



## NRCS Assisted Watershed Projects Provide Recreational Benefits for Thousands of Citizens

There are 2,100 watershed projects in the nation established by local units of government (watershed project sponsors) with the assistance of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program (Public Law 78-534 and Public Law 83-566). These projects consist of over 11,000 flood control dams and thousands of conservation practices that provide over \$2 billion in annual benefits in flood prevention, water supplies, recreational areas, and other benefits.

Hundreds of the flood control dams constructed by local watershed project sponsors with assistance from the NRCS Watershed Program not only provide flood control, but also provide excellent water-based recreational areas benefiting thousands of citizens.

Here are just a few examples of project dams that provide recreational benefits:

The **Four Mile Creek Watershed Project** consists of one flood control dam. The dam was constructed in 1966 by the City of El Reno, Oklahoma and the East Canadian County Conservation District with the assistance of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program.

The primary purpose of the project is to control flooding and sedimentation and reduce erosion. The City of El Reno paid for an additional 700 acre feet of water storage above that needed for flood protection during construction of the dam for recreational use.

Lake El Reno has 333 acres of open land around it and 170 surface acres of water that is used for water skiing, jet skiing, swimming, boating and fishing. A twenty-two space RV park is nestled behind the lake with water and electrical hook ups. The newest addition to Lake El Reno is a P.B. Dye Jr.-designed 18-hole golf course.

Unlike most watershed projects where a series of dams are constructed on tributaries to a major stream, Four Mile Creek Dam No. 1 is the only flood control dam in the watershed. The dam was constructed to provide flood protection for a large portion of the City of El Reno including 750 homes. The dam provides an average annual benefit of \$770,000 in reduced flood damages.



**Banner Creek Reservoir Dam** was constructed almost twenty-five years ago in northeast Kansas as a multipurpose structure. Local watershed project sponsors constructed the dam with the assistance of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program.

The NRCS provided engineering assistance in planning and designing the dam and funding its construction. Local project sponsors added funding for additional water storage beyond that needed for flood control so the dam could provide a water supply for the City of Holton and rural water districts as well as development of recreational areas around the lake.

Sponsors of the project include the Delaware Watershed Joint District # 10, City of Holton, Jackson County Conservation District, Jackson County and Jackson County Rural Water Districts No. 3 and 18.

“The lake has been a great success story. For a small county in Kansas having this lake has been a real asset to the area,” said John Kennedy, Director of Banner Creek Reservoir. The lake provides a water supply for the City of Holton, population 3,000, and two rural water districts. It is also a very popular recreational area that is utilized by people in eastern Kansas, southeast Nebraska, western Missouri and people passing through the area with RVs.”

“There are a lot of recreational opportunities with fishing being the most popular, said Kennedy. “But we also have campgrounds, boat ramps, children playgrounds, horse riding trails, hunting, 13 miles of hiking trails, a science observatory, pavillions, restrooms, picnic areas, and our newest addition paddle boats, canoes and kayaks.

**Buckskin Hills Wildlife Management Area** offers 340 acres of public access land with a 75 acre lake located two miles west and two miles south of Newcastle, Nebraska. It is open to hunting, trapping, and fishing.

The project was designed and engineered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It is operated and maintained by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

The Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District sponsored construction of Buckskin Hills WMA in 1980 as an erosion and flood control structure for the Aowa Creek Watershed Project.



Buckskin Hills WMA includes 340 acres of public use land. The dam is 57 feet high with a 75-acre lake. The lake is stocked with Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Black Crappie, and Walleye.

For the hunter there is excellent habitat with pheasants, quail, deer, waterfowl and dove.

Amenities include:

Fishing

Handicap Facilities

Hunting

Parking

Restrooms

Tent Camping

Trapping

Wildlife Viewing

**Fox Lake Site Dam No. 6**, also known as E. R. Wagoner Multiple Purpose Dam No. 6 was constructed in 1966 under the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Protection And Flood Prevention Program by the Margaret Creek Conservancy District, Athens County Board of Commissioners, and the Athens Soil and Water Conservation District. The dam is located approximately four miles southwest of Athens, Ohio.

The dam is a dual-purpose lake with a surface area of 47.5 acres, which provides flood reduction and recreation. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources owns all of the property surrounding Fox Lake and has a vested interest in the success of this lake.

ODNR has two parking lots, a boat ramp, and a pier at the upper end of the lake. The Division of Wildlife provides an area around the lake for public hunting and fishing for sportsman and outdoor enthusiasts.



### **Attoyac Bayou Watershed Dam No. 23A**

(Naconiche Reservoir) is an impoundment of Naconiche and Telesco creeks, tributaries of the Attoyac Bayou in the Neches River Basin. The dam is located in Nacogdoches County, Texas, about 12 miles northeast of the City of Nacogdoches.

The lake was constructed in 2006 by the County of Nacogdoches for recreation and flood control with the assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program.

This reservoir has a surface area of 692 acres, a shoreline length of 22.7 miles, and an average depth of 13 feet.

Access is available with a two-lane boat ramp and a lighted fishing pier and there is a swimming area and a scuba platform. There is a 35-acre recreational park around the lake.



Initially stocked with thousands of largemouth bass from the ShareLunker program, Lake Naconiche is also home to spotted bass, channel and blue catfish, black and white crappie and bluegill.

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