

Cadillac Lake Drainage Improvement Project

City of Wichita

Wichita, Kansas

Poe & Associates, Inc.

Construction Cost: \$4.2M

Completion: 2011

Description: Cadillac Lake is a low-lying playa lake located near 29th Street North and Maize. Over the years, rapid suburban growth in Northwest Wichita put this area directly in the path of development, creating concerns over the loss of the wetlands in the future. An initiative to create the project was undertaken by a partner ship of four parties.

The solution called for a detention pond, associated lift station improvements, and wetland mitigation. The project was initially funded by the City of Wichita and the two private developers. The primary challenge was to balance the competing interests of each entity involved through a difficult federal environmental permitting process as administered by the Corps of Engineers. Justification of the project was based on a complex hydrologic and hydraulic model that balanced the competing interests of flood control while protecting the hydrology for the wetlands. The final permit required that a significant portion of the existing wetlands were to be avoided and impacted wetlands were required to be mitigated. The remaining wetlands were supplemented with higher quality wetland plant material and off-site man-made constructed wetlands were also required as an environmental offset. Environmental permitting took over 5 years to complete.



This project transferred wetlands that were located on private property and placed it into public property where it could be maintained and managed for future generations to enjoy. Also, it took an undervalued piece of real estate and converted a portion of it into valuable commercial real estate. And, most importantly, it created additional flood storage within the basin that provides increased flood protection at a reduced cost to the public to over \$15 million in residential real estate.

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