

What type of fish are in the park?

Boronda Lake has several types of fish living in it.

There are large mouthed bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), red cheeked perch (*Perca sp.* there are many species of perch native to the United States), channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinnis*) and crayfish (unknown species and genus, it's the thing that looks like a mini lobster – there are over 330 species in the United States alone that are in several families).

Most of the fish in Boronda Lake are left overs from the last time the lake was stocked a little more than 10 years ago. From what we can tell from talking with fisherman we have a relatively stable population of these fishes. The mosquito fish were probably put in the lake by Santa Clara County Vector Control to keep levels of mosquitoes down (their favorite food is mosquito larvae). It is uncertain where the crayfish (also the assorted other fish, bullfrogs and other amphibians) came from; many were probably dropped of by park visitors trying to find home for their overgrown or unwanted pets.

We try to discourage the introduction of pets into wild ecosystems. Often they cause a great deal of harm to native populations that may be endangered to begin with (for instance bullfrogs eat red legged tree frogs (protected by the Endangered Species Act since 1996)).