

## **Scrap Tire Projects**

### **Rubberized Asphalt Project**

MDE and MES, in conjunction with Talbot County, will conduct a project to install a rubberized asphalt product on a County owned parking lot, in lieu of traditional materials. This project will demonstrate and encourage the use of rubberized asphalt products by public agencies and private contractors in Maryland. The rubberized asphalt is expected to show several advantages over traditional materials including: increased flexibility and durability, and decreased slumping, reflective cracking, and noise. If rubberized asphalt becomes a commonly used product in Maryland, it has the potential to consume all of the scrap tires generated in Maryland annually. The project will be a physical demonstration of how to work with and install rubberized asphalt, and is intended to familiarize public agencies and contractors with how to utilize the product in an actual application. MDE and MES are still formulating plans to propose rubberized asphalt projects for the future.

### **Rubberized Natural Grass Athletic Field Project**

MDE, MES, and Howard County will participate in a demonstration of the beneficial use of scrap tires in the refurbishment of an existing athletic field. The intended application involves topdressing the field with crumb rubber utilizing a process patented by Michigan State University. The crumb rubber application is expected to improve field conditions by decreasing compaction of the soil and increasing drainage capacity, thereby minimizing the impact of inclement weather events. This is an option for improving the quality of existing grass fields utilizing crumb rubber and providing some of the same benefits of a synthetic field, primarily increased play hours, for a fraction of the cost without requiring a complete renovation of the field or additional maintenance. The result of this project will be a refurbished athletic field available for immediate use to athletes for both practices and sporting events. Howard County staff is currently identifying an existing field site for refurbishment at a Recreation and Park or public high school location. MES is working to identify public facilities that could be future recipients of similar athletic field improvement projects.

### **Rubber Mulch Project**

MDE and MES are planning on performing a project that will demonstrate how scrap tire mulch compares to traditional wood mulch in terms of performance, appearance, and cost effectiveness over time. Scrap tire mulch is expected to be comparable to wood mulch in performance and appearance. Although scrap tire mulch is often initially more expensive than wood mulch, it is expected to be more cost effective over the lifetime of the product due to the fact that scrap tire mulch does not deteriorate the way wood mulch does.

### **Crumb Rubber Green Roof Growth Media**

MDE and MES are considering demonstrating the use of crumb rubber as growth media on a green roof at a public facility. Crumb rubber is lightweight, has excellent drainage properties, and does not readily compact – properties that make it perfect for use as a growth media on a rooftop. Green roofs provide better insulation than traditional roofing materials, filter particulates and contaminants from rainwater, and help to clean the air and convert carbon dioxide into oxygen.

### **Future Scrap Tire Projects**

MDE and MES continue to identify new scrap tire technologies and potential scrap tire projects for the future.