

Big Solutions for Tight Spaces near Nation's Capital

Magnolia Plumbing in Laurel, Maryland has been fixing underground stormwater infrastructure in nearby Montgomery County for many years. As a neighbor to Washington, D.C., and bordered by the Potomac River and the Patuxent River, both major tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay, controlling stormwater runoff has been a major concern in the county for decades.

Magnolia's stormwater operation's manager, Solomon Zacchini, oversees his company's contract to maintain and rehabilitate various underground facilities with Montgomery County. Many of the projects his crews face, deal with replacing failing stormwater quality components in structures, such as oil grit separators and trash racks. Several of these existing systems rely on corrugated steel fittings and fabrications that have "badly corroded and are falling in on themselves," according to Zachinni (see Figure 1).

For the past two years, Magnolia has been using modular fiberglass stormwater quality components from Best Management Products, Inc. (BMP). One of the issues in repairing these facilities is that access into the structures is often limited to a 24" or 30" diameter manhole frame, through which all parts and people need to pass. Large diameter elbows and racks simply cannot fit through these openings. That is where the "Split" SNOUT® components from BMP been very helpful (see Figure 2). According to T. J. Mullen, BMP's president, aging and failing infrastructure is making his company's line of knocked-down parts, that can fit through a 24" diameter opening a steady source of growth for the 20 year old company.

By using Split SNOUTs (see Figure 3) to replace elbows for oil grit separators, and joining two Split SNOUTs bottom to bottom and drilling holes into the finished assembly to replace trash racks, Zachinni's team at Magnolia Plumbing have repaired numerous facilities in Montgomery County. With positive feedback from county stormwater facility supervisors, who appreciate the long service life, light weight and high-strength of the SNOUT parts, new projects continue to be identified and fixed with components from Best Management Products, Inc.



Figure 1- Corroded 72" wide corrugated steel trash screen.

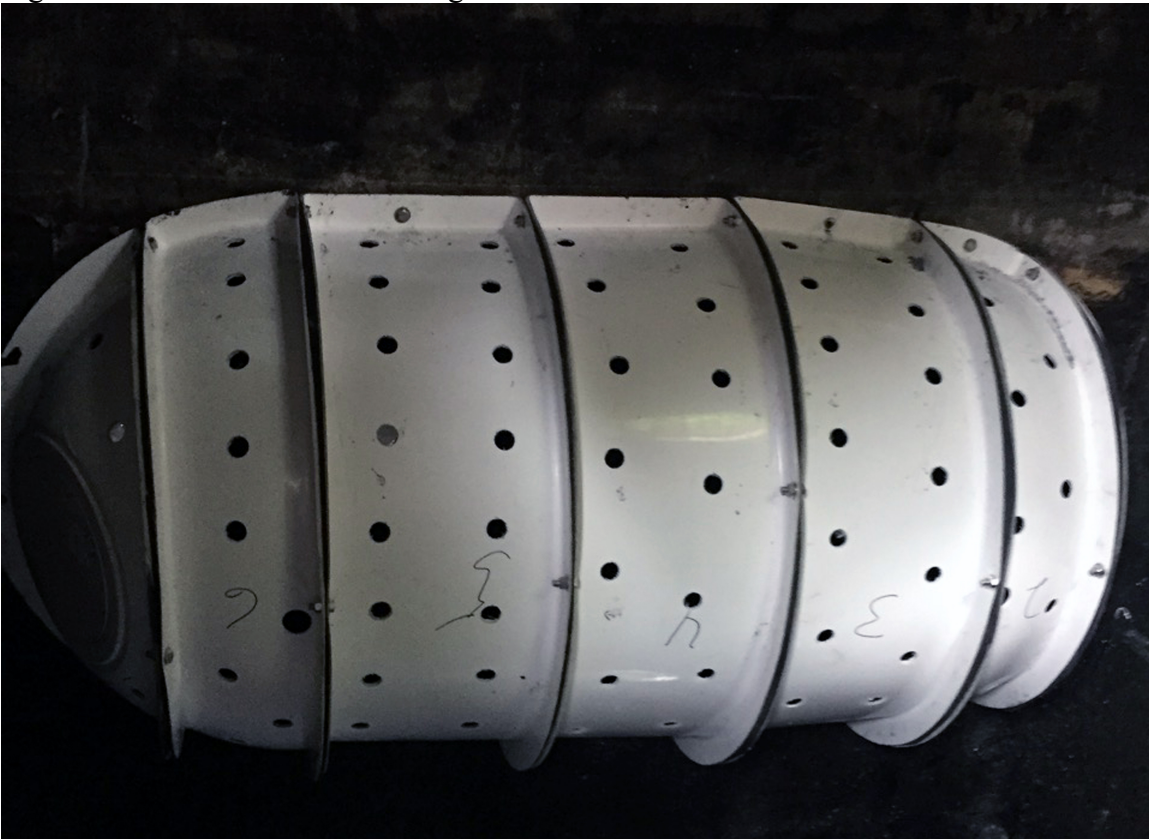


Figure 2- New 72" wide trash screen made from two BMP 30F Split SNOUTs



Figure 3- 30F Split 4 SNOUT. Will fit through 24" ID opening.