



A Proactive Strategy for "BMP" Lake and Pond Management

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The City of Portsmouth, VA has 28 stormwater lake and pond "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) that receive stormwater from City streets. The BMPs range in age from more than 45 years to less than 6 years. As the BMPs age, they naturally collect sediment and require maintenance.

In 2003, the City of Portsmouth hired the nationally recognized environmental firm CH2M HILL to conduct preliminary assessments and prepare a plan for managing the lakes and ponds. In this study, the BMPs were evaluated using specific structural and biological parameters and then prioritized for their maintenance needs based upon the evaluation data. Preliminary repair costs were also developed for each lake and pond based upon the evaluation data.

As a follow-up to the preliminary assessments, Aquatic Services, Inc. (ASI) was contracted by the City in 2004 to begin detailed assessments of each lake and pond. ASI's evaluation will consider water quality data and structural and aesthetic parameters. The City will conduct any necessary hydrographic survey work to support ASI's efforts. ASI will make recommendations and final maintenance prioritizations for lakes and ponds based upon the present status of the City's BMPs. This work is expected to be complete by the end of Fiscal Year 2006.

Following the final prioritizations, the City will be in a position to begin budgeting for the formal implementation of the Lake & Pond Management Plan.

The City's "Proactive Strategy for BMP Management" was recently presented at the March 2005 Virginia Water Conference, held in Virginia Beach, Virginia and sponsored by the Virginia Lakes & Watersheds Association. **Portsmouth's "Proactive Strategy for BMP Management" is the first of its kind in the Commonwealth.**