

Fact Sheet
August 2013

The Case for Reinvesting in Pohick Creek Watershed Site 2

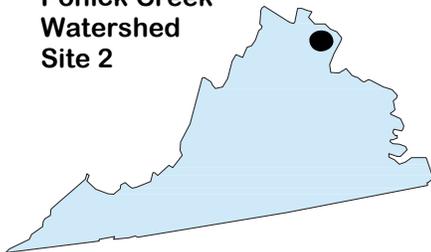
Introduction

Pohick Creek Watershed Project Site 2 is known to local residents as Lake Barton. The dam was rehabilitated through a collaborative effort between NRCS, Fairfax County, and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District to reduce the risk of flooding to downstream residents and commuters and help the county comply with current dam design and safety standards.

Completed in 1978, Lake Barton is one of six dams built between 1970 and 1985 in the Pohick Watershed with NRCS assistance. When the project began, only about 5,000 people lived in the watershed. Today there are more than 100,000.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the project was part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jumpstart the economy, and create jobs.

Pohick Creek Watershed Site 2



The completed project will protect commercial and residential properties located below the dam valued at \$157 million.

Project Description

- **Location:** Fairfax County, 11th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$2,343,842
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$1,262,069
- **Total Project Cost:** \$3,605,911

The rehabilitation project, which was completed in 2011, was designed to stabilize the auxiliary spillway during intense storms. Installed measures included:

- Building two concrete cutoff walls to protect the auxiliary spillway;
- Raising and extending the training dike to better protect the toe of the dam; and
- Raising the top of the dam about four inches.

Partners

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

Benefits

Rehabilitation of the dam will prevent flooding and protect 535 residents, 192 homes and businesses, four highways, two railroads, and five utilities. It will also minimize flood risks to 1,050 workers and clients who do business at 15 industrial, three public, and 23 commercial and office sites.



Pohick Site 2, known as Lake Barton, protects homes, businesses, four major roads and several railroad bridges from flooding.

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(Left) A secant pile cutoff wall was installed to increase the stability of the auxiliary spillway.

(Below) The site was graded and seeded to restore the appearance to its original condition.



Economic Opportunities

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.

Lake Barton provides many recreational opportunities for the community. Lake-based recreation and other activities, associated with the lake include boating, fishing, cycling, skateboarding and rollerblading,

a playground for children and birdwatching. The trail that winds around the lake is highly valued for the exercise and the enjoyment of nature that it provides.

Statewide Perspective

Lake Barton drains to Pohick Creek which empties into the Potomac River at Pohick Bay. The watershed covers 539 acres and is 62 percent residential.

Over the years, Fairfax County has done an outstanding job of maintaining this dam. When dam

safety regulations required changes, the county and the Northern Virginia SWCD again joined hands with NRCS to rehabilitate the structure.

Lake Barton was designed to detain floodwaters during storm events and gradually release it into the stream over several days. Excess water that cannot be stored in the reservoir exits through a grassy area at the end of the dam known as the auxiliary spillway. Before rehabilitation, the soils in the auxiliary spillway could erode during very large storms.

Two concrete cutoff walls were installed to stabilize the spillway. As a result of this project, the dam will continue to provide multiple benefits to the residents of this community.

Ducks head toward riser at Pohick Site 2.



For More Information

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Or, visit our website at:

www.va.nrcs.gov