

Improvements to Two Dam Pond

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Exciting park improvements are taking shape to the Two Dam Pond area. This 2.8-acre pond, adjacent from Shelter #5, is a popular location for fishing and school field trips. Accessible amenities at Two Dam Pond will provide a wide range of experiences that benefit the public.

The following three goals were identified in the 2009 Jester Park Master Plan:

- Provide improved accessibility for visitors with disabilities
- Improve the park trail system
- Enhance opportunities for on-site passive and active environmental education activities

Polk County Conservation applied for and received a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) Grant and a Fish Habitat Grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. These grants, along with additional funding, will allow Polk County Conservation (PCC) to add recreational opportunities to Jester Park that comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. These opportunities include a hiking trail with a bridge, fishing pier, canoe access, and parking improvements. A one-acre wetland will

be constructed to help improve the Two Dam Pond's water quality and expand our ability to provide interpretive and environmental educational opportunities at the site. Added parking spurs adjacent to the main park road will create access to the accessible fishing pier and canoe ramp. Dredging will occur on the southwest corner of the pond. This activity, in conjunction with the creation of a wetland and streambed stabilization practices, will improve fishing as well as water quality.

Summer 2012

- finish clearing for the trail
- relocate fish
- start draining pond

Fall 2012

- begin wetland construction
- installation of stabilization structures
- begin dredging
- begin trail construction
- pour concrete headwalls and support structures for fishing pier, canoe launch and boardwalk
- install culvert and pave parking area

Fall/Winter 2012

- dormant seed wetland and sediment holding area

Spring 2013

- finish trail and boardwalk

Spring/Summer 2013

- restock fish and restore natural vegetation
- install fishing pier and canoe launch

Fall 2013

- project completion

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For more information about this project, contact Polk County Conservation at 515-323-5300. Thank you for your patience while these improvements are taking place.