

ODNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE 2015 OPEN HOUSE: **OHIO BOAT ACCESS PROJECTS**

DISTRICT 1

HARGUS LAKE BOAT ACCESS

Hargus Lake is located in A.W. Marion State Park in Circleville, Ohio in Pickaway County. Boat ramp improvements at this site address the need to improve boater angler access and will replace the existing one lane ramp with a new ramp and floating docks that meet ADA standards. The access road and parking lot that serve this access site will be re-paved and re-stripped. The improved access road will create a better approach to the ramp for easier backing, loading, and unloading of boats. This will allow more boaters/anglers access to the ramp and will, therefore, increase fishing opportunities at Hargus Lake. Hargus Lake is very popular with anglers and ranks number eight for the number of largemouth bass and number two for largemouth bass over 20 inches in length.

MACKEY FORD BOAT ACCESS

The Mackey Ford Wildlife Area is located on the Scioto River in Pickaway County, Ohio. This access site is a major recreational resource within 20 minutes of downtown Columbus, Ohio. The pools and deep runs typical of the Scioto River in Pickaway County are suited to boat angling. The addition of a boat ramp in Pickaway County will provide access to a great fishery resource within fifteen miles of downtown Columbus. The ramp would provide access to over 20 river miles for motor boat users in an area that previously would have only been available to paddlers. The Scioto River has a substantial catfish and black bass fishery in addition to Division of Wildlife stocked fish such as saugeye and hybrid striped bass.

OXBOW BOAT RAMP

The Hoover Reservoir is located in Westerville, Ohio, on the northern border of Franklin and southern border of Delaware Counties. The Reservoir is within 15 miles of Columbus, Ohio and provides an area for boaters and anglers to recreate. Improvements to the boat ramp will provide larger watercrafts better access to the upper portions of the Reservoir and increase their fishing opportunities. Improvement activities will include paving and widening the access lane, paving the parking lot and approach lane, clearly marking handicap accessible spaces and boating/non-boating spaces, and completely renovating the existing boat ramp. Fishing opportunities will be improved in the upper portion of the Reservoir which is home to a great warm-water fishery.

DISTRICT 2

MAZURIK COURTESY BOAT DOCK

The Mazurik Fishing Access is located in Ottawa County on Lake Erie and provides direct boating access to Lake Erie and easy access to the Lake Erie islands. The proposed project will replace existing docks with more stable and weather-proof courtesy docks.

DARR-ROOT BOAT RAMP

The Darr-Root Fishing Access is located in the downtown Fremont area along the Sandusky River. Fremont is approximately fifteen miles from Port Clinton and approximately 24 miles from Sandusky. Walleye and white bass enter the Sandusky River each spring from Lake Erie to spawn. Fishing access at the Darr-Root Boat access is in high demand during these spawning runs. Currently, only one private boat ramp is available in the Fremont area of the Sandusky River. The proposed project will develop a parking lot and boat ramp on the Sandusky River in Sandusky County to allow improved access to fisheries on the Sandusky River.

MOOSMAN BOAT ACCESS

AT LEPOMIS LAKE

The Lake Lepomis boat access project addresses the need to improve boater angler access in northwest Ohio. Lake Lepomis is a newly acquired borrow pond located in the extreme western area of Lucas County. This pond was created by the Ohio Department of Transportation, during the construction of U.S. Route 24, and was transferred to the Ohio Division of Wildlife. The ODNR Division of Wildlife and ODNR Division of Engineering will work together to create a boating access site with a ramp, courtesy dock and parking lot on an unimproved plot of land. Currently, anglers in Lucas, Wood and Fulton Counties have no inland (i.e., not on Lake Erie) gas motor boat access sites. This project would create much needed access in an area that has over 600,000 residents and annually sells over 40,000 fishing licenses.



DISTRICT 3

ZEPERNICK LAKE BOAT RAMP

Zepernick Lake in Columbiana County in northeast Ohio is a small, 39 acre reservoir with popular fisheries for bass, catfish, and sunfish. This lake provides fishing in an area of the state with relatively few angling opportunities—only two other public fishing lakes lie within fifteen miles of Zepernick Lake. The proposed project will replace the current ramp slab and install a concrete courtesy dock to facilitate loading and unloading boats.

WINGFOOT LAKE BOAT RAMP

Wingfoot Lake, located in Portage County in northeastern Ohio, is a recently purchased Wildlife Area that boasts popular fisheries for bass, crappie, perch, and sunfish. The reservoir is located 3.1 miles from Akron, Ohio and 11.6 miles from Canton, Ohio. This reservoir has two boat ramps, one on the eastern side and one the western side (Farr Lane). Because of the shallow, flat nature of the eastern boat launch at Wingfoot Lake, the Farr Lane access site on the western end of the lake receives the majority of boater access use. The ramp at Farr Lane will be replaced and a concrete courtesy dock will be installed to improve angler access to Wingfoot Lake.

BERLIN LAKE BOAT RAMP

Berlin Lake in Stark County is the third largest reservoir in northeastern Ohio (3,321 acres) and is one of the most popular lakes in this region for anglers and boaters alike. Army Corps of Engineers data shows that Berlin Lake received 600,160 visits in 2008 for a total of over 4 million visitor hours. An additional boat launch is proposed which would be located at the German Church Road access site. This access site will provide an improved boat ramp approximately six miles further upstream from the existing improved site and would be one and a half miles downstream of the unimproved access site. It will provide access to an additional 50 boats and will improve angler access to the productive upstream portion of the lake, which historically has required substantial time for anglers to reach due to numerous no-wake zones. Species targeted in this area include walleye, largemouth and smallmouth bass, black and white crappie, and channel catfish.

DISTRICT 4

KINNIKINNICK BOAT RAMP

The Kinnikinnick Wildlife Area on the Scioto River in Ross County is located near Columbus, Ohio (approximately 40 miles south) as well as the smaller population centers of Chillicothe and Circleville (approximately 10 miles). The Scioto River is the second longest river in Ohio and boasts a diversity of habitats and fisheries. It has a substantial catfish and black bass fishery in addition to ODNR Division of Wildlife stocked fish such as saugeye. There are currently no public boat ramps in the Circleville to Chillicothe section of the Scioto River and miles of river containing excellent habitat are inaccessible to the majority of the angling public. Building a boat ramp at the Kinnikinnick Wildlife Area on the Scioto River will provide access to this great fishery. The proposed boat ramp site is within 10 miles of Chillicothe and Circleville and approximately 30 miles from Columbus. It is twelve river miles upstream of the Chillicothe Park Annex public boat ramp and fifteen river miles downstream from the Richards access near Circleville. This site is easily accessible by US Route 23.

DISTRICT 5

LITTLE CHICKASAW BOAT ACCESS

AT GRAND LAKE ST. MARYS

Grand Lake St. Marys is the largest man-made lake in Ohio (12,896 acres) and is serviced primarily by three boat ramps: West Bank Ramp (western shore), Windy Point Ramp (southwestern shore), and the Marina Ramp (northeastern shore). The proposed project would add another ramp on the southeastern shore which would be the first ADA accessible public ramp at this lake. It would also provide the first improved motorboat public access facility in the southeastern section and allow greater angler access to fisheries in the southern areas. The proposed ramp location is twelve miles from the West Bank Ramp, six miles from the Windy Point Ramp, and seven miles from the Marina ramp. This new access point is located south of the intersection of Mercer Auglaize County Line Road and Koehn Road, approximately five miles southwest of the city of St. Marys. Species targeted by anglers in this area include largemouth bass, black and white crappie, sunfish, and channel catfish. The initial site plan includes three components: an access road, boat ramp, and parking.