

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

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Public Works gets \$481,155 grant for Coliseum Lake retrofit

Jan. 6, 2014 - The Department of Public Works has been awarded a \$481,155 grant from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for the Coliseum Lake Retrofit Project.

The retrofit is not expected to change the overall size of the lake, but it will help remove more pollutants – especially phosphorus – from the water that passes through the lake. The goal is to prevent further pollution of local tributaries (Newmarket Creek and Back River) that flow into the Chesapeake Bay.

Coliseum Lake was originally a borrow pit for I-64 construction in the 1950s, but it has since come to function as a stormwater treatment facility for a 362-acre watershed that is largely commercial property. The proposed modifications will increase its efficiency by converting a portion of the lake from open water to wetlands, slowing the movement of stormwater, stopping bank erosion, and reducing backflow during weather events that create unusually high tides.

Announced last month, the grant came from Virginia's Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, which is designed to help with the planning, design and implementation of stormwater projects, especially those that contribute to reducing pollution in the Bay.

Retrofit construction is expected to start within 6-8 months. The finished project, including design, is expected to cost \$1.11 million.

Tony Reyes, Director of Public Works, said, "We are thankful that the state is willing to share the cost on projects that provide such a great benefit to the Chesapeake Bay. Their support is invaluable."

Sabrina Jones, grant writer for Public Works, said, "While this grant was competitive, we were happy to learn that we received all of the monies we requested."

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