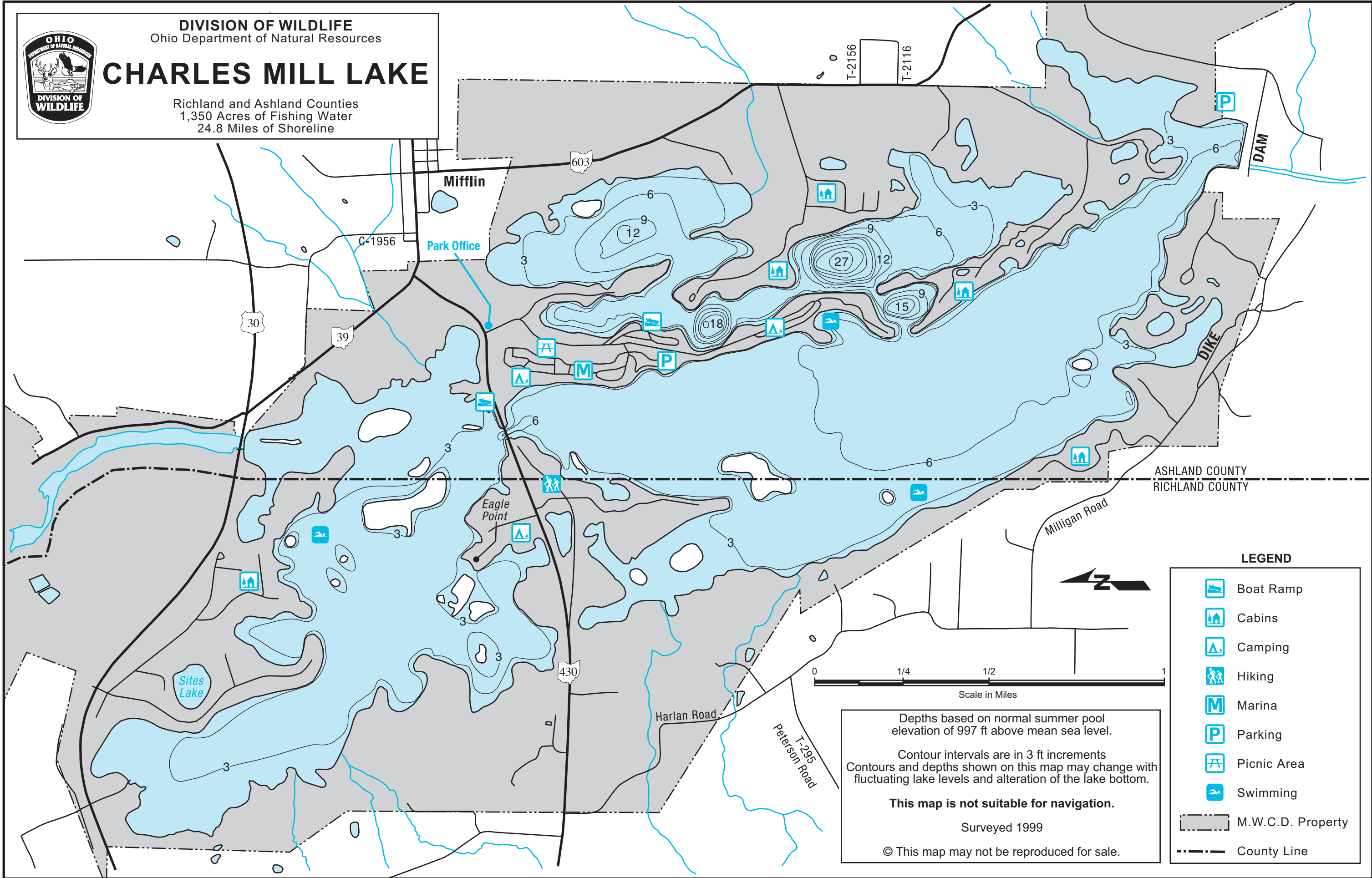




DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

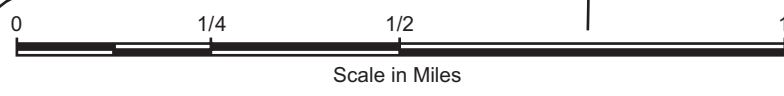
CHARLES MILL LAKE

Richland and Ashland Counties
1,350 Acres of Fishing Water
24.8 Miles of Shoreline



LEGEND

- Boat Ramp
- Cabins
- Camping
- Hiking
- Marina
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Swimming
- M.W.C.D. Property
- County Line



Depths based on normal summer pool elevation of 997 ft above mean sea level.

Contour intervals are in 3 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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CHARLES MILL LAKE

Richland and Ashland Counties



LOCATION

Charles Mill Reservoir is located on the Richland-Ashland County line, on SR 603 off US 30, approximately 1 mile west of Mifflin. There are two boat ramps both off SR 430. The marina is located by the boat ramp on the eastern basin of the reservoir.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) owns Charles Mill Reservoir. The reservoir was constructed in 1935 by damming the Black Fork of the Mohican River. The reservoir impounds 1,350 acres of water and has 25-miles of shoreline. The main purpose for constructing the reservoir was for flood control. The watershed draining into Charles Mill covers 5,040,002 acres. Today, recreation is one of the biggest public benefits of the reservoir. The ODNR, Division of Wildlife manages the reservoir to provide public fishing and hunting opportunities.

The Black Fork of the Mohican River flows into the north end of the reservoir and flows out over the dam on the south end of the reservoir. The reservoir is divided up into three basins: one north of SR 430, a second south of SR 430 and the third to the east of the second basin. The basin north of SR 430 is very shallow. Channels to the boat ramp in this basin are kept open by dredging. This north basin is frequently very turbid. The basin south of SR 430 is again relatively shallow; most of the southern basin is around 6-feet deep. The narrow passage leading from the southern basin to the eastern basin is about 15-feet deep. The eastern basin is the deepest part of the reservoir with several deep holes including a hole 27-feet deep. The eastern basin generally has the clearest water in the reservoir.

FISHES OF INTEREST TO ANGLERS

Charles Mill Reservoir has populations of largemouth bass, hybrid striped bass, saugeye, channel catfish, flathead catfish, crappie, and a variety of sunfish species. Saugeye and hybrid striped bass escape from the reservoir and provide a good fishery in the tailwaters below the dam. Gizzard shad are the most common prey of the predator fish species.

BEST FISHING SITES AND METHODS

The eastern basin is the most popular area of the reservoir to fish. The deep areas provide excellent fishing for hybrid striped bass, saugeye, and flathead and channel catfish. The shoreline of the eastern basin is a popular area to fish for largemouth bass and crappie in the spring. Sunfish can be caught all over the reservoir usually close to structures. While the eastern basin is the most popular part of the reservoir to fish, there are good fishing areas in the southern and northern basins. In early spring, these shallow areas of the reservoir tend to warm first and attract fish at that time of the year.

Casting lures, jigs or plastic worms along the shoreline are effective methods to catch largemouth bass. The best time to catch crappie is in the spring by fishing minnows below bobbers near structure in shallow water along the shoreline. Hybrid striped bass and channel catfish can be caught by fishing chicken liver tight-lined on the bottom from shore or boat. Trolling deep running lures is effective for saugeye, hybrid striped bass, and largemouth bass. Slow trolling or drifting with minnows fished deep can also be effective. Jigging minnows off the bottom is another effective method to catch saugeye and largemouth bass. Try jigging in areas with a sandy bottom in about 5 to 10 feet of water. The best way to catch flathead catfish is by using live 3-5 inch sunfish for bait in deep holes.

FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Charles Mill Reservoir has two boat ramps, a full service marina, and a campground. The marina located in the eastern basin has a concession stand, sanitary facilities and a gas dock. There are designated swimming areas. Cabins and picnic facilities are located in the MWCD Park. Hiking trails wind around the reservoir.

FISH OHIO

Anglers who catch a big fish should enter their prize catch 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 from the ONDR Division of Wildlife at www.fishohio.org, any of the wildlife district offices, or from many tackle and bait stores.

FISH MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Fish management decisions are based on surveys of anglers and fish populations by the ODNR, Division of Wildlife. These surveys are conducted on a regularly scheduled basis as part of the statewide Inland Management System (IMS). Fisheries for hybrid striped bass and saugeye are maintained with annual stocking of these fish.

WILDLIFE AND HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

A variety of wildlife may be seen on or near the reservoir. Waterfowl frequent the reservoir in the fall and spring. Bald eagles and ospreys are also sighted at the reservoir. Public hunting is allowed on and near the reservoir on Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District property. Contact the MWCD park office at 419-368-6885 for details on hunting opportunities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The nearest wildlife district office is Wildlife District Two, 952 Lima Avenue, Findlay Ohio 45840; telephone 419-424-5000. The Division also has a Website with information on fish stocking, fishing reports, regulations, tips, maps, and other wildlife related information www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife. To get other maps or wildlife publications call 1-800-WILDLIFE. For more information on Charles Mill Reservoir's marina call 419-368-5951 or for information on MWCD lakes call 330-343-6647 or check www.mwcdlakes.com.

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 43229-6693
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: www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife
Toll free 1-800-WILDLIFE

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