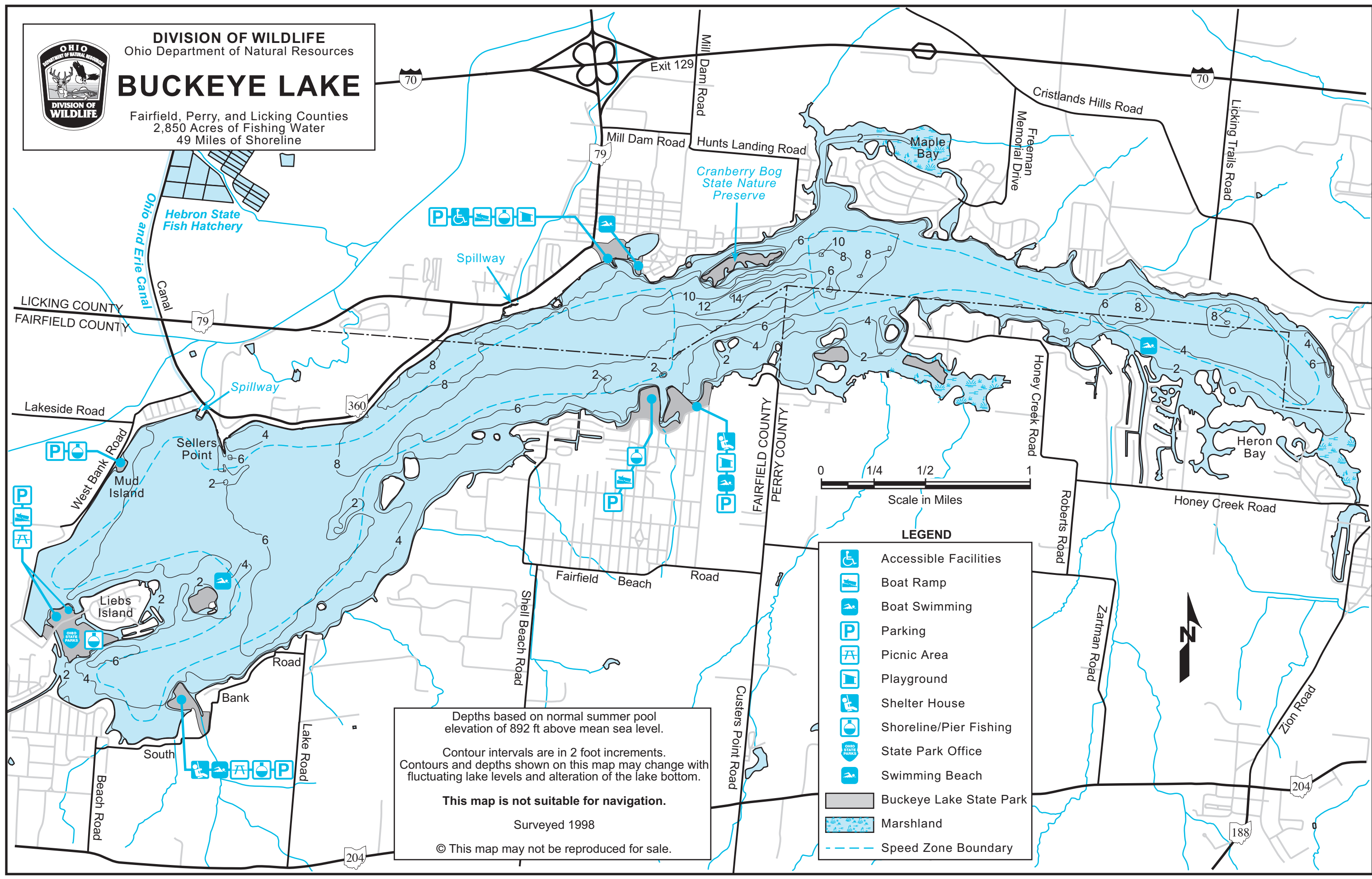




**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
**BUCKEYE LAKE**

Fairfield, Perry, and Licking Counties  
2,850 Acres of Fishing Water  
49 Miles of Shoreline



**LEGEND**

- Accessible Facilities
- Boat Ramp
- Boat Swimming
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Shelter House
- Shoreline/Pier Fishing
- State Park Office
- Swimming Beach
- Buckeye Lake State Park
- Marshland
- Speed Zone Boundary

Depths based on normal summer pool elevation of 892 ft above mean sea level.  
Contour intervals are in 2 foot 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 1998  
© This map may not be reproduced for sale.

# BUCKEYE LAKE

Fairfield, Licking, and Perry Counties



## LOCATION

Buckeye Lake is in Fairfield, Licking, and Perry counties, approximately 23 miles east of downtown Columbus, 9 miles south of Newark, and 22 miles west of Zanesville. The lake is accessible from State Routes 79, 13, and 204.

## HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Buckeye Lake is one of Ohio's oldest impoundments. It was constructed about 1830 primarily to provide water for the extensive canal system being constructed throughout the state at that time. During initial impoundment, one 50-acre area along the north side of the lake, now called Cranberry Bog, rose with the rising water and became a floating bog. It remains as a state nature preserve today. With the rapid demise of the canals shortly after its impoundment, Buckeye Lake survives today as a popular recreational lake of 2,850 acres with a drainage area of 31,488 acres.

Buckeye Lake has an average depth of about 6 feet with a maximum depth of about 14 feet. It has a relatively flat bottom without much underwater woody cover.

## FISHES OF INTEREST TO ANGLERS

Buckeye Lake has populations of largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, channel catfish, flathead catfish, white bass, and carp. Fish stocked annually in Buckeye Lake include fingerling saugeye and hybrid striped bass. Gizzard shad is the main forage species.

## METHODS OF FISHING AND BEST FISHING SITES

Largemouth bass are taken throughout the lake particularly around docks. Buckeye Lake is considered a good "early" lake to fish for largemouth bass because it warms rapidly in the spring due to its shallowness. Bluegill fishing is good especially in the vegetated portions of the lake. Try fishing prepared baits, nightcrawlers, or soft crawfish lakewide in June and July for channel catfish. Saugeye are taken throughout the year including through the ice. The winter months are often highly productive. Use a jig tipped with a minnow fished near or on the bottom. Another productive method to catch saugeye is to cast or troll 4-6" minnow imitations or shallow running crankbaits. Hybrid striped bass are caught throughout the lake using chicken livers fished on the bottom or by using minnow imitating lures.

## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Division of Parks and Recreation operates and maintains parking lots, boat ramps and docks, swimming beaches, and picnic areas. There are no horsepower restrictions for boats.

Note: Horsepower limits and other boating regulations are subject to change. Boaters should contact the ODNR Division of Wildlife for current information.

## FISH OHIO

Anglers who catch a 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 requirement set for the Fish Ohio program. Applications are available online at FishOhio.org.

## FISH MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The ODNR Division of Wildlife's fish management activities include stocking, conducting angler creel surveys, constructing fishing piers, renovating boat ramps and parking areas, and monitoring fish populations with nets, seines, and electrofishing gear. These activities are vital to providing adequate public access and determining the management practices necessary to produce quality fishing.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The nearest district office is Wildlife District One, 1500 Dublin Road, Columbus, Ohio 43215 telephone 614/644-3925. The Division also has a Web site for information on fishing regulations, tips, maps, and other wildlife related information ([www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife)). To get other maps or publications call toll free 1-800-WILDLIFE. For information on state park facilities at Buckeye Lake, contact Buckeye Lake State Park, P.O. Box 488, Millersport, Ohio 43046 telephone 740/467-2690.

## TURN IN A POACHER

Ohio's TIP, "Turn In a Poacher," program is helping to curtail 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  
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](http://wildohio.com)  
Toll free 1-800-WILDLIFE

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