West Ambler Community Meeting

October 22, 2014

Whitpain Township

Agenda

- 7:00-7:30: Sign in and information sharing
- 7:30-7:35: Welcome
- 7:35-7:45: West Ambler Revitalization Update (Whitpain Township)
- 7:45-7:55: Flood Mapping Update (Temple)
- 7:55-8:05: BoRit Cleanup Update (EPA)
- 8:05-8:15: Introduction to Superfund Research (UPenn)
- 8:15-8:45: Question and Answer Session.

West Ambler Infrastructure Project

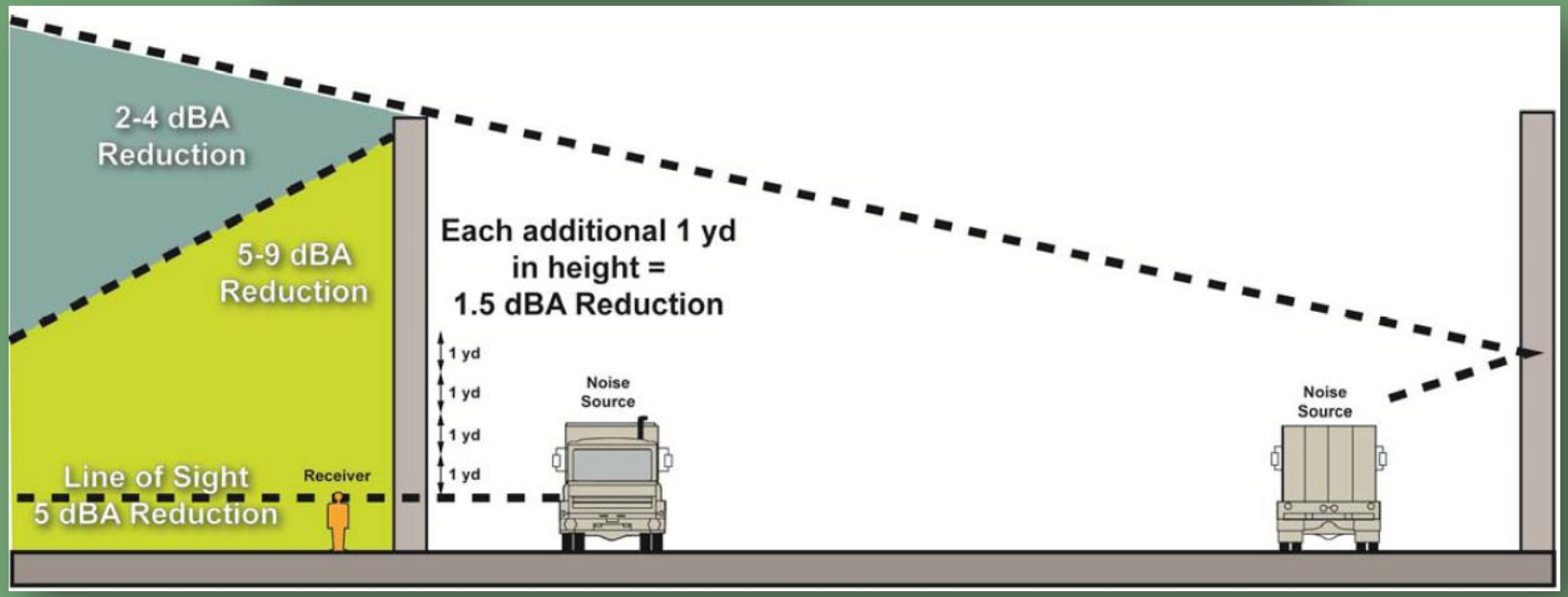
Completed Projects

1. Sluiceway modifications (upstream barriers)
2. Sluiceway modifications (New hinged gate)
3. Rose Valley Stream channel widening & fortification
4. 2013 Road resurfacing project
5. 2013 Sidewalk & streetscape project

Projects In Progress & Proposed Projects

6. Wissahickon Park & Borit remediation (in progress)
7. Stream channel daylighting & widening
8. Beech Alley improvements
9. Tennis Ave extension
10. Future site/infrastructure improvements
11. Mt. Pleasant Ave gates for road closure during high water. Set to begin in 2015
12. 2014 Road resurfacing project
13. Future RR Ave streetscape & sound barriers
14. Ambler Alley widening
15. Future sidewalk & streetscape

Streetscape Project



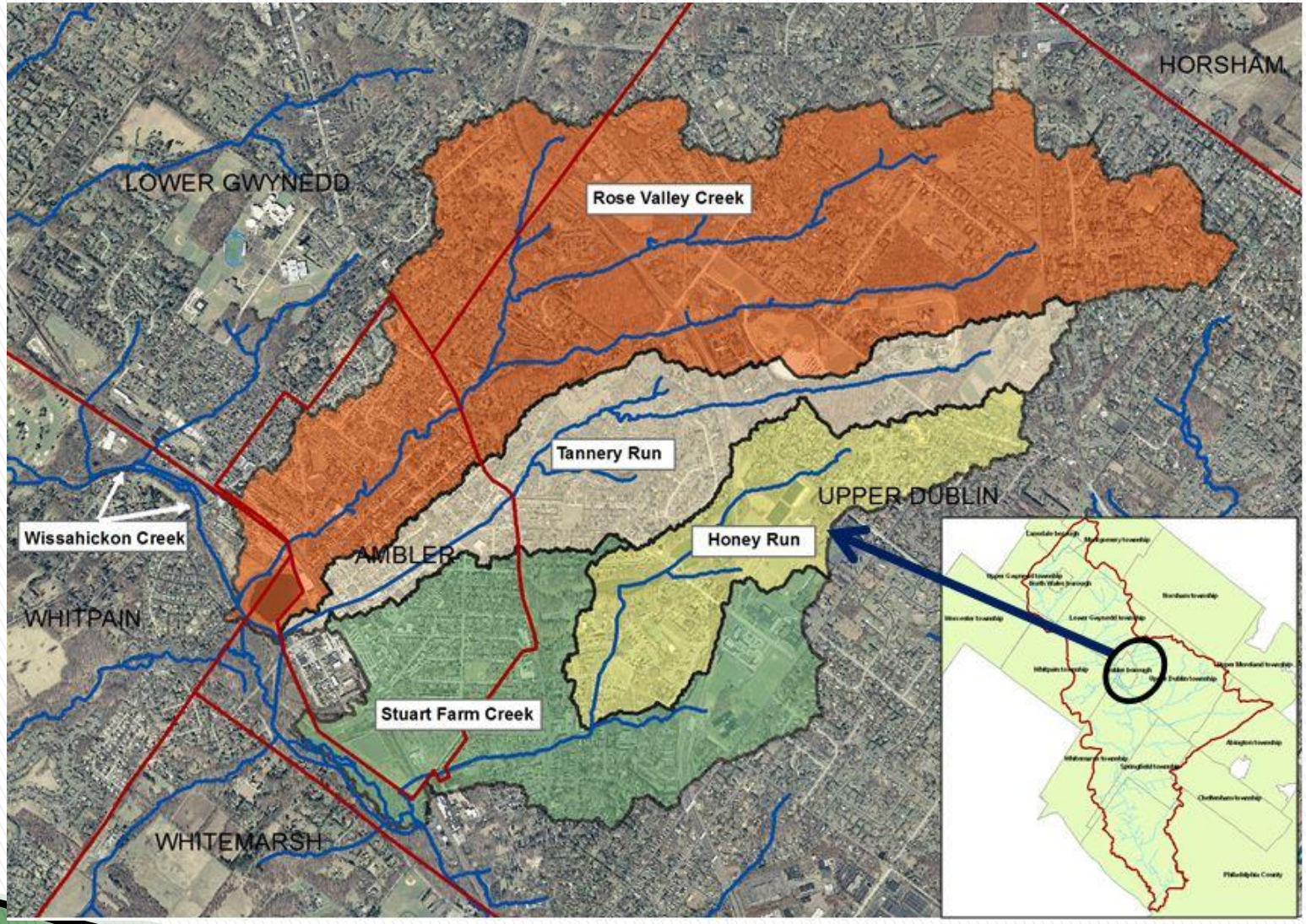
Ambler Area Flood Mitigation and Stormwater Management
Summary of Results
October 22, 2014

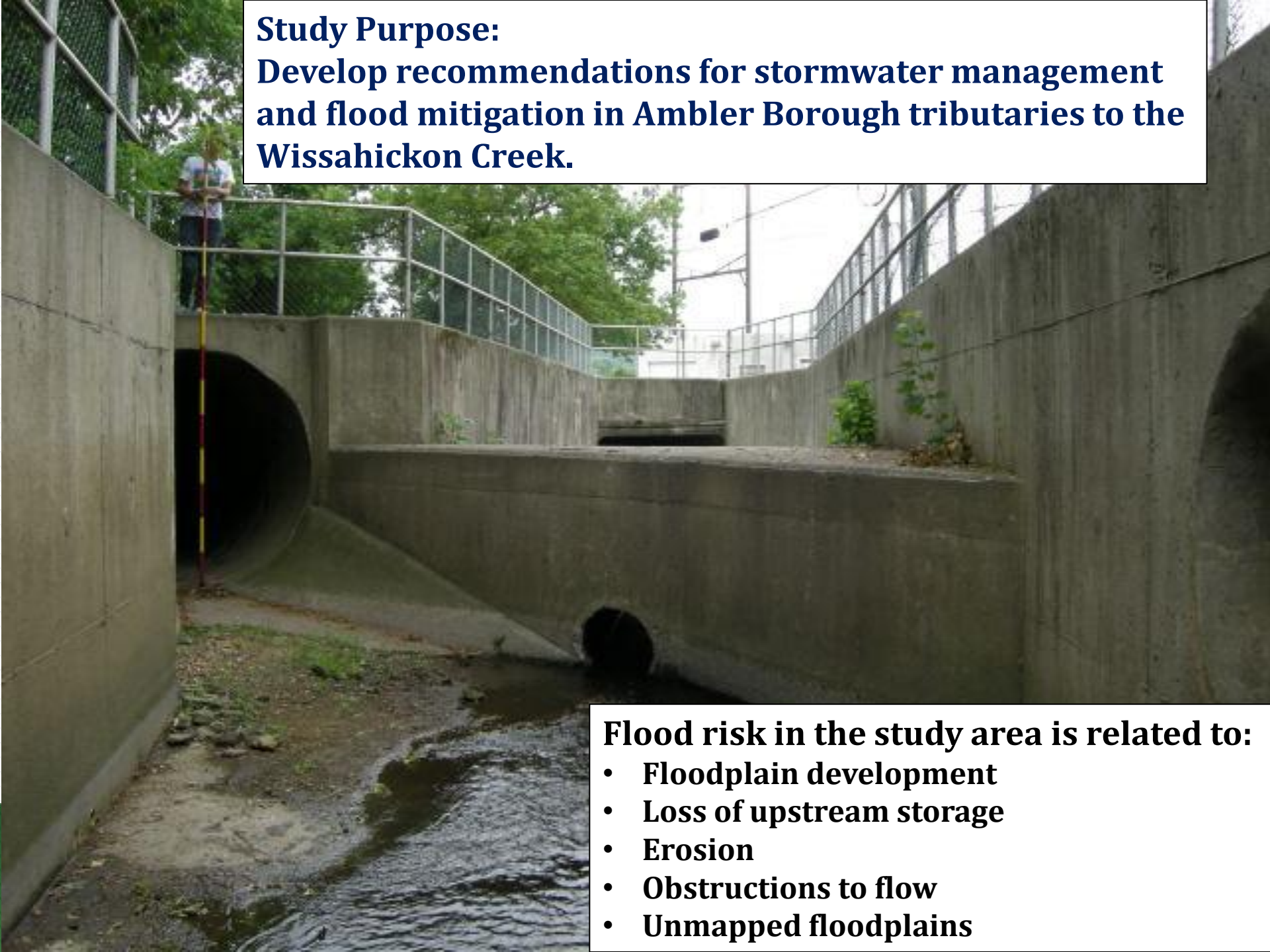
Center for Sustainable Communities

School of Environmental Design
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Photo of Maple Avenue flooding provided by Whitpain Township

Study Are Included Three Tributaries to the Wissahickon Creek: Rose Valley Creek, Tannery Run, and Stuart Farm Creek/Honey Run





Study Purpose:
Develop recommendations for stormwater management and flood mitigation in Ambler Borough tributaries to the Wissahickon Creek.

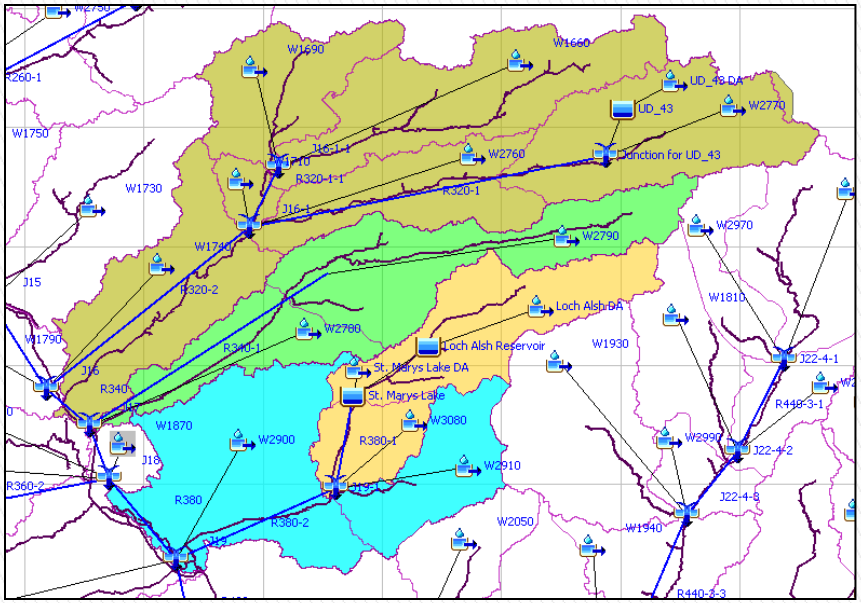
Flood risk in the study area is related to:

- **Floodplain development**
- **Loss of upstream storage**
- **Erosion**
- **Obstructions to flow**
- **Unmapped floodplains**

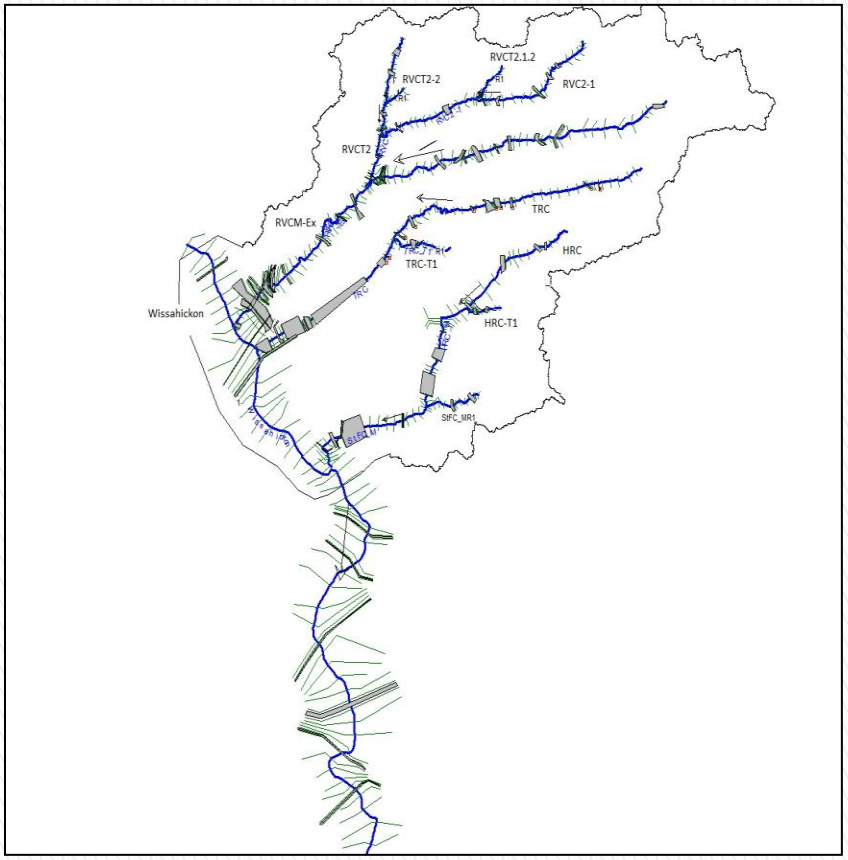
Study Components Included:

- Data Collection
- Community Outreach
- Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modeling
- Floodplain Mapping

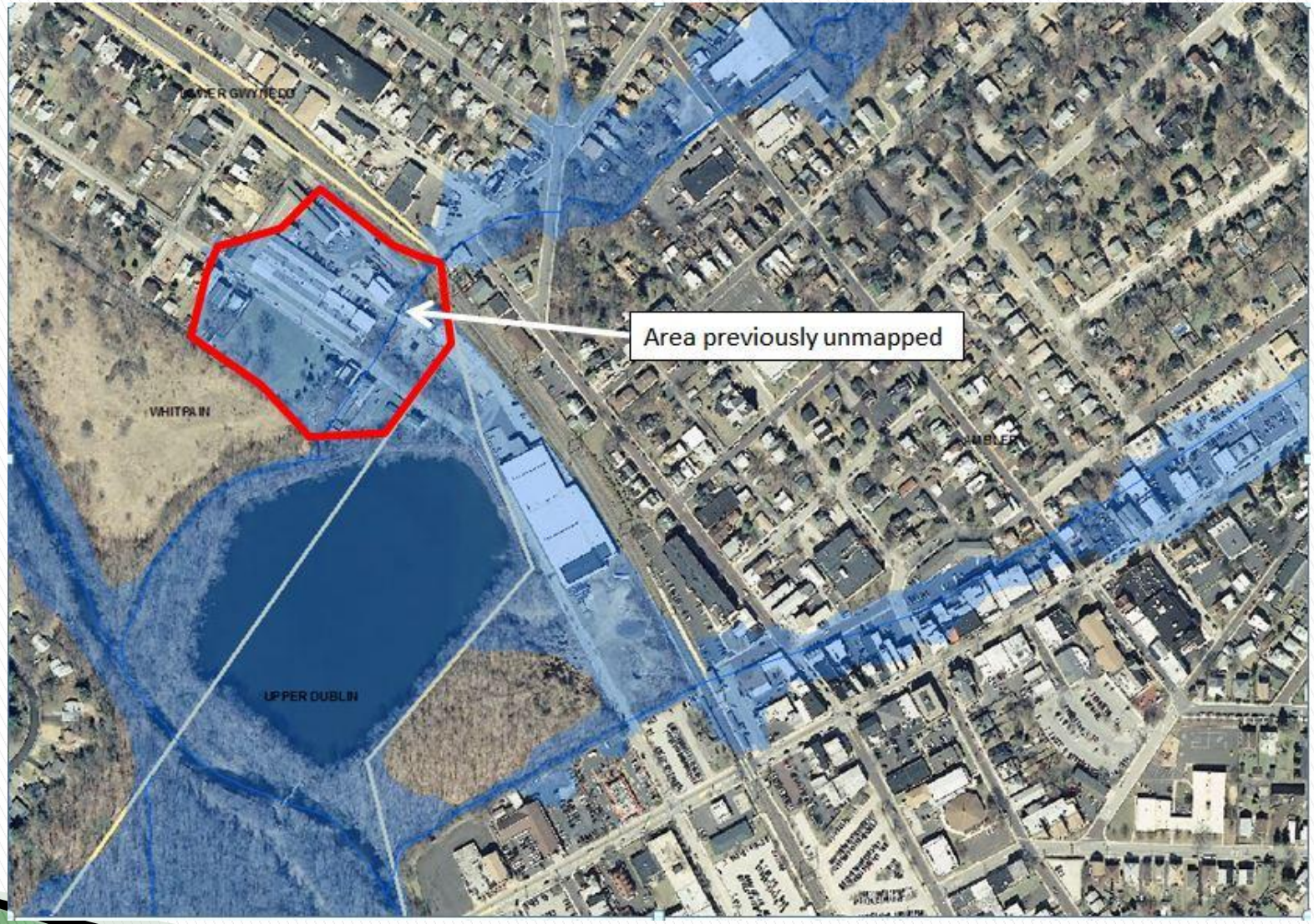
Hydrologic Model Schematic HEC-HMS



Hydraulic Model Schematic HEC-RAS



Particular attention was paid to the previously unmapped floodplain in Whitpain Township. The proposed 100-Yr floodplain delineation for this area is shown below. The new flood maps will be submitted to FEMA for adoption. The previously unmapped area is shown.



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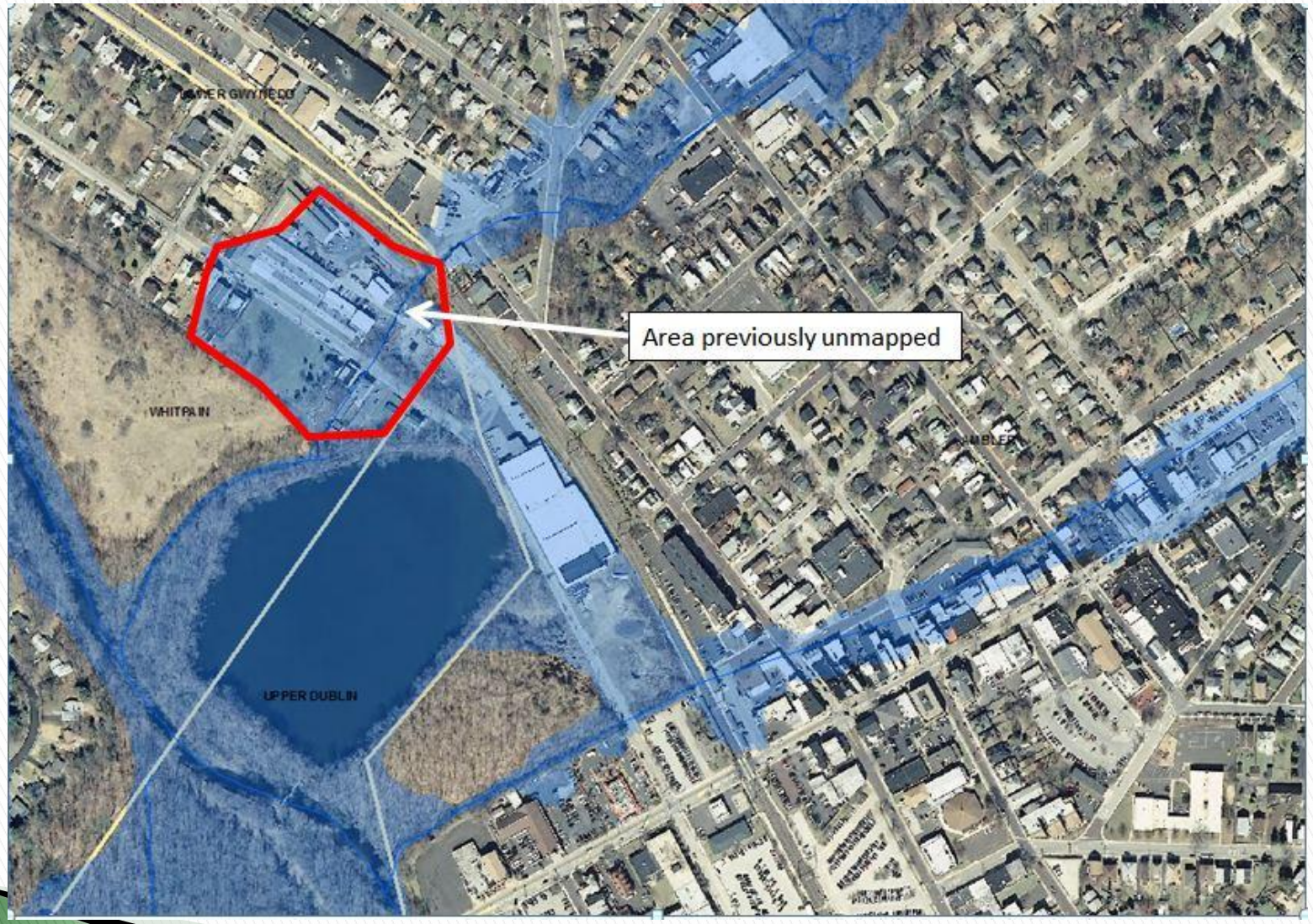
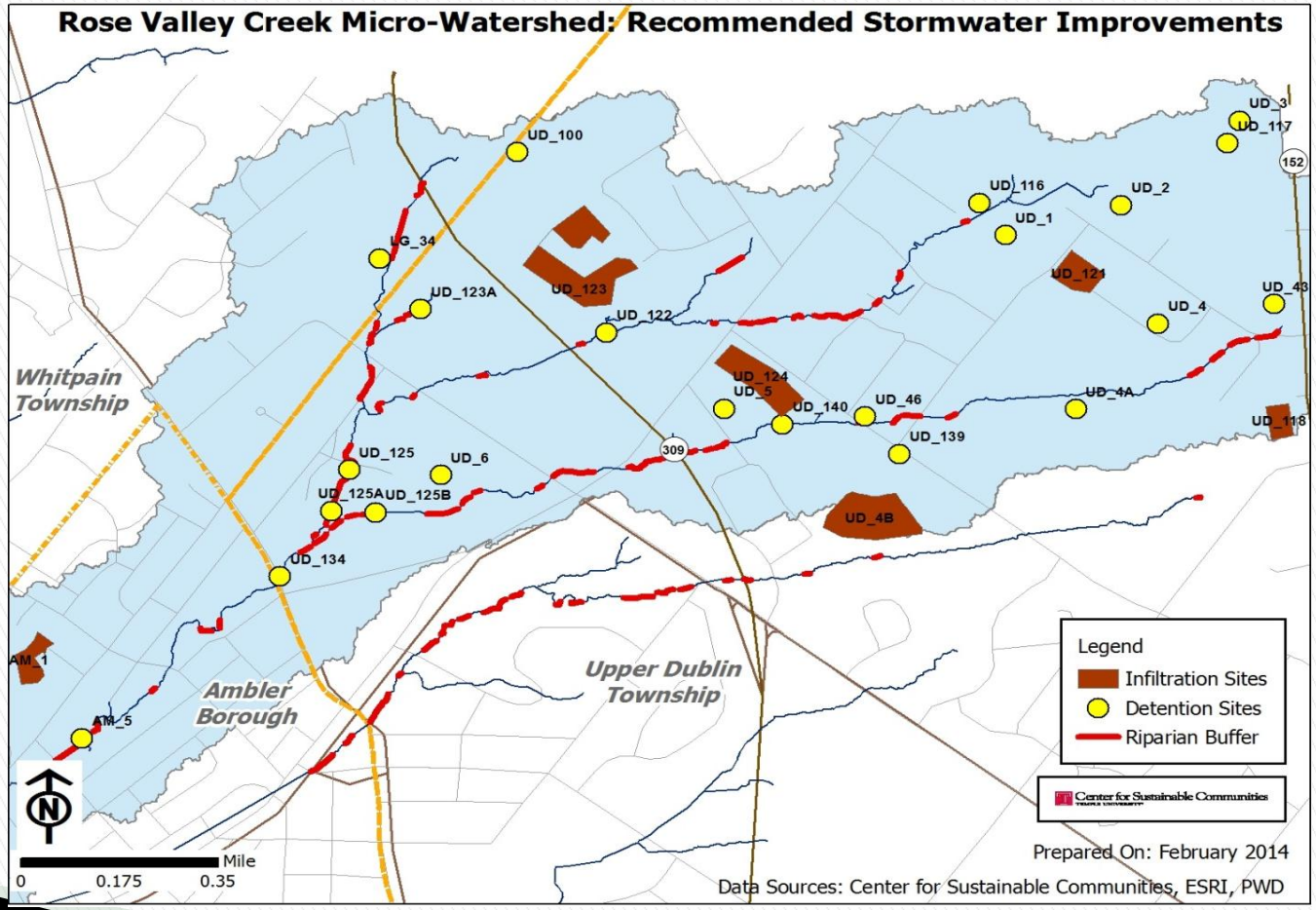


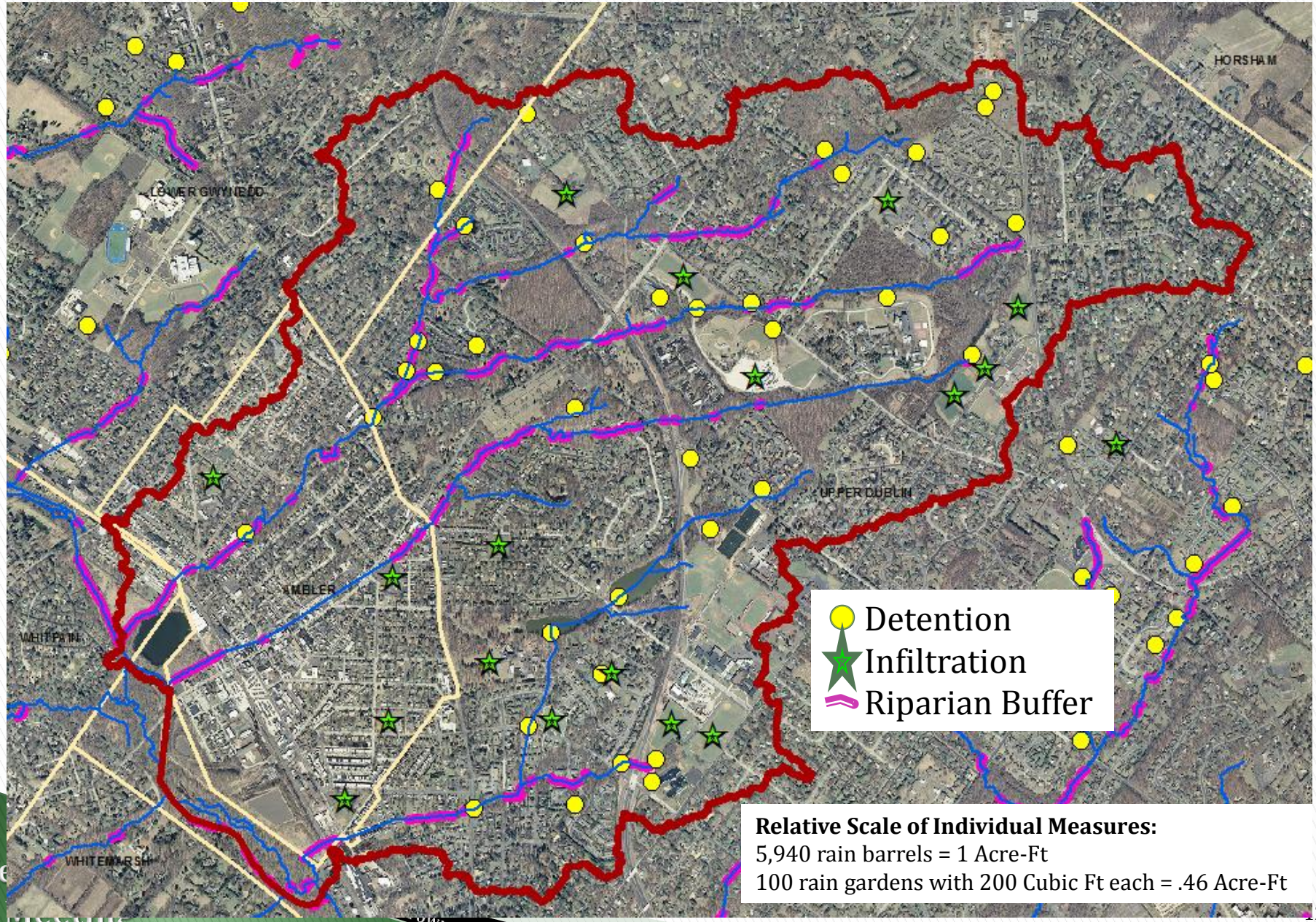
Assessment and Recommendations Included:

- Extended Detention (including retrofitting existing basins)
- Infiltration Sites
- Riparian Buffer Restoration
- Site-Specific Recommendations in Ambler, Upper Dublin, and Whitpain
- Low-Impact Green SI Projects

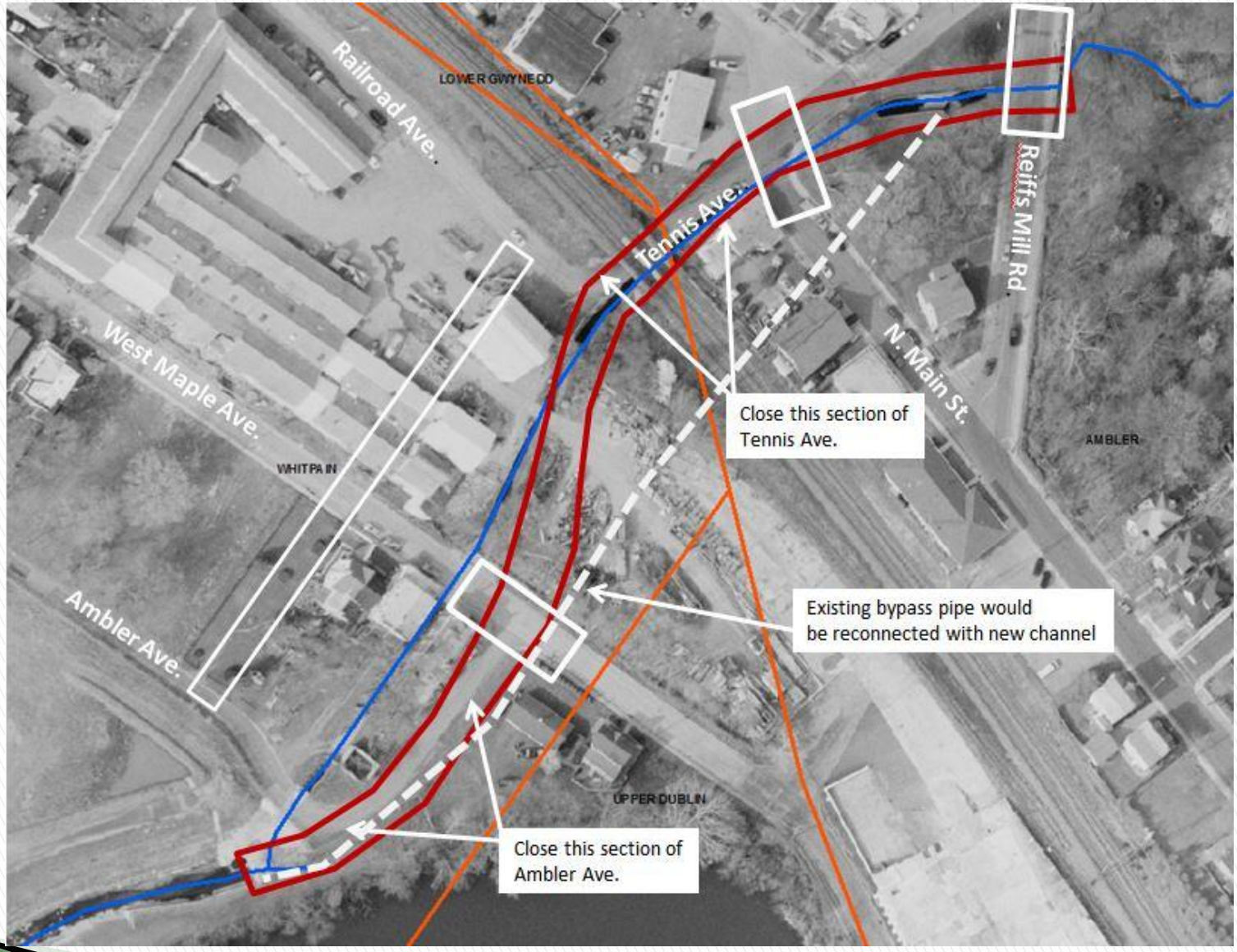


Potential Improvements -- Total Storage Volume

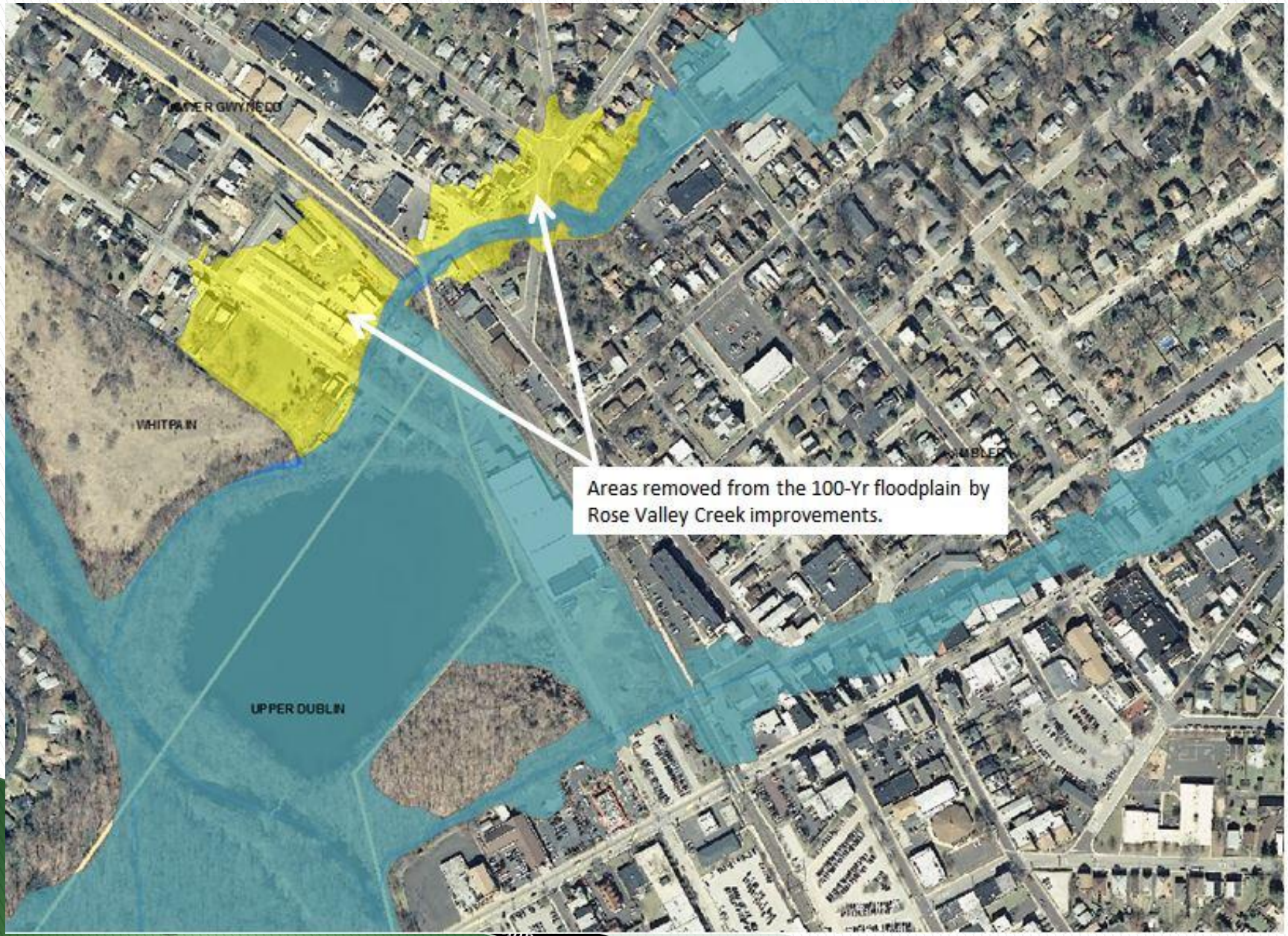
Extended Detention = 85 Acre-Ft Infiltration = 5.9 Acre-Ft Riparian Restoration = 2.8 Acre-Ft



Structural options were evaluated for Rose Valley Creek in West Ambler.



The recommended option would remove the area shown in yellow from the 100-Yr floodplain. The cost of this option is estimated at $10 million.



Structural improvements for the lower-most portion of Tannery Run could remove additional land from the floodplain as shown below. The additional cost is estimated at $5 million.

Conclusions

1) Limited upstream storage potential. Total = 95 Acre -Ft
2) Cost of upstream improvements = $7.1 million
3) Wissahickon floodplain elevation increases 3 Feet.
4) New mapping includes West Ambler section of Rose Valley Creek
5) Day-lighting lower Rose Valley Creek is feasible but cost would exceed $10 million if designed for the 500 year storm.
6) Models can be used to look at flood reduction on Stuart Farm Creek.
7) Very few options for Tannery Run.

Photo provided by Whitpain Township

Public Presentation

- Nov 12 – public presentation of Ambler watersheds study
- Draft report will be publicly available at least two weeks prior to the presentation
- Please distribute the event flyer widely. The meeting space can accommodate 100+ people.

FLOOD MITIGATION & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN AMBLER AREA WATERSHEDS

Rose Valley Creek, Tannery Run and Honey Run & Stuart Farm Creek

WHEN

Wednesday, November 12, 2014
7-9 PM

WHERE

First Presbyterian Church of Ambler
4 South Ridge Avenue, Ambler, PA 19002
Entrance from Cavalier parking lot
Free parking after 6 PM

STUDY INVESTIGATOR

Center for Sustainable Communities, Temple University

FUNDING AGENCIES

United States Environmental Protection Agency | United States Army Corps of Engineers | Montgomery County | Borough of Ambler | Upper Dublin Township | Whitplain Township

MORE INFORMATION:
amblerwatersheds.wordpress.com

PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF STUDY

West Ambler Meeting

BoRit Asbestos Site Update

- October 22, 2014

- Jill Lowe, Remedial Project Manager, 215.814.3123
- Eduardo Rovira, On-Scene Coordinator, 215.814.3436

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

BoRit Asbestos Site Update
BoRit and Ambler Pile Sites- 1942

BoRit Asbestos Site Update
BoRit Circa 2000, Before EPA Involvement

BoRit Asbestos Site Update
Site status prior to EPA involvement

- Former Park (~ 11 acres)
  - Disposal prior to 1937, ends about 1965 (aerial photos)
  - Soil cover placed around 1965
    - About 6” of cover
    - Out of spec ACM products and other solids
- Reservoir (~ 15 acres)
  - Exists in 1937 aerial photo
  - Process water and fire fighting
  - ACM visible along the berms

BoRit Asbestos Site Update
Site status prior to EPA involvement

- BoRit Pile (~ 6 acres)
  - Asbestos area about 3 acres
    - Up to 25 feet above street level
  - Disposal began prior to 1937, ends around 1965
    - It appears vegetated (aerial photos)
  - Contains spent magnesium and calcium carbonate slurries and asbestos waste products
  - Estimated volume of 150,000 cubic yards

BoRit Asbestos Site Update
EPA Removal Process

- Stabilized Banks of Wissahickon, Rose Valley and Tannery Run Creeks to cover Asbestos Containing Material (ACM)
- Covered BoRit Pile
- Covered approximately 50% of the Park (to date)
- Dewatered Reservoir and began covering ACM and stabilizing berms

During Removal Activities Wissahickon Creek

During Removal Activities
Rose Valley Creek

During Removal Activities Tannery Run

During Removal Action
BoRit Pile

Aerial Photo Courtesy of Salvatore A. Boccuti

BoRit Site
September 2014

Aerial Photo Courtesy of Salvatore A. Boccuti

BoRit Asbestos Site Update Reservoir- Removal and Remedial

- August 2013 - USACE Study of Reservoir Hydraulics and Berm Stability
  - Significant water level increases directly correlated to rainwater
  - Berm stability acceptable except for berm along Wissahickon Creek
- December 2013 – Dewatering of the Reservoir begins
  - Pumped 116 days, completed in August 2014
  - Pumped approximately 29.4 million gallons of water
  - The ACM is only along the berms
  - Small amounts of tires and debris were found in or on the floor

BoRit Asbestos Site Update Reservoir- Removal and Remedial

- June 2014 – Old storm water vault at reservoir removed
  - Removal worked with Whitpain Township to identify source of the water
  - Dye test conducted
  - Groundwater levels surveyed
  - USACE designed replacement

Aerial provided by Salvatore A. Boccuti

BoRit Asbestos Site Update
EPA Remedial Progress

- November 2013 - RI finalized
- August 2014 – Additional investigation of reservoir
- October 2014 – Draft FS Screening Memorandum

BoRit Asbestos Site Update
Reservoir- Removal and Remedial

- March 2014 - Removal and Remedial conduct Reservoir investigation
  - Sediment sampling of Maple Avenue half of reservoir
  - Six sample locations – eleven samples collected at depths from 1-4 feet
- August 2014 – continued reservoir investigation
  - Sediment sampling of Wissahickon half of reservoir
  - Five sample locations – ten samples collected at depths from 0-4.5 feet
- Reservoir floor will be covered

BoRit Asbestos Site Update
Next Steps

- Removal to continue work on the reservoir
- Move on to Park to complete cover
- Estimated completion in September 2015
- Remedial to continue work on Feasibility Study
- Proposed Plan estimated for September 2015
  - Identifies cleanup alternatives
  - Proposes preferred alternative
  - Requests public comment
- Record of Decision (ROD) legally documents cleanup and responds to comments

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University of Pennsylvania Superfund Research Center and West Ambler

Edward A. Emmett, MD
Director of Community Outreach Core,
Investigator Social Determinants of Asbestos Exposure Project

Superfund Research Projects

WHY?

- Research to improve Superfund cleanup programs and understand effects of hazardous waste sites on communities.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

- Involved with CAG since 2007-8
- Learned from Otis Hightower, Sharon Vargas, Flo Wise, Greg Cooke, Ruthie Weeks and others about West Ambler issues: closeness of waste, floodings, loss of recreation facilities, relatives with asbestos diseases, etc.
- Grant to answer scientific questions that might help.

Asbestos Fate, Exposure, Remediation, and Adverse Health Effects

Penn Superfund Research and Training Program (SRP) Center (NIEHS Grant: P42ES023720)

Director: Ian A. Blair, PhD

Deputy Director: Trevor M. Penning, PhD

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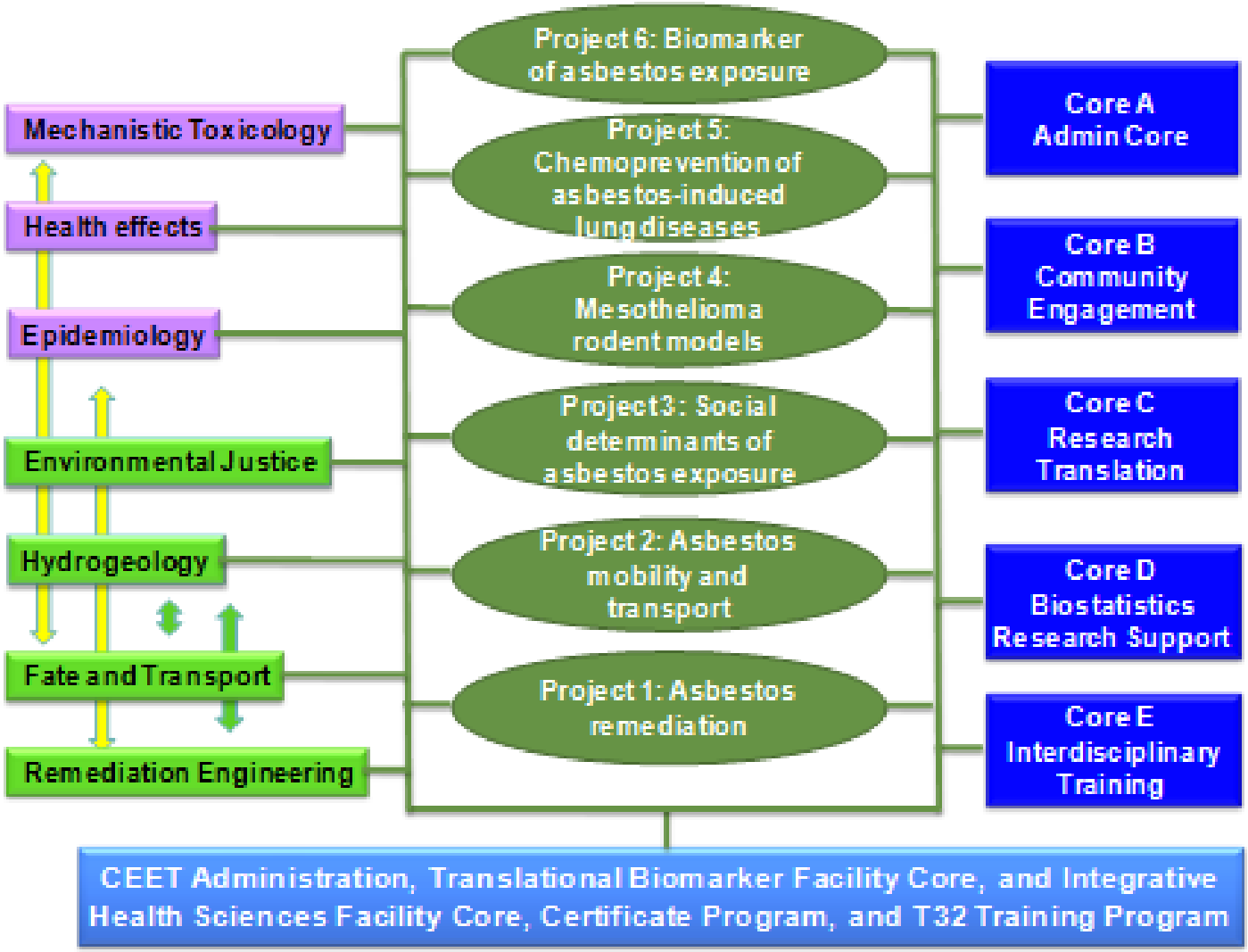
Penn SRP Center Projects and Cores



Acknowledgements

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Wei-Ting Hwang
Doug Jerolmack

Trevor Penning
Richard Pepino
Robert Schenkel
Rebecca Simmons
Joe Testa
Anil Vachani
Jane Willenbring

Superfund Research Projects

"SOCIAL DETERMINANTS" PROJECT

- How were the people who got Mesothelioma exposed to asbestos?
- Involves reconstructing who lived in West Ambler in the 1920-1970 period, if they moved where they went, what they died from, did they work at the plant, did they have a worker in the home, or have community exposures?
- This will tell us what to avoid in the future
- Can you help us?

BIOMONITORING PROJECT

- To develop tests that detect something going wrong from asbestos **before** a difficult-to-cure cancer occurs.
- Might you have been exposed to asbestos, would you be a volunteer?

Superfund Research Projects

SEPARATE BUT RELATED SCIENCE EDUCATION PROJECT

Taking in-depth interviews with community members to:

- Tell and preserve the story of Ambler and West and South Ambler.
- Improve the understanding of what it is like to be in a community affected by hazardous waste.
- Make the lessons known to city planners, business people, politicians, health care professionals, students, other communities, and other groups.

Superfund Research Projects

- Talk with us more tonight
- For more information or to volunteer or help, complete the signup sheet located at the table
- Contact information:
  - aneeza.agha@uphs.upenn.edu,
  - 215-746-8518
  - http://www.med.upenn.edu/asbestos/

Our research findings will be reported back to the community

Penn SRP Center

Comments & Questions

Whitpain Township