

# Stormwater BMP Maintenance E-Newsletter



Summer Edition, July 2012

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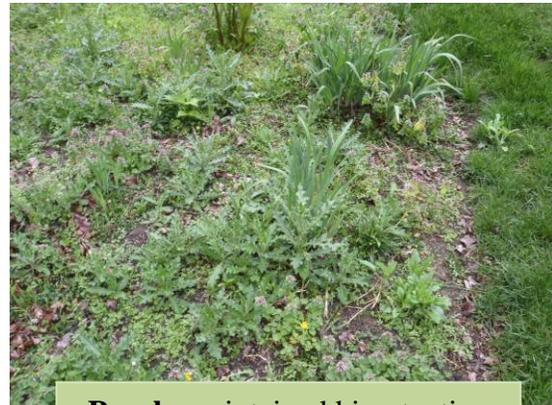
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## Summer Maintenance Tips

- ✓ **Avoid the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides in and around your stormwater facilities — these products pollute our streams.** If manual removal of invasive weeds has been ineffective, limited applications of aquatic-friendly herbicide may be applied by a qualified professional certified by the State of Maryland.
- ✓ Removing non-native invasive **weeds** as soon as you see them in your bioretention facility or sand filter will help to prevent more significant repairs later on. Ask DEP for a copy of your bioretention design if you are unsure what plants should be there. Replenishing **mulch** to a 3 inch depth (but no deeper) can also help to reduce weeds.



**Well** maintained bioretention  
with native plants



**Poorly** maintained bioretention  
with mostly non-native invasives

- ✓ Contact Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) if a 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 (Call 311 or email [MC.Stormwater@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:MC.Stormwater@montgomerycountymd.gov)).
- ✓ With large thunderstorms, comes the movement of trash and debris that can deposit in stormwater facilities or drain inlets. Please continue to remove all trash and debris monthly from your property, especially in and around ponds, filters, and bioretention structures.

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- ✓ **Controlling Algae & Other Pond Vegetation - Nutrient Management** –Pond algae is often associated with excess nutrients washing into the pond from nearby lawns. Property-owners in the pond's watershed can help prevent excess algae by only fertilizing at the recommended time and frequency. To learn more about healthy lawns, your community association, along with other residences that may drain into the pond, can contact the Montgomery County Master Gardeners (301-590-9650 or mgmont@umd.edu). Using fountains, bubblers or other devices may also help control algae in ponds. Be sure to also pick up pet waste, which is a source of bacteria and nutrients in ponds and our local streams.

## Feature Topic – Serious Pond Structural Failure

DEP's contractor recently inspected a residential wet pond and found the riser control structure broken and non-functional. Since this pond is privately maintained, the property owner is required to perform all the maintenance repairs. You can prevent this type of repair from becoming your HOA's burden by doing your regular facility maintenance and by transferring the structural maintenance for your stormwater facility to Montgomery County. There is no charge for this maintenance transfer because the program is funded by the Water Quality Protection Charge, which all residents of Montgomery County pay annually.

Please visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwatertransfer](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwatertransfer) for more information.



## Fall 2012 Contractor Training Added

Thanks to all the contractors that attended our March 2012 Contractors training. DEP has decided to hold an *additional* Fall 2012 training for any contractors that were unable to attend the Spring 2012 training. This fall's class size is limited to 50 participants. Companies should limit their attendees to two (2) individuals. Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Tuesday, October 23, 2012  
8:00am to Noon.  
Mid-County (Up-County) Regional Services Center, Room #3,  
12900 Middlebrook Road  
Germantown, MD. 20874.

Please RSVP to DEP by August 31, 2012 at  
[MC.Stormwater@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:MC.Stormwater@montgomerycountymd.gov) for more information.



**Contractor Training**

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## **New 2012 Maintenance Fact Sheets - Coming August 2012!**

DEP is wrapping up a consultant effort to develop stormwater maintenance fact sheets for each facility type. The fact sheets will begin to be available on [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater) at the end of August 2012. These sheets will include information such as:

- ❖ Why is it important to keep my facility maintained?
- ❖ How will I know what maintenance is required?
- ❖ Who is responsible for maintenance?
- ❖ Other Maintenance 101 frequently asked questions



## **Stream Steward Volunteer Opportunities!**

DEP is beginning a volunteer program which includes hands on opportunities with Montgomery County vegetated stormwater facilities, such as bioretention facilities. For more information, participate in an orientation session on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am to 12:00pm. Contact Ana Arriaza for more information at [ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov)

## **Resources for More Information**

More information on stormwater maintenance is available at our website: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater)

Click on "[Contractor Resources](#)" for specific contractor training information.

### EMAIL

If you have any questions on stormwater facility maintenance, please contact us at [MC.Stormwater@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:MC.Stormwater@montgomerycountymd.gov).

This quarterly newsletter 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 over 4,400 stormwater facilities and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) ensures that they are all regularly maintained and functioning as-designed to protect our local streams. These facilities include dry ponds, wet ponds, underground hydrodynamic structures, bioretention facilities, and much more. To view previous editions of the newsletter, visit <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dectmpl.asp?url=/Content/dep/water/stormwaterfacility.asp#subscribe>