



Montgomery County  
Department of Environmental Protection

## RainScapes Gazette

Fall 2015

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### Tree Matter Symposium



**Save the Date!! 4th Annual  
Trees Matter Symposium!!**  
Wednesday, November 4, 2015  
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
Silver Spring Civic Center  
1 Veterans Place  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Learn from some of the country's leading experts such as Dr. Michael Dirr and Holly Shimizu about innovative efforts to plant, protect and preserve trees in urban and suburban settings.  
Admission is \$70.

For more information or to register, click here [Trees Matter Symposium Website](#).

### Trees for Sacred Spaces



Looking for ways to heal the planet?  
Trees for Sacred Places might be just the ticket.

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake is looking for faith owned properties including congregational grounds, retreat centers, summer camps, retirement housing, etc. with space for trees.

This FREE tree planting program provides everything you need to turn large lawns or barren areas into watershed renewing tree canopy and healthy habitats for wildlife. Available to congregations or any faith owned facility specifically in Montgomery County and throughout all of Maryland.

Contact Bonnie at [bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org](mailto:bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org) or call 443-799-0349.

Please check out our [webpage](#)

## Free the trees! Why it's important to remove tree stakes



While staking young trees may seem like a good idea, the stakes can often do more harm than good. Read more to learn why it might be a good idea to skip the stakes.

50 trees planted at a rebuilt school from two years ago had been staked and forgotten, so Montgomery County students recently volunteered on their day off to help DEP save the trees from disease and death.

There is almost never any need to stake a tree, if the tree was well-grown at the nursery, and planted well. Stakes are only needed in the first year if things are expected to bump into them (car doors or soccer players, for instance).

To read the whole blog article, go to [My Green Montgomery](#)

Want a free tree on your property, to provide shade and other benefits? Sign up on [Tree Montgomery](#).

## How to Mulch a Tree



Mulch provides many benefits for trees, including storing water, regulating temperature, protecting soil, and keeping out weeds. Too much mulch, however, can be harmful to trees, causing disease and rot. Follow the steps below to turn your mulch volcano into a mulch ring to help your tree thrive!

Step 1: Remove old mulch: Keep going until you get to bare soil. Don't be scared, you may need to remove a large quantity of grass, mulch, or flowers.

Step 2: Find the Root Flare: It's where the stem, trunk, or bark changes to roots. On small trees, it's usually a change in color or where roots are visible. Remove soil down to the root flare.

Step 3: Add New Mulch: Use mulch without colors or dyes. Shredded hardwood bark is best and can be found at your local hardware store or nursery.

Step 4: Check the Mulch Depth, Mulch should be 3"- 4" deep.

Step 5: Make Sure the Mulch Isn't Touching the Base of the Tree

Step 6: Repeat Steps 3-5 Every Spring and Fall

Have a Mulch Volcano? Fix it!

See the whole blog at [My Green Montgomery](#)



RainScapes is a program provided by the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection which promotes and implements projects which reduce stormwater runoff volume and improve water quality on properties within Montgomery County.

To find out more, go to [rainscapes.org](http://rainscapes.org).

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