parks impacted at Lanier include Upper Overlook Park which will be totally closed. The picnic areas at Mountain View Park, Wahoo Creek Park and Robinson Park will be closed but the boat ramps will remain open. Additionally, Buford Dam Park will be operated only Thursday thru Sunday. Operation dates for all Corps parks at Lake Lanier can be viewed at <http://lanier.sam.usace.army.mil/ParkSchedule.htm>.

Allatoona Lake will have two campgrounds closed, Clark Creek South Campground (boat ramp will remain open) and Stamp Creek Campground. Three day use areas will also be closed: Cooper Branch #2, Kellogg Creek, and 41 #2. Information on parks at Allatoona Lake can be found at <http://allatoona.sam.usace.army.mil/Allatoona/parks.htm>

“When determining which campgrounds we would close, we looked at those which had high operational costs but lower visitations. We also tried to also ensure we didn’t impact one specific area of the lake or community,” said Robbins. “The same was true for the day use areas. Where we have partial closures, we are only closing those aspects of the area which have high maintenance and low visitation.”

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## RECREATION CLOSINGS 2-2-2

In addition to continuing to seek ways to cut cost and still provide high quality recreation facilities, the Corps is working with local communities to seek opportunities to outgrant some recreation areas.

“If a local community, county or other agency is willing to assume the maintenance and operation of recreation areas we are certainly willing to work with them,” said Robbins. “We have several areas at each lake which are currently outgranted. Whether the recreation areas are operated by the Mobile District or other agencies, visitors will be able to find alternative services and facilities at each lake.”

The Mobile District continues to operate nearly 45 campgrounds and almost 200 day use parks at strategic locations at various projects in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi. These recreation areas host more than 33.5 million visitors annually. It is estimated these recreation assets result in a \$531 million impact to local communities.