

White Mound Lake Dam Rehabilitation Project Plain-Honey Creek Watershed

History of the Project: 1965

Frequent flooding in the watershed caused serious damage to properties, roads and bridges. The floodwaters damaged agricultural lands, endangered livestock and depreciated land values. Properties in the village of Plain, both commercial and residential, were being damaged. In 1965, The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 566) authorized the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to construct dam structures that provided public safety and reduced the risk of flooding. Three dams were constructed in the watershed, one providing the recreational facility known as White Mound Lake.

Keeping Dams Safe

The dam originally built at White Mound Lake was designed and built as a Class B or significant hazard structure. Since then, several homes and a business have been built downstream of the dam reclassifying it as a high hazard dam due to the threat to public safety. By relocating these “at risk” properties and enacting a floodplain zoning ordinance restricting future development downstream, this dam now meets the dam safety requirements for a low hazard dam.



These 2 properties were in constructed in the downstream floodplain area and need to be removed to insure the safety and well being of the of the owners. The area with it's new ordinance restricts future building in the area.



Sediment removal from behind the dam. Winter 2003



Newly constructed beach area Spring 2004



Completed project Spring 2004



Newly constructed fish spawning area Spring 2004

White Mound Lake

White Mound Lake is a valuable recreational lake located in the driftless area, a region of Wisconsin untouched by glaciers, where natural lakes are rare. This county park has been a favorite spot for fishing, swimming, camping and hiking. Over the years sedimentation accumulated behind the dam reducing the capacity of the lake to store water needed for flood protection. The sediment and the accompanying nutrients degraded water quality of the lake and beach area to a point where swimming was no longer desirable. By removing the sediment from the bottom of the lake the life of the dam is now extended for 100 years. By improving the water quality the beach will once again be a popular spot to spend those hot summer days.

