

Notes from Discussion of a County Urban Tree Bill, May 16, 2011 meeting

Present: Bob Kaufman, Maryland National Capital Building Industry Association
Caren Madsen, representing Conservation Montgomery
Diane Cameron, Audubon Naturalist Society
Clark Wagner, Bozzuto
Marcia Rucker, Glen Echo Heights Citizens Association
Carter Willson, Carter, Inc.
Chuck Sullivan, Renewing Montgomery and Chuck Sullivan Homes
Larry Cafritz, Laurence Cafritz Builders
Dan Snyder, builder representing Pleasant

The discussion was the fourth of a continuing dialogue with members of the public, building and environmental communities in Montgomery County.

Diane Cameron drew a diagram and discussed how she will calculate the volume of stormwater that an individual tree or cluster of trees will capture on a site, using soil quality and volume as part of the equation. There was discussion around the savings and environmental value of using trees instead of, or in tandem with, structural stormwater practices on-site. Cost of installing one drywell is about \$2,500. Size of a rain tank depends on size of the roof of a house.

A builder shared some site photos of tanks showing the significant amount of room needed to dig and install a rain chamber. Photos in these notes on following pages. Builders invited enviro and civic community to go out on sites and see what is involved to get a better sense of why trees have to be taken out to make way for drywells and other types of rain chambers.

Builders concluded they are more inclined to save a tree or trees outside of the footprint of a house if they are allowed to receive stormwater credits using trees instead of installing structural devices.

There was also discussion around the July 1st deadline imposed by the County Executive and how to meet that deadline.

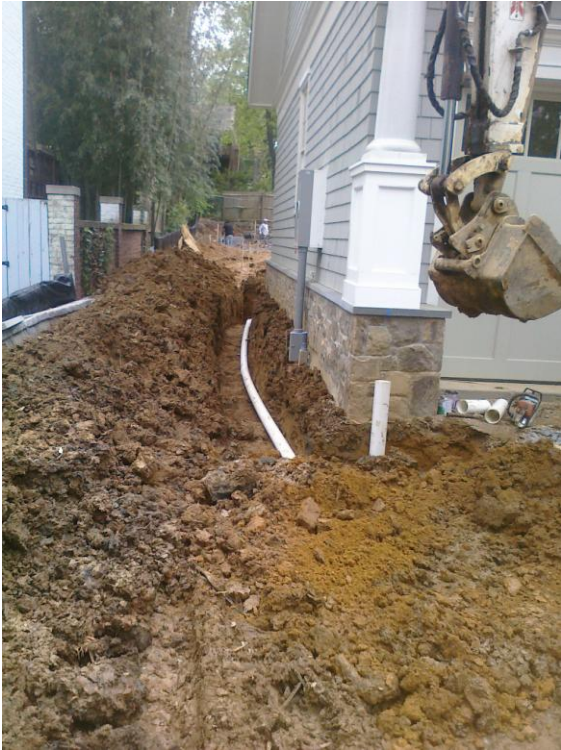
NEXT STEPS:

- 1- Diane will develop a set of calculations and a paper. She will send the paper to DEP and DPS for review and the group will get a draft.
- 2- Builders will send the paper to their engineers for review.

Site photos:



Examples of raintank install. This site requires 7 of these for house roof downspouts and driveway and must be 20' apart and 20' from house. It definitely is a destructive and ravaging process to get these in and really impossible to save anything around them or on the way to them.





Assembling a rain tank on a homebuilding site. Scale of the tank and room needed is a reason sites are clear-cut rather than leaving the ability to spare a tree or two on-site during construction.



Rain tank in place



Digging a site for rain tanks to be placed.

