

Thank you for your letter requesting information about the lake at Westside Park. The following represents responses to your questions.

1. When was the pond built?

The lake was built in 1933. Using horses to help with digging and removing the dirt, the area was dug out and filled but would not hold water. A few years later, they drained it again and attempted to pack the bottom with clay and straw. However, it always had a seeping problem. In 1976, the lake was drained, redug, and a plastic liner was laid down and covered with clay and tires. This is the condition it exists as today.

2. Why was the pond built?

The lake was made to be the "swimming hole" for the city's youth. The pool at Tripp park was small and Yankton was growing so they needed another swimming area. The highway was ran by the area which soon became a community concern for safety. No one really remembers when swimming was no longer allowed.

3. What kind of fish do you supply it with?

Officially, it is stocked with bullheads and bluegills. However, people have a tendency to put larger fish such as catfish, northern pike, yellow perch, etc., without our knowledge.

