

## Work on reservoir picking up as site gets deeper, banks higher

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Crews from a Canton contractor are well into Defiance's reservoir project off Kibble Road, but a visit there doesn't suggest the large volumes of water the facility will eventually store.

That's because Beaver Excavating is only digging down five to six feet below the existing grade, according to foreman Bernie Waechter. However, the water depth will be much greater.

Dirt generated from the excavation will be used to build up the reservoir's banks, thus creating a maximum reservoir depth of about 18 feet.

As of mid-week, work had started on about half the embankment, which is approximately six feet high. However, Waechter said the embankment will be built up another eight feet, bringing it to 19 feet from the top to the bottom of the reservoir.

The embankment is being built methodically eight inches at a time, according to Waechter. Large earth movers scrape eight inches off the bottom of the reservoir, then place it on the embankment where a device called a sheepsfoot roller compacts it into place.

Some dirt is also being stockpiled in a large field west of the reservoir. City administrator Jeff Leonard said that dirt will be used to construct future sledding hills, one of several recreational opportunities planned at the reservoir. (Others include a boat ramp, walking trails and amenities for picnicking.) Leonard said the hills will have a boomerang shape.

"We're going to build them up as high as we can," he said.

While the excavation and embankment work is the most noticeable activity at the reservoir, other tasks are continuing, nearing completion or have been finished.

For example, the water intake has been installed while much of the outtake is completed and work is progressing on a chemical feed building. (All concrete work for these jobs is being undertaken by Fort Defiance Construction.) And, piping to and from the city's Baltimore Road water plant -- located north of the reservoir site -- has been installed beneath Baltimore Road. These pipes presently run from the water plant to CSX Railroad.

Piping work at the reservoir site is just beginning.

A 30-inch, 9,000-foot-long pipe will take the Maumee River's raw water from the Baltimore Road plant to the reservoir; a 42-inch, 6,500-foot-long pipe will return water from the reservoir to the plant where it will be refined.

Already completed is installation of a buried perforated pipe that will run around the base of the reservoir embankment. Waechter said this will keep the embankment dry and ensure stability.

The pipe will have outlets that will drain into a swale that goes to a nearby creek.

Waechter said the project is on schedule, with work expected to be concluded this fall.

"It's gone great," said Waechter. "We have great people to work with as far as the city goes. We couldn't ask for better people to work with."

One small problem has been detected in one corner of the reservoir site where excessive moisture has been uncovered. Waechter blames this on "unsuitable material," which means soil that may contain organics or other permeable material.

He said this area will be undercut and replaced with more suitable clay.

Beaver Excavating is being paid \$6.1 million to complete the project.

Funding will be generated from water rate increases enacted last year.