



PAWNEE CITY POND

Community ...

Pawnee City's Pond has been a recreational resource for local citizens for more than 50 years. The two-acre, well-fed pond is within walking distance of town and is valued for fishing, picnicking and other recreation. It is bordered to the southwest by Turkey Creek, and it is thought that it originated as a borrow pit for highway bridge approaches over the creek.

Challenges ...

In 2001, the maximum depth of the pond was only four to six feet, which is inadequate to maintain high enough water quality to support fish. Most of the sediment in the pond originated from the shorelines that were steep and un-vegetated. The park also needed equipment and facilities including handicap accessibility, camper pads, electrical hook-ups, grills, benches and a restroom.

Solutions ...

In 2001, Pawnee City received pond restoration funding through the CLEAR program. The project's initial phase required digging a trench to Turkey Creek to drain the pond. Once drained, about 15,000 cubic yards of sediment were removed, resulting in an average depth increase of eight feet. Once excess sediment was removed, the banks were reshaped and vegetated, shorelines were stabilized with rock, handicap-accessi-

ble fishing accommodations were added, and the pond was restocked with fish.

Results ...

Rough dimensions of the pond increased from 200 feet by 400 feet to 250 feet by 450 feet after dredging and reshaping the banks. Fourteen aquatic habitat structures were added to the pond's bottom. It was stocked with largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill and channel catfish, which are restocked annually. There is a new handicap-accessible fishing pier, picnic shelter, access road and six new camping pads. Each pad has electrical hookups, fire rings and picnic tables. This project significantly improved water clarity, which increased from 16 inches to over 60 inches. When the project was finished, Pawnee City held a "Name the Pond" contest. The winner reflects a combination of the nature of the natural resource and the city it serves: The Pawnderosa. The total cost of the project was approximately \$101,750. Of this amount the CLEAR program provided \$87,875 and the city provided \$12,875.



Elbert Traylor (left) of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality presents Pawnee City officials with a project start-up check.