



HUMPHREYS POND

Community ...

Humphreys Pond was originally a sand pit that filled with groundwater. In 1992, the Ira Humphreys' Estate was deeded to the Ogallala Optimists Club with the agreement the pond would be named Humphreys Pond. Since that time, the Optimists have been responsible for maintenance and upkeep of this one-acre pond.

Challenges ...

The Optimists got involved with the pond because they noticed area youth were using it for recreation and fishing. After 10 years of failed attempts to establish a fishery it was obvious the pond needed some improvement. The primary problems facing the pond were shallow depths and nuisance vegetation in and around the pond. Shallow depths were attributed to sedimentation from stormwater drainage, which included development areas north of the pond, as well as stormwater drainage entering the pond from the ditch along Union Pacific Railroad tracks that run alongside the pond. Due to the sandy nature of the soils, the pond had ongoing problems with bank erosion.

Solutions ...

The construction phase of the Humphreys Pond restoration project began in summer 2008 with removal of all trees and shrubs. Next, excavation began. Silt taken from the lake was deposited on the pond's south bank and on the large park area to its east to build up those areas to help with containment and accessibility. The pond was dredged to an average depth of 10 to 12 feet, doubling

the previous depth. One of the more important components of the project was the construction of a wetland area on the perimeter of the lake to filter stormwater.

Results ...

In 2009 the project was completed and the pond was stocked with bluegill, largemouth bass and channel catfish. Additional stockings of rainbow trout have been enjoyed by the public. The pond is now used extensively and several schools have adopted this site as an outdoor classroom. After the CLEAR project was completed, a Community Enhancement Program grant was obtained to plant native trees and shrubs. Local Boy Scouts provided three picnic tables and two small barbecues, and a local Girl Scout troop constructed a butterfly garden. Total project cost was \$267,082. Of this, CLEAR funds provided \$224,425 and the City of Ogallala provided \$42,657. Consultant services were provided by Tagge Engineering.

