

Rush Creek Watershed Dam No. 1

Taylor Lake

Grady County, Oklahoma



Protecting Our People - Protecting Our Natural Resources

This is one of 2,107 examples of how local, state and federal government agencies have worked together to utilize the Natural Resources Conservation Service Watershed Program to address natural resource needs and improve the quality of life for thousands of Oklahomans.*

Rush Creek Watershed Dam No. 1

Rush Creek Watershed Dam No. 1, known as Taylor Lake, was constructed in 1960 by the City of Marlow and the Grady County Conservation District with the assistance of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program.

The dam was built for flood control, a municipal water supply for the City of Marlow and for a recreational area. The dam creates a 178 surface acre lake with seven miles of shoreline. The city paid for an additional 505 acre feet of water storage beyond that needed for flood control during construction for use as municipal water.

Recreational facilities around the lake include RV sites with electric/water, primitive campsites, showers, boat ramps/docks, picnic areas and outdoor grills.

The dam is one of 55 flood control dams that have been constructed in the Rush Creek Watershed (36 in Grady County, 16 in Garvin County and 3 in Stephens County).

Rush Creek frequently flooded before the dams were constructed. Between 1923 and 1942 there were 57 floods in the 193,000 acre watershed. A flood in May 1950 flooded the City of Pauls Valley causing over \$300,000 in damages and two deaths.

The Garvin, Grady County and Stephens County Conservation Districts requested NRCS assistance in 1954 in planning and implementing a watershed project in the Rush Creek Watershed. The watershed plan included the construction of flood control dams and installation of conservation practices.

Flooding occurred with less frequency and severity as the dams were constructed. Most of the dams were constructed between 1959 and 1974, with the most recent dam constructed in 1986.

Benefits of the 55 Flood Control Dams in the Rush Creek Watershed Project

- Provides \$2.7 million in average annual benefits from reduced flood damages
- Provides flood protection for bridges, highways, homes and county roads
- Provides flood protection for 570 farms and ranches
- Impounded water has created fish and wildlife habitat, waterfowl nesting areas and livestock water
- Sedimentation is reduced by 180,000 tons of soil annually
- 778 acres of wetlands have been created or enhanced

The Rush Creek Watershed Project is one of 129 projects in Oklahoma that have been planned and implemented by local people with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

2,107* NRCS-assisted flood control dams have been constructed in 61 Oklahoma counties. These watershed projects that also include thousands of conservation practices provide over \$81 million in average annual benefits.

For additional information about watershed projects in the state visit the Oklahoma Conservation Commission website at: <http://conservation.ok.gov> or visit your local conservation district and NRCS office.

