Stillwater Creek Watershed Project
Payne and Noble Counties
Protecting Our People - Protecting Our Natural Resources

This watershed project is one of 129 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 Project
Payne and Noble Counties, Oklahoma

The Stillwater Creek Watershed Project consists of 33 flood control dams (28 in Payne County and 5 in Noble County). Eleven of the dams are in or near the Stillwater city limits. The dams were constructed by the Stillwater Creek Conservancy District and the Payne and Noble County Conservation Districts with the assistance of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program.

The 33 dams provide $2.2 million in annual benefits in reduced flood damages, reduced erosion and sedimentation, water supplies, and recreational benefits. The dams provide flood protection for the City of Stillwater, 252 farms and ranches, 20 bridges, and many county roads.

Although the dams' primary purpose is flood control, they provide other benefits including irrigation, fish and wildlife habitat, water supplies and recreational areas. Some examples of the additional benefits of the dams include:

Stillwater Creek Dam No. 40M (Lake McMurtry) has recreational facilities developed around the lake that include picnic tables, fishing docks, pavilions, and camp sites. The lake provided municipal water supplies for the City of Stillwater in the past and now water is being used by the City of Perry.

Karsten Creek Golf Course is built around the lake of Stillwater Creek Dam No. 46. This is the course used by Oklahoma State University and is considered one of the premier golf courses in the state.

Stillwater Creek Dam No. 24 is located on the northern edges of the City of Stillwater and is the home of Lakeside Golf Course owned by the City of Stillwater.

Stillwater Creek Dam No. 29 (University Estates Lake) is surrounded by a housing development.

Stillwater Creek Dam No. 23 (Boomer Lake) protects over 1,000 homes from flooding and provides recreational facilities that are used by thousands of people. each year.

The lake formed by Stillwater Creek Dam No. 23, known as Boomer Lake, is located on the north side of Stillwater. A city park surrounds the lake that includes a walking trail, pavilions, picnic tables, and fishing and boating docks. Water from the lake is used by the Stillwater electric power plant. This dam protects a major portion of Stillwater from flooding. It was constructed in 1992 to replace an older dam that no longer met dam safety criteria.

Stillwater Creek Dam No. 30 is located on the west side of the Oklahoma State University Campus and provides flood protection for over 400 homes.

Stillwater Creek Dams No. 49A and 49B are located on the southwest edge of Stillwater and provide flood protection for over 1,500 homes.

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 and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

Oklahoma has 2,107 NRCS-assisted flood control dams in 61 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: htpp://conservation.ok.gov or visit your local conservation district and NRCS office.

OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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