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State to stock Camp Ernst Lake

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Camp Ernst Lake in Burlington will be stocked with new fish thanks to an agreement between Boone County and the state.

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The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources will stock the lake with about 8,000 catfish and 6,000 trout, David Whitehouse, the county's director of parks told the Boone County Fiscal Court on Sept. 21.

The state will also help the county manage its population for bluegill and bass, Whitehouse said. He said the state will come five or six times throughout the year to help stock.

"And if you've been by Camp Ernst on an everyday basis, there are a lot of people fishing there all the time and fishing quality's not good," he said, noting there's not money in the county's budget to stock the lake.

The work in Boone County is part of the state's Fishing in Neighborhoods program that seeks to create quality fishing near cities across Kentucky, the department's website said. Lake owners have committed to provide 25 percent of the cost of stocking, it said.

The county leases the lake from YMCA Camp Ernst. The county's 25 percent annual match will be in-kind services including mowing, trash removal and rest rooms, according to a memo from Whitehouse.

"Everything we were already doing there is still going to be done but we get credit for those things," Judge-executive Gary Moore said, later noting the county is not spending additional funds and is spending what is already in the budget.

This is the first lake in Boone County to participate in the program.

Other Northern Kentucky lakes that take part are Southgate Lake and Stein Community Park Lake in Campbell County and Middleton Mills Long Pond, Middleton Mills Shelterhouse Pond and Prisoners Lake in Kenton County.

The Fiscal Court unanimously approved the agreement. The lake is located at 7615 Camp Ernst Road.

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Paul McKibben/Staff

Bill Huntman of Crestview Hills holds a fishing pole with a bluegill that he caught at Camp Ernst Lake in Burlington.

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