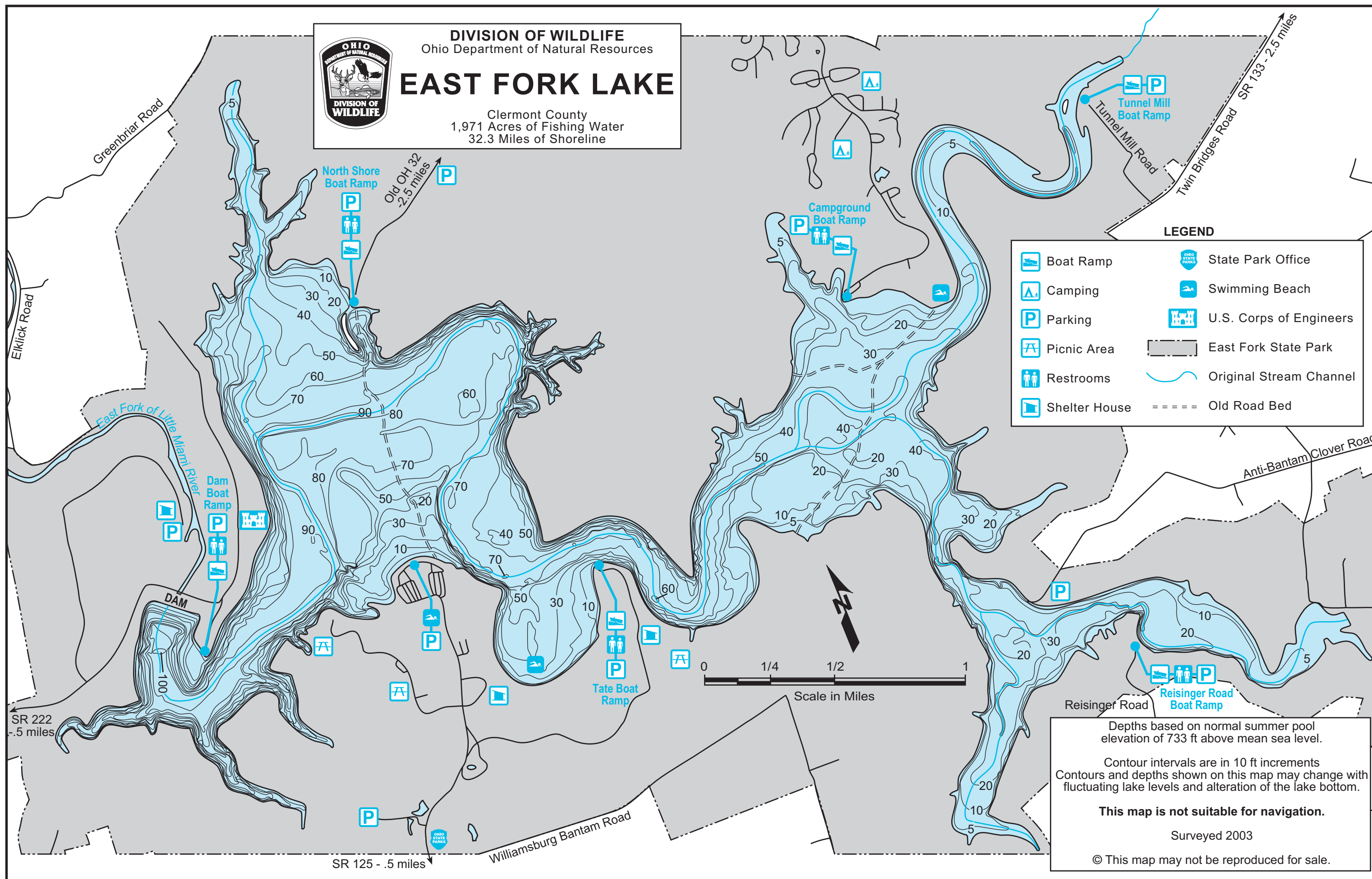




DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

EAST FORK LAKE

Clermont County
1,971 Acres of Fishing Water
32.3 Miles of Shoreline



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|---------------|--|-------------------------|
| | Boat Ramp | | State Park Office |
| | Camping | | Swimming Beach |
| | Parking | | U.S. Corps of Engineers |
| | Picnic Area | | East Fork State Park |
| | Restrooms | | Original Stream Channel |
| | Shelter House | | Old Road Bed |

Depths based on normal summer pool elevation of 733 ft above mean sea level.

Contour intervals are in 10 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 2003

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EAST FORK LAKE

Clermont County



LOCATION

East Fork Lake is situated off SR 222, two miles south of Batavia and 25 miles east of Cincinnati. Access to the north side of the lake is from Batavia-Williamsburg Rd. (old OH 32). Access to the south side is from SR 125.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

East Fork Lake was built to provide flood control in the East Fork and lower Little Miami River valleys; storage for water supply and water quality control; and recreation, including fishing and hunting. The lake was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and leased to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Construction of the dam began in July 1970 and a partial pool was impounded during the 1978 season. The lake was raised to normal pool of 1,971 acres in spring 1979, and has 32.3 miles of shoreline. The earthen fill dam is 200 feet high and 1,450 feet long. Water release is controlled by a series of multi-level gates in the outlet structure, providing control of the water quality in the tailwater. The lake drains an area of 342 square miles. An emergency spillway was cut through a ridge on the west side of the dam, and a stone-covered dike was constructed on the north side of the dam.

East Fork Lake is an impoundment of the East Fork of the Little Miami River and two small feeder creeks, Poplar and Cloverlick creeks. Water depth at the dam is normally 113 feet, making it the second deepest lake in Ohio. The shoreline of the lake is steep and rocky in most areas, falling off rapidly into deep water. Both large and small bays containing standing timber and brush are evident around the lake. The upper reaches of Cloverlick and Poplar creeks, along with the main stem, were left uncleared to provide fish habitat.

FISHES OF INTEREST TO ANGLERS

East Fork Lake has populations of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Kentucky spotted bass, bluegill, white and black crappie, channel catfish, flathead catfish, bigmouth buffalofish, and carp. Hybrid striped bass are stocked annually. Gizzard shad is the main forage species.

METHODS OF FISHING AND BEST FISHING SITES

Crappies are found throughout the lake and can be taken in the spring along rocky shorelines and near standing timber or fallen trees. Use live minnows, wax worms, or small plastic body jigs for crappies. Bluegills are taken on red worms and wax worms in summer around cover (stumps, brush, and trees), sometimes as deep as 12-18 feet. Bass can be taken from spring through fall by casting crankbaits, jigs, plastic lures, and live night crawlers near shoreline cover, dropoffs, and bays with flooded timber. Hybrid striped bass can be found in the open water areas of the lake throughout the year or in the upper end of the main tributary during spring. Live bait for hybrid stripers includes chicken liver, night crawlers, or live shad; lures include jigs, crankbaits, and heavy spoons. During summer and fall, look for and cast into surface activity when hybrid stripers chase schools of shad. Channel and flathead catfish can be caught throughout the lake using chicken livers, cut shad, and large live chubs or sunfish.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The six public boat ramps are named as follows: Dam, Tate (a.k.a. Bantam), North Shore, Reisinger Road (a.k.a. Bethel), Campground, and Tunnel Mill. East Fork State Park offers a modern campground, horseman's camping, cedar cabins, camper cabins, swimming beaches, picnic areas, shelter houses, horse riding trails, hiking and backpacking trails, and mountain bike trails. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides parking and fishing access to the tailwater area below the dam.

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 from the ODNR Division of Wildlife and from many tackle and bait stores.

FISH MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Extensive habitat work prior to impoundment resulted in an abundance of fish habitat in the lake. Trees were left standing in most bays and along the main tributary channel. Stumps of three to five feet were left standing in zones along the shoreline throughout the lake.

Fish management activities by the ODNR Division of Wildlife include extensive monitoring of the fish community, stocking, and conducting studies to determine spawning success, survival, and growth of important game species.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The nearest district office is located at Wildlife District Five, 1076 Old Springfield Pike, Xenia, OH 45385; telephone 937/372-9261. Horsepower limits and other boating regulations are subject to change. Contact the ODNR Division of Wildlife for the most current information.

For information about camping and other state park facilities, contact East Fork State Park, 3294 Elklick Rd., Bethel, OH 45106; telephone 513/734-4323.

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: www.wildohio.com
Toll free 1-800-WILDLIFE

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