

Upper Black Bear Creek Watershed Dam No. 62 - Perry Lake



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 Black Bear Creek Watershed Dam No. 62

Upper Black Bear Creek Watershed Dam No. 62 was constructed in 1963 by the City of Perry, the Black Bear Conservancy District and the Noble County Conservation District with assistance from the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program.

The dam is located 4,100 feet upstream from Interstate I-35 and approximately five miles upstream from the residential and business district in Perry, Oklahoma.

The dam was constructed for flood control and for a municipal water source for the City of Perry. The city paid for an additional 6,119 acre feet of municipal and recreational water storage when the dam was constructed.

The dam creates a 897 surface acre lake with eleven miles of shoreline. Recreational facilities around the lake include a boat ramp, campsites, camper parking, electrical hookup, picnic areas, restroom, and a playground.

Dam No. 62 is one of 72 flood control dams in the 241,000 acre Upper Black Bear Creek Watershed Project (50 in Noble County and 22 in Garfield County).

Flooding was a serious problem in the watershed prior to construction of the dams. From 1935 to 1954 there were 28 major floods that covered more than one-half of the watershed floodplain and there were many less severe floods. There were 13 floods in 1957. These floods cost millions of dollars in loss of crops and livestock, damaged or destroyed bridges, and washed out county roads.

Local people formed the Upper Black Bear Creek Watershed Project in 1959 and requested technical and financial help from the NRCS in planning and implementing the project.



Upper Black Bear Creek Watershed Dam No. 62 provides flood control, municipal water supplies and recreational facilities.

Upper Black Bear Creek Watershed Project Benefits - 72 Dams

- Provides \$1 million in average annual benefits from reduced flood damages
- Provides flood protection for 475 farms and ranches
- Provides protection for 38 bridges, many county roads, Interstate 35, and a railroad
- Sedimentation is reduced by 496,000 tons of soil annually
- 1,900 acres of wetlands have been created or enhanced

The Upper Black Bear 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.