

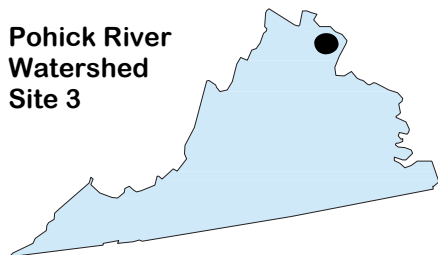
Fact Sheet  
August 2013

## The Case for Reinvesting in the Pohick Creek Watershed Site 3

### Introduction

This watershed project, commonly known as Woodglen Lake, is the second dam in the Pohick Creek Watershed to be rehabilitated using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. Fairfax County partnered with NRCS and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District to leverage funds for upgrades to bring the structures into compliance with current state dam safety regulations.

The project was part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jumpstart the economy, and create jobs. Rehabilitating Woodglen Lake has reduced the risk of flooding for residents and maintained the present level of flood control and recreation benefits.



ARRA funds accounted for 65 percent of the total project cost of \$1.7 million. The Woodglen project provides flood protection for commercial and residential properties located below the dam valued at nearly \$106 million.

### Project Description

- **Location:** Fairfax County, 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$1,123,834
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$605,142

The project was designed to stabilize the auxiliary spillway during intense storms. Installed measures included:

- Armoring the auxiliary spillway and training dikes with articulated concrete blocks to prevent severe erosion during major storms;
- Raising and extending the training dike to better protect the toe of the dam; and
- Installing a second training dike to direct auxiliary spillway flow to the valley floor.

### Partners

- Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Virginia
- Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

### Benefits

Completed in 2010, this project has given surrounding homeowners a renewed sense of safety and security. The rehabilitation has helped to minimize the threat to loss of life for approximately 435 residents who live in 157 single family homes and townhouses. It also reduced flooding risks for the 440 people at 14 industrial, two public, four commercial and two office sites.



Pohick Site 3, known as Woodglen Lake, protects hundreds of homes, businesses, roads and bridges from flooding.

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Articulated concrete blocks are installed to provide erosion control on the auxiliary spillway at Woodglen Lake.



The new grass that emerges through the blocks helps preserve the beauty of the area.

### Economic Opportunities

This project met the intended goal of stimulating the local economy. In addition to retaining local jobs for planning, design, and construction, the project also generated revenue for small, privately owned businesses through increased sales of construction supplies, equipment parts and services.

Woodglen Lake, which provides recreation to homeowners and landowners in the area, is highly valued by the community. Lake associated recreation includes some boating, fishing and bird watching.

Recreational activities associated with the path across the dam include cycling, walking and jogging. The lake and adjoining green space also serve as a visual amenity for the community.

### Statewide Perspective

Woodglen Lake drains to Pohick Creek, which empties into the Potomac River at Pohick Bay. The Woodglen Lake watershed is about 1.16 square miles in size.

This watershed project, built in 1981, along with five other dams built between 1970 and 1985, are part of the Pohick Creek Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Project. The dams built with NRCS assistance provided critical protection from serious flooding like Hurricane Agnes in 1972.

In 2006, when floodwaters deluged the Nation's Capital, the dams safely held back millions of gallons of water. For nearly 30 years, Woodglen Lake and the other Pohick dams have helped relieve downstream flood damages.

Over the years, Fairfax County has done an outstanding job of maintaining these dams. When dam safety regulations required changes, the county and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District again joined with NRCS to rehabilitate the structure with reinforcement to the auxiliary spillway.

As a result of this rehabilitation project, Woodglen Lake will continue to provide optimal flood control, as well as improved water quality, wildlife habitat and recreational and aesthetic benefits to watershed residents and visitors for years to come.



A Great Blue Heron visits Woodglen Lake.

### For More Information

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Or, visit our website at: [www.va.nrcs.gov](http://www.va.nrcs.gov)