

# Stillwater Creek Watershed

## Dam No. 40M - Lake McMurry



**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.*

### Stillwater Creek Watershed Dam No. 40M

Stillwater Creek Watershed Dam No. 40M, known as Lake McMurry, is located eight miles northwest of Stillwater, Oklahoma in Noble County.

The dam was built in 1971 by the City of Stillwater and the Noble County Conservation District with the assistance of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program.

The lake serves as a flood control reservoir, water supply for the City of Perry and a recreational area. At normal pool elevation the lake covers approximately 1,155 acres with 2,306 acres of additional surrounding park land. Lake McMurry is owned by the City of Stillwater and operated by Lake McMurry Friends, a non-profit organization.

Lake McMurry offers RV and tent camping, swimming, fishing, boating, 28 miles of multi-use trails for mountain biking, hiking and trail running, two 18-hole disc golf courses, kayak rentals, and watchable wildlife. The dam is one of 33 dams in the Stillwater Creek Watershed Project in Payne and Noble Counties.



Lake McMurry provides flood control, a water supply for the City of Perry and recreational areas for local residents and visitors.

The Stillwater 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.

2,107\* flood control dams have been constructed in 61 Oklahoma counties. These watershed projects that also include thousands of conservation practices provide over \$90 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.

### Benefits Provided by the 33 Dams in the Stillwater Creek Watershed Project

- \$2.3 million in average annual benefits from reduced flood damages
- Provides flood protection for 252 farms and ranches
- Provides flood protection for 20 major bridges and numerous county roads and bridges
- Created or enhanced 524 acres of wetlands
- Sedimentation is reduced by 87,655 tons of soil each year

During the period of 1941 through 1960 there were 17 major floods (covered more than one-half of flood plain) and 86 smaller floods in the Stillwater Creek Watershed. It was estimated that flooding caused \$186,000 each year during this period (1962 dollars).



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