HAMPTON VA
NEWS RELEASE

Pond is one of 8 urban fishing areas in Virginia

Feb. 26, 2016 - Armistead Pointe Pond near the Boo Williams sports complex at Armistead Pointe, has been stocked with hundreds of Steelhead and Rainbow trout and is now one of only eight "urban fishing areas" in Virginia.

It's part of a unique program designed to give local residents an urban fishing experience, provide fishing opportunities for at-risk youth, and help visitors enjoy the outdoors while just minutes from downtown, major shopping areas and the highway.

Art Mertz, chief park ranger for the city, said the pond "will provide an excellent opportunity to introduce youth to more outdoor activities … and attract new anglers from densely populated areas to trout fishing. This area provides convenient, affordable, accessible and fun fishing for anglers of all ages and abilities."

Virginia's Department of Game and Inland Fisheries presented the idea to city officials in March of 2015. Staff from Sandy Bottom Nature Park worked on the pond with other city departments and state officials. The state will continue to stock the pond with Steelhead, Rainbow or Brown Trout five times a year from November-April. State officials will also conduct surveys to determine the number of fish in the pond.

More than 450 volunteer hours helped prepare the area, including the removal of debris from the pond, constructing a footpath, clearing areas on the banks for fishing, installing benches at the pond and building a kiosk at the trailhead.

The creel limit for anglers is 4 trout per person per day. A Virginia fishing license, and trout license, is required from Nov. 1-April 30. No license is required for anglers 16 years old and younger, and bass, sunfish and catfish can be fished year round.

Volunteers involved in the project include the U.S. Navy and Air Force, Bethel Christian School, Peninsula Catholic School, Waters Edge Church and the Boy Scouts.

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