

DREDGING PROGRAM

March 2017

BUCKEYE LAKE STATE PARK

WHAT IS DREDGING?

Dredging is the excavation and removal of sediments resting along the bottom of shallow freshwater areas, such as lakes, rivers and other navigable waterways, and disposal of dredge materials at a different location. This helps maintain waterway navigation and enhances water quality by removing phosphorus laden sediment.

WHY IS DREDGING NECESSARY?

Shallow water lakes, such as Ohio's older man-made canal lakes (e.g. Buckeye Lake and Grand Lake St. Marys), continually fill with sediments that reduce the volume of water contained in a lake or reservoir. This in turn reduces water depth which affects navigability of some recreational watercraft. Removing the buildup of lake sediment helps ensure that safe navigation can be enjoyed by recreational boaters.

HOW IS DREDGING PERFORMED AT STATE PARK LAKES, SUCH AS BUCKEYE LAKE?

Ohio State Parks and Watercraft owns and operates 12 dredges. Dredging activities occur in those areas with greatest need, as determined by ODNR. In some cases, a dredge and crew may routinely be assigned to a specific location based upon need, such as Buckeye Lake.

HOW ARE DREDGE MATERIALS DISPOSED?

Dredge operations typically include dredge material relocation areas (DMRA) where dredge materials are stored to allow for dewatering. These DMRA's may be located on state-owned property, or by agreement on private property, and, as a practical matter, must be within a certain distance from the lake area being dredged.

WHAT IS THE PLAN FOR DREDGING BUCKEYE LAKE?

Ohio State Parks and Watercraft has developed the following priority planning for dredge activity during remediation of Buckeye Lake Dam:

- Maintain navigable waterway channels from selected shallow water areas to deep water areas of the lake
- Maintain navigable waterway channels to islands on the lake in support of emergency response needs
- Maintain navigable waterways to key business locations situated around the lake

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED?

A record of nearly 300,000 cubic yards of dredge material was removed in 2016 from Buckeye Lake, an increase from a record of 139,000 cubic yards in 2015. Dredging operations ended the week of November 21 and will resume in early April 2017.

ODNR has accomplished the following projects at Buckeye Lake:

1. Dredged from Liebs Island boat ramp to deeper navigable water
2. Dredged from deeper water to Fisher's Marina
3. Dredged from deeper water to the State Park service area, including the channel
4. Dredged from deeper water to Buckeye Marina
5. Dredged from deeper water to the winery

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6. Dredged from deeper water to Circle Island
7. Dredged from deeper water to Round Island
8. Dredged from deeper water to Fairfield Beach boat ramp
9. Dredged from deeper water to the Fairfield Channel (including the channel)
10. Open water dredging Alexander's Landing
11. Dredged from deeper water to Beach Island
12. Dredged from deeper water to Elm Island
13. Open water dredging between Alexander's Landing and Buckeye Marina
14. Open water dredging to the mouth of Snug Harbor
15. Excavated the marina boat ramp at Alexander's Landing to make it usable

WHAT IS THE NEAR-TERM DREDGE PLAN FOR BUCKEYE LAKE WHILE WORK ON THE DAM CONTINUES (2017- 2019)?

The 2017 dredge season will start in early April and conclude the third week of November depending upon weather conditions. The areas targeted for dredging at Buckeye Lake will hinge on the available DMRA properties, as ODNR is continually looking for new locations to construct DMRAs. ODNR asks for community support in identifying different areas for the dredge program to pursue a lease agreement with the property owner. ODNR is looking for areas 5 acres or larger. ODNR is working on property agreements to construct DMRAs on the east end of the lake; this area of Buckeye Lake has the highest amount of sediment.

WHAT IS THE LONG-TERM DREDGE PLAN ONCE DAM IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED?

The dredge program will continue operating all three state-owned dredges on Buckeye Lake and concentrate dredging of the most sediment loaded areas on the lake that have access to DMRAs.

WHAT DO BOATERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DREDGE ACTIVITIES?

Boaters need to be aware of the location of the dredge and dredge pipe. The dredges are marked with red flashing lights – one located on the bow and the other on the stern. The dredge pipe is marked with 14" round buoys and the pipe is submersed under these markers.

WHERE CAN I GET UPDATES ON BUCKEYE LAKE DREDGING ACTIVITY?

For updates, contact the Buckeye Lake State Park office at 740-467-2690, or 614-265-6755 or via e-mail at DamRiskReduction@dnr.state.oh.us.

