

PUNDERSON LAKE

Geauga County

LOCATION

Punderson Lake is situated approximately 2 miles west of State Route 44 and immediately south of State Route 87 near Burton, Newbury, and South Newbury in Geauga County.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Punderson Lake is a natural kettle lake. This 80-acre lake is characterized by its steep "drop-offs," which form three deep "kettles" or "potholes" within the lake that range from 30 feet to 57 feet. The maximum depth of the lake is 57 feet. Boats are allowed, but only electric motors are permitted to be used. In 1948, Punderson Lake and its surrounding lands were purchased by the Division of Wildlife for the benefit of the public. In 1951, it was agreed that the area was well suited as an area for developing park facilities and the entire property was transferred to the Division of Parks. This lake is now part of Punderson State Park.

FISHES OF INTEREST TO ANGLERS

Fish species that are found in Punderson Lake include largemouth bass, bluegill, rainbow trout, black crappie, brown bullhead, and channel catfish. Catchable-sized (10" to 14") rainbow trout are stocked each spring. Channel catfish yearlings (9") are stocked in alternate years since they typically do not reproduce successfully in smaller impoundments. Punderson Lake is unique in that the Division of Wildlife has documented some over-summer survival of rainbow trout in this lake. Trout do not typically survive in most of Ohio's inland lakes during the summer months.

METHODS OF FISHING AND BEST FISHING SITES

Largemouth bass and bluegill can be captured close to shore, especially during the spring and again in the fall. Spinner baits, surface lures, and plastic worms are all good choices for largemouth bass. Waxworms, maggots, or small worms will usually entice the bluegill to bite. A small hook (#10 or smaller) is the best bet for successful bluegill fishing. Crappie may be taken on small jigs with minnows or with twister tails. Trout may be taken on a variety of baits including worms, maggots, corn kernels, artificial salmon eggs, minnows, or ¼-ounce spinners or spoons. Channel catfish can be captured relatively close to shore from spring through fall. Shrimp, nightcrawlers, or chicken liver are preferred baits for channel catfish. A sliding sinker rig, using a swivel to keep the weight from hitting the hook (such as what would be used for fishing for bass with plastic worms) will work well. A # 4 hook is a preferred size to use for catfish.

FISH OHIO

Anglers who catch a 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 requirement set for the Fish Ohio program. Applications are available online at FishOhio.org.

FISH MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Division of Wildlife surveys Punderson Lake largemouth bass, bluegill, and crappie populations periodically using electrofishing (bass and bluegill) and trap-netting (crappie). Fish concentrating structures may be placed in Punderson Lake as necessary to provide better fishing opportunities.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

State park facilities include a lodge, cottages, swimming beach, public camping area, hiking and snowmobile trails, golf course, disc golf, picnicking areas, and sledding areas. For Punderson State Park information, please contact the park at (440) 564-2279 or refer to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources website at: www.ohiodnr.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The nearest Wildlife District Office is located at 912 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, Ohio 44319 (phone number: 330-644-2293). The Division also has a website for information on fishing regulations, tips, maps, and other wildlife related material (wildohio.com). To get other maps or publications call toll free 1-800 WILDLIFE.

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



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: wildohio.com Toll free 1-800-WILDLIFE

