



STORMWATER BMP MAINTENANCE NEWSLETTER

Excess Nutrients in SWM Ponds Make for Perfect Algae Habitat in Summer

Large waterfowl populations as well as over-fertilization of lawns and other surrounding green spaces can add excess nutrients beyond what a stormwater pond's natural plants and beneficial microbes can handle. Following recommended turf grass management techniques and discouraging waterfowl can reduce the amount of algae that grows in ponds. The Maryland Sea Grant Extension prepared a brief on this topic. Full article and more information available [here](#).



Duck Snacking on Pond Algae, by Daniel X. O'Neill



DEP Completed Yearly Inspections of County Owned High Hazard Dams

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (MC DEP) is responsible for the inspection of all stormwater maintenance facilities in the County, ensuring that they are properly maintained and repaired as necessary. This includes stormwater ponds/lakes and their associated dams. Maintaining the ponds and dams in safe condition is the responsibility of every dam owner.

The [Maryland Department of the Environment \(MDE\)](#) requires all dams in Maryland be inspected a minimum of once every three years. Larger dams are inspected every year. This spring, DEP featured a dam safety inspection blog on My Green Montgomery. County contractors inspect all dam features, inside and out. Any deficiencies are noted in a report and required repairs are completed by maintenance crews. The full dam inspection was captured in photos. To view the full blog, please click the photo.

Summer Maintenance Tips

- When asked what maintenance tip he'd most like included in this newsletter, one of our SWM Program Managers said "**Mow, mow, mow**". Remember to schedule your contractor for mowing of pond dam embankments.
- After storms, remove plant and large debris that could become lodged in outflow structures.
- [Contact 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.
- Please [contact DEP](#) if any entity approaches you about work on or near the dam of your pond. Utilities are often

located under or very near dams. DEP staff can assist you in coordinating with the utility companies.

Summer of Safety Campaign

Please visit [Montgomery County's Summer of Safety webpage](#). It's a single-stop resource for safety tips and information to help protect all who live, work and play in Montgomery County.

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.