

Communicating with the people of District 12

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ODOT & Lake County Work on Unusual Project

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ODOT District 12 has recently partnered with the Lake County Engineer and the Cleveland Metroparks as part of what has turned out to be a very unusual project.

In 1938 as part of a Works Progress Administration project, a culvert under Morley Road in Concord Township was modified with a spillway to construct a reservoir called L'Alouette Plume Lake presumably to support local vineyards. In 1960, ODOT constructed the then new SR 44/SR 84 interchange which resulted in raising the profile of Morley Road. As it turns out, since the embankment along Morley Road is over 30 feet high with a lake on one side it is now considered to be a Class 3 dam.

The need for the project and cooperative partnering came about when Lake County Engineers discovered an active sinkhole and a collapse in the original culvert. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water Resources was contacted by the County to investigate the sinkhole. They determined that it compromised the integrity of Morley Road and thus the dam. At that time the dam was placed in a monitoring status by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Ohio Dam Safety Program (ODSP) and it was determined that action was required to either bring the dam into ODSP compliance or remove it.

After receiving concurrence with the adjacent property owners, it was decided to remove the Morley Road dam in a 3-step process: remove the spillway to drain L'Alouette Plume Lake; construct a new culvert adjacent to the old one; and restore natural stream function to the drained lake.

An important and exciting piece of the



A representative from the Cleveland Metroparks holds one of the nearly 1,500 fish harvested from the dam.

project has recently been completed with the de-watering of the lake and fish harvesting. As the lake was pumped down, teams performed two electro-fishing events that yielded close to 1,500 fish. Led by the Cleveland Metroparks, the fish were donated and then transferred to regional lakes such as Shadow Lake, Camp Forbes, Wallace Lake and Moose Lake.

Lake County developed the design plans and will administer the work as a local-let project. ODOT will provide the required matching funds for the grant to aid with the dam removal and culvert replacement construction that was awarded to Lake County from the State of Ohio EPA and the United States EPA. In addition ODOT has lent pumping equipment for the siphoning of the lake. ↻

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