

Stormwater BMP Maintenance E-Newsletter



Summer Edition, July 2011

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Summer Maintenance Tips

- 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.
- Contact Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) if a facility holds water for more than 72 hours, as this could indicate a problem and lead to mosquito problems (except for wet ponds, which are designed to hold water).
- 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.

Feature Topic - Non-Structural Maintenance and Removing Non-Native Invasive Plants

Removal of non-native invasive plants that interfere with the functioning of a stormwater facility is required non-structural maintenance for all property owners. Certain invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed are particularly aggressive and will require more than mowing or cutting. In the dry pond photographed below, the invasive plants grew back 5-6 feet tall only 6 weeks after they were cut. The invasive plants in this situation have grown so thick that they may prevent the stormwater from gradually leaving the pond, and could shade out the grass. Since good grass cover is required, then the grass must be reestablished at additional expense to the owner. Additionally, invasive plants can become so thick that access to the site can be restricted making future maintenance tasks difficult and more costly. Since many stormwater facilities are located close to residential yards and community amenities, uncontrolled invasive plants will likely spread to become a community problem in addition to a stormwater facility problem. In some cases, the use of chemicals may be necessary around ponds, but their use may be restricted. Contact a qualified professional to implement best management practices.

More Information on Non-Native Invasive Plants can be found at:

- **MNCPPC Controlling Non-Native Invasives Guide:**
http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/Natural_Resources_Stewardship/Veg_Management/documents/nni-best_mngmnt_practices-april09.pdf
- **NPS and USFWS Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Areas:**
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/>



3/29/2011: Invasives Cut



6 Weeks Later -
5-6 ft. Re-growth

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Helpful Tips - Controlling Algae & Other Pond Vegetation

There are a variety of ways to treat algae and other pond vegetation, such as duckweed, elodea, and watermeal. The management of algae and other aquatic vegetation a non-structural task for which the property owner bears the responsibility for. Here are some helpful tips:

- **Nutrient Management** - Property-owners in the pond's drainage area can address the nutrient problem by managing the amount of fertilizers that are running off of properties and getting into the pond. Your community association along with other residences that may drain into the pond can contact the Montgomery County Master Gardeners to learn how to manage their lawns and landscaping to reduce the amount of fertilizers that are leaving the properties.
- **Pond Aeration** - Installing a surface aerator, such as a fountain, may help add oxygen to the pond and control an algae problem; however, it will not help duckweed or floating vegetation. A bubble aerator may help with controlling the nutrient levels in the pond, and may subsequently reduce over time the duckweed bloom occurring in the pond.
- **Manual Harvesting of Algae** - The pond owner could hire a contractor to mechanically remove the floating vegetation. This maintenance method should be performed twice a year, early and late summer to remove the initial growth in spring and the bloom that may occur over the summer months.
- **Chemical Application** - DEP relies on the guidance provided by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Per Maryland Department of Agriculture's pesticide regulations, a licensed aquatic applicator must apply any pesticide/herbicide to the pond. Please be advised that if you choose to apply a chemical to the pond, the submerged aquatic vegetation may also be affected by the pesticide/herbicide. In addition, the chemicals could harm or kill the fish and other aquatic life in the pond. Also, if the pond is an in stream pond, which means it is fed by an incoming stream and continuously drains directly to a stream on the downstream side of the dam, any chemical you may choose to apply could affect the aquatic habitat downstream.

New Training Opportunity – Montgomery College - Stormwater Maintenance Class for Vegetated Facilities, July 18-20, 2011 (There will be another session in the near future)

This course will provide you with instructions on how to perform inspection, minor repairs, and maintenance of plant materials surrounding bio-retention facilities according to Montgomery County and Maryland State guidelines. Other topics include contract planning and developing a maintenance plan for bio-retention components. This course has been endorsed by DEP.

**Course: MGT370, Germantown Campus, CRN# 11798, 9am – 3:45pm
\$107 +\$64 fee=\$171; Non-Md. Residents add \$120**

Free Structural Maintenance!

If you own or manage a *residential* stormwater facility you may qualify for free structural maintenance! This benefit is provided for no additional charge to residential communities and is funded by Montgomery County's Water Quality Protection Charge. See www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwatertransfer for more information.

Resources for More Information

More information on stormwater maintenance is available at our website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater

WEBSITE

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

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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>