



NRCS-Assisted Watershed Projects

Margaret Creek Watershed Dam No. 6 - Fox Lake

Athens County, Ohio

There are 2,100 watershed projects in the nation established by local units of government 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. The following is just one example of how the Watershed Program is benefiting local communities and the nation.

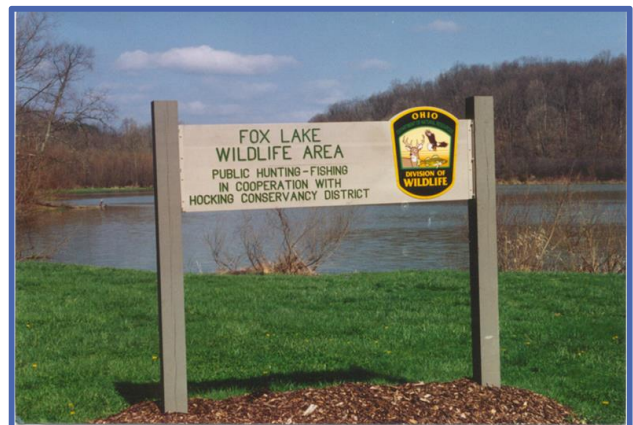
Watershed Dam Provides Multiple Benefits to Citizens of Athens County, Ohio

The construction of Margaret Creek Watershed Dam No. 6 created a dual-purpose lake which provides flood reduction and recreation.

The dam was constructed in 1966 by the Margaret Creek Conservancy District, the Athens County Board of Commissioners and the Athens Soil and Water Conservation District with assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Protection And Flood Prevention Program.

The lake is located four miles west of Athens, Ohio and is one of six impoundments within the Margaret's Creek Watershed which provide regional flood control.

The dam is designed to retain large quantities of water during flood periods and release the water at a standard rate of flow through a fixed-sized outlet. The 48-acre lake is surrounded by a 421-acre wildlife area that includes rolling hills, open fields and two water areas.



-more-

Page 2

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) owns the property surrounding Fox Lake and the Division of Wildlife provides an area around the lake for public hunting and fishing for sportsman and outdoor enthusiasts.

ODNR has two parking lots, a boat ramp, and a pier at the upper end of the lake. Hunting and fishing are the major recreational uses, along with nature study, hiking, boating, and bird watching.

“This is a great example of how flood control dams constructed with assistance of the USDA Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program can serve their primary purpose of flood reduction and also have added benefits such as water resource enhancements in wildlife areas and recreational use,” said Dan Sebert, Executive Director of the National Watershed Coalition.

Information about the NRCS Watershed Program can be found on the NRCS web page: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-and-flood-prevention-operations-wfpo-program>

Information about the USDA Watershed Program that includes fact sheets, videos, power point presentations and news and feature articles can also be found on the National Watershed Coalition web page at: www.watershedcoalition.org

F. Dwain Phillips
NWC Communication Director
fphillips1@suddenlink.net
November 2022