

A Quiet Retreat

Visit Roland Cooper State Park
on the Dannelly Reservoir

By Kim G. Nix, Managing Editor



Otto and Bernice Sharp, left, visit with Sarah Byrd and her sister-in-law Pat Byrd. They are part of a larger group of friends who camp together every year.

Tucked among the tall pines of Wilcox County near Camden is Roland Cooper State Park. At 236 acres, it's one of Alabama's smaller state parks, but offers many amenities found at larger parks.

Roland Cooper lies on the banks of the William B. Dannelly Reservoir, a popular destination for anglers. Many who come to fish the reservoir stay overnight at Roland Cooper State Park. The park's two boat ramps allow easy access for anglers staying in the park.

Camping and Cabins

The park features 47 improved campsites and 13 unimproved sites. The improved campsites have a paved parking slab, picnic table, grill, and hookups for water, electricity and sewer. Campers have access to four bathhouses, one of which contains laundry facilities.

Five two-bedroom cabins are available for those who don't wish to camp. The cabins are fully furnished with linens, a kitchen and cooking utensils. A view of the reservoir can be seen from the back porches of the cabins, and a boat dock is accessible for each cabin.

Harold and Sarah Byrd of Citronelle have been camping at Roland Cooper for 14 years. It's become their second home since they camp there two or three months in the spring and at least one month in the fall. Over the years they've met several other couples who have the same schedule. The group became fast friends. "We sit around the fire at night and have potluck suppers," said Sarah. "All the men really love to fish, and we all do a lot of walking."

To Sarah, staying at Roland Cooper has done more than introduce her to new friends. After a bout with cancer last year, she found the best medicine was to be outdoors and camp at their home away from home. "It healed my body and my mind," she said. "It's just really special," she says of Roland Cooper. One of the reasons she likes the park is that it's not too large. Everything is within easy walking distance including the nature trail, camp store and golf course. However, the individual campsites are large. "They're very spacious compared to other parks," Sarah notes.


Golf Course

A nine-hole golf course is open seven days a week. Golf Course Attendant Sharon Daily says Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays are usually busiest. People are attracted to this course because it's small and easy to walk. "You don't have to play 18 holes," Sharon said. "You have a choice of playing nine or 18." The course offers scenic

views of the reservoir and a variety of wildlife viewing – deer, turkey, squirrels and many different kinds of birds are just a few species golfers might see.

Other Amenities

A large pavilion with a fireplace can accommodate family reunions, clubs and other groups. Day users will find the picnic area, playground and hiking trail perfect for family outings.

Whether you're in the area for just a day or you plan to camp for three months, Roland Cooper State Park has something to offer. Visit and experience this quiet retreat for yourself! 

Roland Cooper State Park

285 Deer Run Dr.
Camden, AL 36726
334-682-4838

Located 6 miles from Camden, Alabama, 28 miles south of Selma, off Highway 41.

Camping/Lodging/Picnicking

- ▶ Improved Campsites: \$16.64 per night
- ▶ Primitive Campsites: \$8.32 per night
- ▶ Camper Storage: \$1 per day
- ▶ Cabin Rates (1-4 persons): \$72.80 per night
- ▶ Pavilion: \$100 per day

Green Fees

- ▶ 9 Holes: \$11 /with cart \$16
- ▶ 18 Holes: \$15 /with cart \$23

All Prices Subject to Change

