

Bog Brook Wildlife Area

The Bog Brook Wildlife Area was created by the construction of an earthen dam across Bog Brook Creek in 1962. Its permitted purpose was to provide a flowage which can be regulated to obtain the most favorable conditions for wildlife, both terrestrial and aquatic.

The impoundment has a surface area of approximately 490 acres and a maximum depth of 6 feet. Inlet streams from Mud Lake and Bog Brook Lake are present, with the outflow to the Lily River. Originally the entire shore was upland hardwoods. Emergent wetland now occupies large portions of the flowage.

The dam was breached in 1983. The dam was reconstructed to the original design in 1993 by the Forest County Highway Department and a WCC crew under the direction of the Forest County Forestry Department with assistance from a USDA Forest Service engineer.

Because there is one house downstream that may be in the hydraulic shadow of a potential dam failure and neither a floodplain zoning ordinance nor restrictive covenants, easements or legal arrangement restricting further housing development downstream, the Bog Brook Dam is considered a high hazard dam.

In 2015 the Forest County Land Conservation Committee held a hearing to gauge the public's interest in retaining the flowage area and maintaining the dam. More than 25 people attended the hearing with all in favor of not only maintaining the dam at this location, but also improving the surrounding area. Sustainable Resource Industries (SRI), a consulting firm administering Stewardship Contracts for the USFS, granted matching funds to install a dam gate. The gate was installed in 2016 and lessens man and equipment hours required to operate the dam within its working parameters. The height of the dam can now be controlled by turning a wheel instead of using a loader truck to manually lift the steel gate.

Also In 2015, Flambeau engineering was hired to build a dam failure analysis to apply a flood shadow downstream of the dam in an effort to lower the dam hazard rating. Forest County had adopted Floodplain Zoning and was now in a position to restrict downstream development.

It was noted and reported that the pier over the inlet of the dam was available to the public but not handicapped accessible as required. Further improvements would be necessary to make the area ADA accessible by providing a walkway over the spillway and a wheelchair accessible fishing pier. A beaver excluder will be installed under the fishing pier to eliminate a long standing beaver problem.

The Bog Brook Wildlife Area has the potential to be of greater recreational use to area residents and visitors in addition to being a wildlife area. Recreation at the site has great potential in that it has a good site to recreate with canoes and kayaks, hold gatherings and other recreational activities associated with this area and landscape.