



## Stormwater BMP Maintenance Newsletter



Skunk cabbage emerging

### Waking From the Winter

This winter seemed to persist in to what most of us were hoping would already be spring. It's time to spring forth and maintain those SWM structures!

### Don't Be a Dummy -- Be Safe When Maintaining a Stormwater Facility

Stormwater management structures have many components, all of which must be inspected and maintained. Below ground structures require Confined Space Entry Training and Certification. The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection partners with Montgomery County Fire and Rescue to conduct training for confined space rescues.

By partnering with the stormwater inspectors, the rescue teams know more about the potential hazards associated with each facility. And the stormwater inspectors know the rescuers are well equipped to help them in an underground emergency situation. We'd like to remind everyone that stormwater management and storm drain structures and pipes are dangerous.



Follow these safety tips:

- Do not climb on or enter these structures as they may have toxic atmospheres or "bad air".
- They present fall and entrapment hazards as well as drowning hazards.

Remember, professionals who enter drainage structures follow strict safety protocols, such as atmosphere/air monitoring and the use of full body harnesses and specially designed equipment to lower and retrieve them from confined spaces.

## 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.
- 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 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.

## Plowed!



This stormdrain inlet was no match for the snowplow that mangled it. Check all of your structures that may have been exposed to snow equipment. Be sure they are not damaged and are functioning properly.

## Upcoming Entertainment and Learning Opportunity

### **The Montgomery County Greenfest Saturday March 28, 2015 11:00 - 4:00**

A one-day festival focused on the people and environment of the County!

Join hundreds of your neighbors and local organizations to celebrate our amazing local environment and learn about the key role YOU play in keeping it healthy. The event is free. 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.