

Duck Creek Watershed Dam - Nemaha County, Nebraska Providing Flood Control, Recreational Areas and Fish and Wildlife Habitat

The Duck Creek Watershed Dam is located in southeast Nebraska in Nemaha County. The dam was constructed by the Nemaha Natural Resources District (NRD) with the assistance of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program.

A watershed plan was developed in the late 1990's and early 2000's that included two flood control dams, Duck Creek which creates a 62 surface acre lake and Buck Creek which creates a 42 acre surface lake. Buck Creek was constructed first with Duck Creek being constructed in 2016.

The Duck Creek Dam was designed as a multi-purpose dam to provide flood control, sediment storage and recreational benefits. The recreational development around the lake which is expected to be completed in early 2018 will provide areas for fishing, camping, boating and hiking.

“The dam is also a big benefit to farmers downstream from the dam because it provides flood protection that allows farming of the highly productive land,,” said Bob Hilske, General Manager for the Nemaha NRD. “Plus the dam provides protection for roads, bridges and other structures downstream.”

“We have about 400 flood control structures in the Nemaha NRD with five of them that have recreational facilities. Most of the folks that use the recreational facilities around these flood control dams are typically local citizens that may live ten to fifteen miles from the lake,” “This is important because there are not that many water-based recreational areas in southeast Nebraska, so without these areas people would have to drive a long way to find a place to fish, picnic and hike.”



The Duck Creek dam was constructed in 2016 for flood protection and recreation.



For more information about watershed projects in the Nemaha NRD there is a video on the NWC website, www.watershedcoalition.org under the video tab and information on NRD website: <http://www.nemahanrd.org/>

The Duck Creek Dam is one example of how the 11,800 flood control dams constructed in the nation by local watershed project sponsors with the assistance of the NRCS is providing multiple benefits to thousands of citizens. There are 2,000 watershed projects in the nation with at least one project in every state. While many of these projects include dams for flood control, others include conservation practices for animal waste management, irrigation, ground water recharge, and erosion control.

Flood control dams in projects provide many benefits in addition to flood control including fish and wildlife habitat, livestock and irrigation water, erosion and sediment control, and in some cases municipal water supplies.

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