

# MULTIPURPOSE SMALL LAKES PROGRAM

Fact Sheet No. 9

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Kansas Water Office

## Background

The 1985 Legislature established the Multipurpose Small Lakes Program by enacting K.S.A. 82a-1601 *et seq.* The Multipurpose Small Lakes Program, which is a part of the State Water Plan, provides for “add on” features for the development of a proposed small lake site to its fullest potential and/or for the renovation of an existing structure to provide for additional benefits.

A planned *flood control* structure, if it meets the criteria, may become a multipurpose structure by adding water supply storage and/or recreation. A planned *water supply* structure may become a multipurpose structure by adding flood control or flood control and recreation. The same holds true for a *renovation* project. Each structure **must** contain flood control features to be eligible for Multipurpose Small Lakes Program funding.

## Purpose

The objectives of this program are: (1) To reduce flood damages caused by excessive runoff and provide protection for people and/or domestic and wild animals, (2) to provide for the development of dependable water supply in close proximity to communities which need water, (3) to provide for a gradual process of developing future water supplies which more closely matches water supply developments with water supply needs, (4) to develop a project that requires a fraction of the capital investment costs of large reservoir projects and consumes a relatively small amount of land resources, (5) to develop projects that can be operated and maintained by local entities and (6) to provide adequate land treatment measures that will protect the site from pollution and siltation.

## Overview

Small lakes play an important role in the management and conservation of the state’s water resources. Although hundreds of small lake projects have been built in Kansas for flood control and watershed protection, additional multipurpose

structures will be required in the future to meet the water needs of the state.

The need for adequate water supply and recreational facilities is evident in various areas of the state. This program brings together those entities that have an existing or projected water supply need and those entities that are constructing flood control structures.

## Administrative Guidelines

The Multipurpose Small Lakes Program is managed by the State Conservation Commission.

Rules and regulations establish policy and guidelines to provide cost-share assistance to local entities that have, or will have, a water supply and/or a need for recreational facilities. Each project must include adequate land treatment of the drainage area to protect the site from pollution and siltation. The sponsoring entity must also have taxing authority and power of eminent domain. Repayment of state funds used for the water supply portion of the structure is also provided for in the statute. In addition, multipurpose small lakes are subject to cost-benefit analysis conducted by the Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture. The Kansas Water Office is the state agency responsible for recouping the state’s investment costs for the water supply storage space in multipurpose small lakes.

## Additional Information

Further information or copies of the Multipurpose Small Lakes Program Guidelines may be obtained from: Director, State Conservation Commission, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 109 S.W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Topeka, KS 66612-1299, (785) 296-3600 or the: Kansas Water Office, 901 S. Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612-1249, phone (785-296-3185), toll free (888-KAN-WATER) or check our WEB site at [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org).