

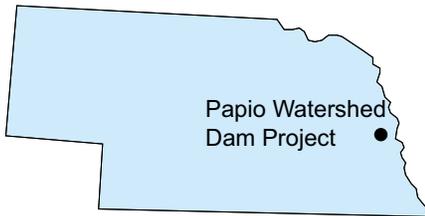
Watershed Rehabilitation

May 2013

Papio Creek W-3 Watershed Dam Improvement Project

Introduction

A flood control structure in eastern Nebraska in Washington County that will reduce flooding and threats to property.



The Papio Creek W-3 Watershed Dam Improvement Project is located in Washington County, Nebraska.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

Project Description

- **Location:** Washington County, 1st Congressional District.
- **Federal Funding:** \$683,545
- **Sponsor Funding:** 368,062

Partners

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District

Benefits

Through this restoration project the dam height was raised to provide protection to a home, two county roads, and US Highway 30, a major commuter route in the area. This flood control structure captures flood water, thereby protecting downstream property. The structure was built in 1983. Without raising this structure, possible flooding and disruption of community service could have occurred. The structure also acts as a trap for sediment and attached chemicals, thus improving the water quality downstream.



This restoration project has protected a major highway that is the main route for commuters near Blair, Neb. A home has also been protected from future flood events. Sediment is captured by the watershed structure, helping to improve water quality.

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Economic Opportunities

Construction began in August 2009 and has since been completed. During its construction, it added about 10 jobs to the local area.

Statewide Perspective

Raising the height of the dam provides increased flood protection. This structure is one of several in eastern Nebraska to undergo this improvement. Four dams have been completed, one is currently under construction, three are in the planning phase and one is ready for construction.

These structures were originally built in what was predominantly agricultural areas. Urban expansion since the initial construction has caused a change to the “hazard class” of the structure, and therefore, created a need to raise the dam to protect the urban development downstream.

For More Information

Tim Haakenstad
Nebraska NRCS State Engineer
(402) 437-4037
timothy.haakenstad@ne.usda.gov
www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov



The drainage area protected by the flood control structure is shown outlined in red on the aerial map above. It encompasses over 270 acres.



This view is from on top of the dam showing the water pool. On the horizon is the approaching urban expansion.

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