



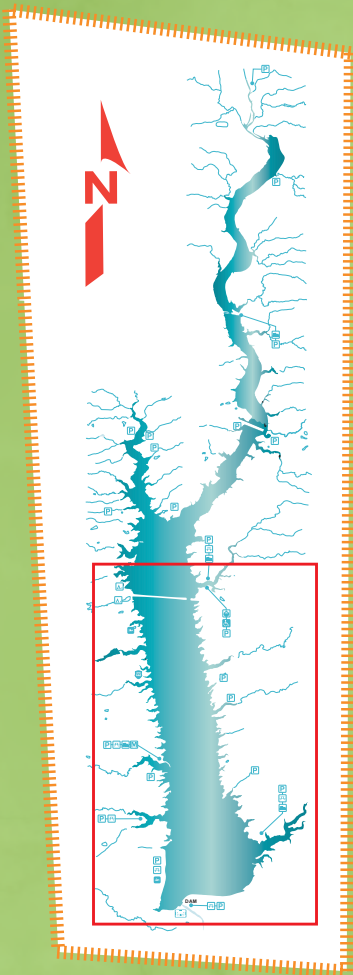
WORKING *together* TO MANAGE ALUM CREEK LAKE

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With 3,387 acres of water, a 93-foot dam, and 1.5 million visitors every year, Alum Creek Lake is a premier natural getaway in Ohio. Located in Delaware County, Alum Creek is just a few miles north of Columbus. Visitors can participate in a variety of aquatic activities including fishing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, and swimming. Trails for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding also weave through picnic areas, campgrounds, and playgrounds. But do you know what partners are responsible for managing and maintaining Alum Creek?

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MAP KEY

-  **Camping**
-  **Swimming**
-  **Boat Launch**
-  **Picnic Area**
-  **Parking**
-  **Dam**

OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

The Ohio Division of Wildlife, Division of Parks and Watercraft, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers each have a hand in managing Alum Creek. The responsibility of the Ohio Division of Wildlife is to manage sport fish populations in Alum Creek Lake by providing quality fishing opportunities for anglers. This work is funded by fishing license dollars which are used to survey and stock sport fish populations. Electrofishing, netting, and creel surveys estimate the numbers and sizes of important sportfish populations, including how old the fish are and how quickly they grow. Because Alum Creek is such a popular fishery, the Ohio Division of Wildlife collects fish population statistics every year to closely monitor the fishery there.

Alum Creek offers some of the best fishing in the state for smallmouth and largemouth bass, black and white crappie, sunfish, saugeye, and muskellunge. In 2021, Alum Creek was among the top 10 Fish Ohio lakes for reported catches of saugeye (No. 3), crappie (No. 5), and largemouth bass (No. 7). Muskellunge and saugeye are raised in state fish hatcheries and are stocked in the lake. During the past five years, more than 20 million saugeye fry and 13,000 advanced muskie fingerlings have been stocked at Alum Creek. Fish management staff have also installed fish attractors with the help of the Corps. Attractors and species hotspots can be located on the interactive map available on the HuntFish OH mobile app. More information about stocked fish in Alum Creek and other public lakes throughout Ohio can be found at data.ohio.gov.

DIVISION OF PARKS & WATERCRAFT

While the property is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alum Creek is managed as a state park by the Division of Parks & Watercraft. They oversee the recreation and leisure activities available at Alum Creek including operation of the campground and maintenance of a 3,000-foot inland beach, the largest in any Ohio state park. Hunting and trapping are also permitted in designated areas. Every year, the Division of Wildlife and Division of Parks & Watercraft collaborate to offer a controlled waterfowl blind lottery, with an online application in July at wildohio.gov and through the HuntFish OH app.



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages the Alum Creek dam and visitor center. The mission of the Corps is to support environmental stewardship, manage the water supply, provide recreational opportunities, and teach cultural and local history. The Alum Creek Dam was built in 1974 with the primary purpose of flood reduction downstream. From mid-April until mid-October, the water level is held at 888 feet above sea level. During the off-season (November to March), the water level is dropped 3 feet to buffer winter and spring rains. Every five to 10 years, the dam spillway is dewatered for maintenance. Excess sediment and trash are removed from the spillway, and the dam is inspected often for cracks or damage.

The Alum Creek Visitor Center was built in the early 1980s and is one of only two Corps visitor centers in central Ohio. The purpose of the visitor center is to interpret the Corps' mission and provide educational opportunities for students. The Corps has partnered with scout troops to clean up the park and remove invasive plant species. In 2021, a Columbus-based city school group visited Alum Creek to learn about local wetlands and wildlife. These experiences foster a passion for the environment using fun activities and close the gap many children have with nature.

The Corps also engages in habitat restoration for local wildlife, including bat habitat structures, and developing a meadow management plan to remove invasive species such as autumn olive and non-native honeysuckle.

Alum Creek Lake serves as a peaceful retreat for anyone looking to escape the bustle of the city. Through cooperation with the public, Ohio Division of Wildlife, Division of Parks & Watercraft, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alum Creek will continue to be a natural getaway for generations to come. For more information about Alum Creek and other inland lakes, visit wildohio.gov.