

Beech Fork Camping Area  
Bank Stabilization Project

Beech Fork State Park is located in Wayne and Cabell Counties. The park is situated on the tailwater shores of Beech Fork Lake, a flood control impoundment of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Beech Fork of Twelvepole Creek. Since its development in the mid-1970s, Beech Fork State Park has proven to be a popular recreation spot for the residents and visitors of the region.

The recreational area is located just off of Long Branch Road and is open to the public from April to October. The lake is a popular destination for those in the region. Each year approximately 400,000 guests take part in the recreational opportunities afforded by the rugged landscape and state park facilities.

Over the course of several years the camping and recreational areas have lost a considerable amount of bank due to erosion. In some places, exposed drain lines testify to the bank receding nearly 5 feet. Some areas are considered public safety concerns because of the steepness of the eroded banks. Additionally, the lake appears unclear or cloudy even during dry times. This can be partially attributed to wave erosion from recreational boating dislodging and suspending sediment.

The project stabilized approximately 1000 linear feet of the most critical failing bank as a demonstration for future efforts to manage the erosion and sedimentation into the lake. Many sections of eroded bank within this critical area were as high as 48 inches. The total estimated sediment contribution to Beech Fork Lake within this reach totaled 893 tons/year.

The contractor installed 542 tons of COE 15” stone within the critical area, as per the Corps of Engineers drawings. Some sections within the reach required the excavator operator to clear away the sloughed bank material before placing the stone in order to provide for a stable base. The project was completed in 4 days at a total cost of \$27,000.

Several federal and state agencies took part in the effort including the WV Conservation Agency, the Great Kanawha Resource Conservation and Development Council, the Army Corps of Engineers, the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources and the Guyan Conservation District.



