

Quapaw Creek Dam No. 1

Sparks Reservoir

Lincoln 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.*

Quapaw Creek Watershed Dam No. 1

Quapaw Creek Watershed Dam No. 1, also known as Sparks Reservoir was constructed in 1970. The dam was constructed by the Town of Sparks with assistance from the Lincoln County Conservation District, Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The NRCS provided technical and financial assistance for construction of the dam. The Town of Sparks paid for an additional 150 acre feet of municipal water storage above that needed for flood water storage. The reservoir provides municipal water for the Town of Sparks and Lincoln County Rural Water District Number One.

The dam is one of 38 dams constructed in the Quapaw Watershed. Severe flooding was a problem in the 98,000 acre watershed before the dams were built. From 1941 to 1960 there were 49 major floods (flood waters covering more than one-half of the flood plain) and 49 smaller floods.

There were four major floods in 1941 and three major floods in 1944, 1948, 1950, 1957 and 1960. Damages from floods averaged \$225,000 annually. These floods destroyed crops, down livestock, and washed out roads, bridges and fences.

A watershed plan was developed for the watershed that included construction of the 38 flood control dams and conservation practices. Two dams were to be multiple purpose dams. The other multipurpose dam is Quapaw Creek Watershed Dam 15 (known as Meeker Lake).

Quapaw Creek Watershed Project Benefits-38 Dams

- Dams provide \$1.8 million in average annual benefits from reduced flood damages
- Provides flood protection for 374 farms and ranches
- Provides flood protection for 15 major bridges and many smaller bridges and county roads
- Created or enhanced of 500 acres of wetlands
- Reduces sedimentation of streams and rivers by 79,000 tons of soil annually
- Impounded water has created fish and wildlife habitat, waterfowl nesting areas and livestock water
- Two dams provide municipal water supplies and recreational areas

The Quapaw 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 \$94 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.



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