

# The State of Streams in Springfield Township

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Water Resources Subcommittee

# The Watersheds of Springfield Township

Data provided by Philadelphia Water Department



**What is YOUR Watershed Address?**



# Healthy Stream Channel



## **Mowed Turf to Stream Edge:**

**Increases potential for chemical contamination**

**Increases stream temperature**

**Increases potential for bank erosion**





Bank erosion increases when vegetation has weak or shallow roots



As soil below turf grass roots erodes, blocks of stream bank 'slump' and are eventually washed away



Without bank stabilization, the utility pole will fall over



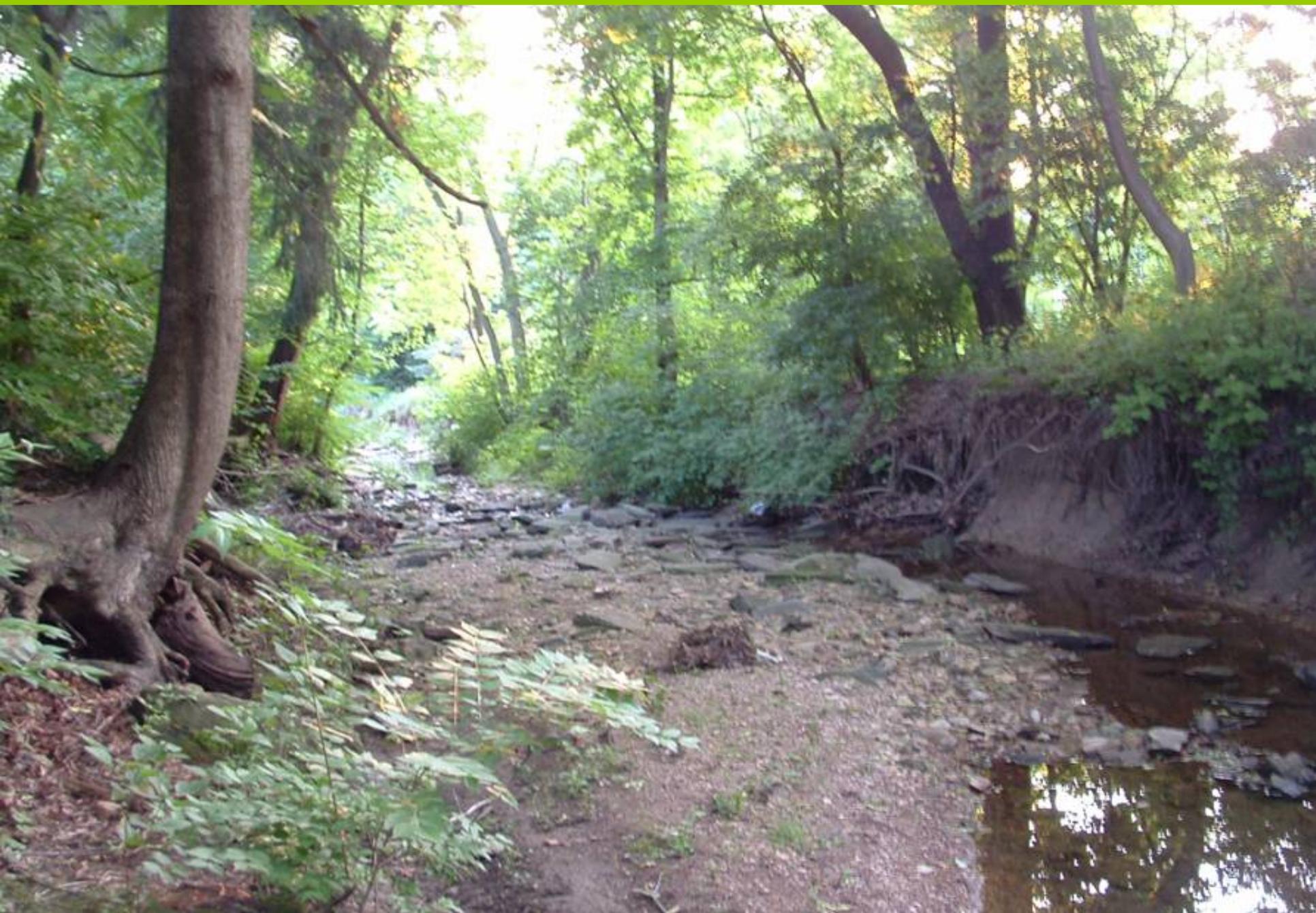
Unstable eroding streambanks threaten infrastructure and contribute to soil (and property) loss



Eroded soil deposited downstream,  
buries the natural stream bed  
causes stream channel to shift,  
resulting in further erosion



Eroded streambanks can be very high and inherently unstable





Storm sewer outfalls concentrate water at a single point causing scour holes



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Lack of shading increases temperature and allows for excess algae growth



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Paving to stream edge increases potential for chemical contamination



Paving to stream edge increases potential for chemical contamination

# FUTURE ACTIONS:

1) Develop educational brochure



Attention Gardeners  
Clean Water Starts Here...



Rain and melting snow pick up all kinds of pollutants as they wash over our gardens, lawns, sidewalks and driveways. Most of this water flows into storm drains in the street (also called sewer inlets), many of which empty directly into local creeks and the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. Polluted stormwater harms these waterways--which we rely on for drinking water and recreation. You can help make our waterways cleaner by keeping pollution and trash out of Philadelphia's storm drains, and by practicing environmentally sound gardening.

**Tips for Gardeners:**



**Compost leaves and grass clippings.** This will provide you with rich compost next year that can be used to enhance your garden soil. If you don't compost, carefully bag your leaves and grass clippings. LEAVES



**SOFTEN THE  
LANDSCAPE,  
IMPROVE WATER  
RESOURCES**

## What is a WATERSHED?



The term "watershed" refers to the land that drains or "sheds" its stormwater (rain or melting snow) into a specific creek and/or river.

We know that the proper management of Philadelphia's watersheds is very important in protecting our drinking water sources, the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. To protect the quality of our waters, and to properly care for land in the city, we are proactive in managing the big picture -- our watersheds. Philadelphia is leading the way nationally in watershed management and river conservation by working with our watershed partnerships towards a greener Philadelphia with cleaner water.

# FUTURE ACTIONS:

## 2) Potential on-the-ground projects

**Mermaid Park:** Increase stream shading and reduce streambank mowing



**Cisco Park:** Increase shading and reduce streambank mowing



**Orland Park:** Streambank stabilization



QUESTIONS?