

Blakes Creek - Armour Creek Watershed Project (Ridenour Lake) - 28 acre lake, 88 total acres, 120 foot spillway

Borden Gewin, chairman of the watershed commission (original chairman was Mr. M.V. "Jack" Ridenour)

W.W. Alexander, Mayor (1946-1972)

names used in the project: Armour Creek Watershed Project, Blakes Creek Watershed, Alexander Park, Ridenour Lake

9/19/1961	city council minutes	project initiated by Mayor W.W. Alexander in 1961 following the disastrous flash flood Soil Conservation Service (SCS) to do a study of this water shed area
10/31/1961	city council minutes	Mayor Alexander appointed committee to study flooding problem - Jack Ridenour, Chairman
12/15/1961	city council minutes	Resolution - application sent to Soil Conservation Service for assistance
3/6/1963	city council minutes	Application approved by SCS in November 1962
11/2/1965	city council minutes	Mayor Alexander presented the Water Shed Work Plan to council council approved the plan
3/1/1966	city council minutes	project approved by congress in March-1966 (also noted in minutes of 03/06/1973)
7/19/1966	city council minutes	Committee authorized to have the engineering done within budget
10/18/1966	city council minutes	Long Engineering paid \$1,865.00 for survey & 10 maps
1/2/1968	city council minutes	Cost projected to be \$143,900 Land Treatment \$5,200 + Dam \$9,200 + Recreational Facilities \$57,400 + installation \$6,700 + land easements \$65,000 + administration \$400
7/2/1968	city council minutes	Access road will be located over 18th Street hill (compiler's note: this never happened)
7/16/1968	city council minutes	previously called the "Armours and Blakes Creek area", but Armours Creek was dropped
9/3/1968	city council minutes	Motion to proceed with condemnation for all flowage & land easements
Feb-1969	city council minutes	Work Plan Supplement #1 added ... that Kanawha County Court would provide financial help in acquiring all land rights.
March-1969	city council minutes	three important documents entered into: (also per minutes of 03/06/1973) 1). Land rights agreement 2). Operation & maintenance agreement for the dam & recreation areas 3). Project agreement signed
3/18/1969	city council minutes	per Mayor alexander, the total cost is projected to be \$431,000 Federal Government already paid \$290,000 County Court has put up \$64,500
5/6/1969	city council minutes	contract calls for a maximum of 272 days to complete the dam all bids are due 05/26/1969 groundbreaking to take place about 06/14/1970
Nov-1969	city council minutes	Engineering agreement entered into with private consulting firm (also, per minutes of 03/06/1973)
3/24/1970	city council minutes	Advanced donation from the Civic Benefits Association of \$56,000, without interest to provide a matching fund of the Federal Government for the recreation facilities. This decreases the yearly contribution of the CBA from \$30,000 to \$18,000 / year City has paid out \$8,382.20 to this date.
6/3/1970	city council minutes	46.1 foot high earthen dam constructed under the sponsorship of the Kanawha County Court (KCC), the City of Nitro and the Capitol Soil Conservation Service (SCS)
7/19/1971	Charleston Daily Mail	\$ 440,000.00 original projected cost; called "Nitro's folly" and "white elephant" federal government to pay all costs of dam construction + 50% of cost of land acquisition & recreation facilities In 1967, Kanawha County Court allocated \$64,500 for land & easements By 1969, the actual cost of land had almost doubled KCC has paid \$61,817 for land, still have to pay \$36,500 to pay for last 2 parcels, but no money available \$ 616,000.00 todays projected cost, 42% increase

		was supposed to be completed by September 1970 27.5 acre lake 46.5 foot high dam
Aug-1970	city council minutes	Agreement was made for the seeding of the dam (per minutes of 03/06/1973)
June-1971	city council minutes	Work Plan Supplement #2 - deleted camping facilities from the plan ... (per minutes of 03/06/1973)
Aug-1971	city council minutes	Work Plan Supplement #3 - a "relocation" clause & basic recreation agreement
9/30/1971	city council minutes	The Soil Conservation Service paid the land right share to the Kanawha County Court. KCC stated that the land rights would be turned over to the city upon completion.
3/3/1972	city council minutes	\$ 500,000.00 investment in federal & local funds E.M. Hoffman Co. of Teays Valley, contractor for \$184,000 recreation developer Boat Dock completed Projected opening by Memorial Day 1972
5/16/1972	city council minutes	Watershed should be completed sometime in June; Hold up is that Blakes Creek road has to be raised to comply with 25 year flood frequency. Lake not being filled up yet.
June-1972	city council minutes	Project agreement signed for removal of slip & raising of road (per minutes of 03/06/1973)
6/3/1972	Charleston Daily Mail	Blakes Creek Road has to be raised 6 feet along a 2,000 foot section to get it above flood level
6/27/1972	Charleston Gazette	"Political" Dedication held prior to Mayor Alexander's retirement currently completed: 2 comfort stations 3 picnic pavilions boat dock with 10 12-foot aluminum boats 10,000 bass fingerlings stocked will not open until Blakes Creek road is elevated above flood level
6/28/1972	Charleston Gazette	\$ 531,902.00 total project cost per Clarence Moran, Exec. Dir. - Regional Dev. Authority \$ 53,000.00 donated by large chemical companies in Nitro (CBA) \$ 331,867.00 US Soil Conservation Service \$ 89,500.00 Kanawha County Court \$ 34,085.00 City of Nitro \$ 23,800.00 State Department of Highways NOTE: lake not filled yet (partially filled only)
8/30/1972	Charleston Gazette	\$ 4,382.00 needed to finish project
9/6/1972	Charleston Gazette	\$ 2,600.00 pledged by Kanawha County Court towards completion of road work \$ 4,300.00 needed to finish road work Department of Highways being asked to furnish remainder of money for road
12/5/1972	city council minutes	\$ 23,945.90 already paid by the city
3/6/1973	city council minutes	\$ 218,702.40 Contract BA-1 Dam Structure only \$ 180,831.56 paid by the Soil Conservation Service \$ 37,870.84 paid by the City of Nitro \$ (24,000.00) Department of Highways reimbursed the City of Nitro <hr/> \$ 10,136.00 cost of seeding the dam \$ 8,986.00 paid by the Soil Conservation Service \$ 1,150.00 paid by the City of Nitro \$ 185,791.67 Contract BA-2 Basic Recreational Facilities - B.M. Hoffman Company \$ 148,633.34 paid by the Soil Conservation Service \$ 37,158.33 paid by the City of Nitro Contract BA-2 NOT YET COMPLETE
3/7/1973	Charleston Gazette	\$ 429,306.90 total cost excluding land \$ 85,248.59 paid by the city \$ 24,000.00 reimbursed to city by the SDH \$ 10,000.00 still owed to City by SDH

6/8/1973	Charleston Daily Mail	\$ 429,306.00	has been spent excluding land rights & engineering services per the SCS
6/28/1973	Kanawha Valley Leader		Problem now is "resolving the ownership" of the lake Both the City of Nitro and Kanawha County Court are named on the deed as owners
Cost Analysis:		\$429,306.90	total cost excluding land & engineering costs
		\$98,317.00	land
		\$1,865.00	engineering
		\$529,488.90	total cost of Ridenour
		\$51,248.59	net paid by City of Nitro (already included in total cost)
		\$56,000.00	donated by the Civic Benefits Association on 03/24/1970
5/8/1974	Charleston Gazette		deed presented to city by Kanawha County Court

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