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Amenity enhancement of agricultural reservoirs in South Korea

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The main sources of agricultural water in South Korea are surface water reservoirs. Traditional agricultural water has been used for irrigation purpose only. This may be due to limited agricultural water resources. Recently, more than 100 medium-size agricultural reservoirs have contained environmental water associated with an increase in reservoir capacity. Clean and abundant water, and easy access to water are needed to enhance amenity of agricultural water. Fishing in many reservoirs has been prohibited for water quality conservation, and walking at the reservoirs has become popular. Reservoir walking is considered as the multifunctionality of agricultural water. The multifunctionality refers to the numerous benefits that agricultural water provides for a region. Generally, agricultural water and irrigation facilities are managed by a national company but the recreational facilities such as walking trail, pavilion, and parks at the reservoirs are maintained by the local governments. The successful cases of amenity enhancement showed that the primary factors were the installation of diverse recreational facilities, accessibility to big cities, water quality of the reservoir, and unique landscapes in the reservoir.