

Fact Sheet

April 2013

The Case for Reinvesting in Switzler Creek Watershed - Dam Site #7

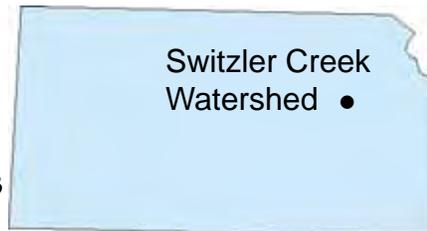
Introduction

Switzler Creek Watershed Dam Site #7 was authorized in 1953 under the Pilot Watershed Program. Dam construction was completed in 1960. With an original projected project life of 50 years, the dam was nearing its expected lifespan. Rehabilitation of this site was necessary due to the dam not meeting current hydrologic criteria for a high hazard class dam. In addition, components of the dam including the principal spillway showed significant deterioration.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, this project was part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jumpstart the economy, and create jobs. NRCS used 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 also acquired easements and restored floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

Project Description

- **Location:** Osage County, Kansas, 2nd Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$325,615
- **Project Status:** Completed December 2011



Partners

- Switzler Creek Watershed Joint District No. 63
- Osage County Conservation District
- City of Burlingame
- U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Benefits

Site #7 controls 4.9 square miles of drainage. Approximately 150 people would be at risk from a breach of this dam. This includes people living along Switzler Creek, traveling on Kansas Highway 56, and those people living in the eastern portion of the city of Burlingame, Kansas.



The watershed project is a high hazard class dam which protects the east part of the city of Burlingame, Kansas from flooding.

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Economic Opportunities

This rehabilitation project extended the life of the dam for an additional 100 years and will provide \$50,000 in annual flood damage reduction benefits.

Statewide Perspective

Major floods occurred in 1935, 1945, and 1951. Kansas Highway 56 was often closed on the east side of the city of Burlingame due to flood waters. Dam Site #7 has been protecting the residents of Burlingame and the people who travel and live along Switzler Creek for the past 49 years. On a historical note, "Santa Fe Trail" passed through the southern part of the watershed where Burlingame was one of the more important stops on the Trail.

For More Information

USDA, NRCS
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Salina, Kansas 67401
(785) 823-4500

Or visit our web site at:
www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov



Dam Site #7 has been protecting the residents of Burlingame and the people who travel along Switzler Creek for the past 49 years. Rehabilitation of the site is necessary to retain the benefits that have long been provided to the residents of the area.

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