

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Coliseum Lake gets a \$1.6 million retrofit

Oct. 29, 2015 - Work started this week on a nearly \$1.6 million retrofit of Coliseum Lake next to the Hampton Coliseum.

Originally a “borrow pit” for the construction of I-64 in the 1950s, the familiar lake now functions as a stormwater treatment facility for a 362-acre watershed that is mostly nearby commercial property.

The Coliseum Lake Water Quality Retrofit project includes the removal of existing vegetation around the lake and changing a portion of the lake from open water to wetlands. Goals include:

- Slowing down the movement of stormwater
- Installing plants that will help remove pollutants in the water before it continues downstream into local tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay
- Stabilizing bank erosion, reducing sediment in the lake, and reducing backflow during weather events that create unusually high tides

Money for the retrofit includes a \$601,444 grant that Hampton was awarded last year from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

As work continues, the area around the lake will be stripped of vegetation. When the work is done, the area will be replanted with grasses, shrubs and trees capable of living in a wetter environment, including Bald Cypress, Red Maple, River Birch and Sycamore.

In addition to the Coliseum Lake retrofit, the Virginia Department of Transportation is starting work on a project nearby that is related to the I-664 overpass. Both projects will have city and VDOT oversight.

Go online (<http://hampton.gov/documentcenter/view/7470>) to see [construction drawings](#) and plans for the project.

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