

Who's Polluting Rock Creek in Cheltenham, Pa.?  
*Let's find out so that we can get the problem corrected!*



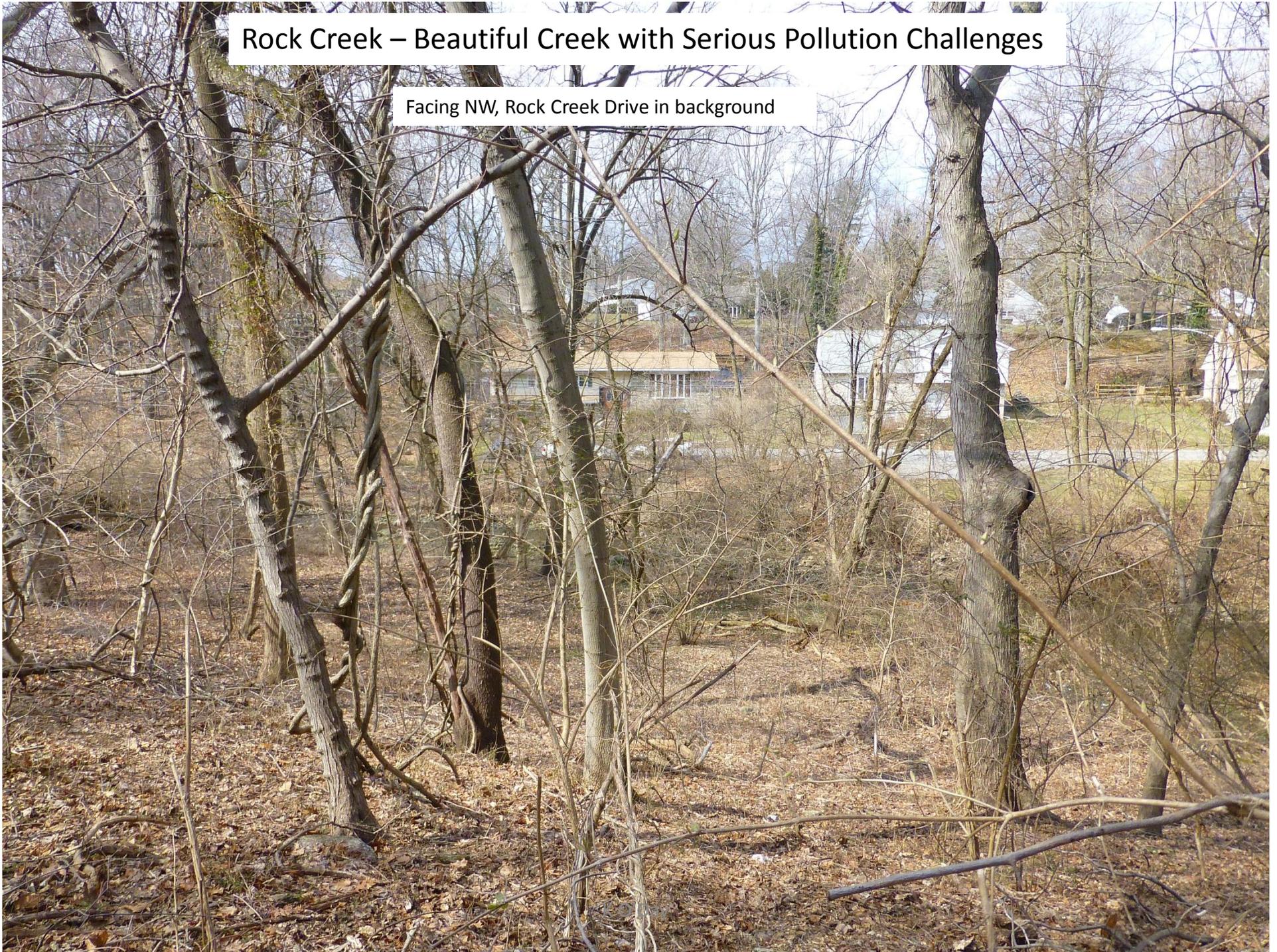
**Gross Water Pollution in a Cheltenham Creek**

- ~ Where is this Rock Creek water pollution site?
- ~ What are pollution sources?
- ~ How can you help?

Photo of Rock Creek in Cheltenham, Pa – 3/15/13  
East of Ogontz Ave by Cedarbrook Middle School

## Rock Creek – Beautiful Creek with Serious Pollution Challenges

Facing NW, Rock Creek Drive in background



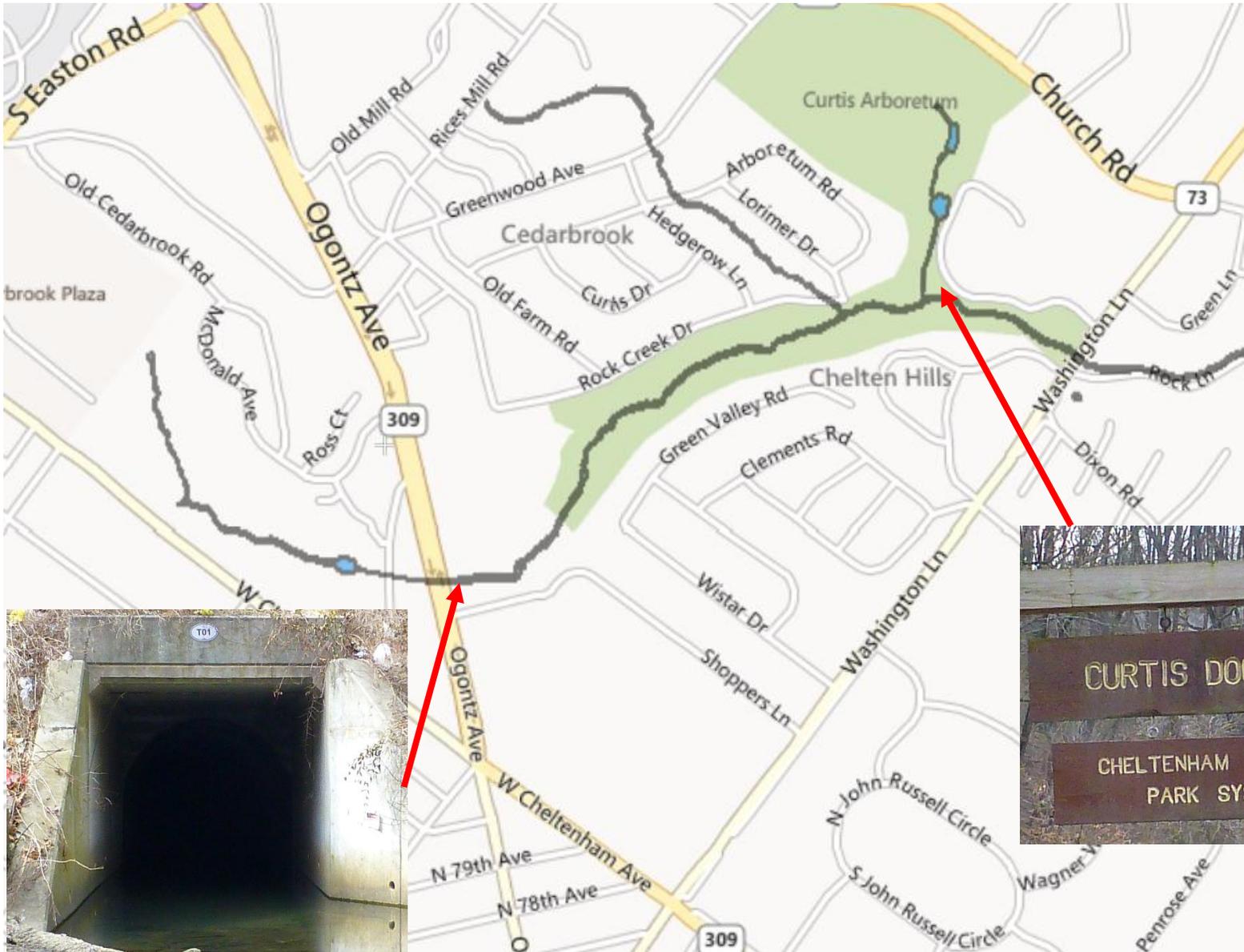
# Rock Creek – Beautiful Creek with Serious Pollution Challenges (Photos 3/15/13)



3/16/2013

K O'Day

Rock Creek Trash Pollution Survey Route  
3/15/13



3/16/2013

K O'Day

Rock Creek Stormwater Pollution  
3/15/13



Rock Creek Stormwater Pollution  
3/15/13



Rock Creek Stormwater Pollution  
3/15/13



Rock Creek Stormwater Pollution  
3/15/13



Rock Creek Stormwater Pollution  
3/15/13



## How Do We Solve This Water Pollution Problem?

### ***To solve this stormwater pollution problem, we need to :***

1. Understand Federal Clean Water Act and Pa stormwater regulations
2. Understand the drainage in this sub-watershed
3. Identify sources of creek trash
4. Monitor stormwater trash discharges to Rock Creek
5. Assess corrective action alternatives
6. Take action

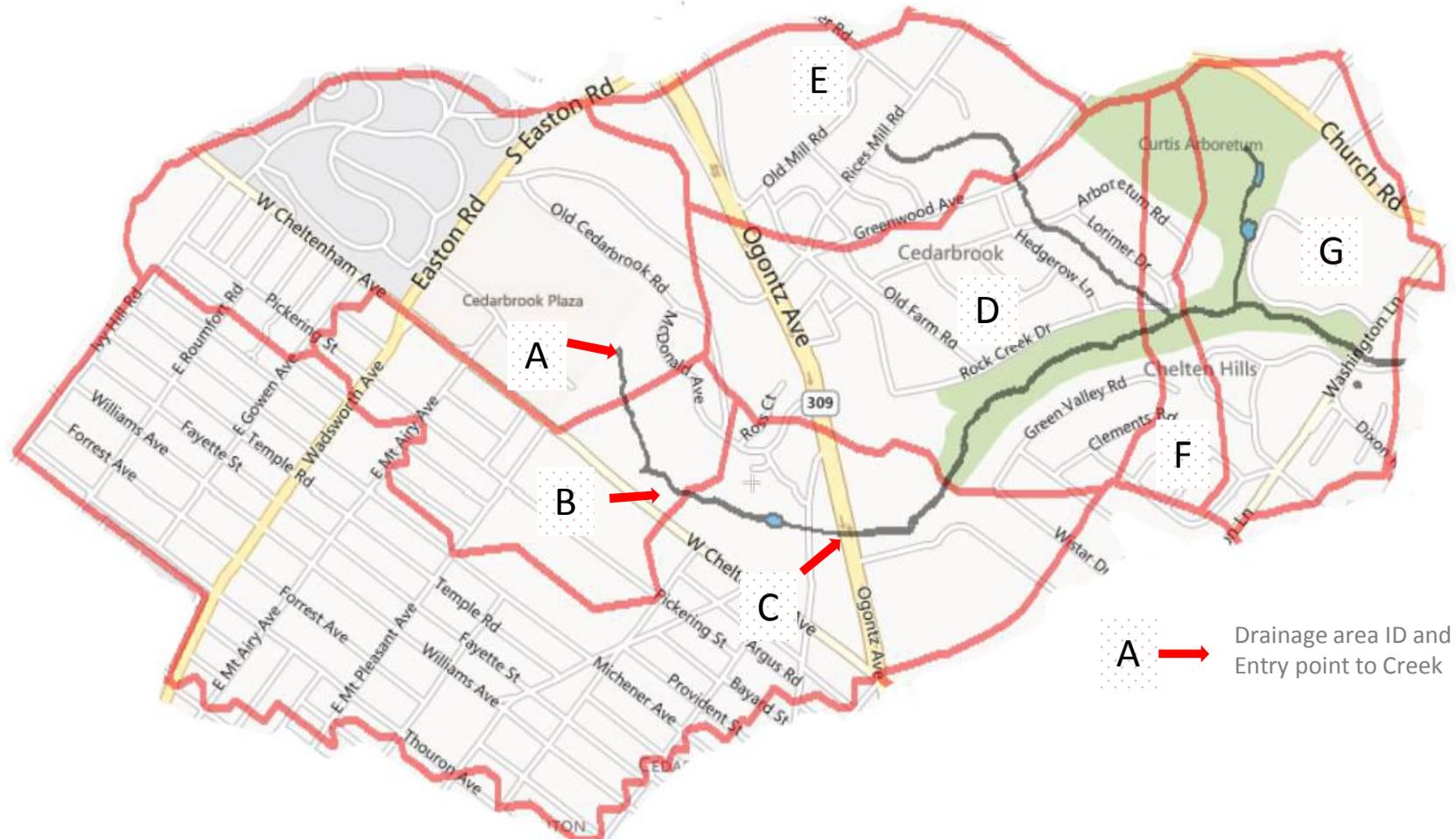
### ***Federal and Pa State Law already control Stormwater Pollution***

- “ All municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) must have National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit
- “ MS4 municipalities must employ “best stormwater management practices” (BMPs) and follow “good housekeeping” practices for their operations
- “ If BMPs are not sufficient, MS4 municipalities must take additional steps to prevent MS4 water pollution



# Know Your Watershed

## Upper Rock Creek Drainage Areas



Rock Creek flow from West to East. This map shows the approximate drainage areas that contribute flow to Rock Creek.

Areas A & B enter Rock Creek West of Rte 309, Area C enters Rock Creek under Rte 309. Area D enters the Creek along its path. Area e discharges to an unnamed tributary which joins Rock Creek just upstream of Curtis Dog Park.

# Where is this Rock Creek Stormwater Pollution Coming From?

*Let's take a look at stormwater inlets:*

## **Potential Rock Creek Stormwater Pollution Sources**

1. Philadelphia Combined sewer system overflow (CSO)
2. Cheltenham separate storm sewer system (MS4)
3. Shopping Center Runoff

### **1. Philadelphia CSO Outfall (T-01) Under Route 309**

- “ PWD stormwater inlets trapped, usually trap floatables
- “ Potential floatable leakage may be getting by inlet traps

### **2. Cheltenham MS4 Outfalls**

- “ Cheltenham stormwater inlets not trapped, usually pass floatable litter to Creek
- “ Cheltenham street litter may be passing through inlets to outfall

### **3. Cheltenham Shopping Malls**

- “ Shopping mall stormwater inlets not trapped, usually pass floatable litter to Creek
- “ Cheltenham shopping mall litter may be flowing to Creek

a. Curb Inlet – wide opening lets water, leaves, trash enter catch basin



b. Grated Inlet – grate opening passes water, smaller litter, traps larger trash & debris

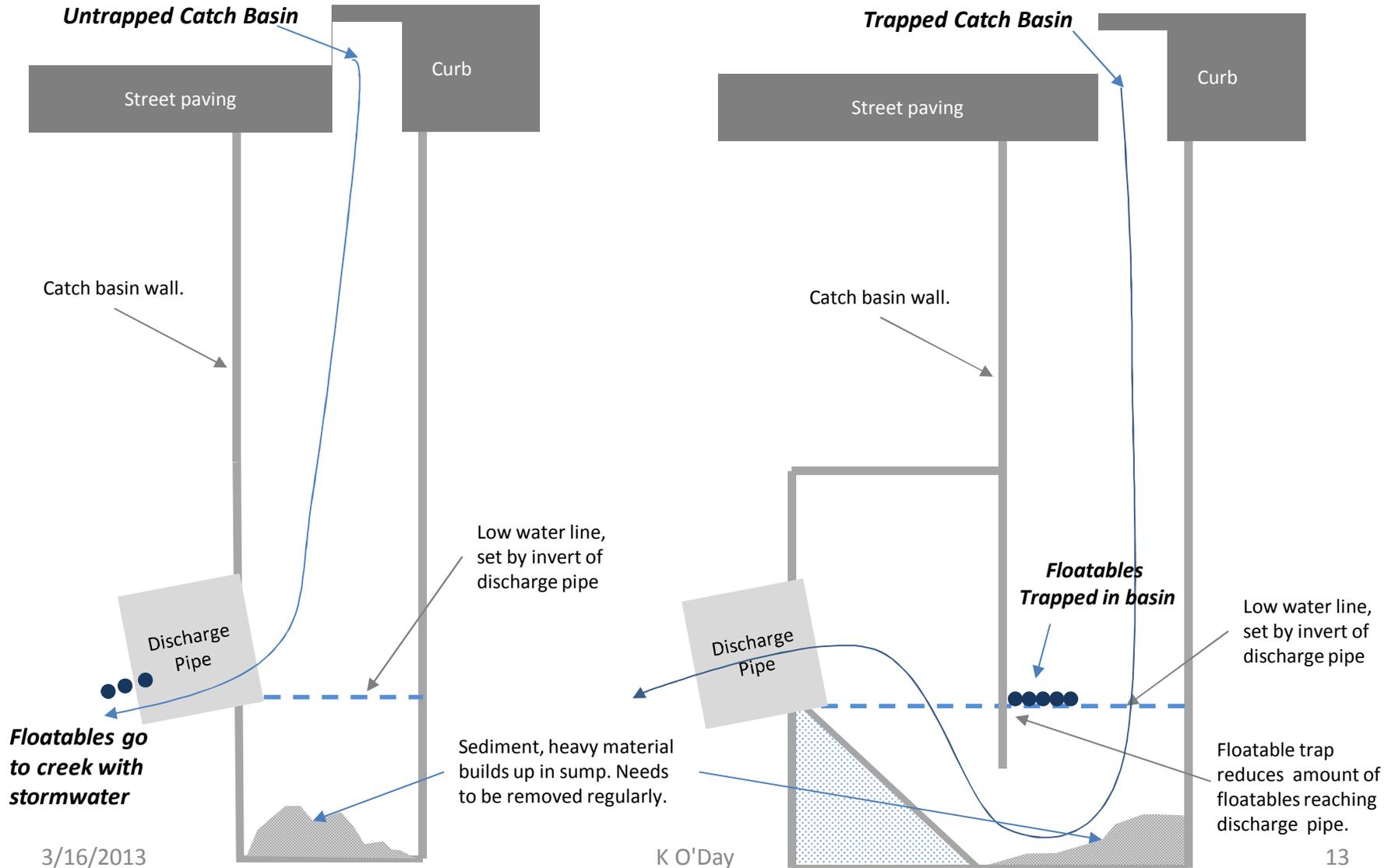


# Trapped Catch Basins Prevent Floatables from Going to Creek

Let's look inside a catch basin?



Curb opening allows water to enter catch basin.  
Street litter, bottles, etc can also enter catch basin.  
What happens to the floatable street litter, trash?



## Some Basic Stormwater Inlet Questions And Suggested Next Steps

### Basic Questions:

1. Are Philadelphia's trapped inlets working properly?  
Is there PWD floatable leakage that may be getting by inlet traps and flowing to Rock Creek?
2. Are Cheltenham's inlets trapped?  
Is Cheltenham street litter getting into storm sewers and being discharged to Rock Creek?
3. Are shopping center storm drains trapped?  
Is shopping center runoff carrying parking lot litter to Rock Creek?

### Suggested Next Steps:

1. TTF Watershed Partnership (TTF) has formed a Trash Task Force
2. Representatives of PWD, Cheltenham and the 3 large shopping centers work with TTF Trash Task Force to address Rock Creek Stormwater Trash problems

## Rock Creek's Stormwater Pollution Problem is Fixable

### *(Mix of potential solutions )*

- Litter prevention
  - Philadelphia – Cheltenham
  - Shopping centers
- Shopping centers install trash baskets
- Shopping centers clean parking lots on regular basis
- Effectively trapped stormwater inlets or Street Sweeping
- Rock Creek Trash Traps

***1<sup>st</sup> step is to decide this is not acceptable. Solutions will follow!***