



# THE MAIN DRAIN

STORMWATER NEWS YOU CAN USE

A Publication of the Portsmouth Department of Public Utilities/Public Works -  
Division of Stormwater Management  
November 2003

## VOLUNTEERS HELP INSTALL WETLAND PLANTS AT STORMWATER POND

The first day of November was beautiful, with sunshine to spare, as approximately 90 volunteers from throughout the Tidewater area converged on the upcoming Victory Crossing's office park, near Victory and Freedom Ave., to plant 2,800 wetland plants.

The planting event was the last step in the construction of a 4-acre regional stormwater pond, designed to improve the quality of the water draining into it. By routing stormwater to a facility such as this, the City is able to reduce area flooding and also protect downstream rivers and the Chesapeake Bay from polluted stormwater runoff. Through this event, Portsmouth hopes to have a regional impact in creating public awareness and educating citizens about preventing stormwater pollution.

The City's Department of Public Utilities/Public Works coordinated the event, which was paid for, in part, with a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) through the Water Quality Improvement Fund. The City also partnered with the Elizabeth River Project to organize volunteer participation in the planting event.

This pond, along with others in the area, helps to alleviate drainage problems, improves water quality and provides a "natural" habitat for wildlife. The presence of the pond also helps to improve the overall aesthetics of the surrounding area and will serve as an attractive feature in the soon-to-be-developed Victory Crossing's office park.

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**Jessica Jimenez**, of the Oceanfront Jaycees, lifting pallets of Spiked Rush, joined 90 volunteers on November 1, 2003, in installing 2,800 wetland plants around a stormwater pond.

## STORMWATER TIP OF THE MONTH:

### BE A POOPER SCOOPER! PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET

Stormwater carries pet waste and other pollutants directly into area waterways. Pet waste can cause health risks such as Salmonella and E. Coli.

## “Volunteers” continued from page 1

The City would like to thank all volunteers and staff who participated in the planning and execution of this event. Among the volunteers that participated, the following organizations lent their time: A&W Contractors, Boy Scout Troop 222, Castle Heights Garden Club, CH2MHILL, Community Garden Club, Cradock Helping Hands, Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, NSE, Oceanfront Jaycees, OES-Pearls of Peace, Dept. of Public Works, Portsmouth Sheriff's Office, Virginia Greenhouse Society, Virginia Tech Extension Office, Woman's Club of Churchland, and Woolpert. The City also recognizes the extra work of the Elizabeth River Project in making this event successful.

Our special thanks to the City's survey crew: Gary Melton, Ron McCants, and George Fields who staked out the planting beds - truly making it a Plant-by-Numbers project!

## WETLAND PLANTING STATISTICS

Number of Volunteers	90
Number of Volunteer Hours	255
Number of Plants Installed	2,800
Number of Plant Types Installed	13
Size of Stormwater Pond	4 acres



DCR's **Ernie Brown** presents a check for \$100,000 for the construction of the pond to **Vice-Mayor Bernard Griffin** and the city's Stormwater Administrator, **Cindy Linkenhoker**.

## RESULTS OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT STUDY REVEALED

On Monday, October 28, 2003 the Department of Public Utilities/Public Works, together with their consultant, CH2MHILL, presented to City Council the results of a comprehensive study of the City's Stormwater Management Program, entitled "Stormwater Management Program Challenges and Choices: Renewing Our Infrastructure."

The take-home message of the study is that Portsmouth's stormwater system is deteriorating and in need of repairs. According to the study "the long-term operations and maintenance needs as well as the renewal and replacement needs of the existing infrastructure are not being met." The results are frequent drainage pipe cave-ins and flooding. City Council requested that information regarding the study be made available to the public. As a result, a copy of the executive summary has been placed on the City's website at:

[www.portsmouthva.gov](http://www.portsmouthva.gov).

In addition, the staff of the Division of Stormwater Management will be organizing several public presentations and discussions. A copy of the consultants' presentation will also be available electronically. For more information call 393-8691.



## THE MAIN DRAIN

*The Main Drain* is a publication addressing local stormwater issues and is produced by The City of Portsmouth, Dept. of Public Utilities / Public Works - Division of Stormwater Management.

Editor-in-Chief: **Cindy Linkenhoker**  
Editor/Writer: **Nicole Sandberg**

Address: 801 Crawford Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
Portsmouth, VA 23704-0490.

Email: [stormwater@portsmouthva.gov](mailto:stormwater@portsmouthva.gov)

Phone: 757-393-8691, Fax: 757-393-8976