



Cutler Lake (aka Blue Rock State Park) Q & A - Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Q: Why is Cutler Lake being drained in 2017; why do we need to repair the dam?

A: The 79-year-old deteriorating concrete spillway has reached its service limit and requires a new structure. The dam currently does not meet dam safety regulations. A thorough assessment and analysis of Cutler Lake Dam was performed in 2014-2015, which also determined that the spillway was beyond repair. The lake has been substantially lowered in late July in order to construct a new spillway and to bring the dam into compliance with current dam safety requirements.

Q: Are there any additional improvements planned as part of the project?

A: In addition to replacing the spillway, the surrounding park area will be improved by adding a new pedestrian bridge crossing, establishing a pedestrian trail on the crest of the dam, constructing a new picnic shelter, replacing a deteriorated stream crossing, improving the existing lake drain structure and stabilizing slopes near the dam.

Q: What is the timetable for project construction to begin?

A: Mobilization for the project began July, 2017. Construction is anticipated to take approximately one year to complete and is scheduled for Summer, 2018. As with projects of this type, various factors may result in changes to the construction schedule. The reduced water level in Cutler Lake is restricting boating and swimming access during project construction. The camper cabins, group camp, some campsites, and the picnic area and volleyball court on the west side of the camp store will be closed for the duration of the project. All other park facilities at Blue Rock including trails, picnic areas, shelter houses and the camp store will remain open.

Q: What is the construction process that will be involved in the spillway and dam repairs?

A: The construction process began with a lowering of Cutler Lake in late July, 2017. Water control measures and erosion and sediment control measures will then be installed to allow for the excavation of the new spillway. Soils will be excavated and the

new spillway will be constructed. Earthfill will then be placed and compacted in order to tie the new spillway into the existing embankment. Other rehabilitations and upgrades will be performed throughout the process.

Q: What is the fish restocking plan after the project is completed?

A: Fish were removed from the lake prior to the lake lowering and relocated to a nearby waterway. Cutler Lake will be stocked following project completion and lake refill with largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish to reestablish those populations that will begin reproducing and sustain themselves into the future. Fish surveys will be conducted following the restocking to monitor their success. Also, during the lake drawdown or shortly after refilling, ODNR plans to add fish attractor structures to the lake at various locations to provide benefits to shore and boat anglers.

Q. How is the project funded?

A. The State Controlling Board on May 22, 2017 approved a request from ODNR to release capital appropriations totaling \$4,255,970 for the spillway replacement and dam improvements project.

Q. How can stakeholders and other interested parties get project updates?

A. Project updates will be posted online at engineering.ohiodnr.gov; click on Dam Risk Reduction Program/Current Projects.