# Environmental Site Design In the Critical Area

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#### ESD in the Critical Area

- Background and history
- New standards and means of compliance
- Guidance document
- Spreadsheet tool (Nick Kelly)
- Next steps

#### Where is the Critical Area?

- All waters of the Chesapeake Bay, the Atlantic Coastal Bays, and their tributaries to the head of tide
- All land under these waters
- All land within 1,000 feet of the landward edge of tidal waters and tidal wetlands
- Approximately 11% of the State



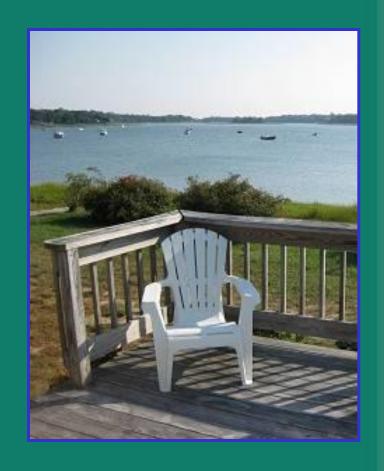
### Overlay Zones Used to Implement

- Critical Area boundary drawn 1,000' from tidal waters and tidal wetlands
- All land within boundary classified based on land use at time of program adoption
- IDA Intensely Developed Area
- LDA Limited Development Area
- RCA Resource Conservation Area



# How Does the Program Work?

- State Law and regulations require each affected jurisdiction to have a Critical Area program
- Local program incorporated into local zoning code
- Project review, permitting, and enforcement is through local planning and zoning
- The Critical Area Commission (CAC), a State agency, provides oversight, technical assistance, supplemental review



# Why Require Additional Analysis in the Critical Area?

 Despite several decades of stormwater management regulation, stormwater is the fastest growing nutrient source in the Bay

watershed



#### That Last 1,000 Feet Does Matter!

 Recent research has conclusively demonstrated that both the amount of development within a watershed and its proximity to an estuary or wetlands contribute to the condition of its benthic, fish and bird communities



#### The 10% Rule

- There has been a stormwater management requirement specific to the Critical Area IDA since 1986
- Known as the "10% Rule" the provision requires post-development water quality coming from a particular site to be 10% better than it was prior to development or redevelopment
- Water quality is estimated based on site imperviousness before and after development
- Phosphorus is used as the "keystone" pollutant

#### Evolution of the 10% Rule

- 1986 Included in Critical Area Criteria
- 1987 First 10% Guidance Issued by MWCOG
- 1993 Second 10% Guidance released
- 2000 MDE Stormwater Manual issued
- 2003 Third 10% Guidance issued
- 2007 Passage of the Maryland Stormwater Act
- 2008 Passage of HB 1253 (Critical Area)
- 2009 Updated MDE Stormwater Manual
- 2013 NEW ESD in the Critical Area Manual and updated regulations

#### Phosphorus Standard For New Development

- Design for Phosphorus Removal
  - Maximum acceptable annual phosphorus load of 0.3 pounds per acre – the same as "woods in good condition"
    - Previously was 0.5 pounds per acre
  - For new development, the standard of "woods in good condition" will be met from both a hydrological standpoint as well as a nutrient standpoint
- Meets Maryland water quality standards
- Based on the Bay-wide TMDL

# Phosphorus Standard For Redevelopment

- Updating definition of "redevelopment" to match MDE regulations
- If site exceeds 40% imperviousness prior to development – the redevelopment standard will apply
- The removal requirement for redevelopment will be a reduction in the pre-development phosphorus load by 25%
- While this is a higher standard than the existing 10% Rule, the increased requirement corresponds to the recent change to MDE's redevelopment standard (treating 50% of existing imperviousness rather than 20%)

#### Two Track Review Process

- The guidance and spreadsheet presented today apply to larger (i.e., > 5000 sq. ft.) development projects
- Another guidance document is being developed to streamline review of small projects that otherwise are not required to meet ESD to the MEP but are required to meet the Phosphorus standard in the Critical Area



Photo courtesy of Blue Water Baltimore

# Compliance Spreadsheet

- Allows designers to simultaneously track both MDE ESD and Critical Area ESD Phosphorus removal requirements
- Enables designers to quickly find the most cost-effective combination of ESD practices that comply with both laws
- Replaces clumsy paper worksheets for the 10% rule

#### Maximizing Phosphorus Removal

- Removal efficiencies are provided for all ESD practices using research provided by the Center for Watershed Protection
- Not all ESD practices are created equally from a nutrient removal standpoint
- Efficiencies vary from a low of 20% to a high of 80%
- Analysis for Phosphorus will encourage designers to use more effective practices on a site-by-site basis



Photo courtesy of CSN

# Hydrologic Soil Groups

- Site analysis of pre-development hydrologic soil groups
- Soil properties govern which ESD practices are feasible at a given site, and can strongly influence the phosphorus removal rate they can achieve
- To help address the difficulty of poor soils (C/D) within the Critical Area, guidance will include a specification for soil restoration that can be used to increase removal efficiencies



# Volume Treated Helps

- The spreadsheet will automatically compute an increase in BMP efficiency once the rainfall treated exceeds 1 inch.
- It will reach an efficiency maximum at treatment of 2.7 inches of rainfall (similar to MDE ESD credit)
- Similarly, the spreadsheet will reduce the efficiency if the BMP is undersized



Photo courtesy of Robert Dexter

# Coastal Plain Challenges



 The guidance document will include expanded design recommendations for ESD practices to promote more reliable phosphorus removal and withstand the unique conditions of the Maryland Coastal Plain (CSN, 2008)

# Coastal Plain Challenges



Photo by Gwynne Schultz, Maryland DNR

- Guidance addresses the potential impact of sea level rise on stormwater infra-structure
- Clarifies the use of "direct tidal discharge" in addressing certain volume requirements
- Explains rules for stormwater related disturbance within the Critical Area Buffer

#### Consistency with MDE Regulations

- This edition conforms to the State-wide methods and equations prescribed for ESD to the MEP compliance (MDE, 2009)
- Uses the same nomenclature and practice names as outlined in the new State-wide manual

# Not Just the IDA Anymore?

- While not immediately planned, the phosphorus standard may be considered for the entire Critical Area
  - Information will be gathered based on future review of IDA projects and a decision will be made
- Similarly, if the spreadsheet tool is used and it becomes evident that the Phosphorus standard is <u>always</u> met by ESD to the MEP, then an assessment will be done to explore eliminating the requirement

#### Critical Area Offset Credits

- While not official ESD practices, two
   Critical Area offset credits are possible
  - Reforestation
  - Soil restoration
- These would be available for use when ESD to the MEP is met but there is a deficit in phosphorus removal

# Clarifying Policies

- What are the rules for measuring impervious cover?
- How do permeable pavements and green roofs affect your site's IC footprint?
- How do you define site area for new/redevelopment?
- What are the rules for working inside of the Critical Area Buffer?

#### Standard Review Policies

- Where do you get data on predevelopment hydrologic soil groups?
- How do you deal with projects that cross the Critical Area boundary?
- How do you handle offsite runoff?
- What constitutes a direct discharge to tidal waters?
- How close is close enough to meet standard?
- How does this guide differ from the 2009
   MDE stormwater manual?

#### Updated Offset Policy and Fee Schedule

- Updates the 2003 Critical Area guidance on offset fees - New Rate of \$32,500/lb
- More limited options for off-site compliance
- More guidance for setting up local offset fee programs
- New cost data used to present an updated offset fee structure and qualifying criteria for off-site restoration projects

# Questions?





# Purpose

- Present the latest draft of the Critical Area Commission's Environmental Site Design (ESD) Worksheet
- Use the spreadsheet with an example project
- Receive feedback/criticism on the current spreadsheet draft



# Critical Area ESD Spreadsheet

- Calculates both Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) ESD and Critical Area ESD requirements
- Will replace existing Critical Area 10% phosphorus reduction calculations



# Critical Area ESD Spreadsheet

- For projects in the Intensely Developed Area (IDA)
- For projects whose Limit of Disturbance (LOD)
   5,000 ft<sup>2</sup>
- Additional guidance for projects with an LOD < 5,000 ft<sup>2</sup> to be developed



#### Previous 10% Phosphorus Worksheet

#### Worksheet A: Standard Application Process

Calculating Pollutant Removal Requirements<sup>1</sup>

Step 1	: Calculate Existing a	nd Proposed	Site Impervio	usness	
A.	Calculate Percent Impervio	ousness			
1)	Site Area within the Critical Area IDA, A =			acres	
2)	Site Impervious Surface Area, Existing and Proposed, (See Table 4.1 for details)				
		(a) Existing (a	acres)	(b) Proposed (acres)	
	Roads Parking lots Driveways Sidewalks/paths Rooftops Decks Swimming pools/ponds Other Impervious Surface Area				
3)	Imperviousness (I)				
	Existing Imperviousness, Ipre	= = =	Impervious S (Step 2a) / (S	Surface Area / Site Area Step 1) ) / () %	

С		Ξ	Flow-weighted mean concentration of the pollutant (total phosphorus)		
			in urban runoff (mg/l) = 0.30 mg/l		
Α		1	Area of the site within the Critical Area IDA (acres)		
8.	16	=	Includes regional constants and unit conversion factors		
Step 4:			Calculate the Pollutant Removal Requirement (RR)		
R	R	=	L <sub>post</sub> - (0.9) (L <sub>pre</sub> )		
		Ξ	() - (0.9) ()		
		Ξ	lbs/year of total phosphorus		
W	Where:				
R	R	=	Pollutant removal requirement (lbs/year)		
Lp	ost	=	Average annual load of total phosphorus exported from the post- development site (lbs/year)		
L	re	=	Average annual load of total phosphorus exported from the site prior to development (lbs/year)		

#### New! ESD to the MEP Worksheet



- Allows tracking of both phosphorus removal and environmental site design
- Enables designers to find most cost-effective combination of ESD practices that comply with both laws
- Replaces paper worksheets!

#### Differs From Previous Draft Versions

- Draft presented in Spring 2011
  - One spreadsheet tab
  - Did not allow for multiple Best Management Practices (BMP) of the same type
  - Did not allow for specificity of each BMP
  - Green roofs did not have a phosphorus removal efficiency percentage
  - One phosphorus removal rate per BMP
  - Some calculations didn't match MDE computations



100'S OF FUN TEMPLATES TO CREATE YOUR OWN SPREADSHEETS AT HOME

My Spreadsheets Are Guaranteed 100% Mistrake Free.

# New Draft Spreadsheet

- Multiple tabs One for each Best Management Practice
  - Allows for multiples of the same BMP
- Allows for practice-specific parameters (surface area, ponding depth, media depth, etc.)
- Green roofs have a phosphorus removal efficiency percentage
- Phosphorus removal rate based on the amount of watershed inches treated (0-2.7 inches)
- Calculations glitch on the MDE computations fixed (thanks for the help, MDE!!!!)

#### Goals of Using the Spreadsheet

 Alignment of MDE and Critical Area ESD stormwater goals

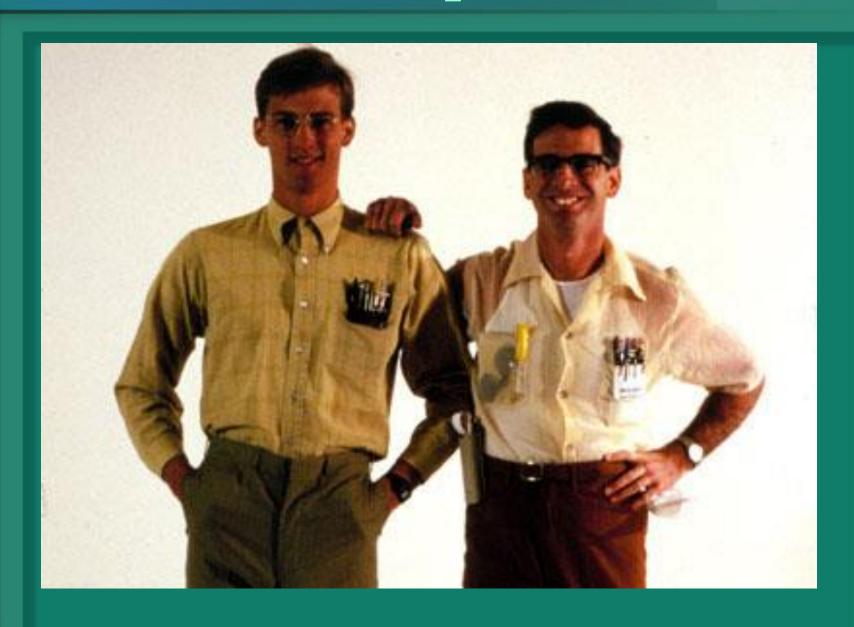
- "One spreadsheet to rule them all"
  - Saves time for engineers, reviewers, and applicants



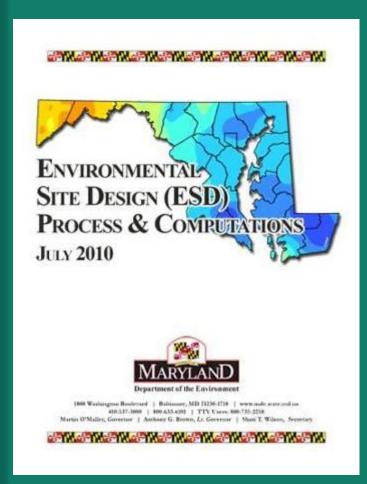
### Ultimate Goal: To Avoid This!



#### Let's Test the Spreadsheet!



#### Spreadsheet Example



- Example: Residential Development
- Taken from MDE's ESD
   Process and
   Computations
   Publication (July 2010)

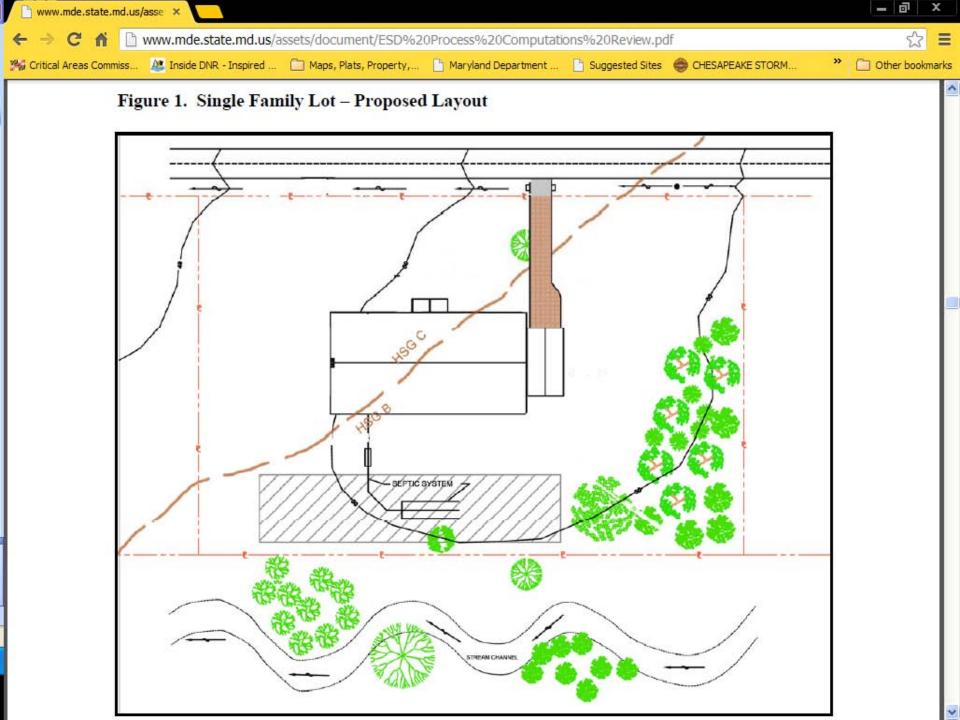
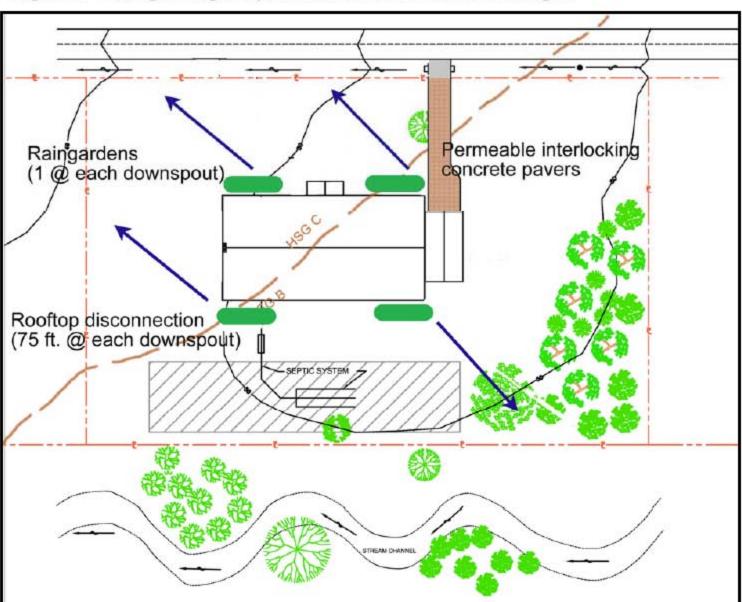
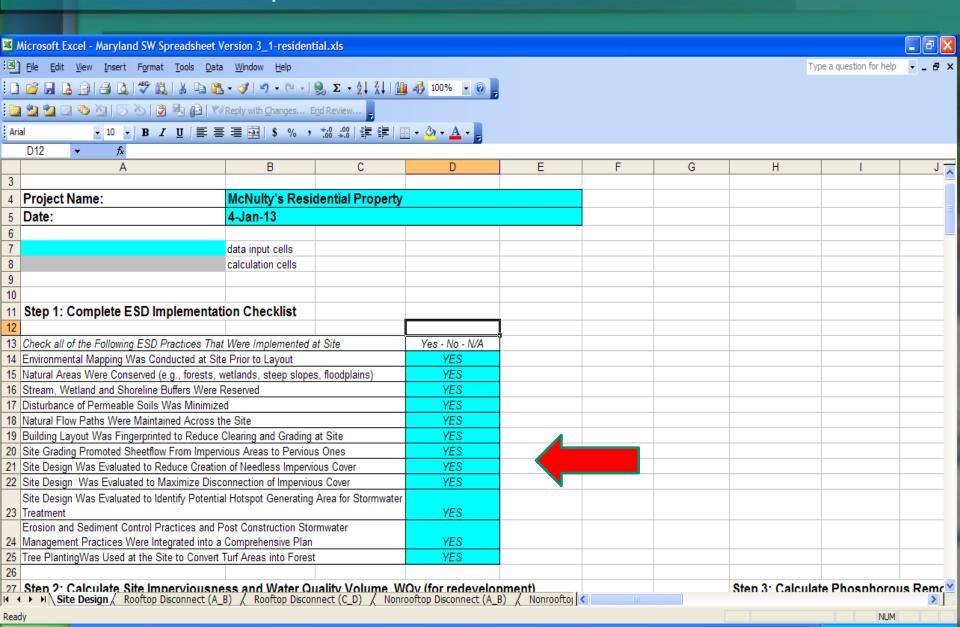


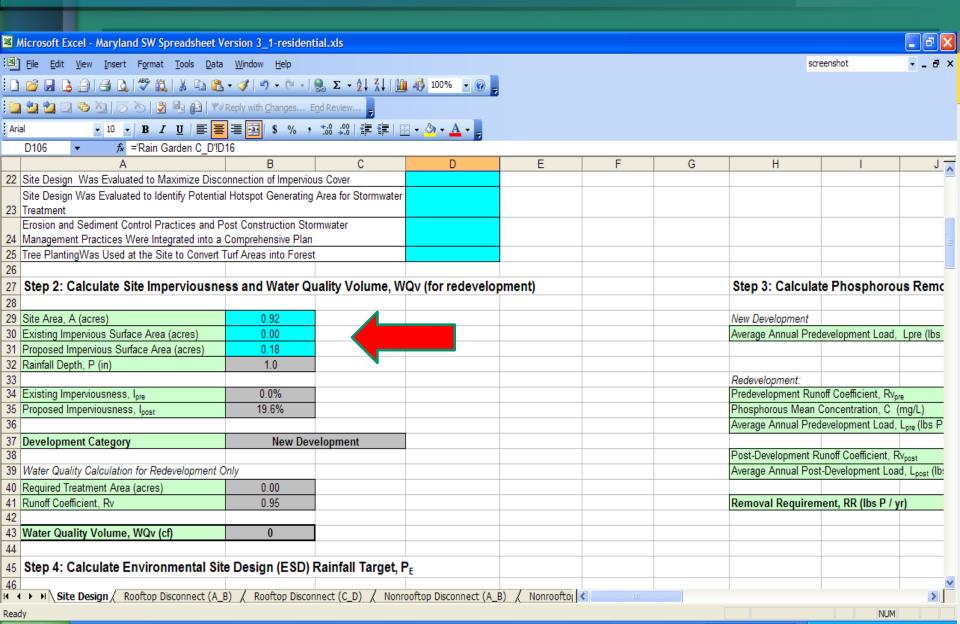
Figure 2. Concept Design Layout of ESD Practices and Techniques



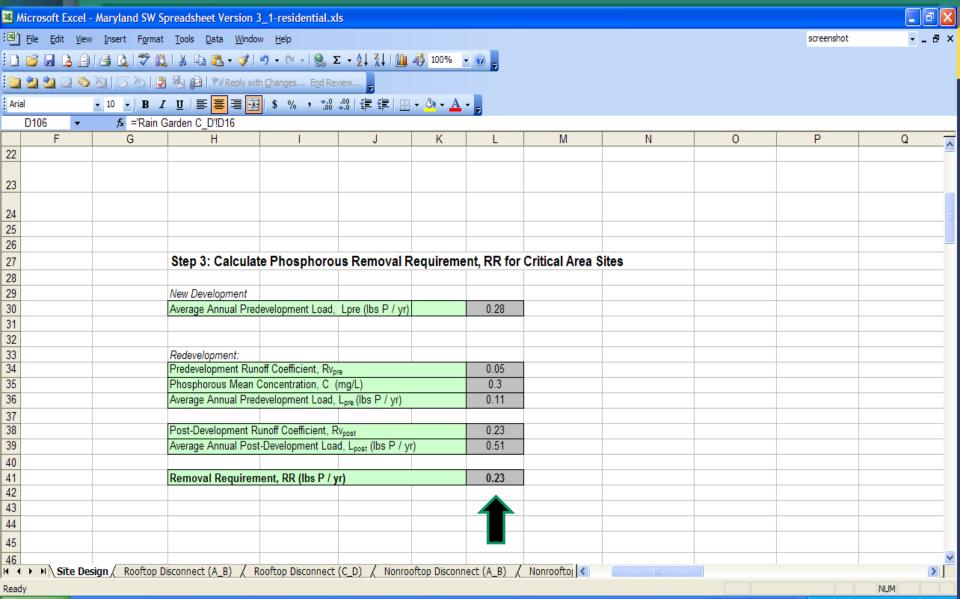
### Step 1 – ESD Checklist



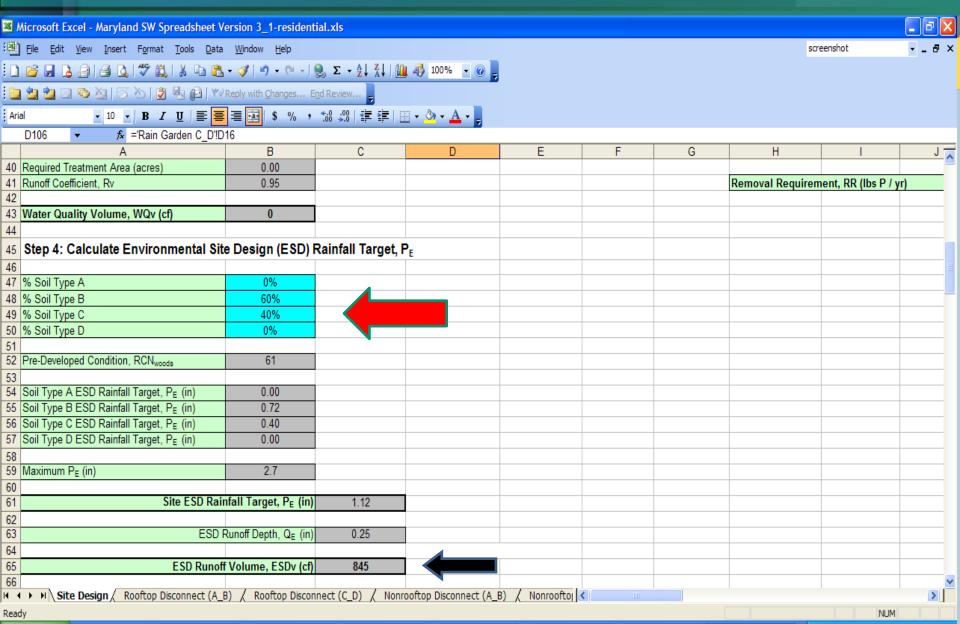
## Step 2 – Site Imperviousness



# Step 3 – Critical Area Calculations



## Step 4 – ESD Rainfall Target



#### Bored Yet?

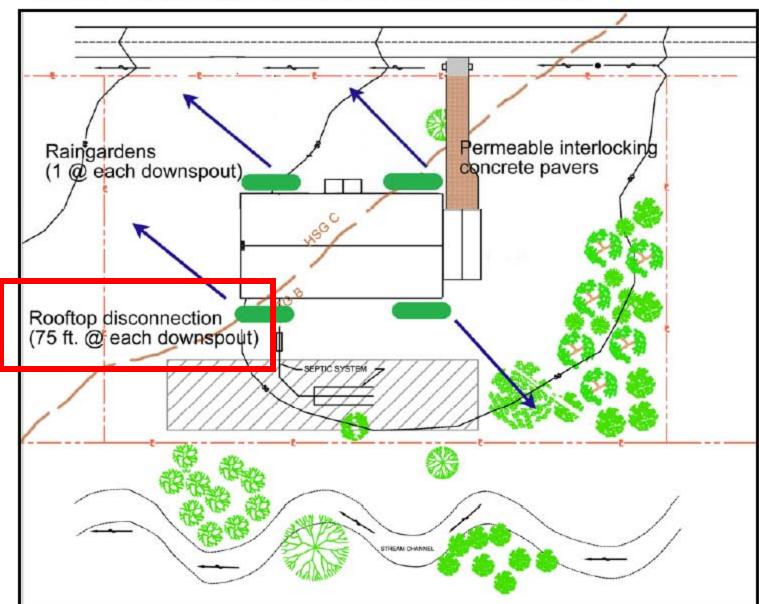




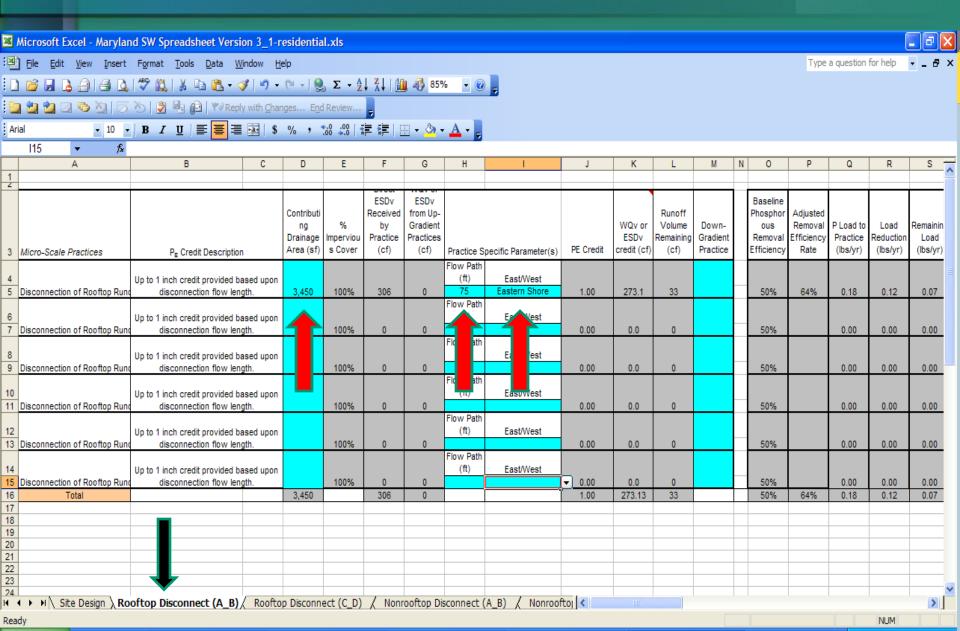




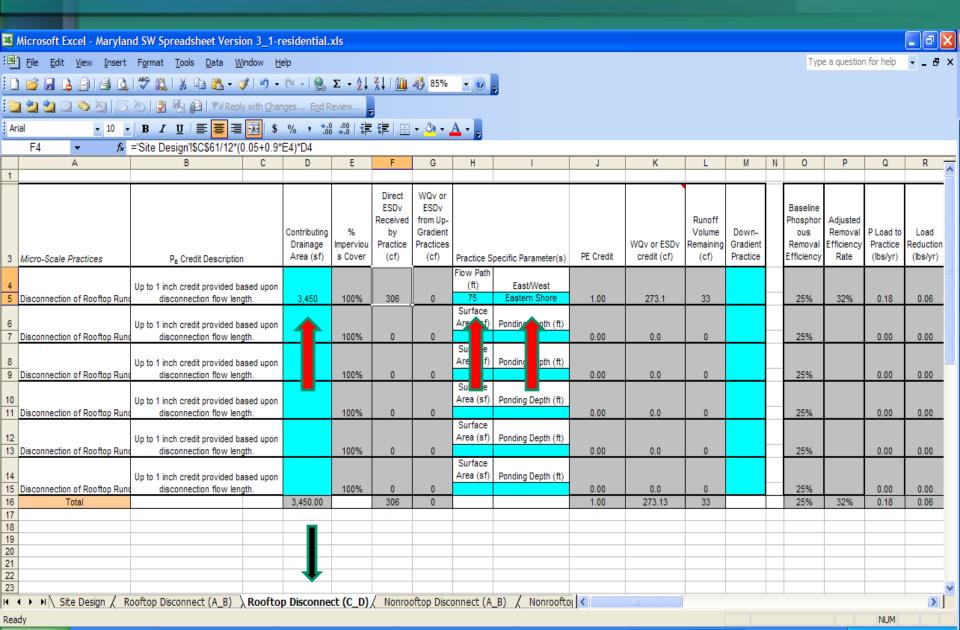
Figure 2. Concept Design Layout of ESD Practices and Techniques



#### Step 5 - Rooftop Disconnect (A/B)



#### Step 5 - Rooftop Disconnect (C/D)



#### Step 5 - Non-Structural Practices

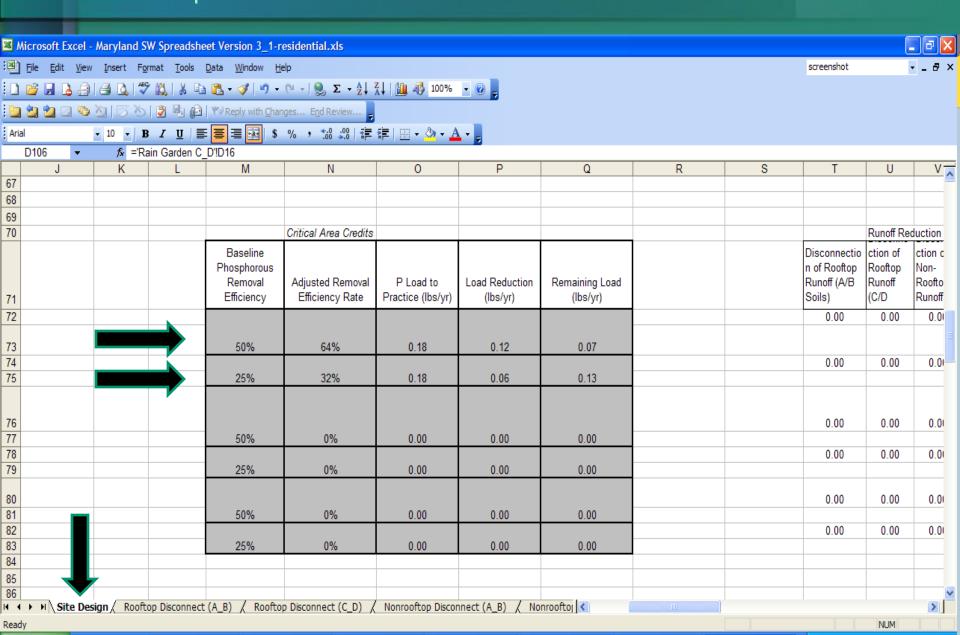
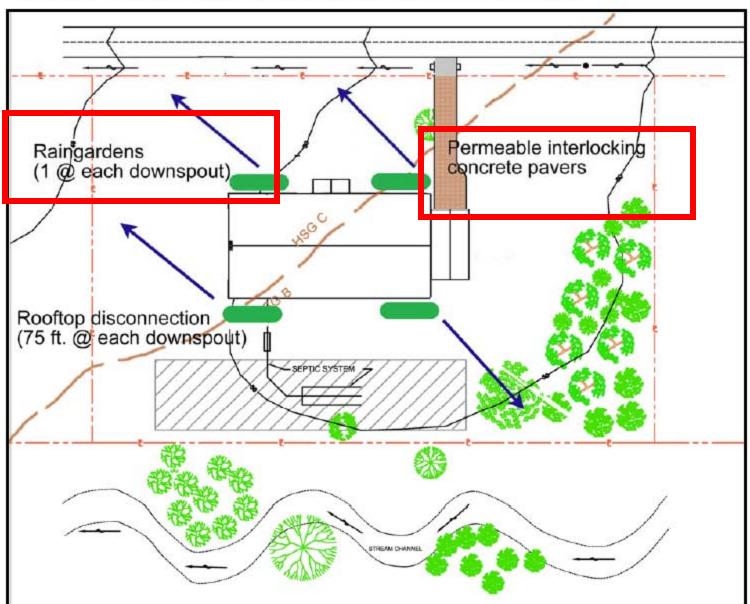
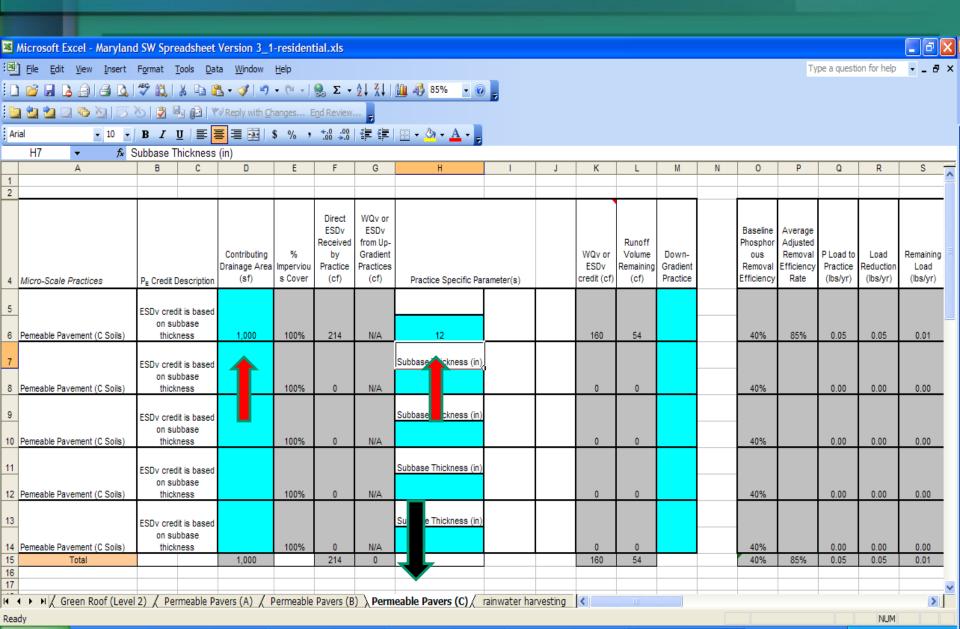


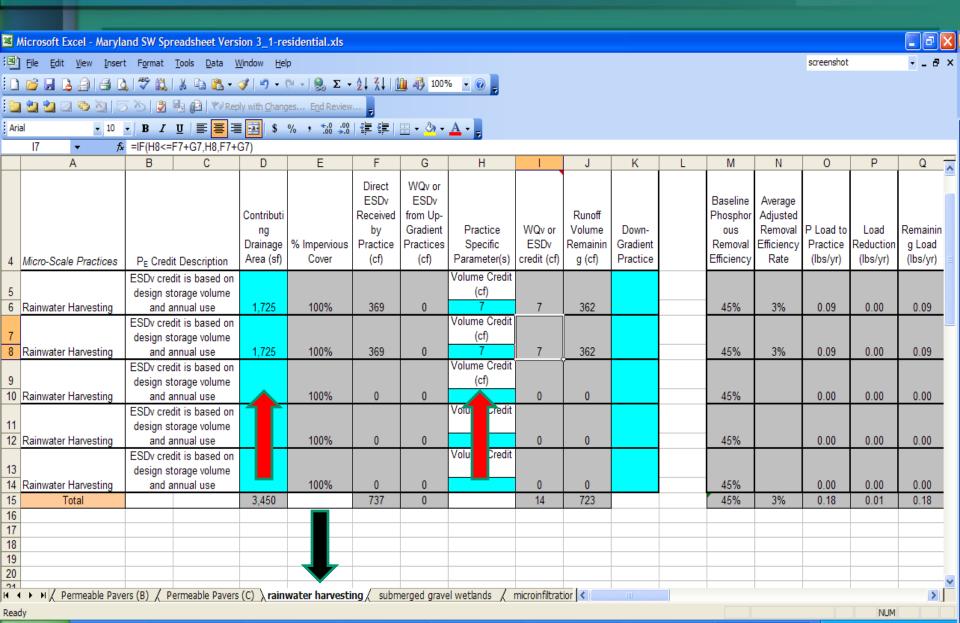
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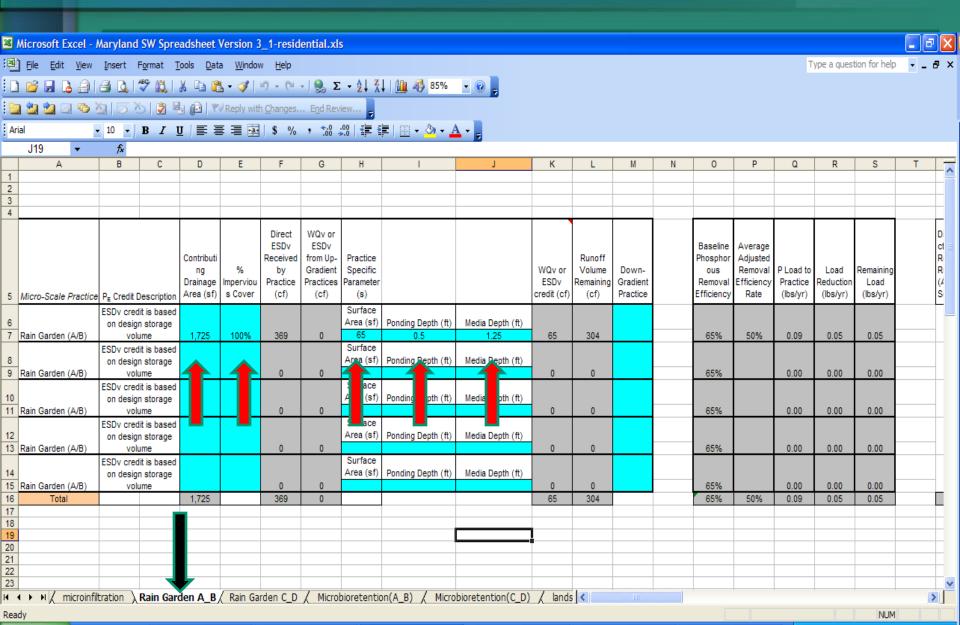
#### Step 6-Permeable Pavement (C)



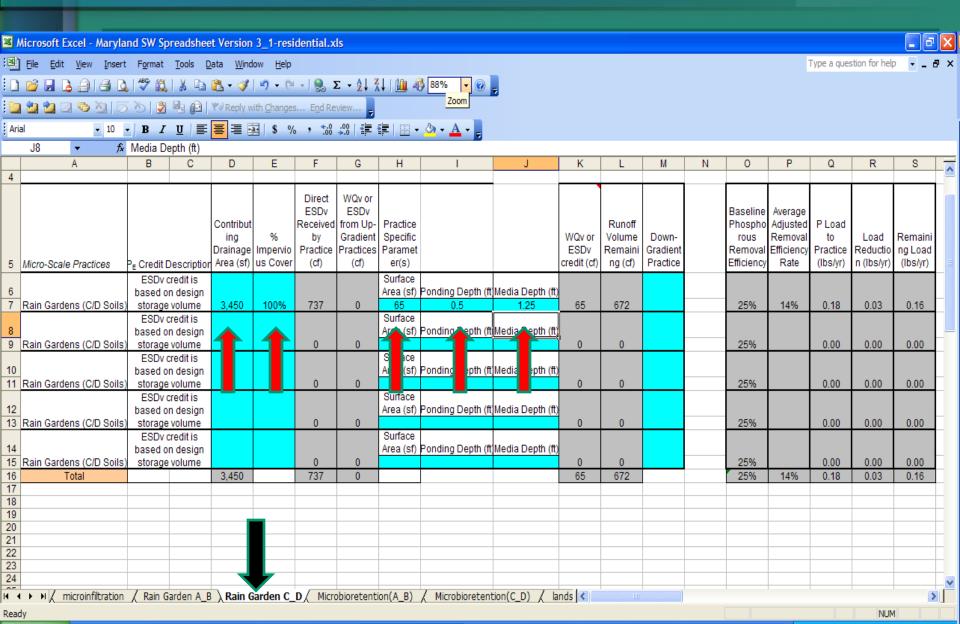
## Step 6- Rainwater Harvesting



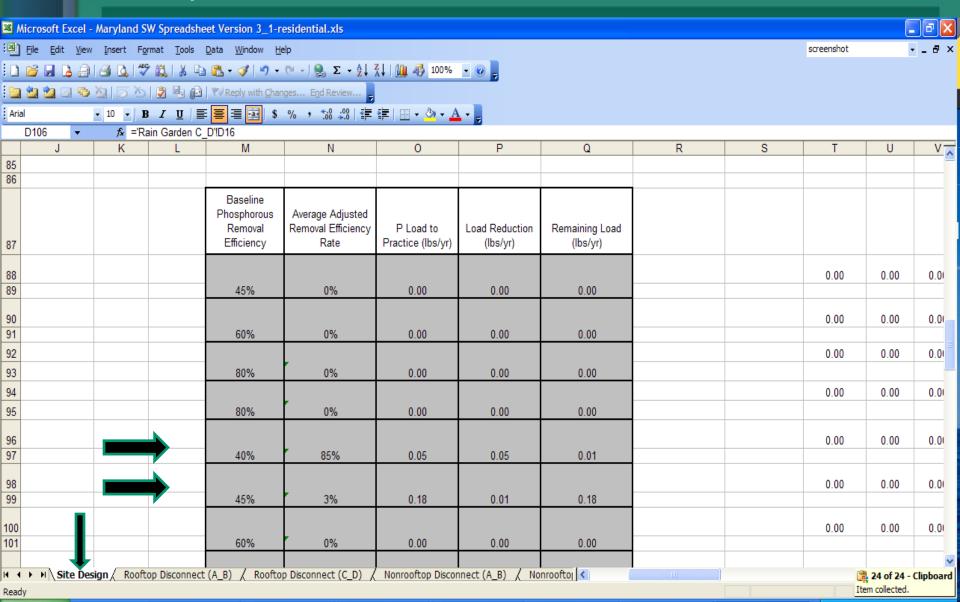
## Step 6-Rain Gardens (A/B)



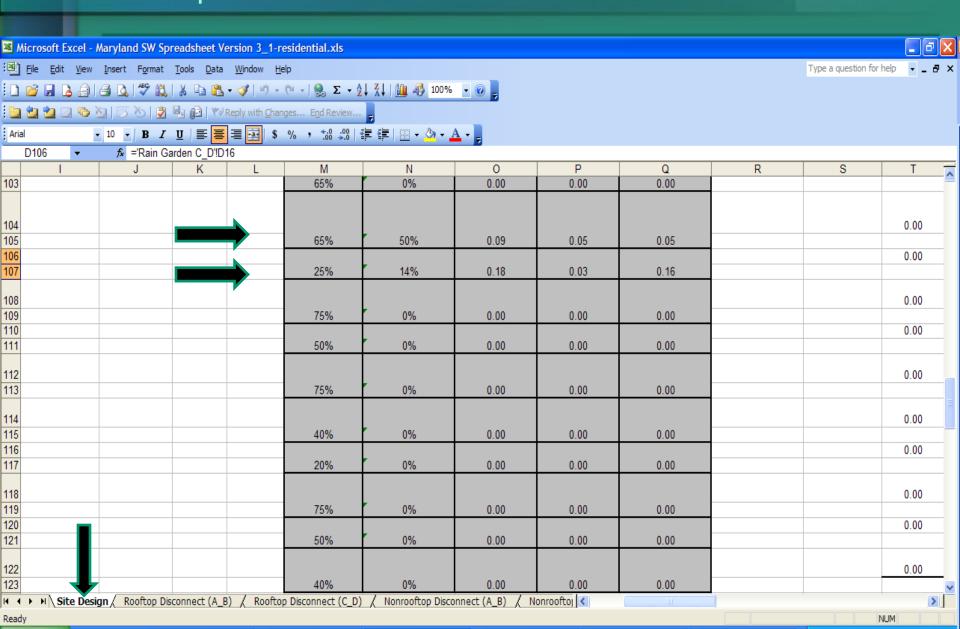
## Step 6-Rain Gardens (C/D)



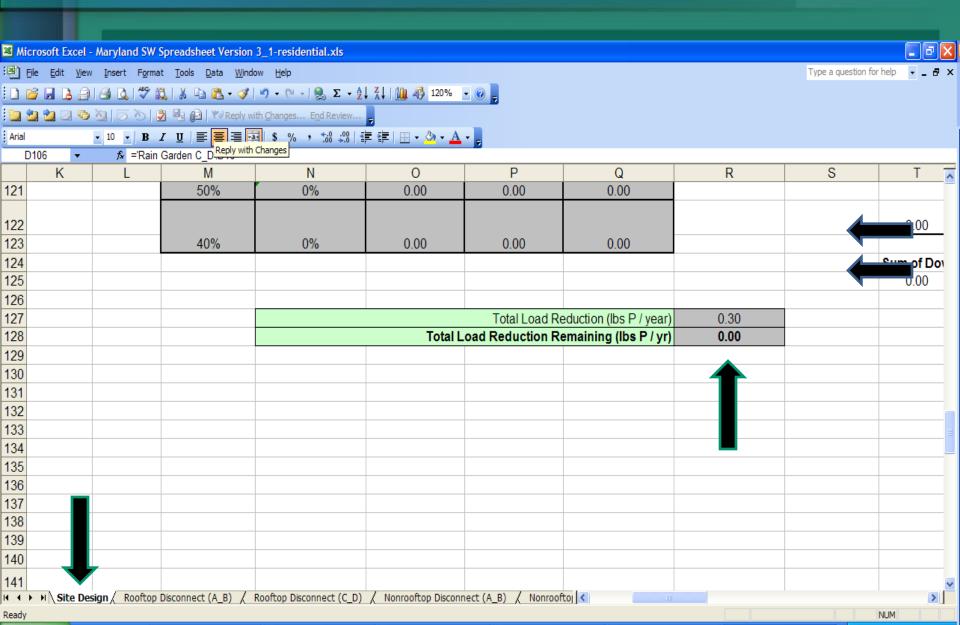
#### Step 6-Micro-scale Practices



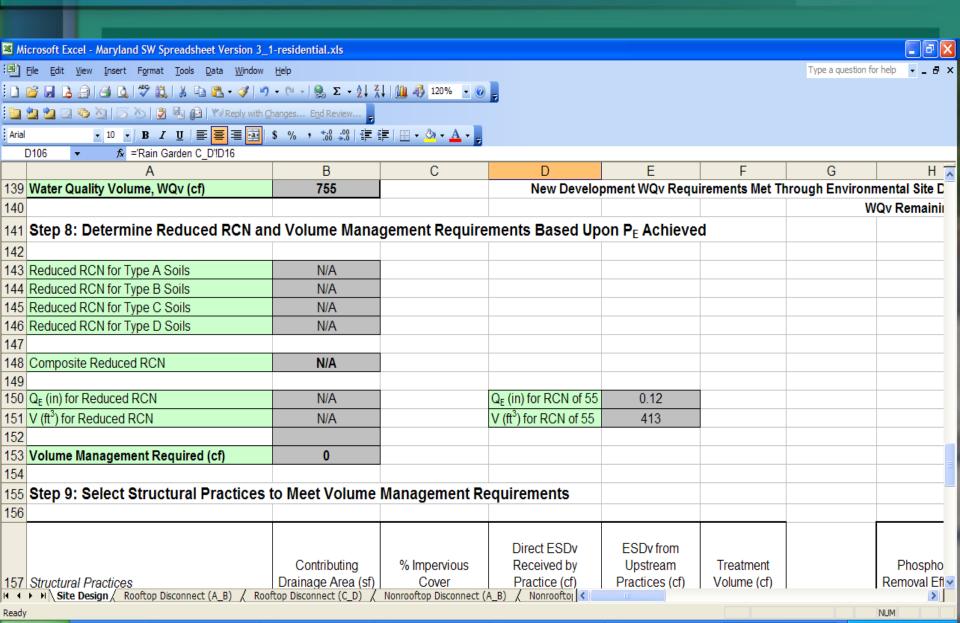
#### Step 6-Micro-scale Practices



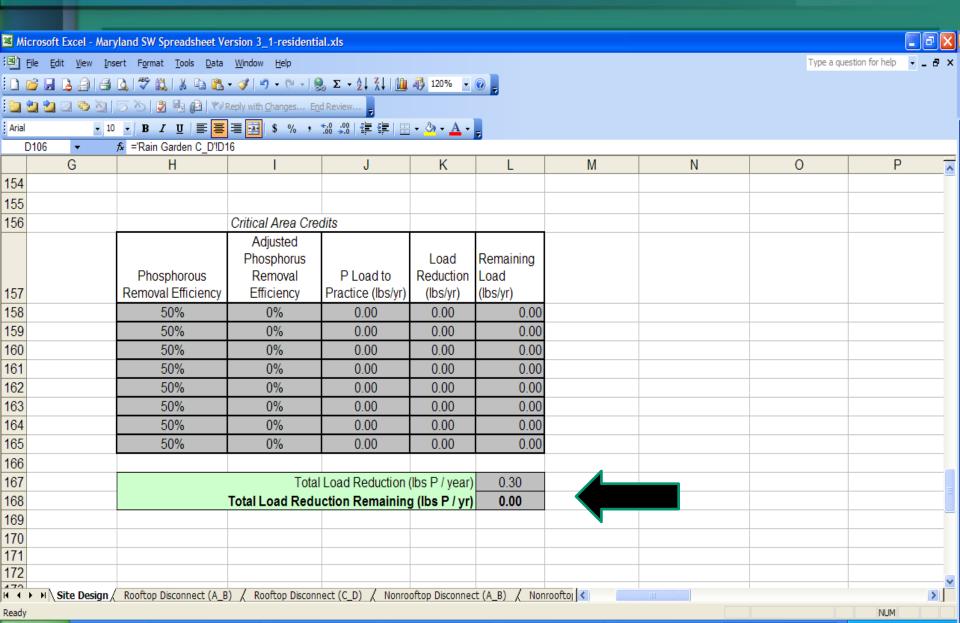
#### Step 7 - Compliance Check



#### Step 8 - Reduced RCN



#### Step 9 – Structural Practices



### Summary of Example

MDE and Critical Area ESD met in this case

- If Critical Area ESD was not met, other options can be used:
  - Use BMPs with higher phosphorus removal rates
  - Plantings
  - Fee in Lieu
  - Additional Best Management Practices

#### We're Looking For Feedback!

- Critical Area staff met with a handful of local stormwater reviewers
  - Mostly positive feedback
  - Some minor tweaks to the spreadsheet considered
- Looking for more feedback from YOU!
- Email comments to nkelly@dnr.state.m d.us



#### Questions?



#### Next Steps

- Collect comments and suggestions from stakeholders
- Finalize current draft of guidance document & spreadsheet
- Continue working on guidance for projects of less than 5000 sq. ft.
- Draft new regulations—potentially incorporating guidance by reference
- Regulatory process

#### Regulatory Process

- Once new regulations are drafted, they will be distributed for an informal review by the local jurisdictions
- A vote of the Critical Area Commission is required to publish the regulations as draft in the Maryland Register
- Once public comment period is over, another vote is required to publish the regulations as final

## Look for updates: www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/

