



OXFORD

OXFORD PARK POND

Community ...

A 1933 petition to the Oxford village board requested an area south of town be developed into a public park. That petition, with 125 signatures, was offered by “The Oxford Wednesday Club.” In July 1934, Ordinance 67 passed, creating Oxford Park. In early 1938 a street improvement project requiring an immense amount of gravel was underway and the village decided to create a quarry in the newly established park to provide it. The original excavation was 345 feet across and up to 26 feet deep; that excavation later became known as the Oxford Park Pond.

Challenges ...

The park sees extensive public use. People congregate in the area to enjoy a multitude of outdoor activities, including fishing. The baseball/softball field supports many games throughout the season, including soccer games. Picnicking areas see lots of use all year and green space supports activities such as walking, horseshoes and many others. Oxford Park has a picnic shelter, disc golf course, playground, RV Park with electricity and water, restrooms, concession stand and portable toilets.

Oxford Park Pond had water quality problems from shoreline erosion, algae and flood water intrusion. Erosion and intrusion of Republican River flood waters led to sediment accumulation and nutrient loading, which caused problems with shallow depths, turbidity, algae blooms and loss of aquatic habitat.

Solutions ...

In 2009 the village got assistance through the Community Lake Enhancement And Restoration (CLEAR) Program. Pond and drainage area improvements that have been completed include construction of a berm to protect the pond from flood waters; excavation to remove nutrient loaded sediment and increase depth; bank grooming and shaping to stabilize banks and provide angler access; construction of a rock jetty for fish habitat and shoreline stabilization; construction of a handicap ramp and fishing pier for expanded public access; and pond edge seeding/mulching to stabilize the shoreline and provide fish habitat. Additional improvements by the City included replacement of scrub trees with multiple tree species to diversify the local ecosystem, construction of a gravel roadway to increase accessibility and construction of an improved boat ramp to accommodate fish stocking.

Results ...

The project was completed in summer 2011 for approximately \$307,000. Water quality data has yet to be collected, but improvements are visible. Water clarity has increased to more than 30 inches. Improvements will provide an excellent outdoor classroom for students in addition to providing quality outdoor experiences for all park and pond users. Engineering services were provided by Olsson Associates.

