

APPENDIX A

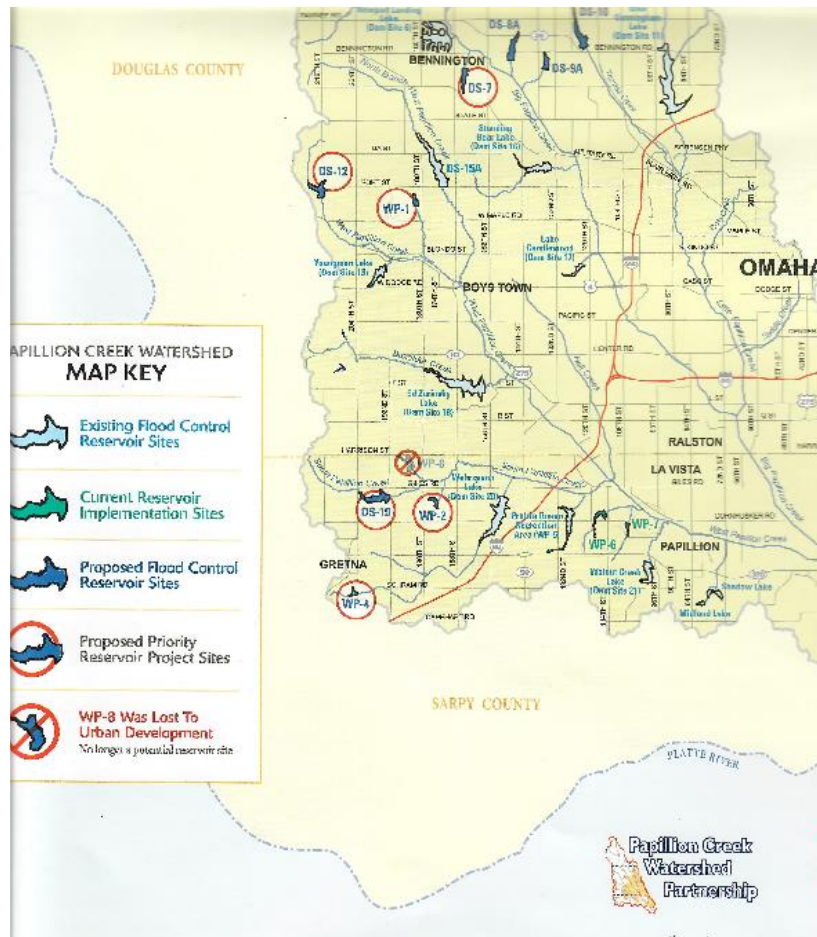
Fisheries Management Plan for WP-1

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Introduction

The Papillion Creek Watershed Management Plan was prepared by the Papillion Creek Watershed partnership in 2009 and identified 14 regional detention and 12 water quality basins to reduce downstream flooding and improve the water quality. WP-1, located on a tributary of West Papillion Creek is located near 180th and Fort Street and was one identified as a high priority.

The Papio Reservoirs, as a whole, have displayed very good water quality and have additionally developed dense stands of aquatic vegetation. This feature has been instrumental in the development of good fisheries in the region. We have historically been able to developed good panfish/bass fisheries at many of the other new reservoirs in the Omaha-Metro such as Walnut Creek, Lawrence Youngman, Prairie Queen and Prairie View. The Nebraska Game and Parks has invested considerable time and money in the development of these new reservoirs to improve fish habitat, water quality and angler access.

WP-1 will be a 20 surface acre reservoir located at 180th and Fort Street in Omaha. The Papio-Missouri River NRD developed the reservoir with design provided by Olsson Associates. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission were consulted in the development of this reservoir and will be providing Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Motorboat Access funds totaling \$150,000. Components of the project include in-lake structures such as a water quality basin, longitudinal breakwater structures, angler access nodes, paddlecraft launch and a boat access for NGPC use for stocking fish and sampling (Figure 1).

Additionally, several fish habitat structures will be added throughout the basin with assistance from various angler groups (Figure 2).



Figure 1: Design of WP-1 with fisheries enhancements.

Excavation from the lake basin will be an important component of this project to help ensure the reservoirs longevity for boating and fishing access. Excavation will target areas in the main basin and areas located next to the primary angler access areas.



Figure 2: Fish habitat structure types.

Stocking Recommendation

Most of the fish species stocked into WP-1 are typical of fish species that do well in southeastern Nebraska waters and the timing of these stockings are meant to maximize largemouth bass densities providing high angler catch rates and a quality panfish population (Table 1). The addition of Rainbow Trout is to provide a seasonal fishery that was previously provided in Standing Bear Reservoir. Due to its proximity to this reservoir and smaller surface acreage, we felt this would be a better location for this stocking.

Table 1: Proposed stocking strategy for WP-1.

Species	Month	Year	Stocking Rate	Length
Largemouth Bass	April	2024	100/acre	2"
Bluegill	April	2024	500/acre	1"
Redear Sunfish	April	2024	500/acre	1"
Largemouth Bass	April	2024	1/acre	12"
Black Crappie	September	2024	500/acre	3"
Channel Catfish	September	2024	30/acre	9"
Rainbow Trout	October	2024	200	10"
Rainbow Trout	March	2025	200	10"

Regulation Recommendation

The reservoirs being constructed by the Papio-Missouri River NRD have typically been opened up to public use soon after construction. This has caused some concern with the development of the fishery and in some circumstances the NGPC have implemented a catch and release regulation of all fish species for several years and a no live bait-fish restriction. With the addition of the trout stockings to this reservoir, a modification to this regulation to allow harvest of trout would probably be recommended. In most of the Omaha-area reservoirs, we have implemented a 21" minimum length limit with harvest targeted toward panfish (15 daily bag limit). This would be the recommendation for regulations after the catch and release regulation is removed.

Goals and Objectives

1. Maintain a stock-length largemouth bass population of 200-300 largemouth bass/hour of electroshocking by 2025.
2. Provide opportunities to harvest panfish along with the addition of rainbow trout.