

Stormwater BMP Maintenance E-Newsletter



Winter Edition, February 2012

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Winter Maintenance Tips

- ✓ Make sure your snow plow drivers are aware of storm drain and stormwater inlets and consider marking their locations. It is not uncommon for snow plows to hit and damage inlets - thereby costing property owners unnecessary repair expenses. One inlet repair can cost \$1,000 or more. *DEP only maintains transferred stormwater facilities – DEP does not maintain private storm drain pipes or inlets.*
- ✓ Don't plow snow into stormwater facilities or in front of storm drains inlets. Large piles of snow (until they melt), sand, and road grit can actually block the flow of runoff into stormwater facilities. Remember that all sand and salt used for de-icing eventually washes into our storm drains, stormwater facilities, and local waterways. Here is a Chesapeake Bay Trust bloggers thoughts on how to de-ice your property in an environmentally friendly way: <http://ow.ly/8R4eN>
- ✓ If you have permeable pavement/concrete, do not apply sand, abrasives or salt – this can clog the pore spaces and lead to costly pavement rehabilitation. Once temperatures rise above freezing, any remaining snow should melt and drain down through the pavement instead of refreezing into black ice.
- ✓ Winter is the best time to remove any woody growth from pond dam embankments.
- ✓ For vegetated facilities, late winter is the time to prune dead or broken branches, and to cut back all perennials and grasses to a height of 4-12". Also, remove any winter weeds.
- ✓ Reminder - Owners now receive a letter 30 days prior to their scheduled inspection date requiring them to complete their non-structural maintenance prior to the inspection. Non-structural maintenance includes grass cutting and trash removal around the facility, and vegetation removal around the dam embankment, control structure, and inflow points.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Spring is just around the corner. Now is a good time to schedule contractors for spring mowing of pond embankments.

Annual Contractor Training – March 8, 2012

DEP's annual stormwater maintenance contractor's training will be held on March 8, 2012 at the Executive Office Building Lobby Auditorium from 9:00 am until noon. Please contact DEP at MC.Stormwater@montgomerycountymd.gov for more information.



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Feature Project - **Germantown Swim Center Bioretention Maintenance**



In Fall 2011, DEP completed repair work on three bioretention/biofiltration facilities at Germantown Swim Center. The bioretention facilities were overgrown with invasive weeds.



Maintenance crews removed the invasive plants including thistle, mile-a-minute vine, morning glory, pokeweed, milkweed, and others. Crews also repaired areas of erosion, installed riprap at inflow areas to prevent future erosion, replanted the facility, and mulched with double shredded hardwood mulch.



The bioretention facilities were replanted with switch grass, tall fescue, fireworks goldenrod, joe pye weed, & rose mallow and are now functioning correctly.

Website Update – **Maryland Dam Safety Manual**

DEP has added a link on our website (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater) under “Related Links” for the Maryland Dam Safety Manual. This Manual assists dam owners in understanding their responsibilities for the operation and maintenance of their dam.

Resources for More Information

More information on stormwater maintenance is available at our website:
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.

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>