



Stormwater BMP Maintenance Newsletter



Long gone are the colorful blooms of summer and fall, yet there is work to be done.

Winter is the Best Time to Remove Woody Growth

It is a prime time to remove woody growth from pond embankments and to trim planted buffer areas. Many of the herbaceous plants have died down and are dormant, allowing easier access to the larger woody stems. Maintaining a healthy buffer means better functionality of the pond, and removing woody growth from dams before it becomes well rooted can mean the difference in minor versus major maintenance costs. For a more in depth discussion of the topic, please click [here](#) to view Solitude Lake Management's November blog. Linking to this blog is not a DEP endorsement for their services, rather the intention is an information share.



NEVER SAFE TO SKATE



Pond Safety Outreach Campaign: Request for Photos

Have a digital photo of your pond in all its winter splendor? DEP is looking for photos to use in a Winter Pond Safety Campaign. The more enticing, the better. We will reach out via social media to get the word out that ice on ponds in Montgomery County is NEVER SAFE TO SKATE ON.

Photo credit will be given. Please email Audra.Lew@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov for more info.

Winter Maintenance Tips

- Consider marking stormdrain inlet locations to inform plow contractors of their existence. It is not uncommon for snow plows to hit and damage inlets - thereby costing property owners unnecessary repair expenses. DEP only maintains transferred stormwater facilities – DEP does not maintain private stormdrain pipes or inlets.
- Don't allow plowing of snow into stormwater facilities or in front of stormdrain inlets. Large piles of snow, sand, and road grit can actually block the flow of runoff and cause flooding in roads. In addition to blocking stormdrains, when snow piles melt, they leach salt and road grit into stormwater facilities and our streams.
- If you have permeable pavement/concrete, do not apply sand and cut back almost entirely on salt—clogging the pore spaces can lead to costly pavement rehabilitation. Even in cold weather, porous pavement will often melt snow and water off the surface before it can turn into ice, reducing maintenance costs.
- 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 Learning Opportunities

SWM Contractor Training

DEP's annual stormwater maintenance contractor's training will be held on March 23, 2015 at the Executive Office Building Lobby Auditorium from 8:00 am until 4:00. Please contact DEP at MC.Stormwater@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov for more information.

The Montgomery County GreenFest

Join DEP on Saturday, March 28th at Montgomery College Takoma Park/Silver Spring to hear from national and local speakers, explore exhibits, meet local nonprofits, participate in "How to" workshops, listen to music or watch an environmental film. The event is FREE and will be held rain or shine. To learn more, visit www.MontgomeryCountyGreenfest.org.

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.