



ROTARY ISLAND LAKE

Community ...

Auburn's Rotary Island Lake resulted from another construction project – building an Army National Guard armory that needed fill dirt. When originally formed, the 4.7-acre lake had a nearly uniform depth of eight to 10 feet. As a result of sedimentation from severely eroded shorelines, the lake had lost more than half of its original eight feet of depth.

Challenges ...

In 1998, the City of Auburn teamed with the Auburn Rotary Club and Auburn Optimists to initiate efforts to restore the lake. With funding assistance from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the city was able to address sedimentation concerns.

Solutions ...

Hydraulic dredging brought maximum lake depths back into the 10-foot range to support fish and reduce re-suspension of bottom sediments. About 1,260 feet of shoreline was graded, re-sloped and treated with a combination of rock riprap and shore guard to drastically reduce erosion.

Results ...

The project was finished and the lake was re-stocked with sport fish in 2001. The renovation project cost was \$183,347. Of this, \$74,647 was provided through a Section 319 grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Additional project contributions were from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (\$58,700) and City of Auburn (\$50,000). Other project partners include the Auburn Rotary Club, Auburn Optimists, Nemaha County, Southeast Nebraska Development District and the Nemaha Natural Resources District.

