

Spring Lake Peninsula Habitat Project, Buffalo City, Wis.

Location/Description

Spring Lake is a 300-acre backwater area on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River in pool 5 at the south end of Buffalo City, Wis. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Spring floods had breached a natural peninsula at the upper end of Spring Lake that protected the lake from all but the largest floods. High flows and sediments entering the lake were degrading the shallow water fish and wildlife habitat. Quiet, protected areas are valued for fish and wildlife habitat.



Breach closure of peninsula at Spring Lake, Buffalo City, Wisconsin

The project closed the breach in the peninsula and stabilized the remaining peninsula to prevent further erosion. The closure was constructed with material dredged from an upstream slough area and from Spring Lake. The project stopped the continued degradation of 40 acres of backwater fish and wildlife habitat by preventing the entrance of high flows and sediments and provided proper conditions for high productivity of both fish and wildlife. Dredging material from Spring Lake to construct the closure created an additional acre of deepwater fish habitat.

Status

A construction contract was awarded in April 1994, and construction was completed in July 1995. The project has been transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operation and maintenance. Completion of construction of the Spring Lake Islands habitat project in 2006 provides additional habitat improvements in Spring Lake.

Authority

The Spring Lake Peninsula Habitat Project was constructed under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program in accordance with a definite project report dated August 1991. 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 constructed as part of a cooperative effort of the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs were 100-percent federal because the project is on lands managed as a national wildlife refuge. Operation and maintenance costs are 100-percent federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal cost \$448,000
Non-federal cost \$0
Total cost \$448,000