



STORMWATER BMP MAINTENANCE *NEWSLETTER*



Spring has sprung!

Daffodils have made way for tulips, bees are buzzing about, robins are busy finding worms, and stormwater management facilities are showing the damage done by snow season. Time for spring cleaning!



Words of wisdom from the inspectors...

In an effort to continue to partner with stormwater management facility owners to keep pollutants out of local rivers and the Chesapeake Bay, we asked DEP inspectors to share the best tips to aid in passing facility inspections and keeping features in good repair. Please check your facilities to see if any of these things might need attention on your property.

Inspectors Ed Edmiston and Steve Pullum handle our above ground facilities, which include wet and dry ponds, sand filters, swales and much, much more. They indicated that the following are important aspects when maintaining an above ground facility:

1. Clean up and dispose of trash and litter on a monthly basis and following rain events.
2. Establish a regular mowing schedule for a dam as you would for common areas in a subdivision and remember to mow the entire dam embankment to prevent the growth of woody plants.
3. Clear and remove debris blocking low flow orifices in ponds.
4. Remove trees and woody plants growing on dam embankments.
5. Establish a regular schedule for clearing trash and vegetation from sand filters and rake and till to remove vegetation.

Mary Travaligni is our landscape architect. She inspects the County's roadway rain gardens, green roofs and much more. She says the most common issue found when inspecting environmental site design (ESD) practices are sediment and debris build-up and missing or dead plants. She indicates that monthly trash, sediment, and leaf removal, weeding all year, pruning perennials after winter, dividing or adding new plants, and managing erosion may help with this.

Inspectors Francis Flabbi and Brian Gregg cover underground facilities. They deal with both storage and filtering devices. They tell us that one aspect they often see failing inspections is excessive trash in structures. The inspectors indicate that if an owner maintains a clean parking lot and removes trash from the surfaces of the property, they can reduce their need for maintenance.

Lastly, Inspection Managers Ron Milberg and Jerry Oden would like to remind you that being proactive about your maintenance responsibilities will likely reduce costly repairs in the future. A few tips they listed were:

1. Call 311 for any flooded facilities (allowing us to remove blockages before the high water level kills vegetation).
2. Regularly survey for beaver activity and remove downed trees before serious damage can occur.
3. Our website is a great resource for all kinds of information!<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/water/stormwater-facilities.html>

We hope this info helps you keep those stormwater management facilities in great shape. Remember, your structures are the first defense in keeping pollution out of our streams and out of the Bay. Thanks!

Spring Maintenance Tips

- Remember to schedule your contractor for mowing of pond dam embankments. Mowing of the upstream and downstream slopes of pond dam embankments must be done a minimum of twice a year, and is recommended in the spring and in the fall.
- Weeds should only be removed manually and fertilizers are not needed in stormwater facilities. Be sure you know the County's most up-to-date regulations about Lawn Care and Chemicals for all vegetated areas: Please visit: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/community/lawn-care.html>
- Keep all storm drains and stormwater facility inlets open and clear of sediment, debris, and trash. Blockages often prevent the flow of water into stormwater facilities and cause flooding elsewhere on your property.
- Contact Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) if a bioretention facility holds water for more than 72 hours or if a wet pond has a higher than normal pond level, as this could indicate a problem.

Greenfest is coming... a one-day festival focused on the people and environment of the County!

On April 30th, the Montgomery County GreenFest is taking over 2 blocks of Takoma Park with music, films, speakers, exhibitors and workshops all focused on building community and improving our environment. We hope you'll join us!

GreenFest has activities for all ages and everyone can be a part of making Montgomery County a greener community! Please visit <http://montgomerycountygreenfest.org> for more information.

The quarterly (and sometimes more) e-newsletter of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection Stormwater Facilities Maintenance Program has useful information and seasonal tips for Property Managers, contractors, and HOAs to assist you with your stormwater facility maintenance needs.

Montgomery County, MD has thousands of stormwater facilities including ponds, wet ponds, underground structures, bioretention facilities, and much more. DEP ensures that they are all regularly maintained and functioning as-designed to protect our local streams.

To view previous editions of the newsletter, [visit our website](#). Past editions are at the bottom of the landing page.