

Funds given for Lake Helen project

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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NDEQ awards \$416,431

City officials have learned that the project to rehabilitate Lake Helen will receive nearly half a million dollars.

City administrator Bruce Clymer announced that the city will receive \$416,431 from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to excavate and remove part of the lake, grade, install new rip rap and a boat ramp, eliminate geese and stock fish.

Of that amount, \$120,000 will be withheld for alum treatment of the lake and probably used if needed.

In separate grants for planning, the NDEQ has given \$67,750, the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission \$70,000 and the Central Platte Natural Resources District \$50,000 toward the estimated \$1.5 million project in 2013. Another \$50,000 from Central might be awarded during 2014.

For the project, the city has pledged \$324,731.

Officials are still waiting to hear about a \$460,831 grant the city applied for from Game and Parks and \$308,331 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund.

Clymer said he doesn't care as much about the money as he does about having a successful project.

"And to have Lake Helen continue to be an asset of the community that we can all be proud of," he said, noting that he appreciates the entities willing to partner with the city on the project. "They provide resources that hopefully allow us to reach our goals."

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