

Blackhawk Park Backwater Restoration Project , Victory, Wisconsin

Location/Description

Part of the Corps of Engineers' Environmental Management Program, the site is located adjacent to Blackhawk Park on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River in pool 9, approximately 25 miles south of La Crosse, Wis. Backwater lakes and sloughs at Blackhawk Park did not receive water flows from the Mississippi River at normal pool levels. This resulted in stagnation and dissolved oxygen depletion in these waters during late summer and winter.

Backwater lakes at Blackhawk Park in Pool 9 of the Mississippi River.



The project provides sufficient fresh water flows to the backwaters to alleviate the dissolved oxygen problems on a year-round basis. This was accomplished by excavating approximately 7,000 linear feet of channels from the Mississippi River to the backwater lakes, providing flows of 30 to 90 cubic feet per second to the lakes. Culverts were installed where the channels cross local roadways.

It is estimated that the project results in annual production increases of approximately 20,000 fish from these backwaters.

Status

In May 1990, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources awarded a construction contract, and construction was completed in December 1990. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was reimbursed for preparation of the final design and construction in accordance with the project cooperation agreement. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources operates and maintains the project.

Authority

The Blackhawk Park Backwater Restoration Project was constructed under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program in accordance with a definite project report dated February 1986. The Environmental Management Program was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project was planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs were 75 percent federal/25 percent non-federal. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is the non-federal sponsor. Operation and maintenance costs are funded on a 75 percent federal/25 percent non-federal basis (a responsibility of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources).

Federal cost \$232,000
Non-federal cost \$77,000
Total cost \$309,000