

# Crystal Lake

Before the advent of artificial refrigeration in the 1920s, ice harvesting was an important industry in Nebraska, essential for keeping food cold both commercially and domestically. Due to the increasing demand for ice in the 1890s, many ice companies supplemented their ice harvest from frozen rivers by creating artificial lakes. Crystal Lake was created when the Crystal Ice Company dammed the Little Blue River just north of Ayr in 1893. Today the site is a Nebraska State Recreation Area.



Primary Source

*The Ice Crop: How to Harvest, Store, Ship, and Use Ice* by Theron Hiles

Secondary Source

<https://history.nebraska.gov/publications/ice-industry>