



STORMWATER BMP MAINTENANCE *NEWSLETTER*



Summer means fun in the sun! And this year, it means ramping up efforts to remove trash from stormwater management features in an effort to FIGHT THE BITE.



It's that time of year.

FIGHT THE BITE

Protect you and
your family against

ZIKA

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mosquito



By understanding where mosquitoes breed and what actions everyone can take, we can all have more peace of mind and prevent health concerns.

Stormwater management facilities are often wrongly blamed for large numbers of mosquitoes, because the facilities contain collected rainfall runoff. But when a stormwater pond or environmental site design feature (such as a rain garden or bioretention) is designed and maintained properly, it should not contribute to excessive mosquito populations.

Mosquitoes that live in the natural environment primarily utilize wetlands, areas of slow moving streams, ponds, and vernal pools to complete the larval phase of their life cycle. All of these naturally occurring habitats contain zones for a multitude of different organisms to colonize, including predators of mosquitoes such as dragonflies, damselflies, beetles, birds and frogs. Mosquito populations that exist in these locations are kept in check by the predator/prey interactions that occur within these systems and they provide an important food source to both vertebrates and invertebrates that feed upon them. The complexity of these natural habitat features provides hiding places, food sources, egg laying sites, and hunting grounds for a healthy balance of water treatment, nutrient cycling, and predator activity.

Stormwater ponds are designed to mimic nature in such a way as to create a balanced ecosystem that will support enough mosquito predators to keep the mosquito populations in check. Rain gardens and bioretention areas are not designed to hold water long enough to support egg hatching. The mosquitoes that carry the Zika virus prefer to breed in small containers in areas close to humans, like gutters, trash, or outdoor toys and yard equipment.

Please do your part to fight the bite and remove trash from around your stormwater feature, clear low flows and outfalls of debris, and keep common grounds clean.

Please visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mosquito or our [MyGreenMontgomery Blog](#) for more information.

Summer Maintenance Tips

- 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.

WEBINAR: Getting To Know Your DEP

Join us to learn more about what we do and what you can do to help protect Montgomery County's Environmental Resources.

Webinar topics will include:

Energy efficiency incentives • Trees and air quality • Sustainable landscaping • Pesticide laws • Solid waste & recycling • Financial incentives • Stormwater management • Pet Waste

For more information or to sign up, please visit: montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/webinars



WED. JUNE 15, 2016 10 – 11 AM