

# Cottonmill Lake

## Kearney Canal

### Development

- First mentioned by homesteader in Elm Creek area in 1873
- Joint Financing Effort – private & City
- Kearney Canal & Supply Co. \$100,000 capital @ \$20/share; 5,000 shares
  - Had to be 2/3 subscribed,
  - 25% paid to come into existence (\$25,000)
- City of Kearney – \$30,000 bonds
  - authorized in city election

### Building the Canal

- 1882 – Started in fall – 2 miles completed before winter
- 1885 – George W. Frank bought 4/5 stock in Kearney Canal & Supply Co (\$80,000)
- 1886 – Canal was finished in June

### Method of Construction of the Canal

- Canal path dredged along side of hills rising from Platte River valley
- One bank made from dirt dredged out

## Cottonmill Lake

### Use

- served as holding facility for cotton mill until it closed in 1901
- Just a lake on private property
- State recreation area
- City/County park

### The Name

- Echo Lake
- Cottonmill Lake

### Ownership

- Kearney Canal and Water Supply Co.
- Union Trust Company of New York
- Zada Lancaster
- State of Nebraska
- City/County