

# Upper Bayou Creek Watershed Dam No. 10

## Healdton Municipal Lake

### Carter 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.*

## Upper Bayou Creek Watershed Dam No. 10

Upper Bayou Creek Watershed Dam No.10, known as Healdton Municipal Lake, was constructed in 1979 by the City of Healdton and the Arbuckle Conservation District with the assistance of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program.

The dam, located one mile northeast of Healdton, was constructed for flood control, municipal water and recreation. The lake has seven miles of shoreline and 370 surface acres. Visitors to the lake have access to boat docks, boat ramps, picnic areas, group facilities, and areas to fish, hike and camp.

The City of Healdton depended on water wells in the 1960s for municipal water, but knew they would need additional water in the future. They joined the Arbuckle Conservation District to develop a watershed plan in 1963 that included Dam No. 10 as a municipal water and recreation structure as well as providing flood control. The NRCS constructed the dam, with the City providing funding for an additional 3,000 acre feet of water storage beyond what was needed for flood control. This additional water storage provided the city a water supply and increased the size of the lake for recreational use.

The dam is one of eight flood control dams that have been constructed in the Upper Bayou Creek Watershed in Carter County.

Flooding in the watershed was a common occurrence before the eight dams were constructed. In the years 1941 to 1960 there were 29 major storms in the watershed where 50 percent of the flood plain flooded. These floods destroyed crops, fences, and roads and bridges. They also eroded the land and deposited silt in streams.



Healdton Municipal Lake provides flood control, water supply and recreational areas.

### **Benefits of the Upper Bayou Creek Watershed Project – 8 Dams**

- Provides \$370,000 in average annual benefits from reduced flood damages
- Provides flood protection for highways, railroads and county roads and bridges
- Provides flood protection for 93 farms and ranches
- Impounded water has created fish and wildlife habitat, waterfowl nesting areas and livestock water
- Reduces sedimentation in streams and rivers by 43,612 tons of soil annually

The Upper Bayou 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 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.