



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

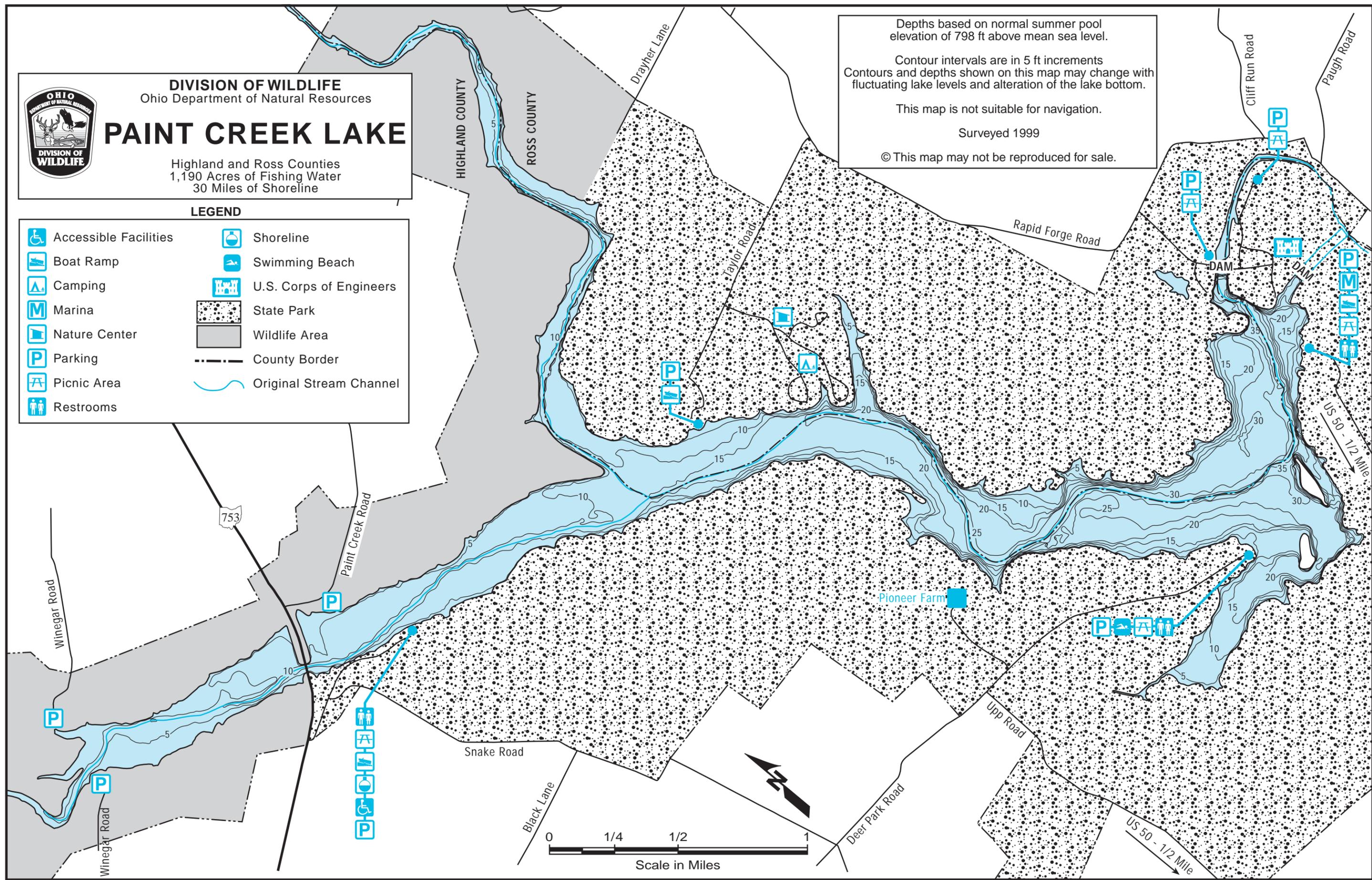
PAINT CREEK LAKE

Highland and Ross Counties
1,190 Acres of Fishing Water
30 Miles of Shoreline

LEGEND

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Accessible Facilities | Shoreline |
| Boat Ramp | Swimming Beach |
| Camping | U.S. Corps of Engineers |
| Marina | State Park |
| Nature Center | Wildlife Area |
| Parking | County Border |
| Picnic Area | Original Stream Channel |
| Restrooms | |

Depths based on normal summer pool elevation of 798 ft above mean sea level.
Contour intervals are in 5 ft increments
Contours and depths shown on this map may change with fluctuating lake levels and alteration of the lake bottom.
This map is not suitable for navigation.
Surveyed 1999
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PAINT CREEK LAKE

Highland and Ross Counties

LOCATION

Paint Creek Lake is situated 10 miles east of Hillsboro, 1 mile north of U.S. 50 on Rapid Forge Road, and 5 miles south of Greenfield on State Route 753.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Paint Creek Lake is a flood control and recreation reservoir of 1,190 surface acres and 30 miles of shoreline constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The lake is a mainstream impoundment of Paint Creek in the Highland and Ross County portion of the Scioto River Drainage basin, and drains an area of 753 square miles. Dam construction began in 1967. Water was impounded in March 1974 and attained normal summer pool elevation by May 1974.

The dam is 118 feet high and 800 feet long. The spillway section of the dam structure contains three 57- by 37-foot tainter gates to permit additional flood control. The maximum water depth at the dam is 50-feet. The control tower on the upstream side of the dam has two 7¹/₂ - by 50¹/₂ -foot service gates to allow the water to pass through a conduit under the dam. Two low flow intakes, one at the 26-foot level and one at the 5-foot level, allow mixing of water at various temperatures so that the water which is released downstream will remain at normal temperatures with sufficient dissolved oxygen for the aquatic life.

The shoreline of the main body in the southern part of the lake is steep, with sheer limestone bluffs, and drops off rapidly to 30 feet of water. The limestone cliffs are prominent on the east side of the lake and up into the Paint Creek arm. The west side (Rattlesnake Creek Arm) is shallow and less steep. There are areas in the lake where trees and brush were not removed prior to impoundment. Along the shoreline, stumpy areas, large limestone rocks, and fallen trees provide cover for several species of fish.

FISHES OF INTEREST TO ANGLERS

Largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass, white bass, white and black crappies, bluegills, saugeye, channel and flathead catfish, sunfish, suckers, and carp are found in the lake. Gizzard shad is the primary forage species for predators.

METHODS OF FISHING AND BEST FISHING SITES

Crappies are taken throughout the lake by fishing in the brush or in the tops of fallen trees. Live minnows, small jigs, and small spinners are good baits. Largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass are taken along the shoreline - around stumps, logs, and large limestone rocks - by casting spinner baits, crank baits, and artificial worms. Fishing with live worms, minnows, and crayfish around cover is also productive. Bluegills can be taken with red worms or waxworms on small hooks. White bass are taken by casting or trolling curly tail jigs, spinners or small crankbaits. In the lake, saugeye can be taken by casting jigs tipped with nightcrawlers or minnows, and casting or trolling silver crankbaits. The tailwaters below the dam are the best location for catching saugeye. From September - May, saugeye are taken by casting lightweight jigs with plastic curly tails. Lots of channel catfish are taken in the tailwaters using nightcrawlers, chicken livers, shrimp, or cut bait.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The ODNR Division of Parks and Recreation operates and maintains three boat ramps, a marina with rental boats, seasonal rental docks, and a concession; a swimming beach, picnic areas, hiking, mountain biking, and bridle trails and a campground. The Class A campground offers 195 campsites with electricity, camper cabins, and rent-a-camp sites, flush toilets, showers, a trailer waste dump station, a concession, and a nature center.

FISH OHIO

Anglers who catch big fish should enter their prize in the Fish Ohio angler recognition program. A fish qualifies for an award if it meets the minimum size requirements set for the Fish Ohio program. Applications are available online at FishOhio.org.

FISH MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Prior to impoundment, some areas of trees and brush were left standing. Large limestone rocks were placed along the east shoreline near the dam area to provide additional fish habitat. Several low-level rock dams were constructed below the dam to improve the tailwater fishery.

Fish management activities by the Division of Wildlife include monitoring the fish populations with sampling equipment and studying water quality. The saugeye fishery is maintained by annual stockings of saugeye fingerlings.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The nearest district office is located at Wildlife District Five, 1076 Old Springfield Pike, Xenia, Ohio 45385; telephone (937) 372-9261. The Division also has a Web site for information on fishing regulations, tips, maps, and other wildlife related information (www.ohiodnr.com). To get other maps or publications call toll free 1-800-WILDLIFE.

For information on state park facilities, contact Paint Creek State Park, 14265 U. S. Route 50, Bainbridge, Ohio 45612; telephone (937) 365-1401.

TURN IN A POACHER

Ohio's TIP, "Turn In a Poacher," program is helping to control poaching throughout the state. TIP is designed to involve the public in reporting wildlife violations. Citizens who observe wildlife violations should call the TIP toll-free hotline, 1-800-POACHER.



ODNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE DISTRICT OFFICES

WILDLIFE CENTRAL OFFICE
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693
Phone: (614) 265-6300

WILDLIFE DISTRICT ONE
1500 Dublin Road
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 644-3925

WILDLIFE DISTRICT TWO
952 Lima Avenue
Findlay, Ohio 45840
Phone: (419) 424-5000

WILDLIFE DISTRICT THREE
912 Portage Lakes Drive
Akron, Ohio 44319
Phone: (330) 644-2293

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FOUR
360 East State Street
Athens, Ohio 45701
Phone: (740) 589-9930

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FIVE
1076 Old Springfield Pike
Xenia, Ohio 45385
Phone: (937) 372-9261



ODNR Division of Wildlife Internet address: wildohio.com
Toll free 1-800-WILDLIFE

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