



INDIAN CREEK FISHING POND

Community ...

Indian Creek Fishing Pond is located one mile south of Red Cloud on the north side of the Republican River. The river's historic "Flood of 1935" created the pond when a barn was lodged in some trees and fast moving water scoured out the land around the barn. The pond was three to four feet deep, spanned 1.2 acres, and had an excellent groundwater flow, which provided fresh water recharge from the north.

Challenges ...

Previously privately owned, Indian Creek Pond is now solely owned by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, which also provides regular upkeep and fish stocking. While the pond has been open to the public for uses such as fishing, it had very little use due to the poor fishery. In addition, the primary problem with the fishery was pond depth. Recreation for youth is limited in the rural community. The closest fishing area to Red Cloud is Guide Rock, eight miles away. The City of Red Cloud thought Indian Creek Pond, located only three-fourths of a mile from the city, could fulfill these recreational needs.

Solutions ...

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provided engineering expertise to prepare a survey grid of the pond area. The Trailblazer Resource Conservation & Development District developed bid specifications, put the project out for bid and oversaw contracted construction. Unwanted trees and shrubs on the pond perimeter were removed before excavation, while several larger trees

were left for shade. At Nebraska Game and Parks Commission request, Indian Creek Pond was excavated so that it was at least 10 feet deep over one-fourth of the surface area. Making the pond deeper increases inflow of fresh groundwater into the pond and helps make it fish supporting. Irregular shoreline contours and leaving the bottom of the pond rough enhance fish habitat.

Results ...

Once depth was restored, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission stocked the pond with bluegill, largemouth bass and channel catfish. Lake and wetland excavation was completed according to Nebraska Game and Parks Commission recommendations, which allow Indian Creek Fishing Pond to sustain these fish. This one-year project was completed at a cost of \$27,340, with \$15,000 coming from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and \$12,340 provided by Red Cloud.

