



CITY RECREATIONAL LAKE

Community ...

Tecumseh's City Recreational Lake on the west end of the Johnson County Fairgrounds has a long history as a nice place to fish, picnic and enjoy the outdoors. The current lease on the lake, between the city and Johnson County, dates to 1957.

Challenges ...

Despite being the kind of community lake where you could almost always see someone there, no matter the season, its depth was insufficient to support a quality fishery. Maximum depths of five feet limited lake use and created aesthetic problems.

Solutions ...

In 2007, the Tecumseh lake was approved for assistance under the CLEAR program. The initial project increased maximum lake depths to 12 feet. An immediate result was that water quality improved and there was new space for fish to grow. Other project results were improved bank stabilization and a dramatic improvement in appearance of the lake and shoreline. Project components included removing a peninsula on the west side of the lake by excavating 3,500 cubic yards of soil, building a containment dike for dredged material, and dredging 13,600 cubic yards of silt from the lake floor. Additional grading and re-shaping of the parking lot was completed. When the initial project was finished, the city tried to fill the lake but was unable to keep water depths sufficient for fishing without having to continuously fill it.

Water was pumped into the lake from the city's municipal system at \$12,000 per summer, which the city's budget couldn't sustain. When the lake drained naturally, it was discovered that animals burrowing into it had damaged the lake's dike. That began a second phase of the CLEAR project in 2009, to address drainage problems. Project elements included stabilizing the west bank and dike using dirt and silt that had been removed from the perimeter of the fishing pier; removing a large tree from the west bank/dike; removing sediment from around the perimeter of the fishing pier to a depth of five to six feet; and refilling the lake.

Results ...

The lake still has some drainage issues even though city employees have worked to eliminate underwater animal dens or tunnels, as well as roots from a large tree on top of the dike. Two pipes under the south and east sides of the lake also have been capped, but it continues to have some leakage and permeability problems. The lake was refilled in July 2010, but because of ongoing leakage, plans to stock sport fish in the fall of 2010 were postponed. Cost of the completed work was \$247,157. Of this, \$203,290 was provided through CLEAR while the community provided \$43,867.

