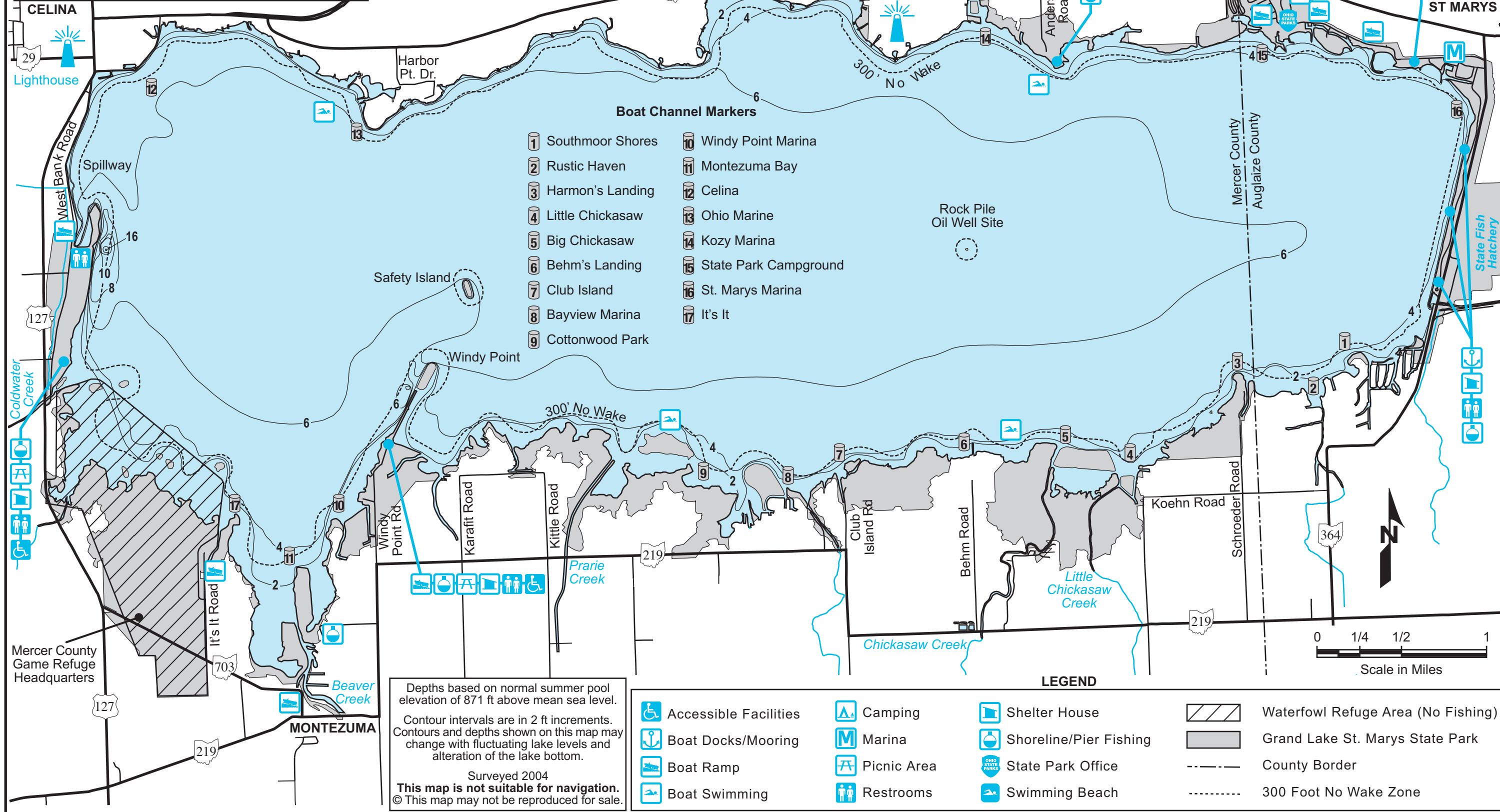




**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

# GRAND LAKE ST. MARYS

Auglaize and Mercer Counties  
12,680 Acres of Fishing Water  
56 Miles of Shoreline



### Boat Channel Markers

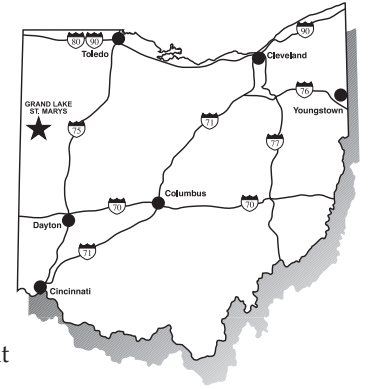
- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Southmoor Shores | 10 Windy Point Marina    |
| 2 Rustic Haven     | 11 Montezuma Bay         |
| 3 Harmon's Landing | 12 Celina                |
| 4 Little Chickasaw | 13 Ohio Marine           |
| 5 Big Chickasaw    | 14 Kozy Marina           |
| 6 Behm's Landing   | 15 State Park Campground |
| 7 Club Island      | 16 St. Marys Marina      |
| 8 Bayview Marina   | 17 It's It               |
| 9 Cottonwood Park  |                          |

Depths based on normal summer pool elevation of 871 ft above mean sea level.  
Contour intervals are in 2 ft increments. Contours and depths shown on this map may change with fluctuating lake levels and alteration of the lake bottom.  
Surveyed 2004  
**This map is not suitable for navigation.**  
© This map may not be reproduced for sale.

Accessible Facilities	Camping	Shelter House	Waterfowl Refuge Area (No Fishing)
Boat Docks/Mooring	Marina	Shoreline/Pier Fishing	Grand Lake St. Marys State Park
Boat Ramp	Picnic Area	State Park Office	County Border
Boat Swimming	Restrooms	Swimming Beach	300 Foot No Wake Zone

# GRAND LAKE ST. MARYS

Auglaize and Mercer Counties



## LOCATION

Grand Lake St. Marys is located in west central Ohio. The city of St. Marys is located near the northeast corner of the lake and Celina is on the northwest corner. State Routes 29, 364, and 703 provide access on the north side of the lake; State Route 364 on the east; State Routes 219 and 703 on the south; and US Route 127 on the west.

## HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Grand Lake St. Marys was constructed from 1837 – 1845 to store water for the Miami-Erie Canal. Two earthen dams were built on the headwaters of two major drainage systems flooding the area between them. The spillway on the west end discharges water into the Wabash and Ohio River drainage systems; water from the east end spillway flows into the St. Marys River, and from there into the Maumee River and Lake Erie. The lake covers approximately 12,680 acres and is Ohio's largest inland lake entirely within state borders.

Most of the lake is less than 7 feet deep with a soft bottom of silt. Some isolated areas of sandy or clay bottoms exist where wave action keeps the bottom cleaner. Lots of rock rip rap has been added to reduce shoreline erosion; these rocky shorelines provide cover for several species of fish. Numerous boat docks, shoreline brush, and fallen trees provide cover for fish.

The lake is approximately 9 miles long and 3 miles wide. The prevailing westerly winds commonly create whitecaps; strong winds can create dangerous wave conditions. Small boat operators should exercise extreme caution when traveling across the lake.

## FISHES OF INTEREST TO ANGLERS

Largemouth bass, white and black crappies, bluegills, walleye, channel and flathead catfish, yellow perch, bullheads, carp, and suckers 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 around shoreline brush, fallen trees, or around boat docks. Live minnows or small jigs with plastic bodies are good baits. Largemouth bass are taken along rip rap shorelines or near shoreline brush and boat docks using spinner baits, crank baits, jigs, plastic baits, and live night crawlers. Bluegills can be taken around shoreline structure using red worms or wax worms on small hooks. For bass, bluegills, and crappies, the numerous tributaries and boat channels along the south shore are popular locations. Channel catfish are taken by bottom fishing with night crawlers, chicken liver, shrimp, or cut fish bait. Flathead catfish are usually caught while bottom fishing with large live bait, such as chubs, bluegill, or green sunfish. The best bullhead fishing occurs in the spring using red worms or night crawlers fished near the bottom. Walleye can be taken with lead head jigs and plastic curly tails, live night crawler rigs, or crank baits. The tailwater below the West Bank spillway is a productive walleye location. Yellow perch are caught using live minnows or red worms fished near the bottom. Ice fishing can be productive for crappies, bluegills, and perch.

## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The ODNR Division of Parks & Recreation operates and maintains 7 boat ramps, a marina with rental boats, seasonal rental docks, two swimming beaches, picnic areas and picnic shelters (some shelters can be reserved), handicap accessible shoreline fishing piers, and a campground. The Class A campground offers 204 campsites with electricity, camper cabins, cedar cabins, flush toilets, showers, a trailer waste dump station, a nature center, and a boat ramp with overnight courtesy docks.

## FISH OHIO

Anglers who catch 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 ODNR Division of Wildlife and from many tackle and bait stores.

## FISH MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Fish management activities by the Division of Wildlife include monitoring the fish populations with sampling equipment and studying water quality. The walleye fishery is maintained by annual stockings of walleye 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 Website for information on fishing regulations, tips, maps, and other wildlife related information ([www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife](http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife)). To get other maps or publications call toll free 1-800-WILDLIFE.

For information on state park facilities, contact Grand Lake St. Marys State Park, 834 Edgewater Dr., St. Marys, Ohio 45885; telephone (419) 394-3611. State park information is also available at the ODNR Website ([www.ohiodnr.com/parks](http://www.ohiodnr.com/parks)).

## 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  
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](http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife)  
Toll free 1-800-WILDLIFE

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