

# Structural

# Infiltration Practices





# Structural Infiltration Practices

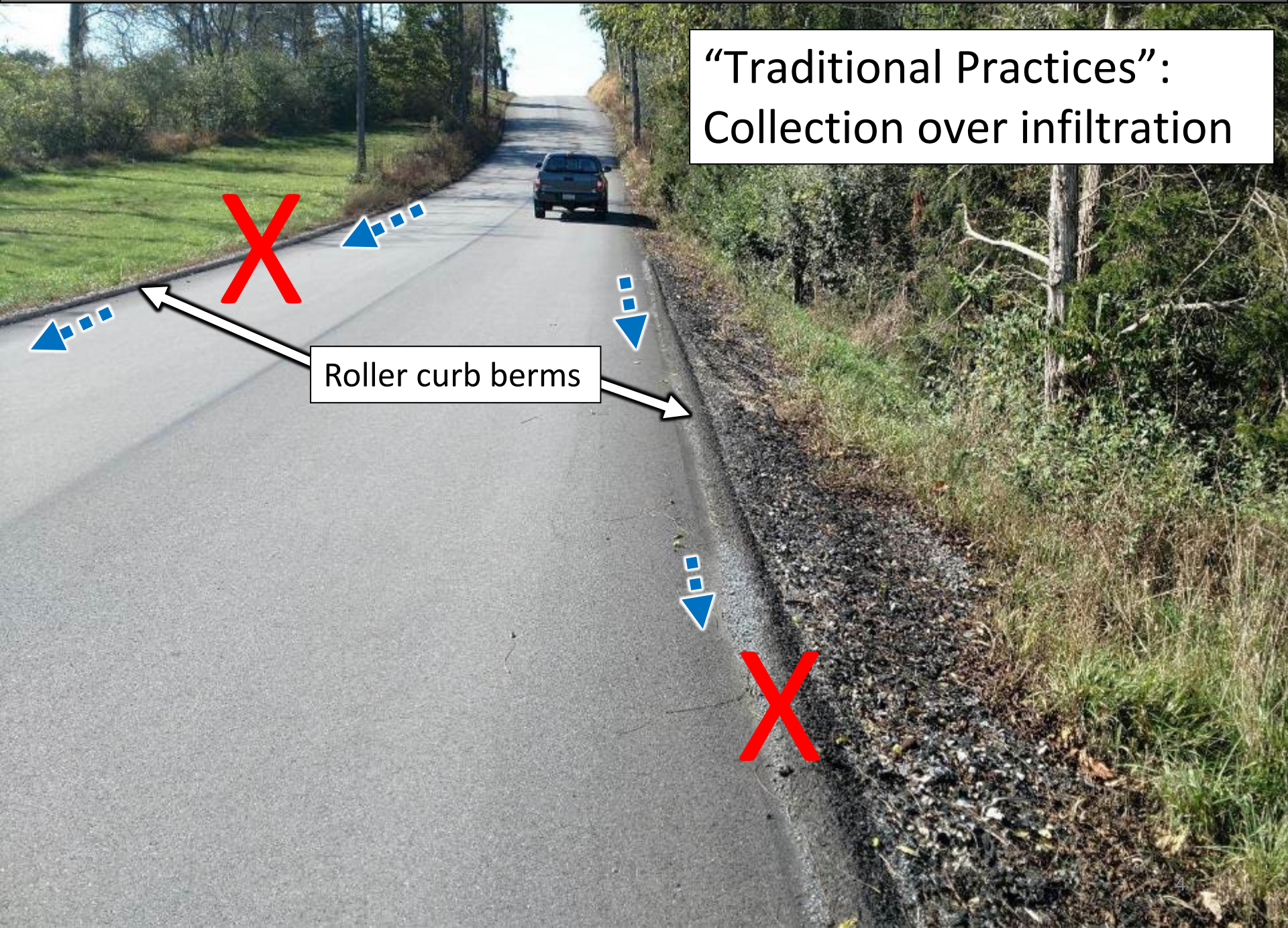
- Introduction
- Practices
- DGLVR Project Examples

## What is “infiltration”:

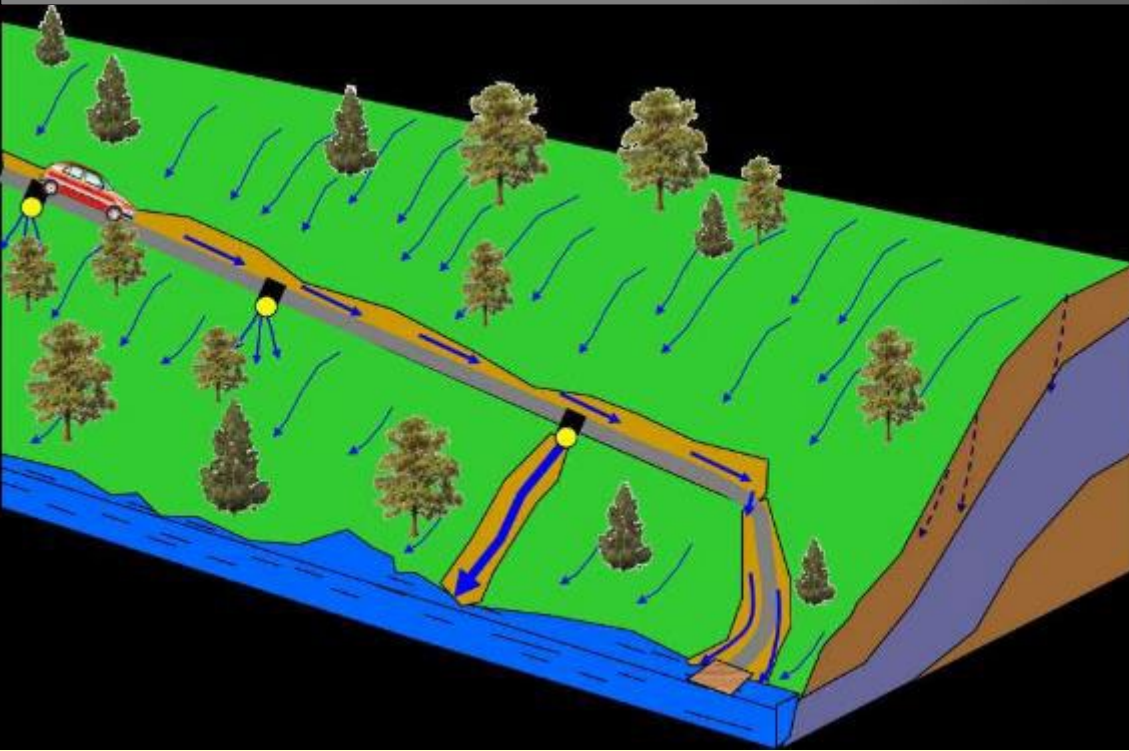
Any practices that encourage water to soak into the ground instead of running off.



“Traditional Practices”:  
Collection over infiltration



Roller curb berms



## Remember our hillside?

- Infiltration over runoff is a Program Focus (road fill, pipes, underdrain, etc.).
- What happens in the real world....



**Remember  
our hillside?**

- Infiltration over runoff is a Program Focus (road fill, pipes, underdrain, etc.).
- What happens in the real world....
- **Sometimes the situation requires more “structural” infiltration practices**

## Structural Infiltration practices:

- Structures that capture stormwater runoff and allow it to slowly seep into the soil.
- Applicable for urban, suburban, and rural roads.
- Often most beneficial in densely developed areas and agricultural landscapes.
- **Alleviate flooding and erosion, reduce surface water pollution, and promote groundwater recharge.**

# Structural Infiltration practices:

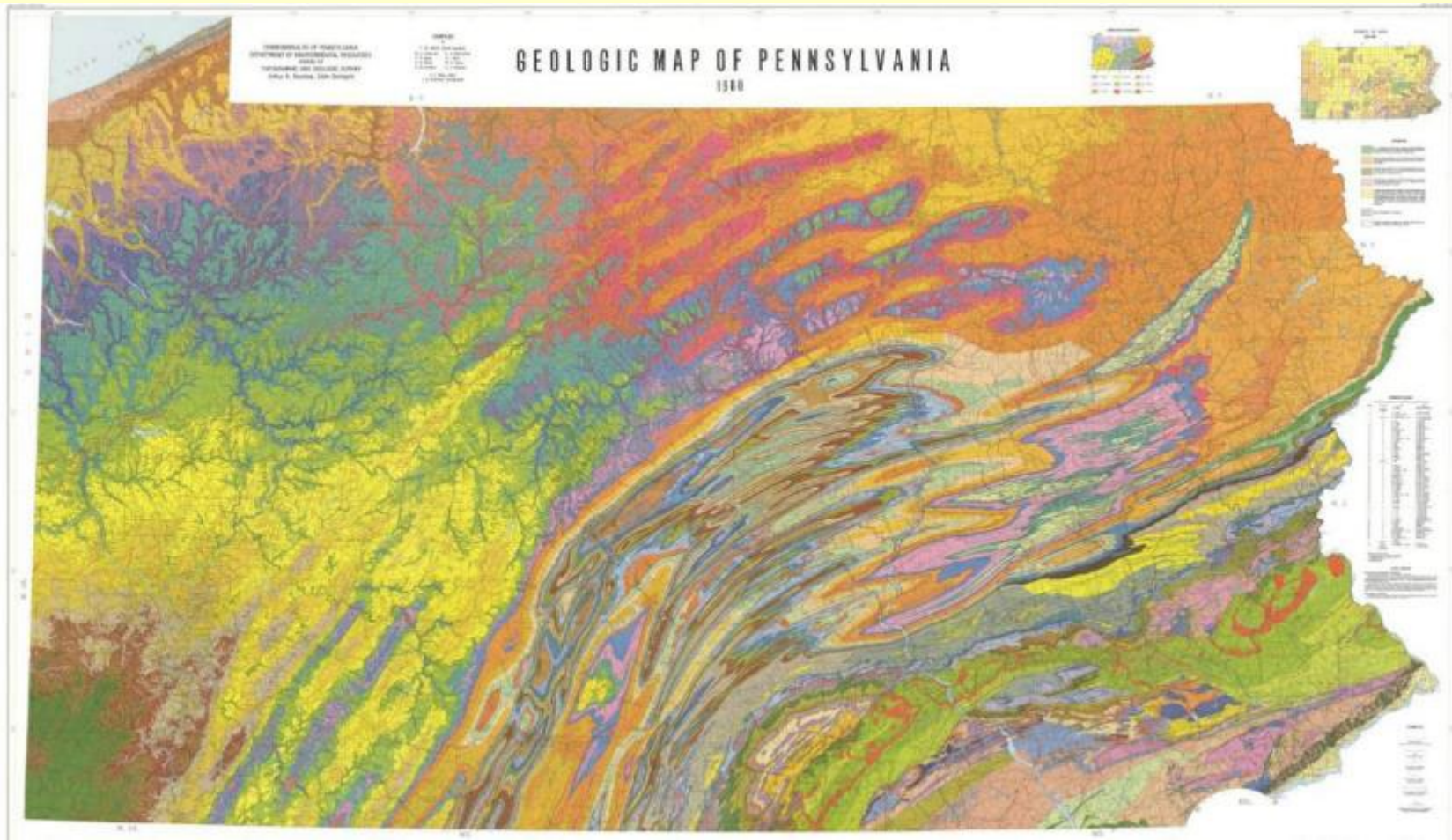
Any structure designed to capture stormwater runoff and allow it to slowly seep into the soil.

- Infiltration Basin
- Rain Garden
- Detention Basin
- Infiltration Trench
- Infiltration Swale
- Stilling Basin
- Bio-Swale
- Grassed Waterway
- Permeable Pavement
- Constructed Wetland

Examples: too many types and sizes to cover them all



- Geology, Soils, and Infiltration rates vary widely across PA.
- Analysis may be needed to determine infiltration rates.



## Disclaimer #1

**ENGINEERING / DESIGN (and permits) may be needed**, depending on structure, location, and size.

Conservation District can help determine if an engineer or design is needed.



## Disclaimer #2

- Practices are customizable and vary based on site conditions.
- This entire training could be on infiltration. These are examples only.
- Purpose is to show ideas of what might be possible through DGLVR!



# Structural Infiltration Practices

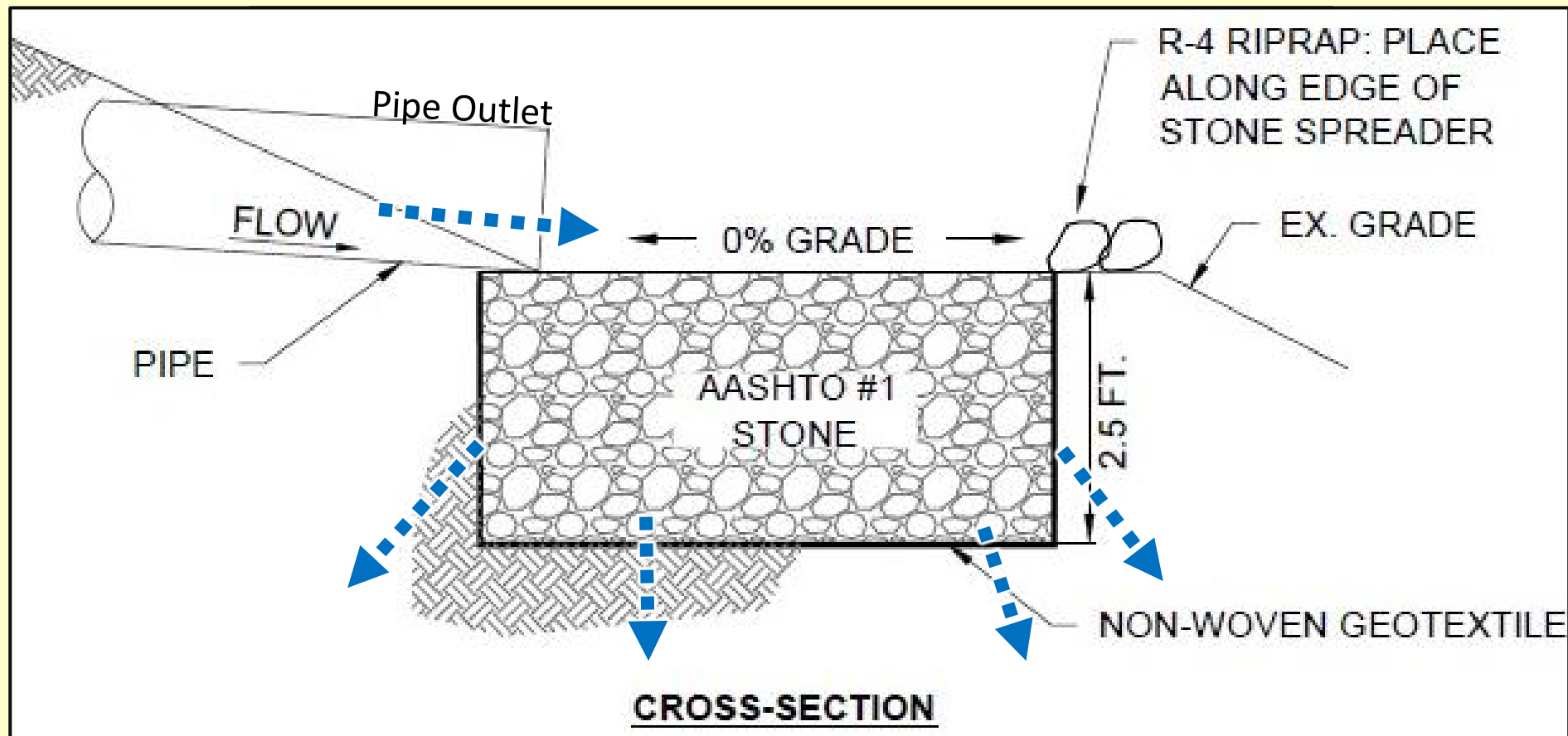
- Introduction
- Practices
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## Structural Infiltration Practices

- **Infiltration Beds / Trenches**
- Infiltration Basins
- Vegetated Swales
- Rain Gardens
- Subsurface Structures

## Infiltration Bed Detail

Typical from PA Stormwater BMP Manual

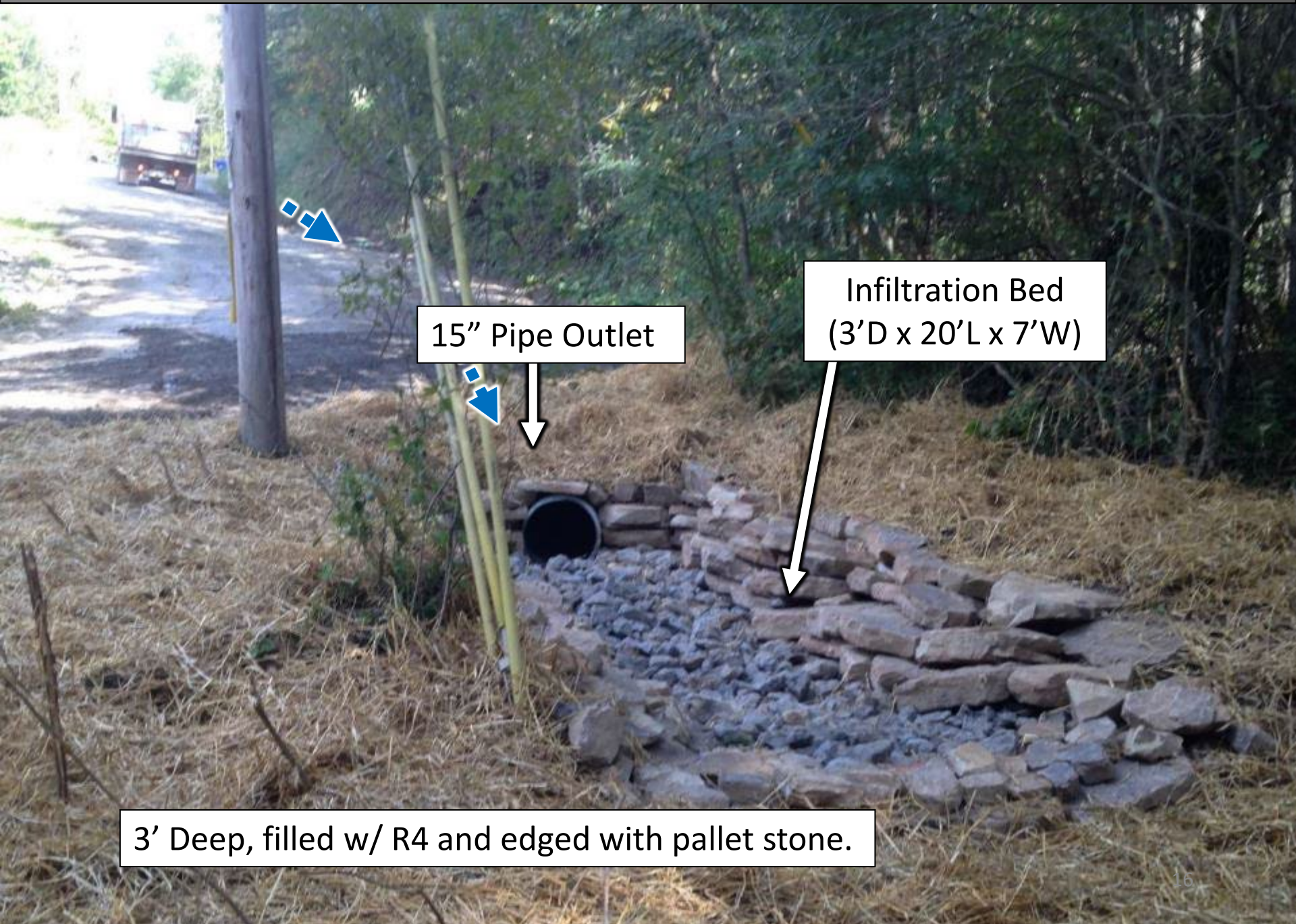


**When sized appropriately, stone beds can be used at outlet of individual pipes and turnouts or at the terminal outlet of a storm sewer system.**



Pipe Inlet

Infiltration Bed used on rural storm sewer in agricultural area. Bed located prior to discharge to headwater channel of valley stream.



15" Pipe Outlet

Infiltration Bed  
(3'D x 20'L x 7'W)

3' Deep, filled w/ R4 and edged with pallet stone.

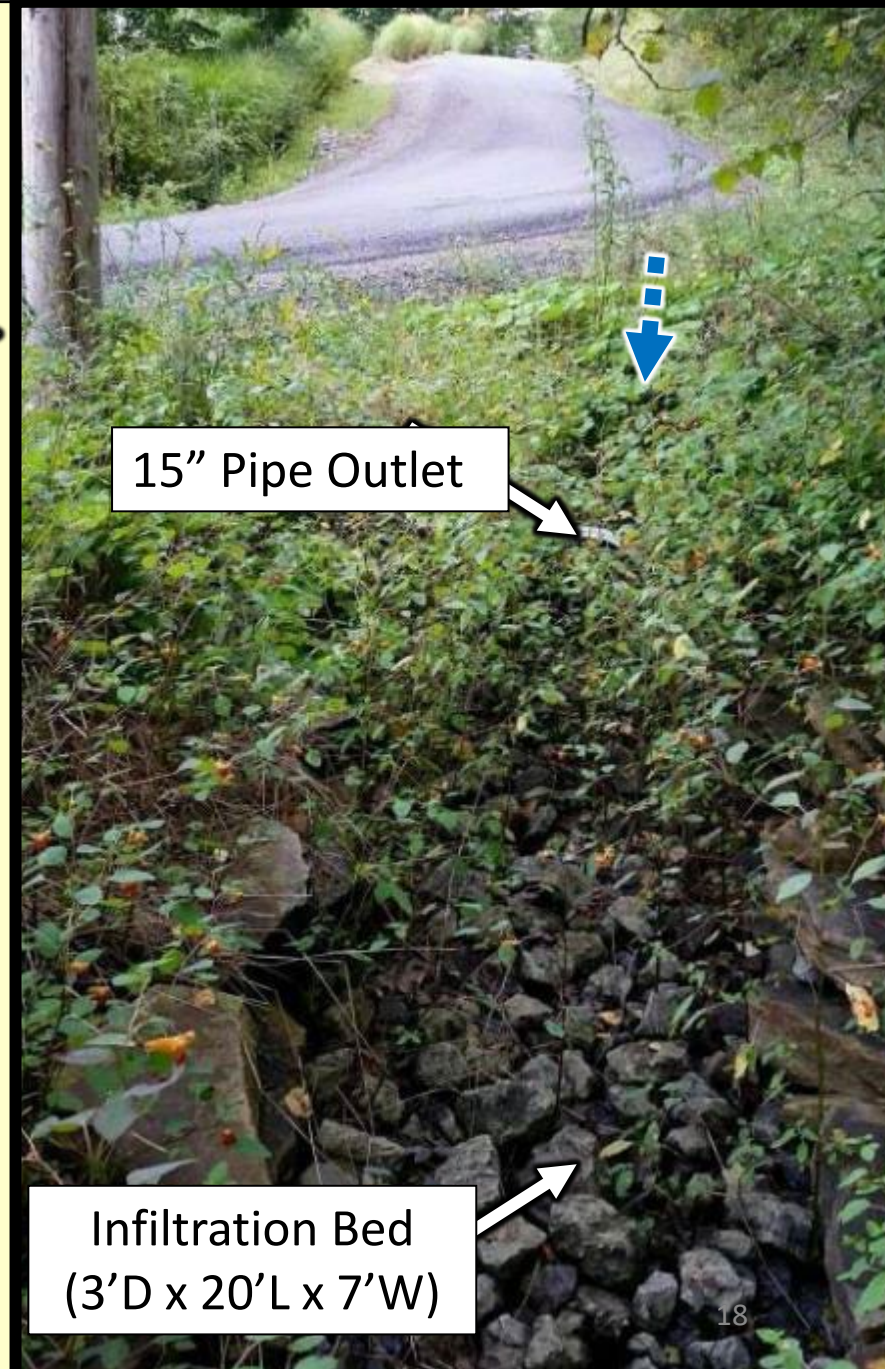




3' Deep, filled w/ R4 and edged with pallet stone.



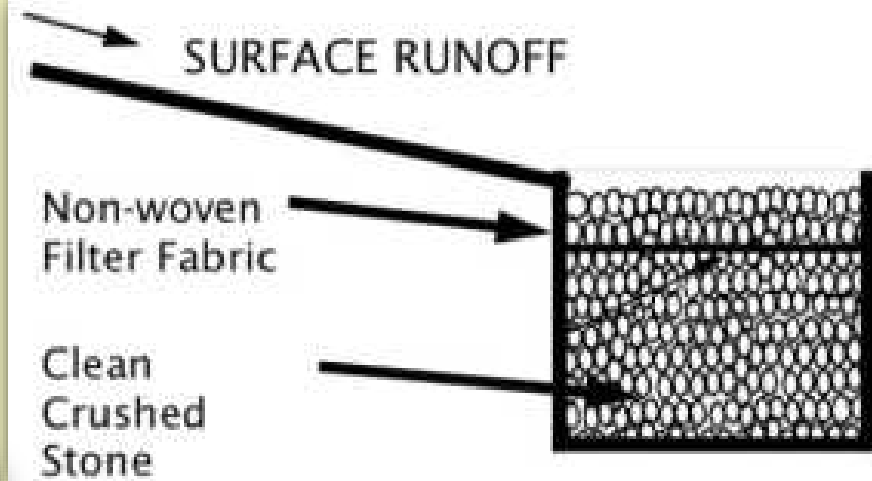
7 years later →



Over time Infiltration Bed blends in but continues to function as intended to reduce water and sediment leaving the road.

## Infiltration Trench

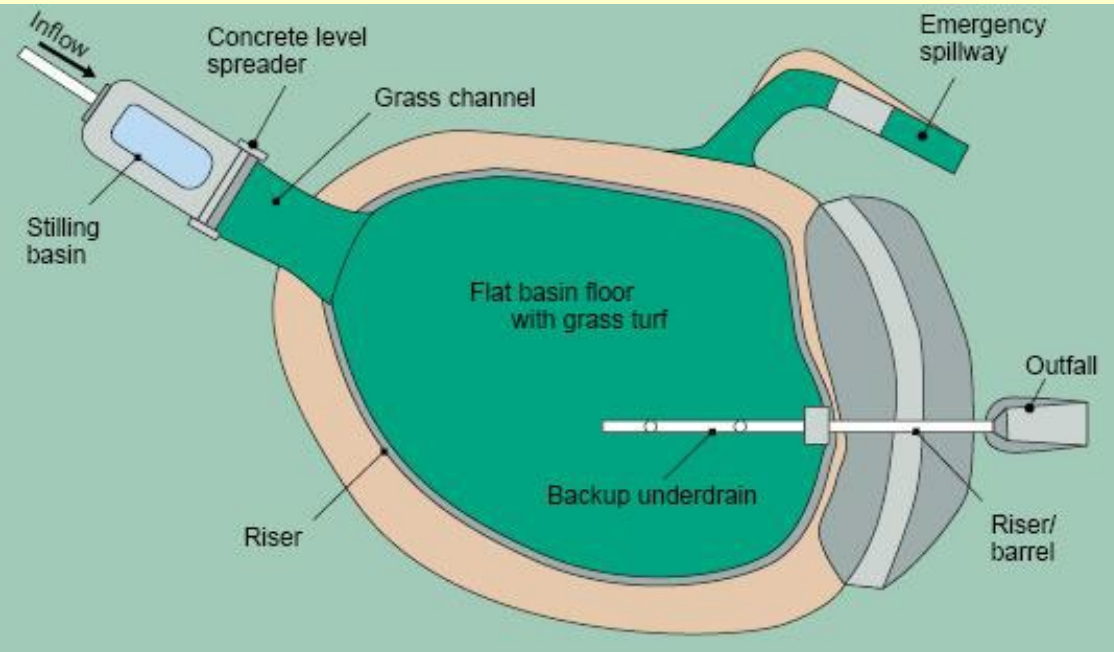
Similar to infiltration bed,  
but longer and on contour  
(virtually flat)



## Structural Infiltration Practices

- Infiltration Beds / Trenches
- **Infiltration Basins**
- Vegetated Swales
- Rain Gardens
- Subsurface Structures

**Infiltration basin:** A depression that temporarily stores stormwater and allows it to seep into the soil.



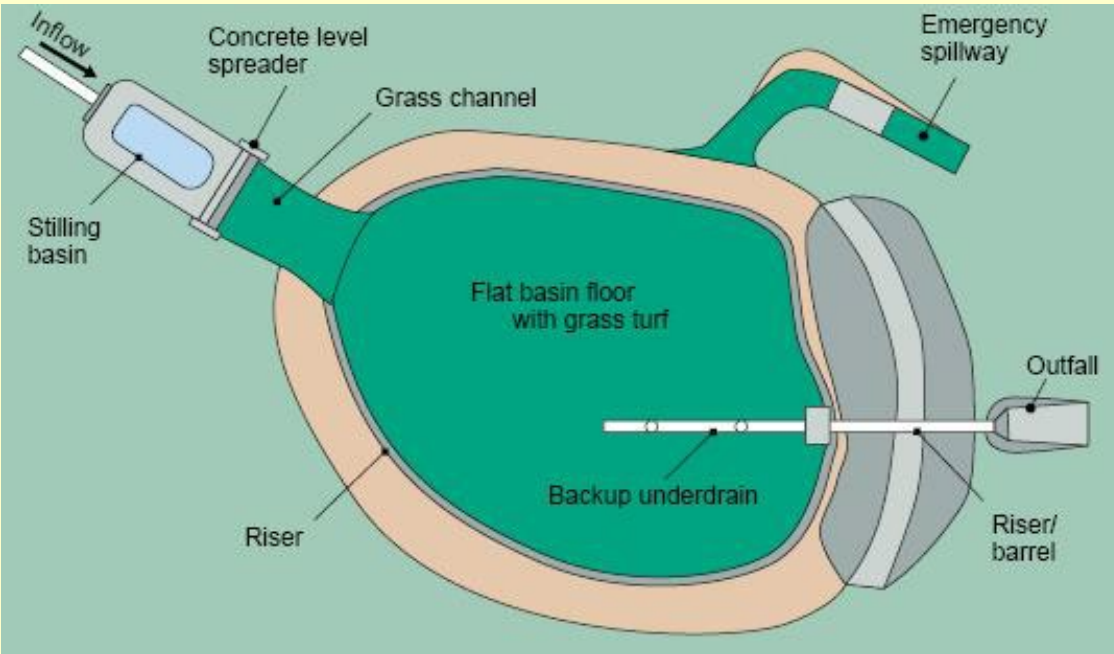
### Typical features:

- Forebay or Stilling Basin
- Storage Pool
- Pool Level Riser
- High-water Spillway
- Incorporated Underdrain
- Easily Maintained

Not all infiltration basins have all the above features

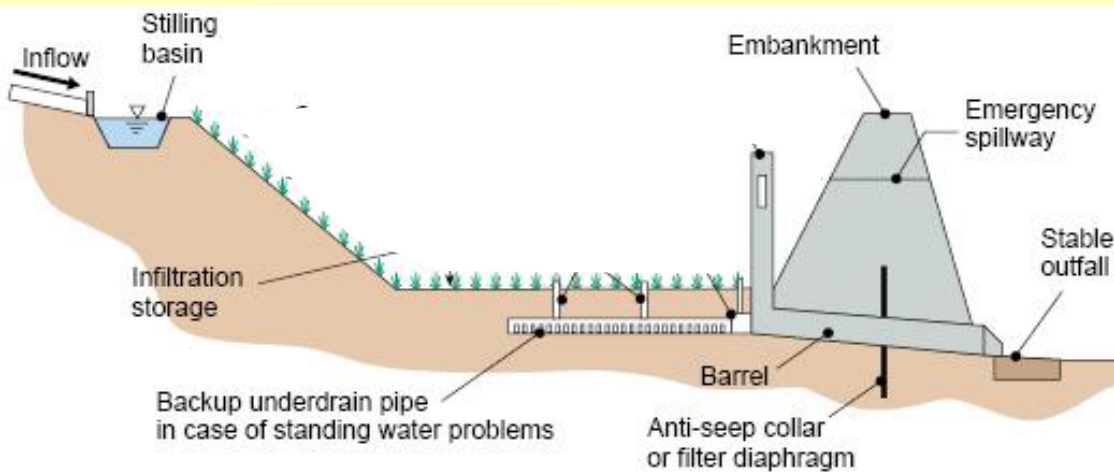


**Infiltration basin:** A depression that temporarily stores stormwater and allows it to seep into the soil.



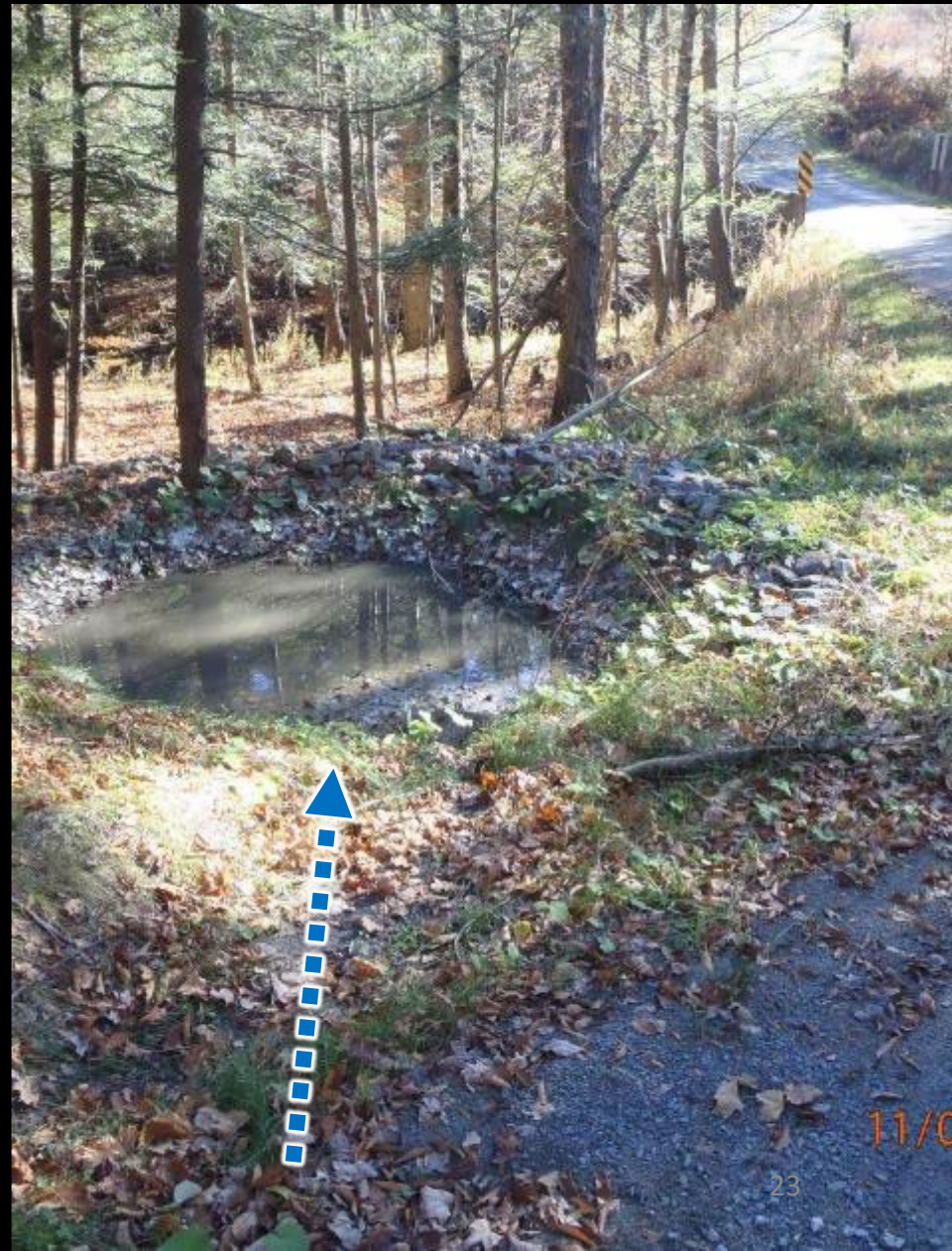
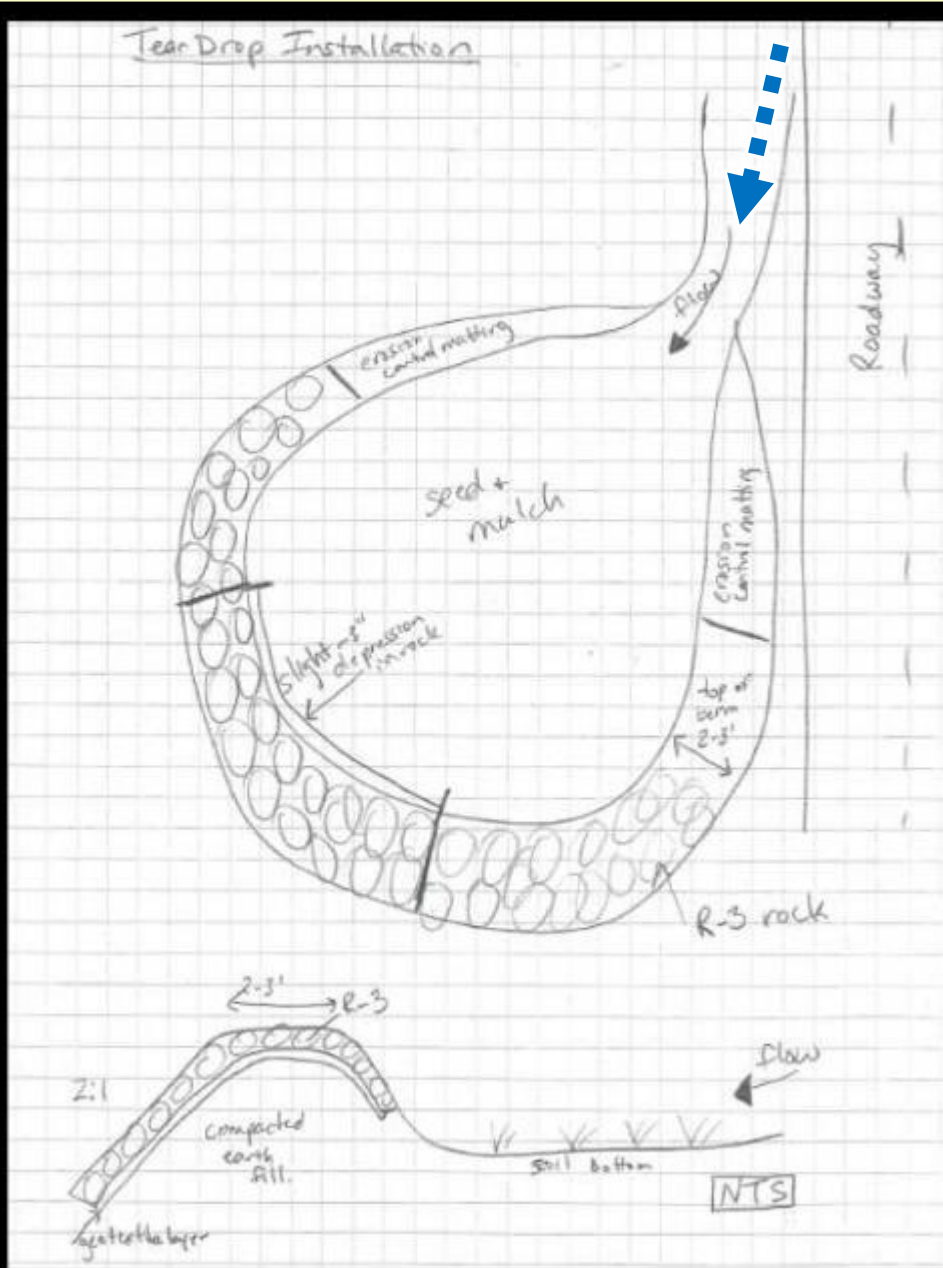
## Practical Uses:

- Upslope of road to intercept water
- At ditch outlets
- At storm sewer discharge
- Before storm sewers to reduce flows

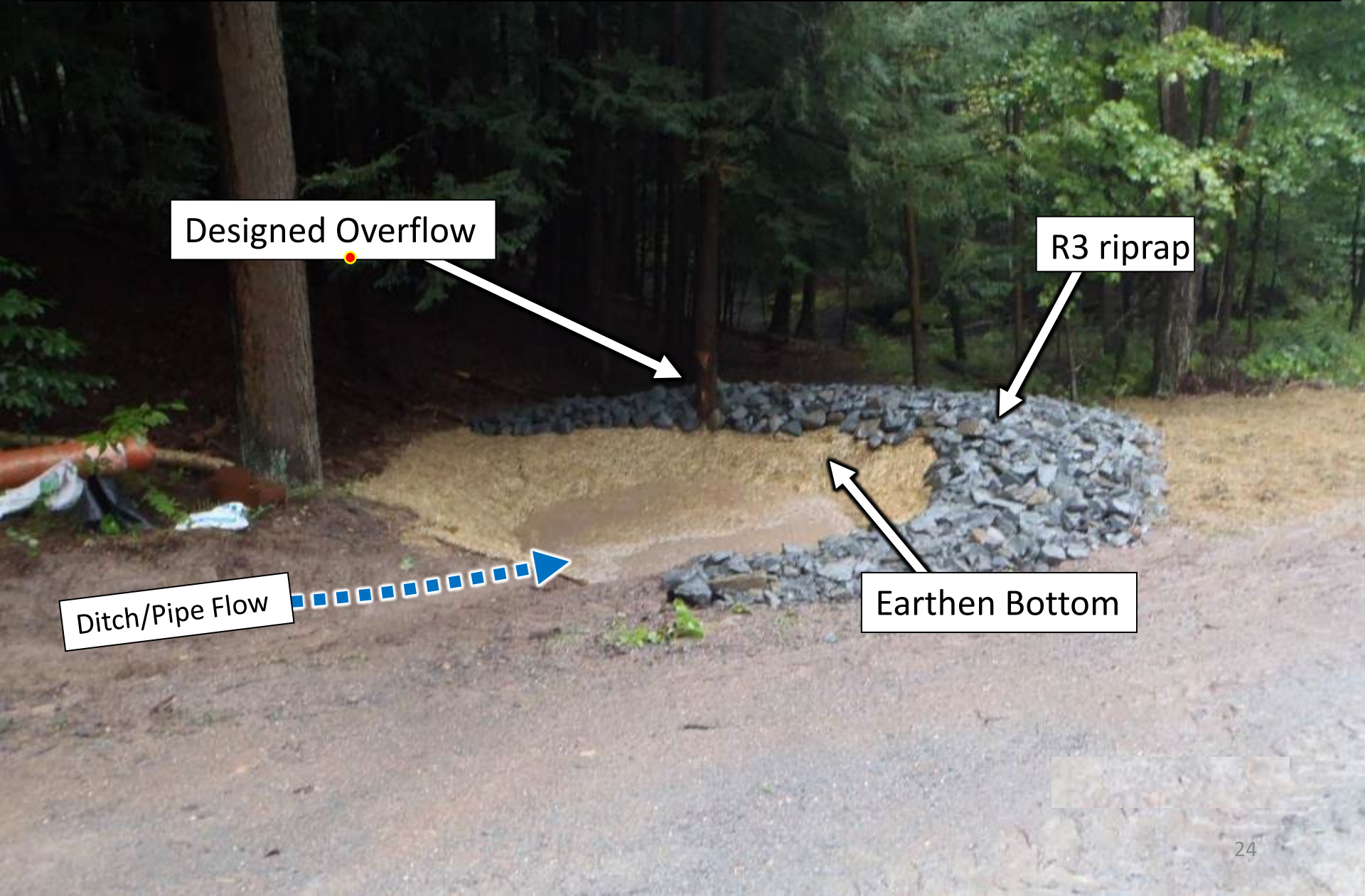


**\*situations often call for site specific innovation**

# Infiltration Basins: "Teardrops" for individual pipe outlets



Infiltration Basins: "Teardrops" for individual pipe outlets



Designed Overflow

R3 riprap

Earthen Bottom

Ditch/Pipe Flow



Infiltration Basins: "Teardrops" for individual pipe outlets



Ditch/Pipe Flow

Teardrop

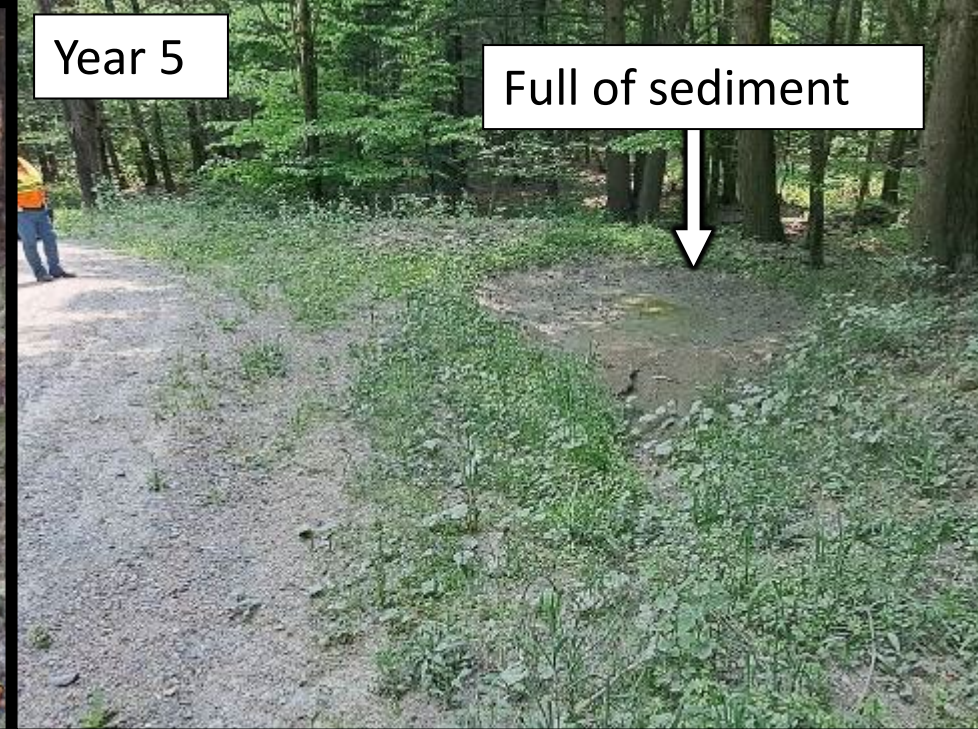
R3 riprap

Designed Overflow

Year 1



Year 5



Full of sediment

**Must be maintained,  
especially on gravel roads.**

After Cleanout



Infiltration Basins: for Off-right-of-way flow coming to road



Stormwater basin collects and infiltrates runoff from an upslope park and slowly discharges storm flow.

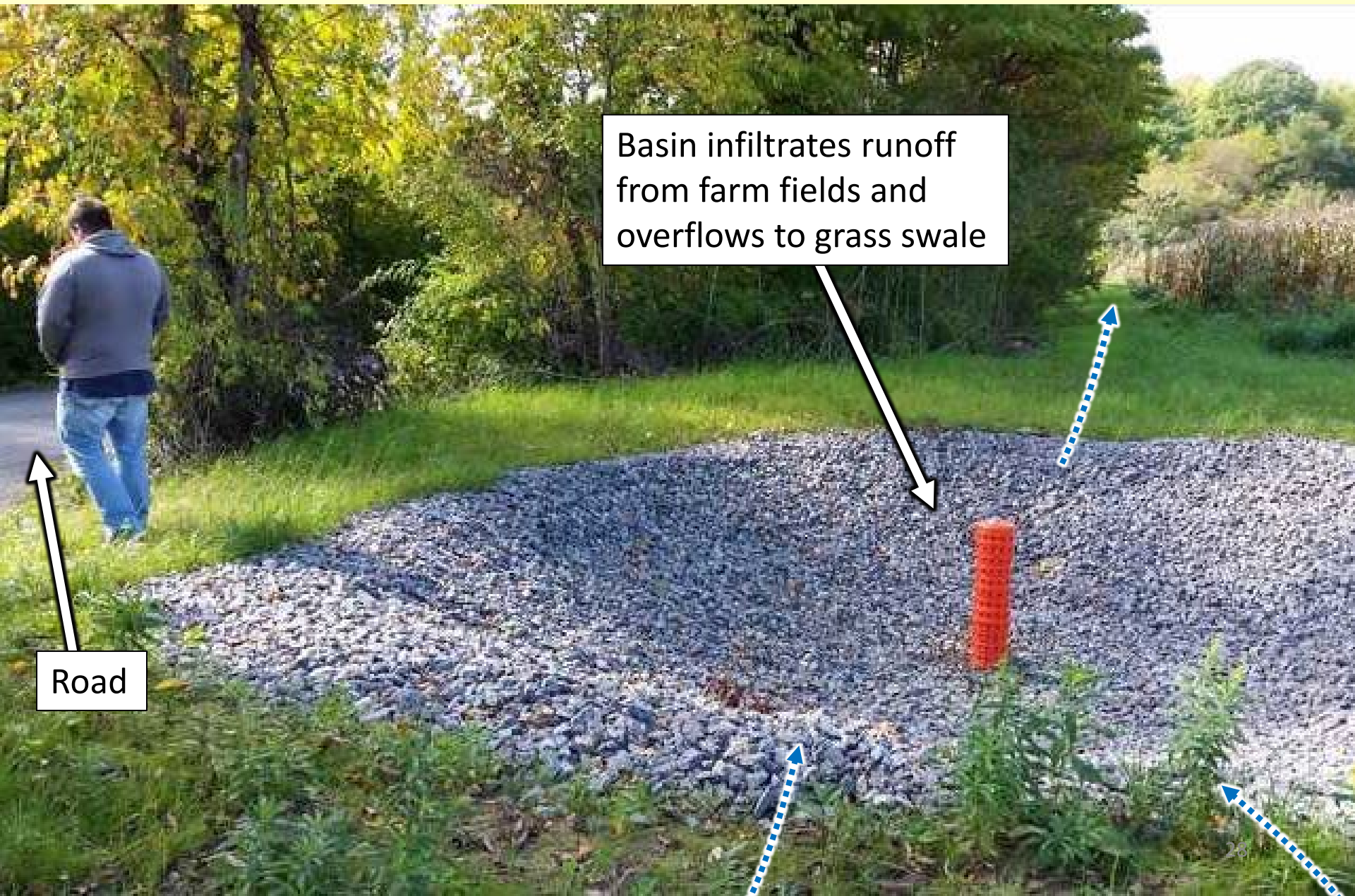
Road



Overflow to road ditch



Infiltration Basins: Can go above road for **off-ROW** water



Basin infiltrates runoff from farm fields and overflows to grass swale

Road

## Infiltration Basins: Can go in ditch for road runoff



Use when ditch outlets are not feasible, and space is available.

Basins can be in a series to:

- Slow ditch drainage
- Limit runoff
- Capture sediment

Design to be easily maintained from the road.

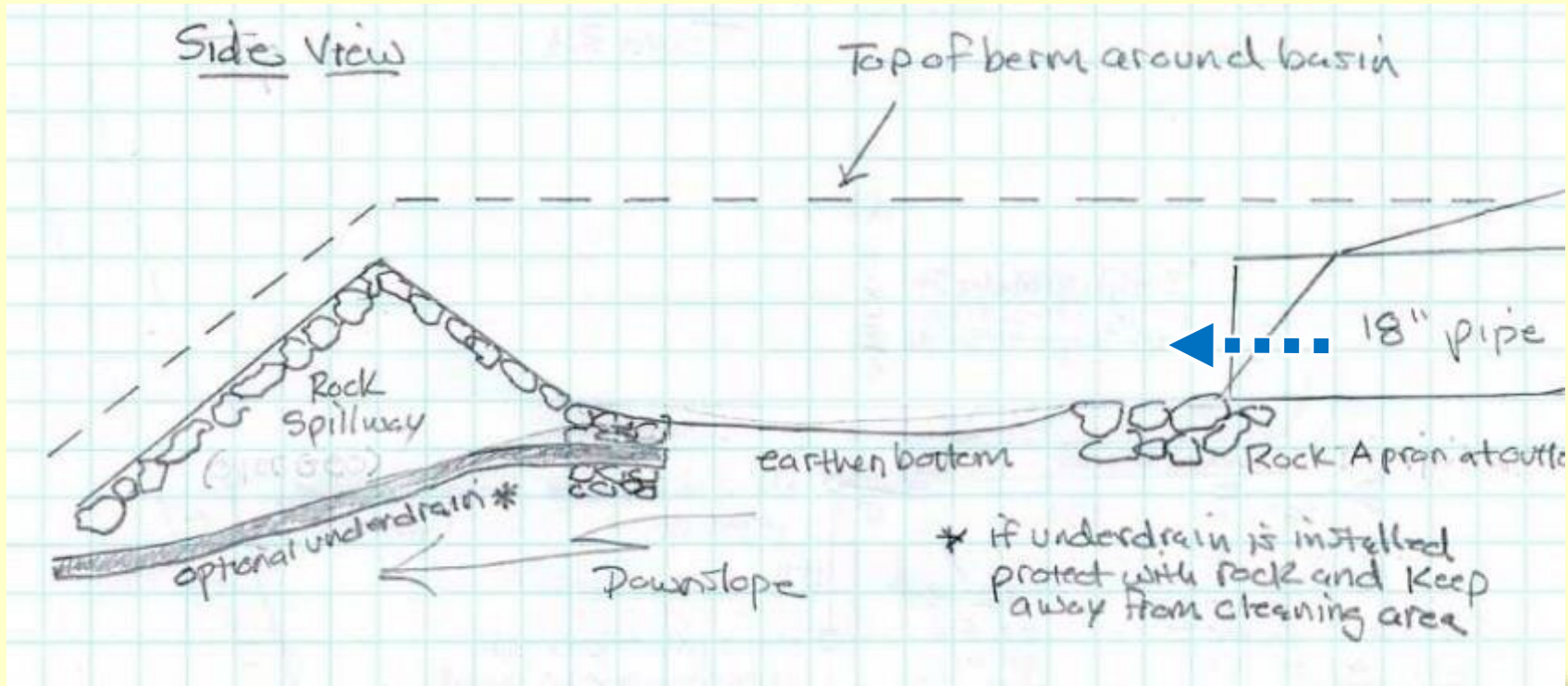
Infiltration Basins: Can go in ditch for road runoff



Infiltration Basins: Can go in ditch for road runoff



# Infiltration Basins: Can go at pipe or storm sewer outlet





Infiltration Basins: Can go at pipe or storm sewer outlet



Storm Sewer Outlets  
from two streets

Infiltration Basin

Infiltration  
Basin

Outlet

Large basin collects water from two roads and parking lot

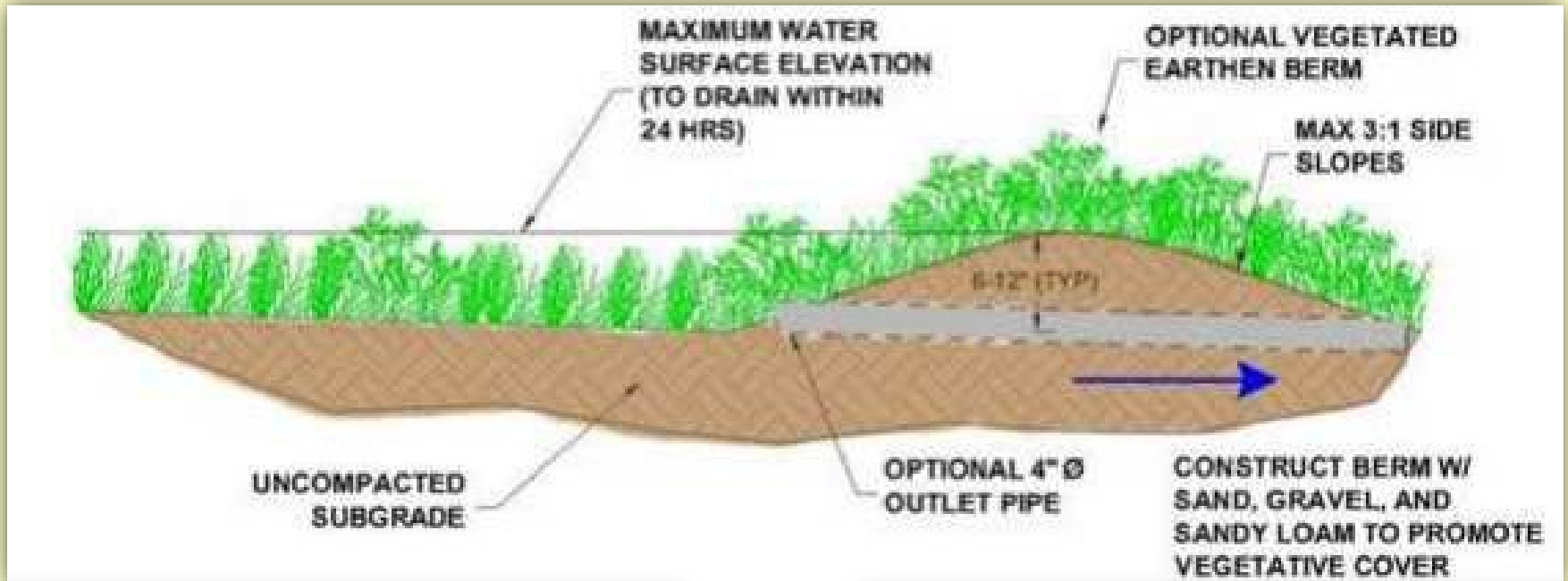


Outlet riser

## Structural Infiltration Practices

- Infiltration Beds / Trenches
- Infiltration Basins
- **Vegetated Swales**
- Rain Gardens
- Subsurface Structures

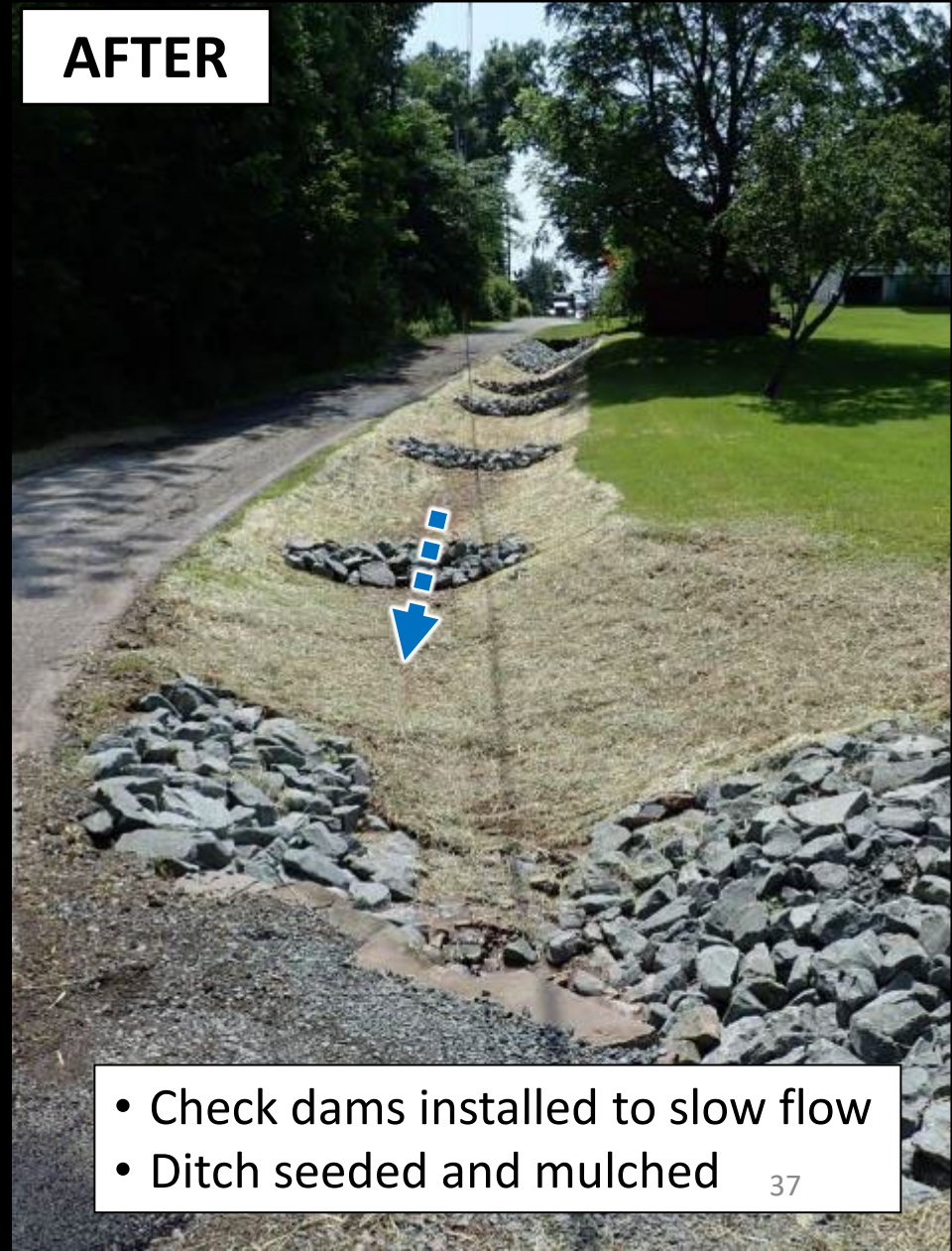
Vegetated Swales: Filter and slow runoff, promote infiltration



# Vegetated Swales: Filter and slow runoff, promote infiltration

**BEFORE**

- Could not get drainage outlets
- Ditch continually eroding

**AFTER**

- Check dams installed to slow flow
- Ditch seeded and mulched

Vegetated Swales: Filter and slow runoff, promote infiltration



Vegetated Swales: Filter and slow runoff, promote infiltration

**DURING**

**Road**

Storm  
Sewer  
Outlet



**AFTER**

**Road**

Storm  
Sewer  
Outlet



# Structural Infiltration Practices

- Infiltration Beds / Trenches
- Infiltration Basins
- Vegetated Swales
- **Rain Gardens**
- Subsurface Structures



## Rain Gardens

- A depressed area in the landscape that collects stormwater from streets and roads to promote infiltration.
- Vary widely in size and shape.
- Typically planted with native vegetation
- Typically used in more urban settings



**BEFORE**



Proposed  
rain garden

Drop inlet drains  
to stream

Cherry Lane, Lancaster County

**Rain Garden**: A depressed area in the landscape that collects stormwater from streets and roads to promote infiltration.

**AFTER**

Rain Garden



Cherry Lane, Lancaster County

**Rain Garden**: A depressed area in the landscape that collects stormwater from streets and roads to promote infiltration.

Easterly Parkway Rain Gardens, Centre County



Drainage from both sides of road is directed to a roadside rain garden. Overflow outlets to the storm sewer.

Easterly Parkway Rain Gardens, Centre County



Native vegetation and weirs are used to slow flow and utilize water.



Maybe get better pictures,  
or use different project?

Everhart Street, Chester County



Maybe get better pictures,  
or use different project?

Everhart Street, Chester County

# Structural Infiltration Practices

- Infiltration Beds / Trenches
- Infiltration Basins
- Vegetated Swales
- Rain Gardens
- **Subsurface Structures**



Infiltration bed below road - Montgomery County





Infiltration bed for porous pavement

BEFORE

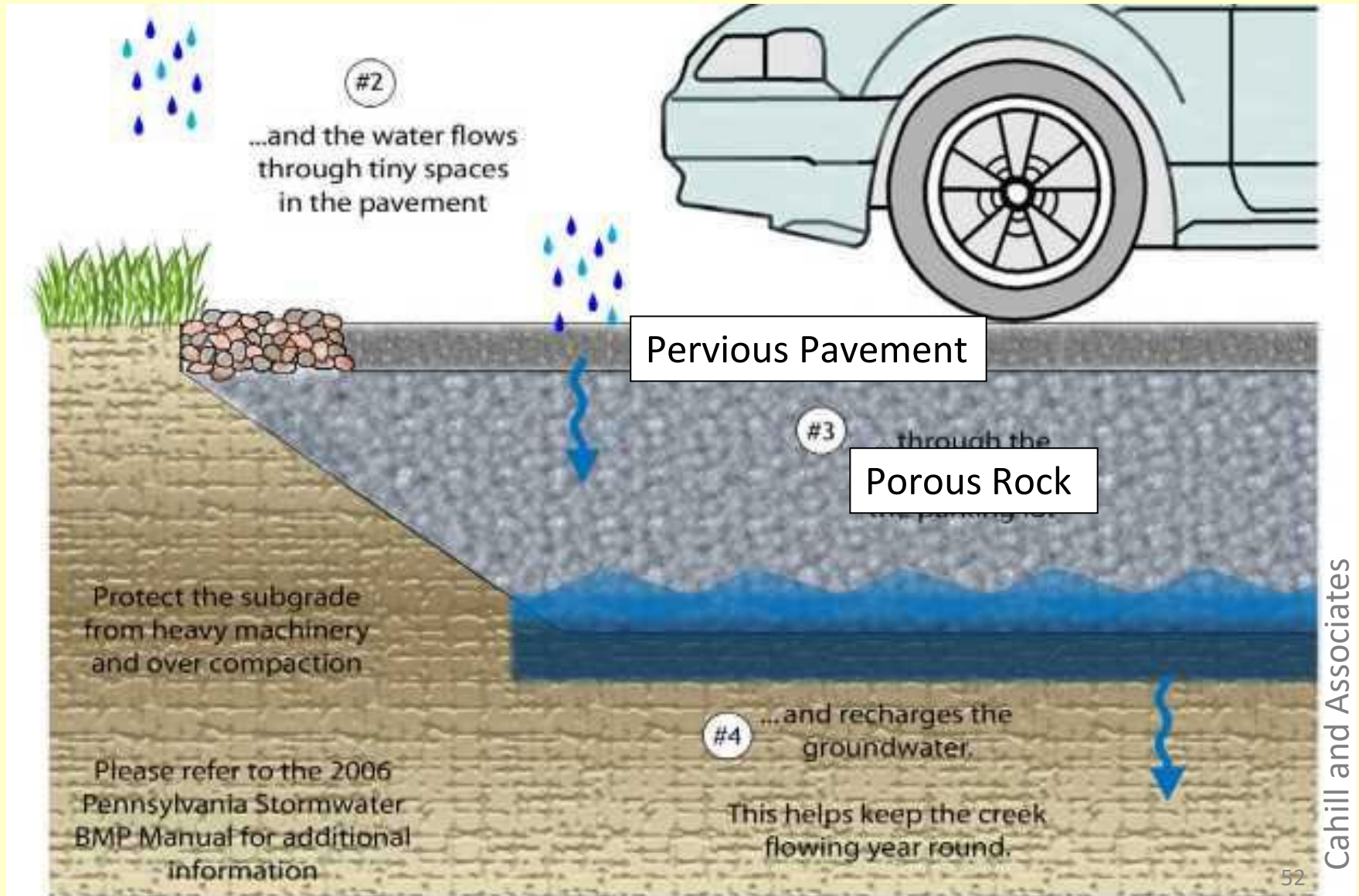


AFTER



Reynolds Ave, Lancaster County 1/3

Pervious Pavement allows water to seep through the road surface to be absorbed by underlying soils.





Pavers in sand over porous rock bed allows infiltration

Stream

Hoopes Alley, Chester County

## All pervious pavements require more specialized maintenance.

- Porous Surface will clog over time. How long depends on the amount of loose material: dirt, leaves, salt, cinders.
- Specialized vacuum trucks or street sweepers often needed.





# Structural Infiltration Practices

- Introduction
- Practices
- **DGLVR Project**  
**Examples**

# Project Walkthrough: Bradford County, Moore Hill Road

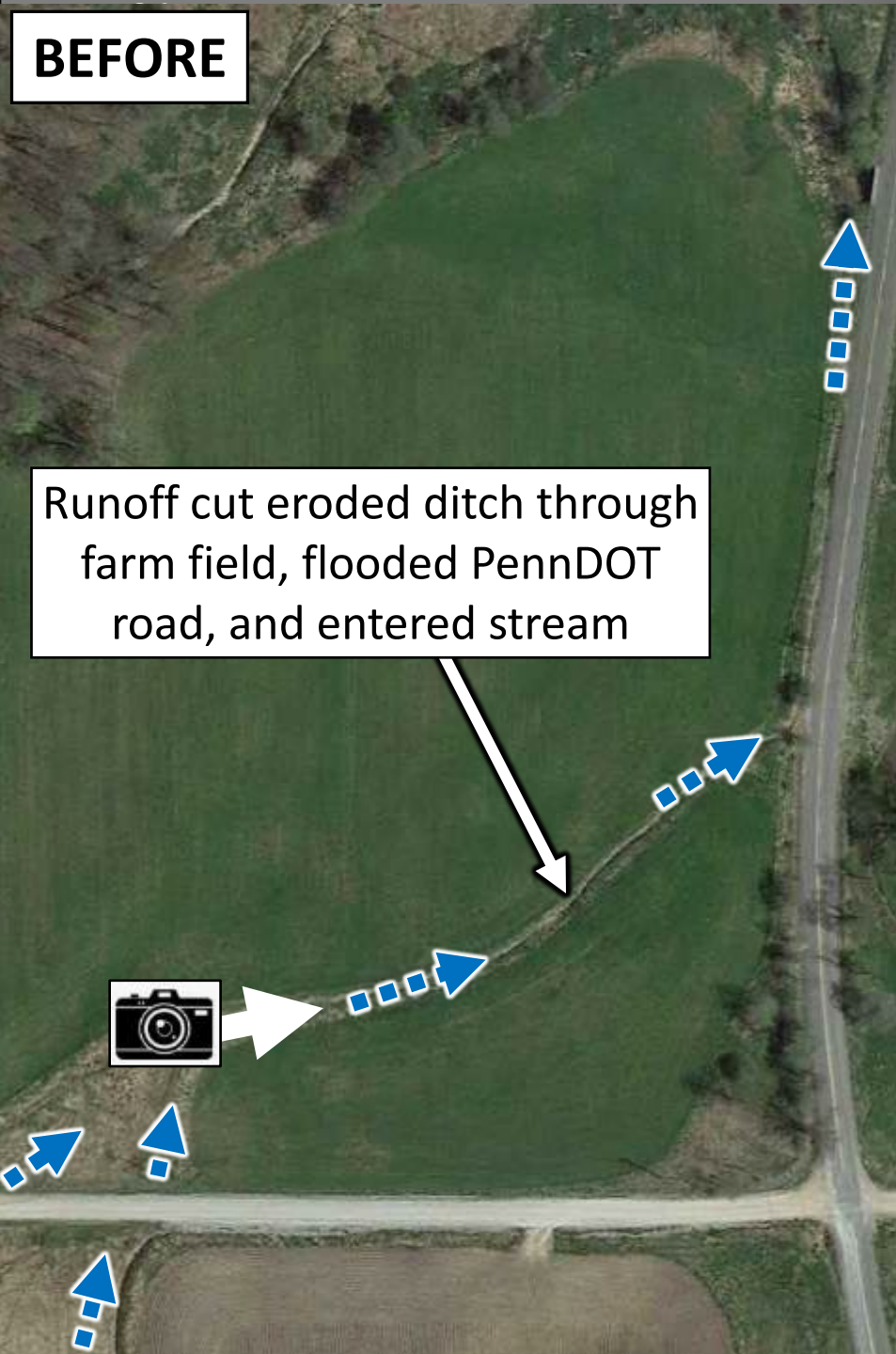
- **2016: \$77K Grant, \$26K in-kind**
- Road runoff eroding ditch to PennDOT road and stream
- Infiltration swale constructed through field





**BEFORE**

Runoff cut eroded ditch through farm field, flooded PennDOT road, and entered stream



**BEFORE**



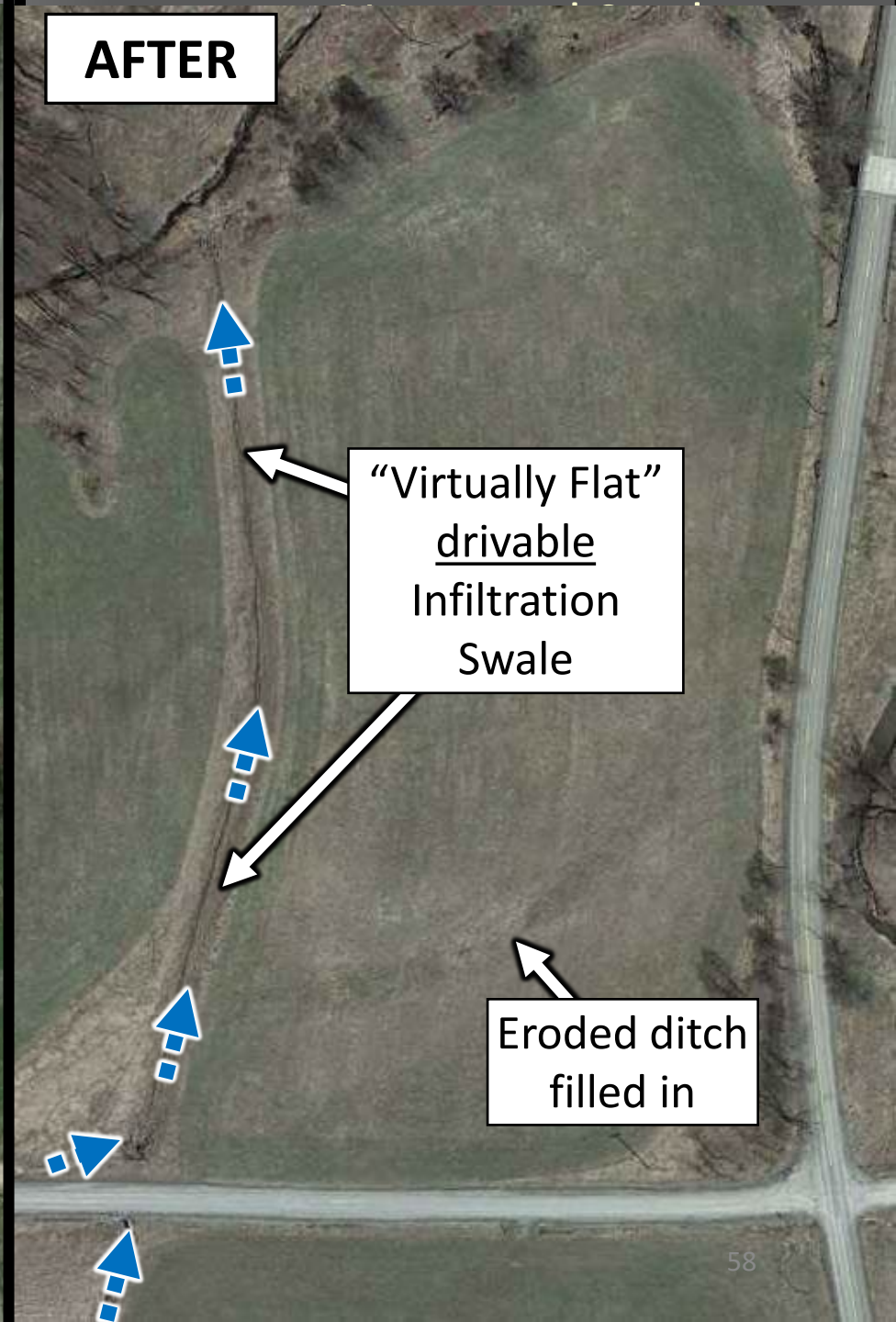
### **Bradford, Moore Hill 2/5**

- Low-gradient infiltration swale through field for road runoff

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



"Virtually Flat"  
drivable  
Infiltration  
Swale

Eroded ditch  
filled in

**DURING**

Drivable or mowable shape



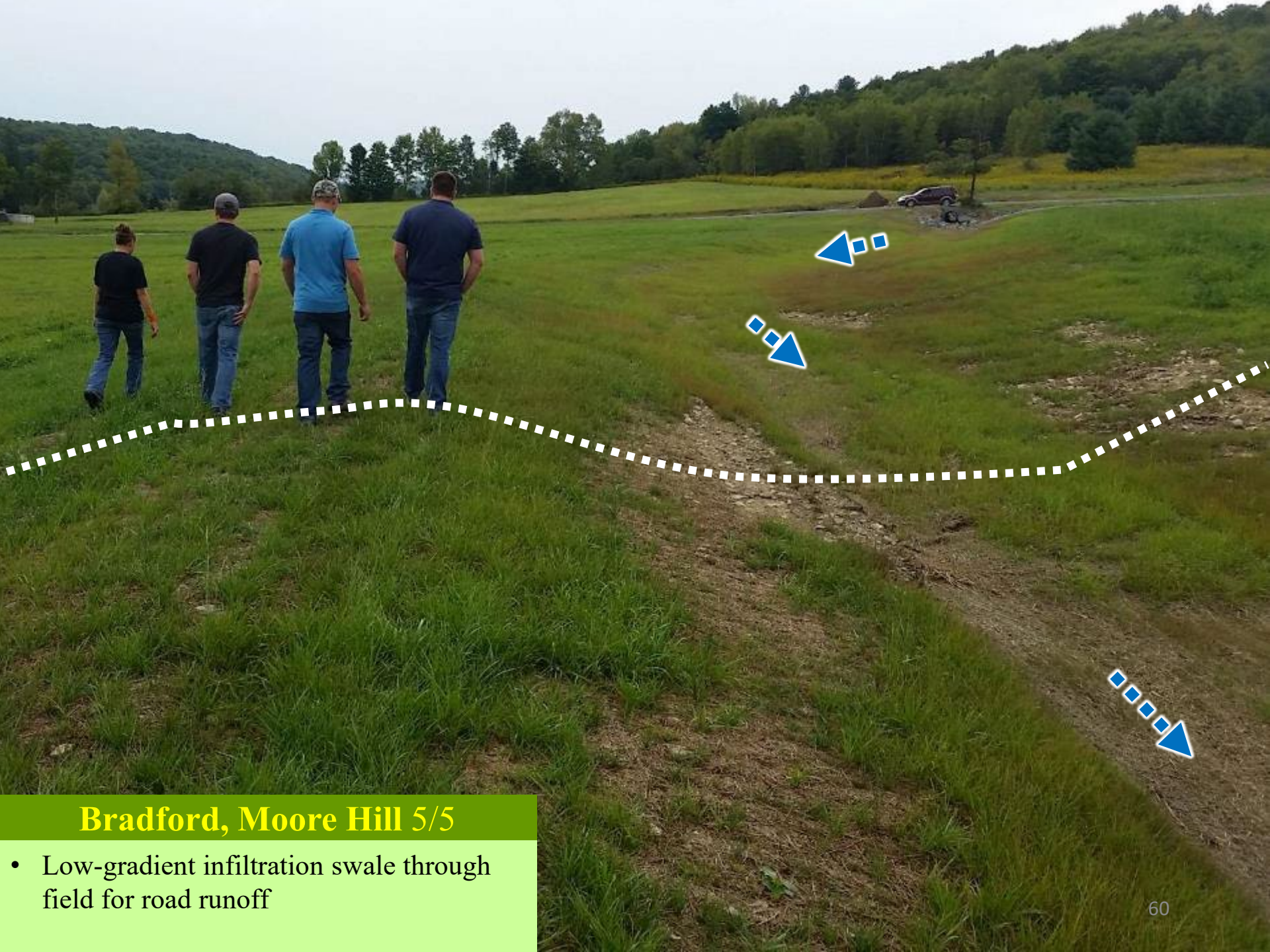
**After**

Dense vegetation slows, filters, and utilizes stormwater



**Bradford, Moore Hill 4/5**

- Low-gradient infiltration swale through field for road runoff



## Bradford, Moore Hill 5/5

- Low-gradient infiltration swale through field for road runoff

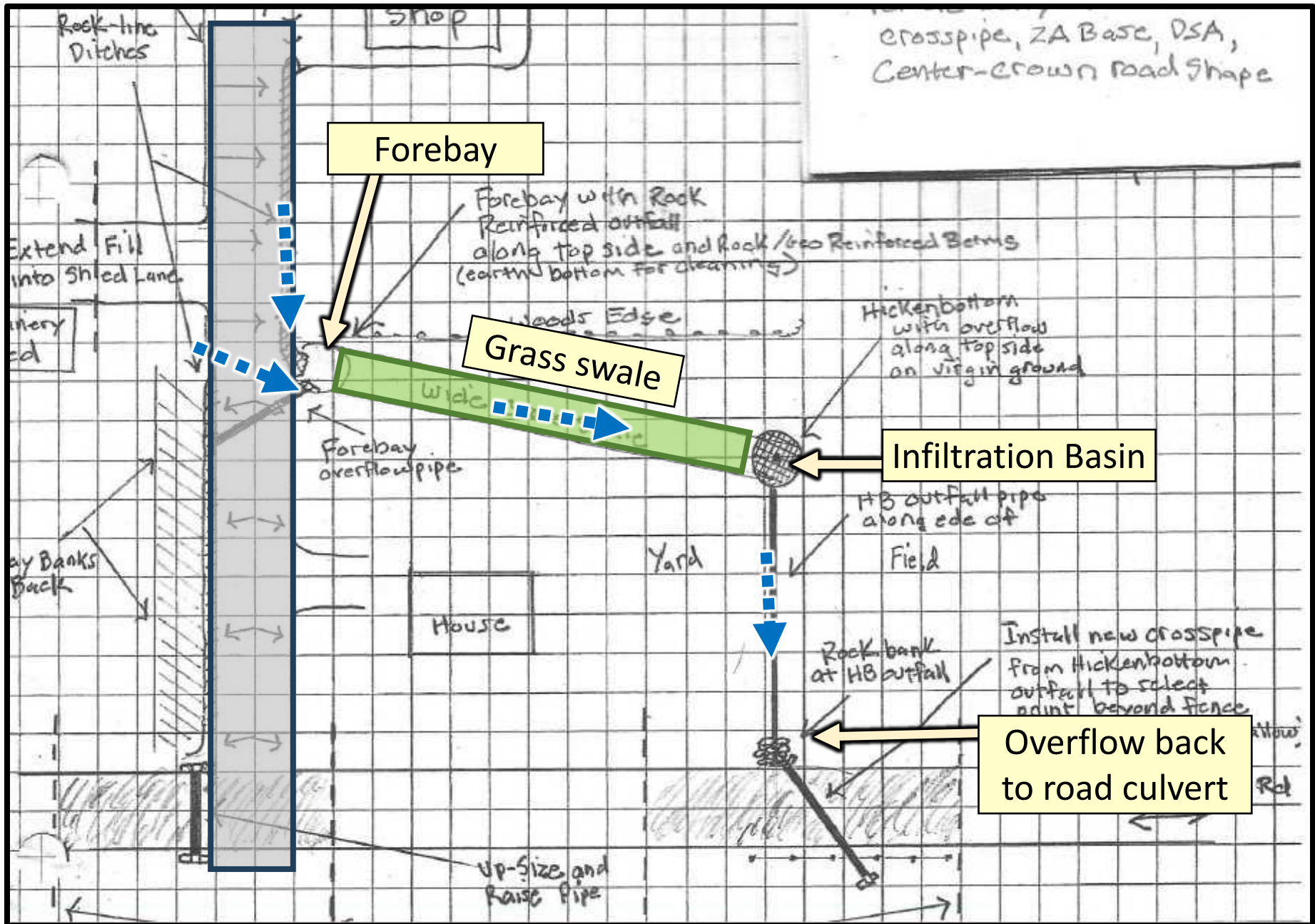
# Project Walkthrough: Venango County, Wood Rd

- Excessive road runoff to single outlet
- Installed forebay to grass swale to infiltration basin.



**BEFORE**





**DURING**

Infiltration Basin



Grass swale



Forebay

Picture taken from road edge

**Venango, Wood Rd 3/6**

- Stormwater outlet to forebay, to grassed swale, to infiltration basin

**DURING**

**Road**

**Forebay**

**Grass swale**

**Infiltration Basin**

### **Venango, Wood Rd 4/6**

- Stormwater outlet to forebay, to grassed swale, to infiltration basin



**DURING**

If basin fills,  
outlets excess to  
new crosspipe

Infiltration Basin



### Venango, Wood Rd 5/6

- Stormwater outlet to forebay, to grassed swale, to infiltration basin

**AFTER**

Infiltration Basin



Grass swale

Forebay



Picture taken from road edge

### Venango, Wood Rd 6/6

- Stormwater outlet to forebay, to grassed swale, to infiltration basin

## Project Walkthrough: Westmoreland County, Newhouse Park Rd

- **2022: \$123K Grant, \$22K in-kind**
- Parking lot runoff washing out road.
- Collected runoff in storm sewer.
- Directed runoff to forebay (for cleanout) and detention basin



**BEFORE**



**BEFORE**



Newhouse Park



Drains to storm sewer to stream

**BEFORE**



Edge of parking lot



**Westmoreland, Newhouse 2/9**

- Berm to collect parking lot and road runoff
- Direct runoff to forebay (for cleanout) and detention basin

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



Collect water  
from parking lot

Storm Sewer

Forebay  
(for cleanout)

Detention Basin

# Engineered Plan

Collect water from parking lot

Storm Sewer

Forebay (for cleanout)

Detention Basin

# AFTER

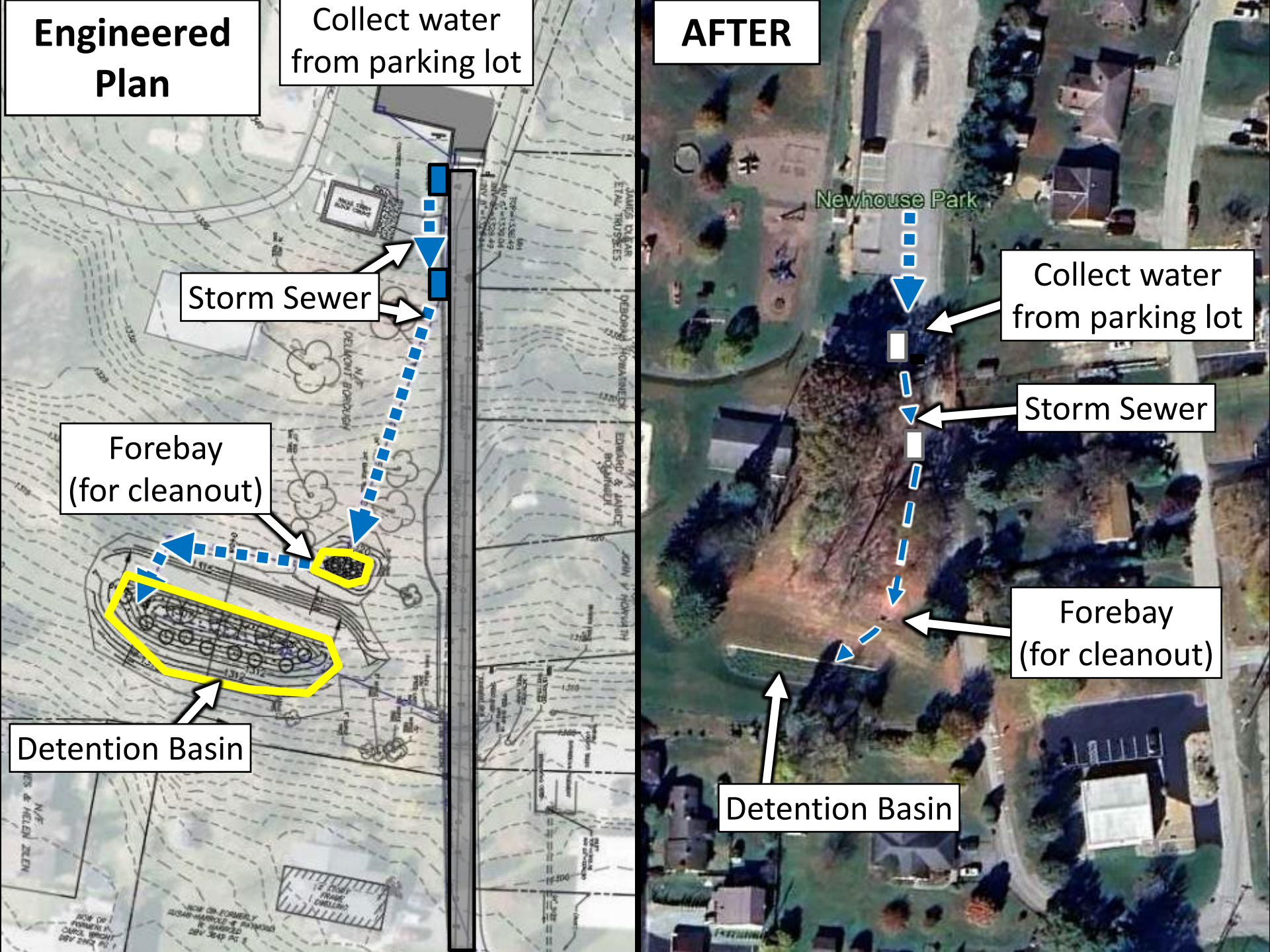
Newhouse Park

Collect water from parking lot

Storm Sewer

Forebay (for cleanout)

Detention Basin



# Westmoreland, Newhouse 5/9

- Berm to collect parking lot and road runoff
- Direct runoff to forebay (for cleanout) and detention basin

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

township paved parking lot as in-kind

Paved grade break forces water into inlet

New Stormwater Inlet



**AFTER**

New Stormwater  
Inlet



### **Westmoreland, Newhouse 6/9**

- Berm to collect parking lot and road runoff
- Direct runoff to forebay (for cleanout) and detention basin



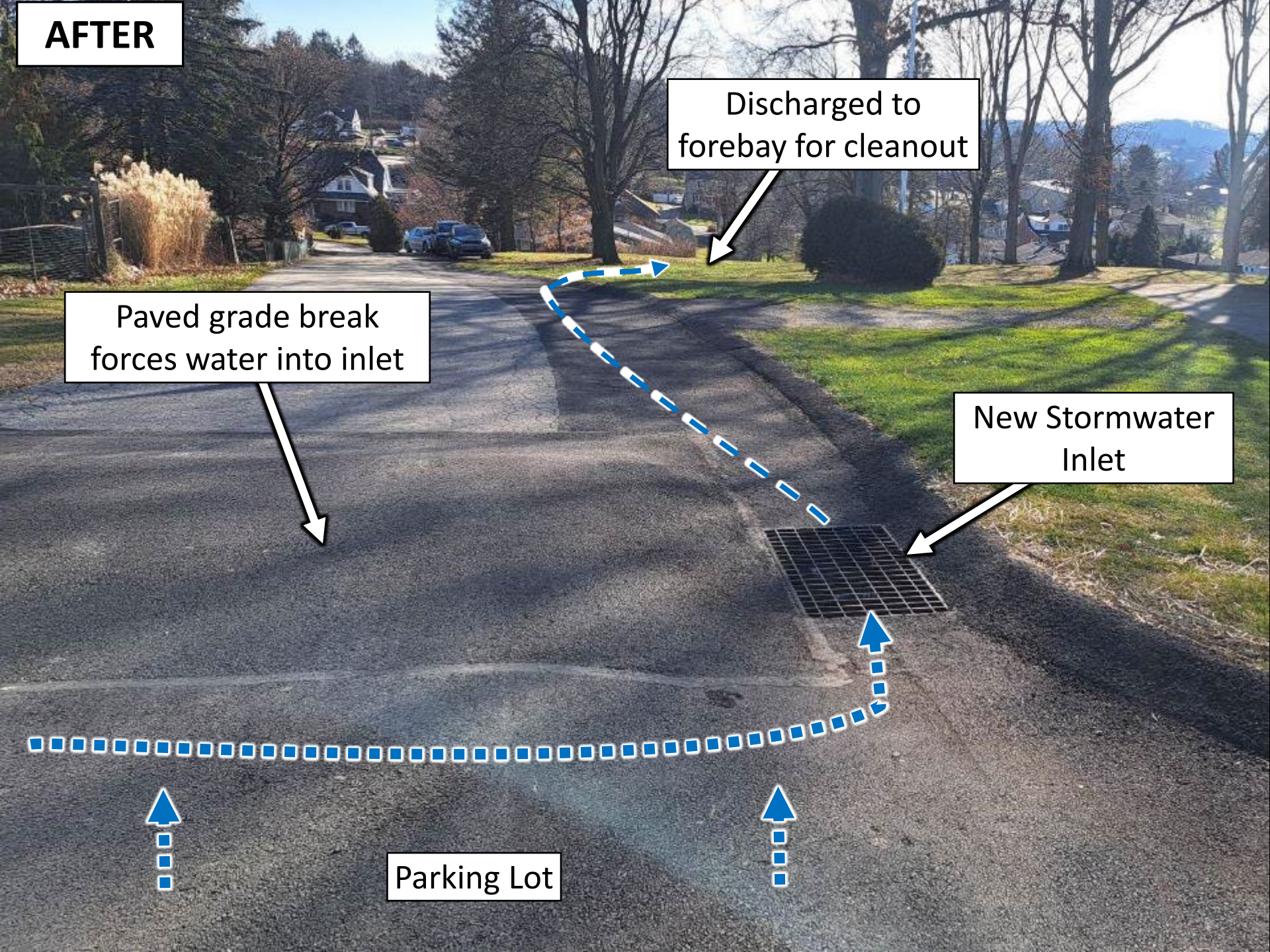
**AFTER**

Discharged to forebay for cleanout

Paved grade break forces water into inlet

New Stormwater Inlet

Parking Lot



**AFTER**

Detention Basin

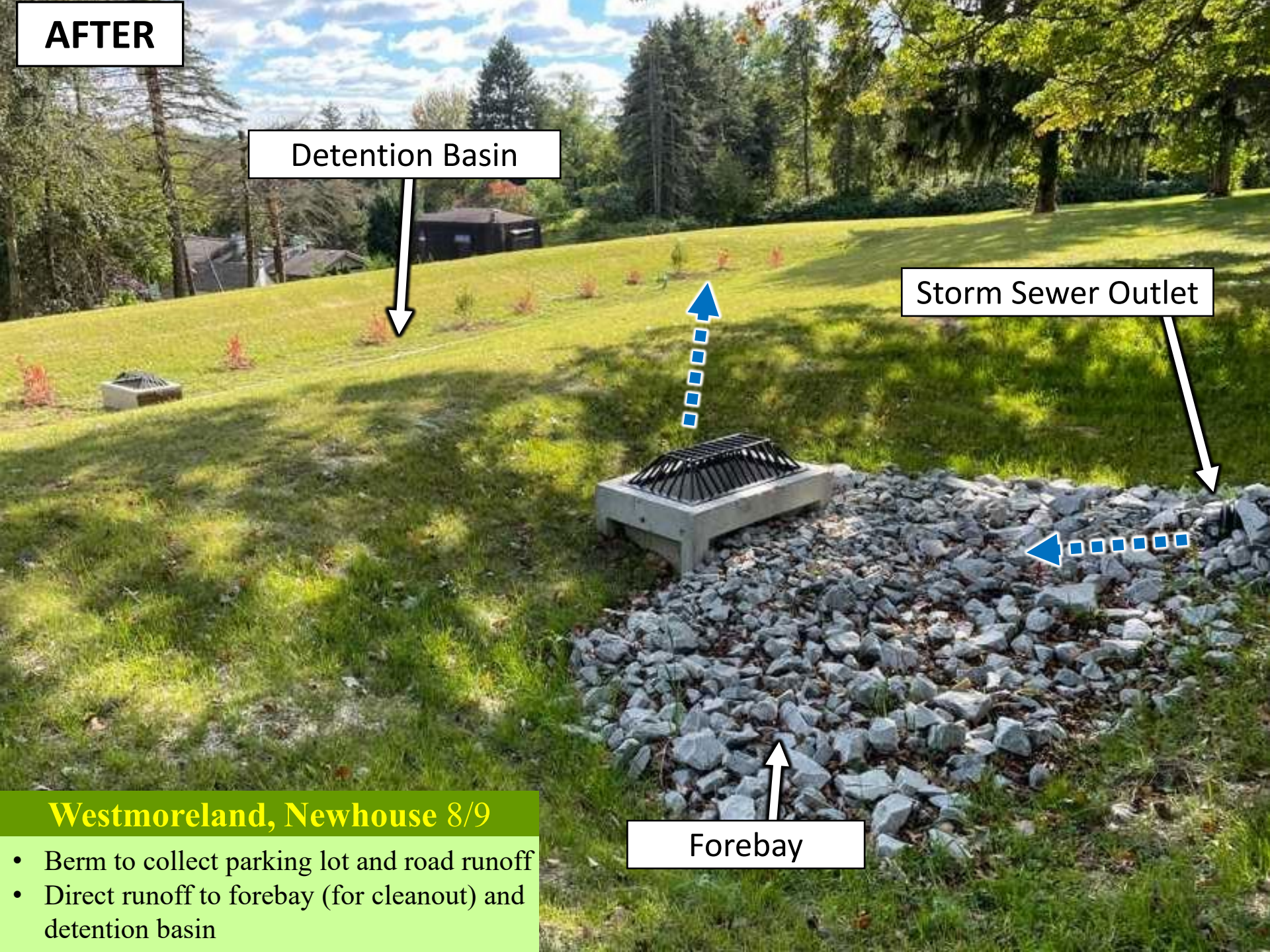
Storm Sewer Outlet



Forebay

**Westmoreland, Newhouse 8/9**

- Berm to collect parking lot and road runoff
- Direct runoff to forebay (for cleanout) and detention basin



**AFTER**

Forebay

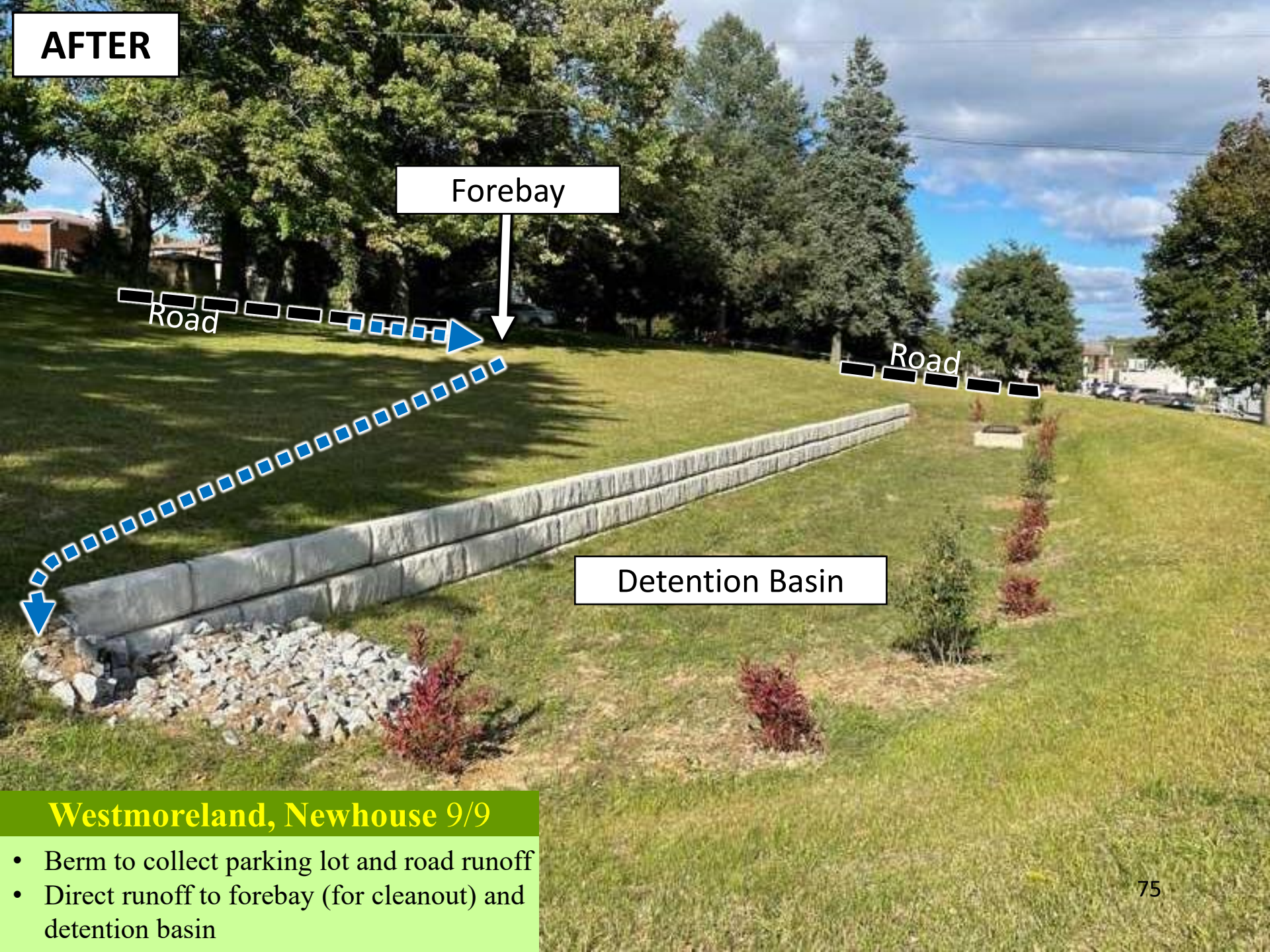
Road

Road

Detention Basin

**Westmoreland, Newhouse 9/9**

- Berm to collect parking lot and road runoff
- Direct runoff to forebay (for cleanout) and detention basin



# Project Walkthrough: Westmoreland County, Shields Farm Rd

- **2018: \$49K Grant, \$11K in-kind**
- Road collected all runoff from long hill
- Installed detention basin
- Installed several crosspipes, through the bank pipes, and infiltration trenches



**BEFORE**



**Westmoreland, Shields Farm 2/8**

- Detention Basin on upper site
- Crosspipes, through-the-bank pipes and infiltration basins on bottom of site

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

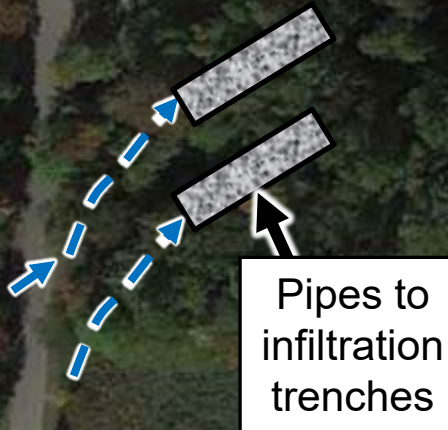


- Crosspipe, to
- Through the bank pipe, to
- Infiltration Trenches

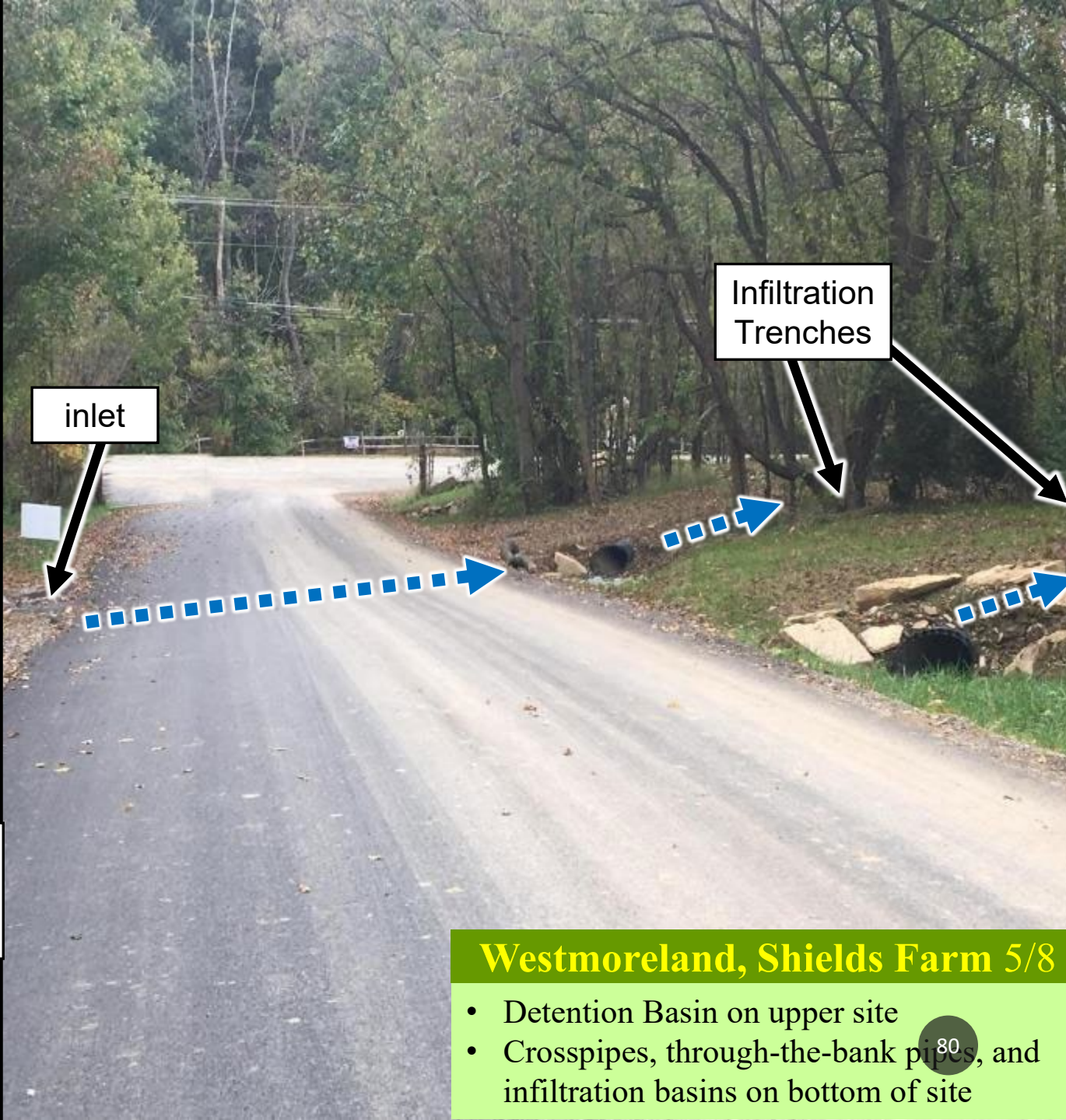
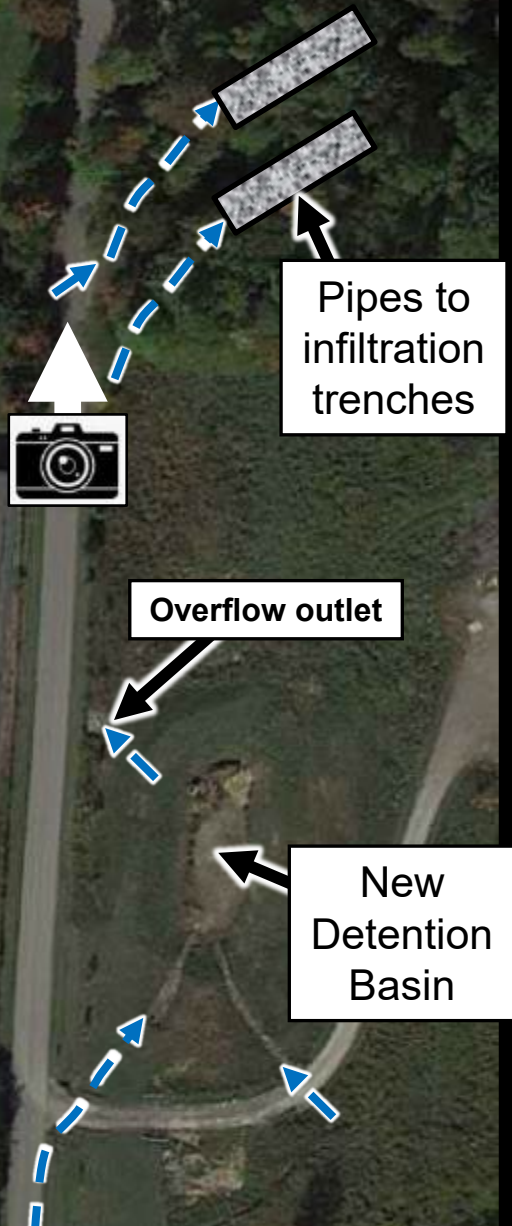
**Overflow outlet**

**New  
Detention  
Basin**

**AFTER**



**AFTER**



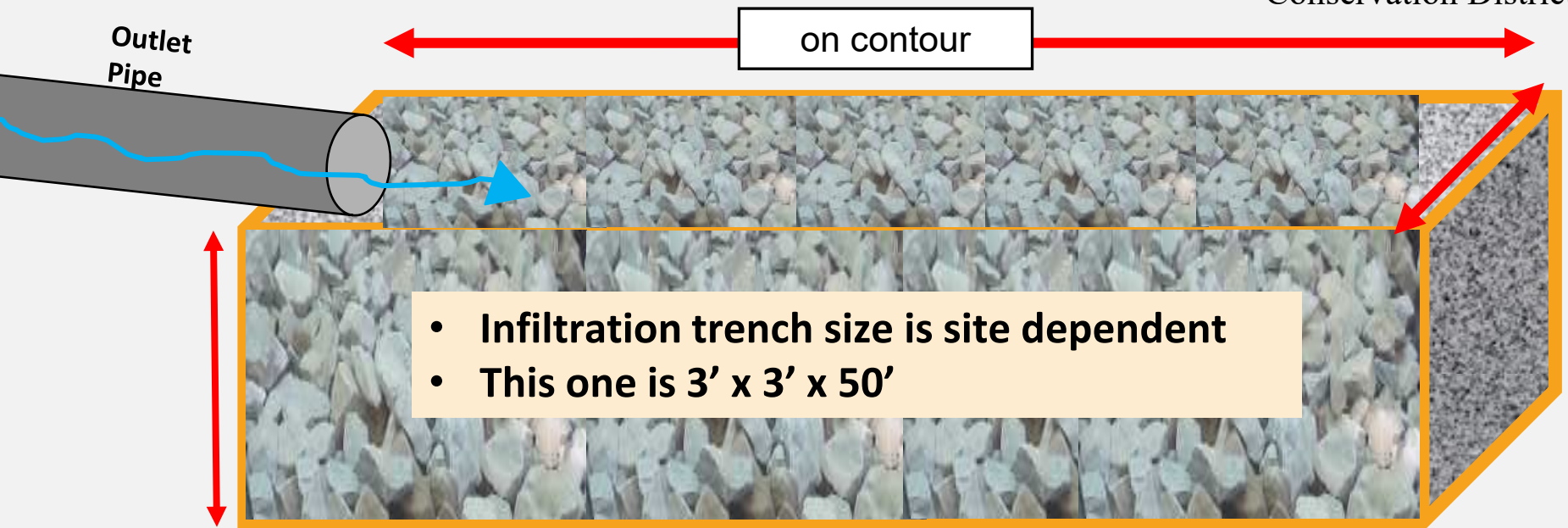
### Westmoreland, Shields Farm 5/8

- Detention Basin on upper site
- Crosspipes, through-the-bank pipes, and infiltration basins on bottom of site



# Infiltration Trench

Courtesy Westmoreland Conservation District



**AFTER**



Infiltration  
Trenches  
(on contour)

**Westmoreland, Shields Farm 7/8**

- Detention Basin on upper site
- Crosspipes, through-the-bank pipes, and infiltration basins on bottom of site

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



Infiltration  
Trenches

**Westmoreland, Shields Farm 8/8**

- Detention Basin on upper site
- Crosspipes, through-the-bank pipes<sup>83</sup>, and infiltration basins on bottom of site

# Project Walkthrough: Montgomery County, Webber Rd

- **2016: \$24K Grant, \$2K in-kind**
- Badly eroded ditch along suburban road.
- Installed storm sewer, but with grass sale over top to promote infiltration



# BEFORE

No outlets due to houses,  
badly eroded ditches

Numerous  
house and  
hard drains



## Montgomery, Webber Rd 2/7

- Grass Swale constructed over newly installed storm sewer.



Salford Twp.

Applicant

Webber Rd. T-410

Road Name / ID Numb

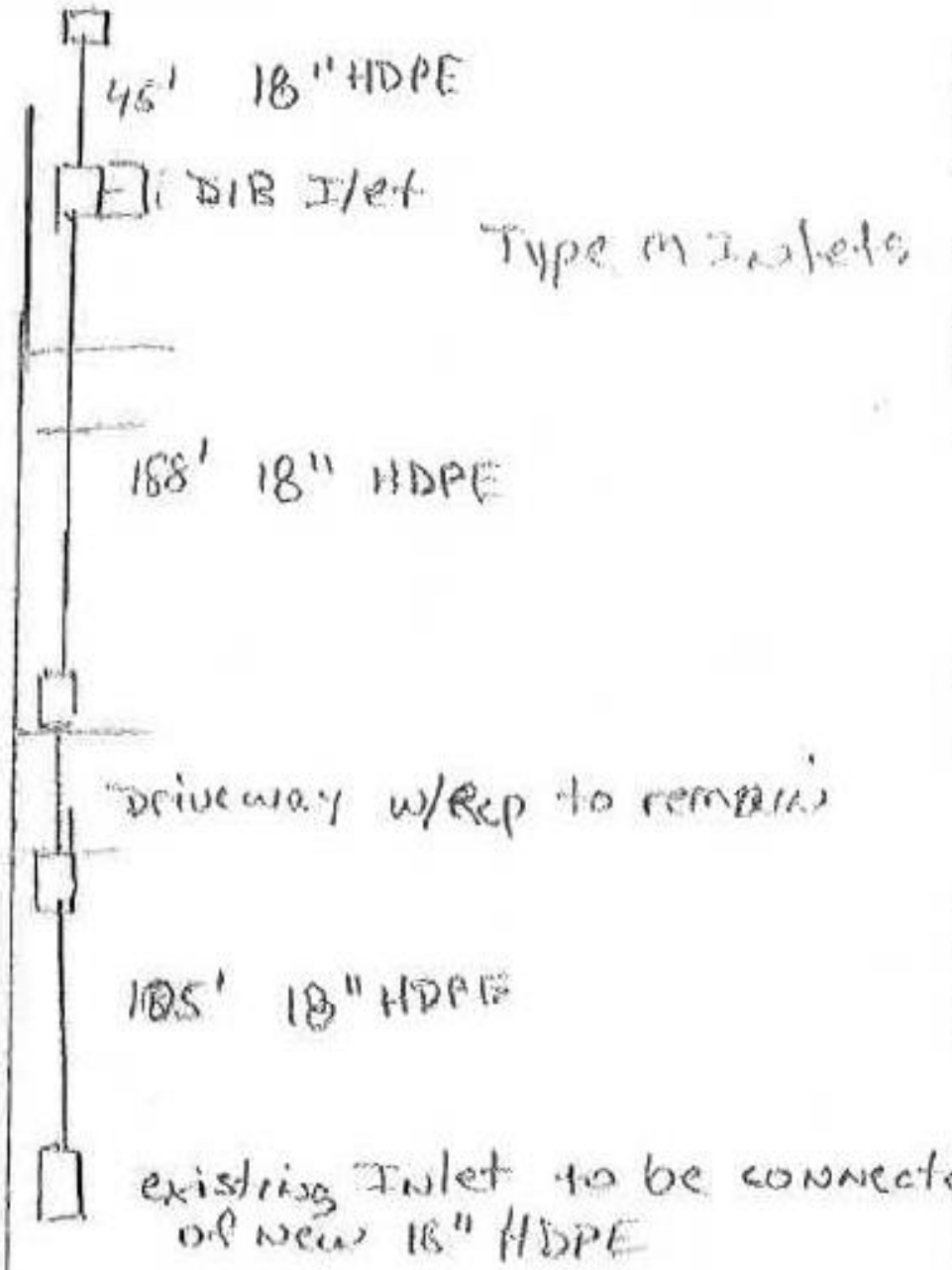
3-15-16

Date

**Site Plan:**

- Drop inlets and storm sewer
- Grassed swale over storm pipes to promote infiltration and alleviate landowner concerns

Webber Road

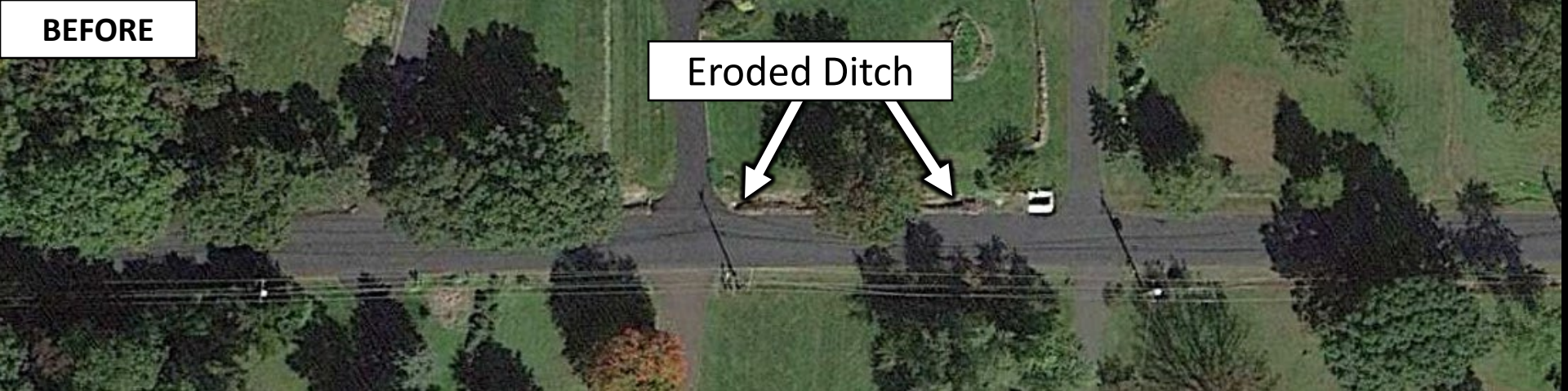


**Montgomery, Webber Rd 3/7**

- Grass Swale constructed over newly installed storm sewer.

**BEFORE**

**Eroded Ditch**

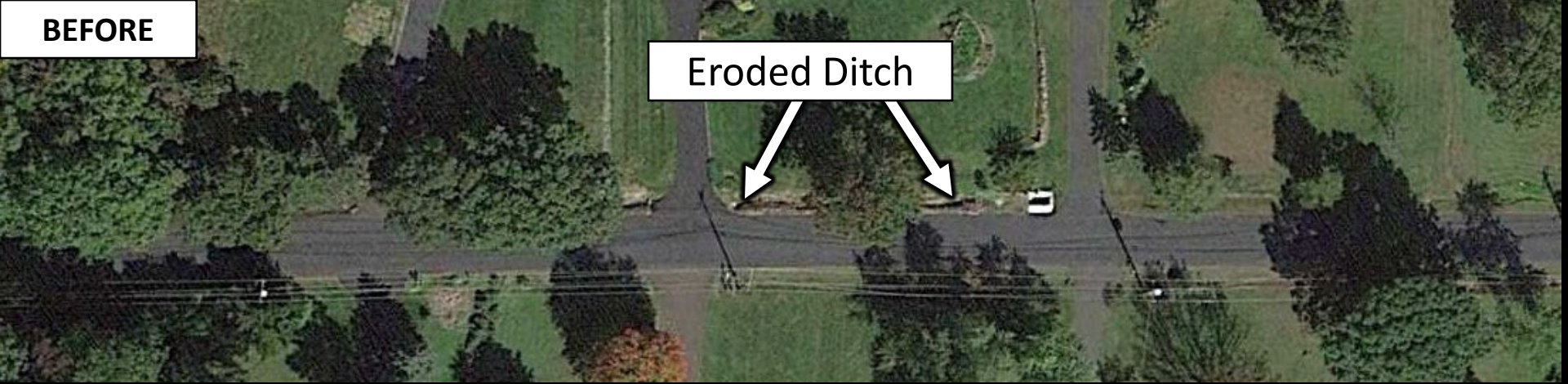


## **Montgomery, Webber Rd 4/7**

- Grass Swale constructed over newly installed storm sewer.

**BEFORE**

**Eroded Ditch**



**DURING**



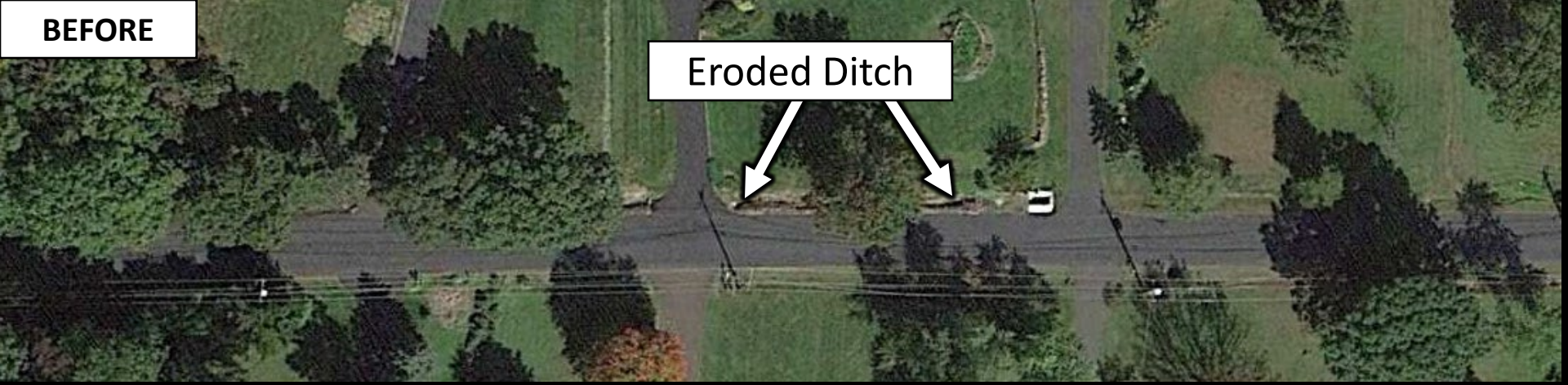
## **Montgomery, Webber Rd 4/7**

- Grass Swale constructed over newly installed storm sewer.



**BEFORE**

**Eroded Ditch**



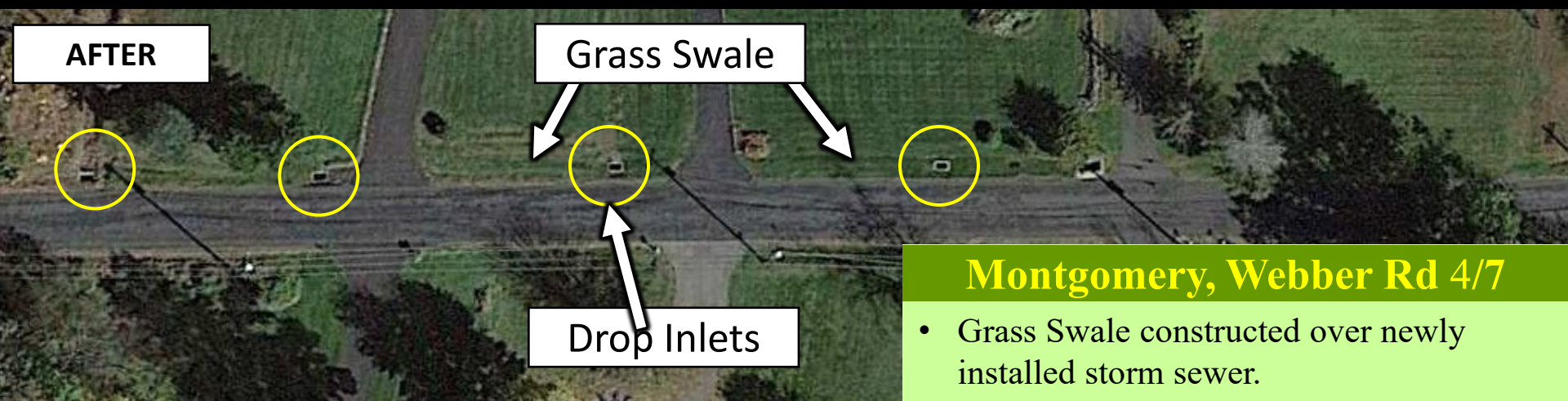
**DURING**



**AFTER**

**Grass Swale**

**Drop Inlets**



**Montgomery, Webber Rd 4/7**

- Grass Swale constructed over newly installed storm sewer.

**AFTER**



Storm Sewer Inlet

Storm Sewer Inlets

Grass Swale

05/24/2016 01:42

**Montgomery, Webber Rd 5/7**

- Grass Swale constructed over newly installed storm sewer.

**AFTER**

Storm Sewer  
Inlets



Grass Swale  
over storm  
sewer

Storm Sewer  
Inlets



### Montgomery, Webber Rd 6/7

- Grass Swale constructed over newly installed storm sewer.

**BEFORE**

Trees removed



**AFTER**

Storm Sewer Inlets

Grass Swale over storm sewer



**Montgomery, Webber Rd 7/7**

- Grass Swale constructed over newly installed storm sewer.

# Project Walkthrough: Lancaster County, North Lane

- **2019: \$14K Grant, \$3K in-kind**
- Stormwater in borough piped to stream
- Rain garden installed to filter sediment and infiltrate runoff



**BEFORE**

Paved swale  
piped to  
stream



**BEFORE**



**PLAN**



**Lancaster, North Lane 2/4**

- Rain garden installed between road and walking trail before stream.

**DURING**

Rain Garden

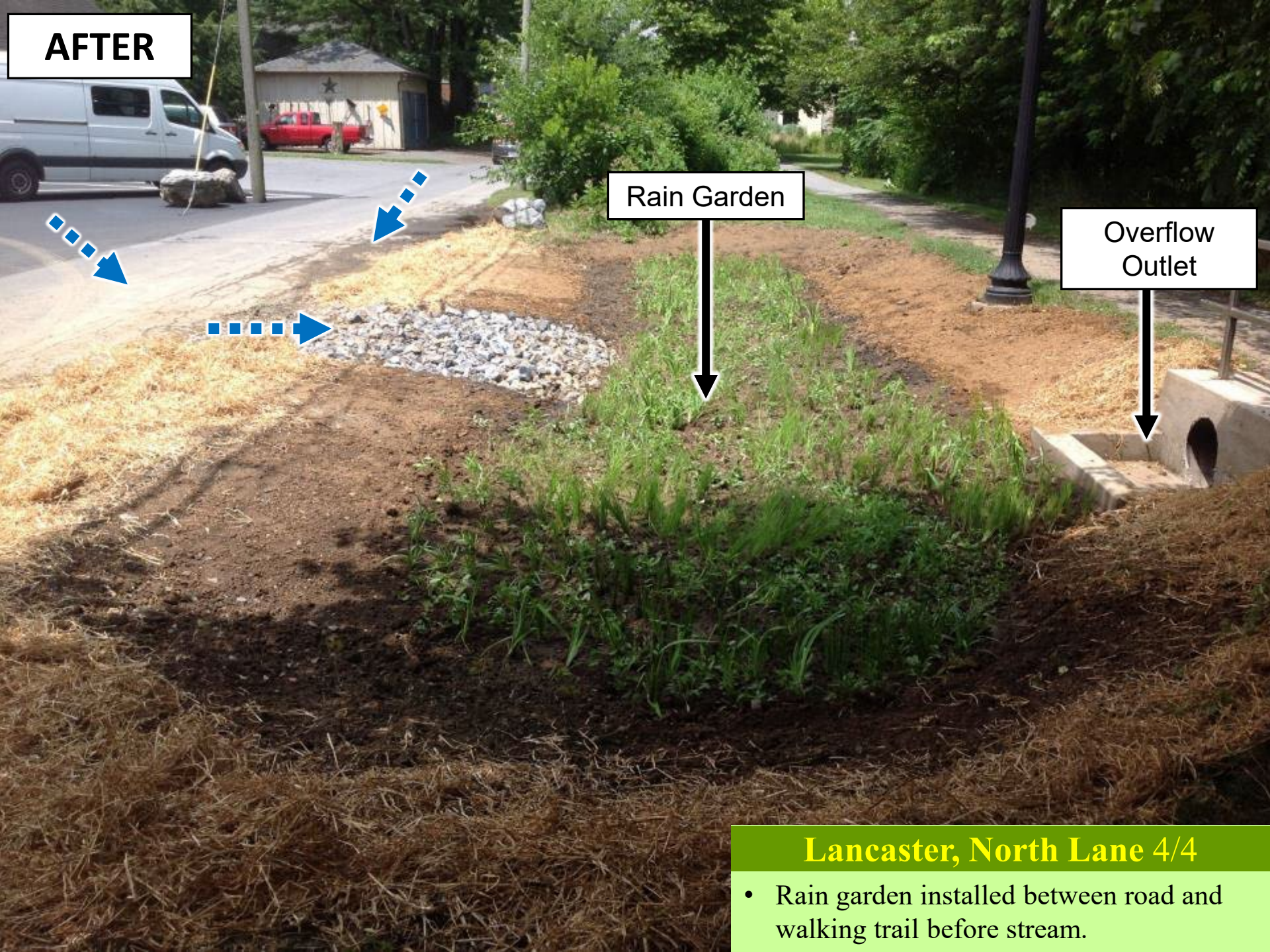
Overflow  
Outlet

**Lancaster, North Lane 3/4**

- Rain garden installed between road and walking trail before stream.



**AFTER**



**Rain Garden**

**Overflow  
Outlet**

### **Lancaster, North Lane 4/4**

- Rain garden installed between road and walking trail before stream.



# Project Walkthrough: Dauphin County, 31<sup>st</sup> Street

- **2019: \$85K Grant, \$0 in-kind**
- Road runoff washing out rail trail below into stream
- Installed drop inlets to “cascading” subsurface infiltration structures



BEFORE



**BEFORE**



Water from two roads ran down road, washed out rail trail and into stream



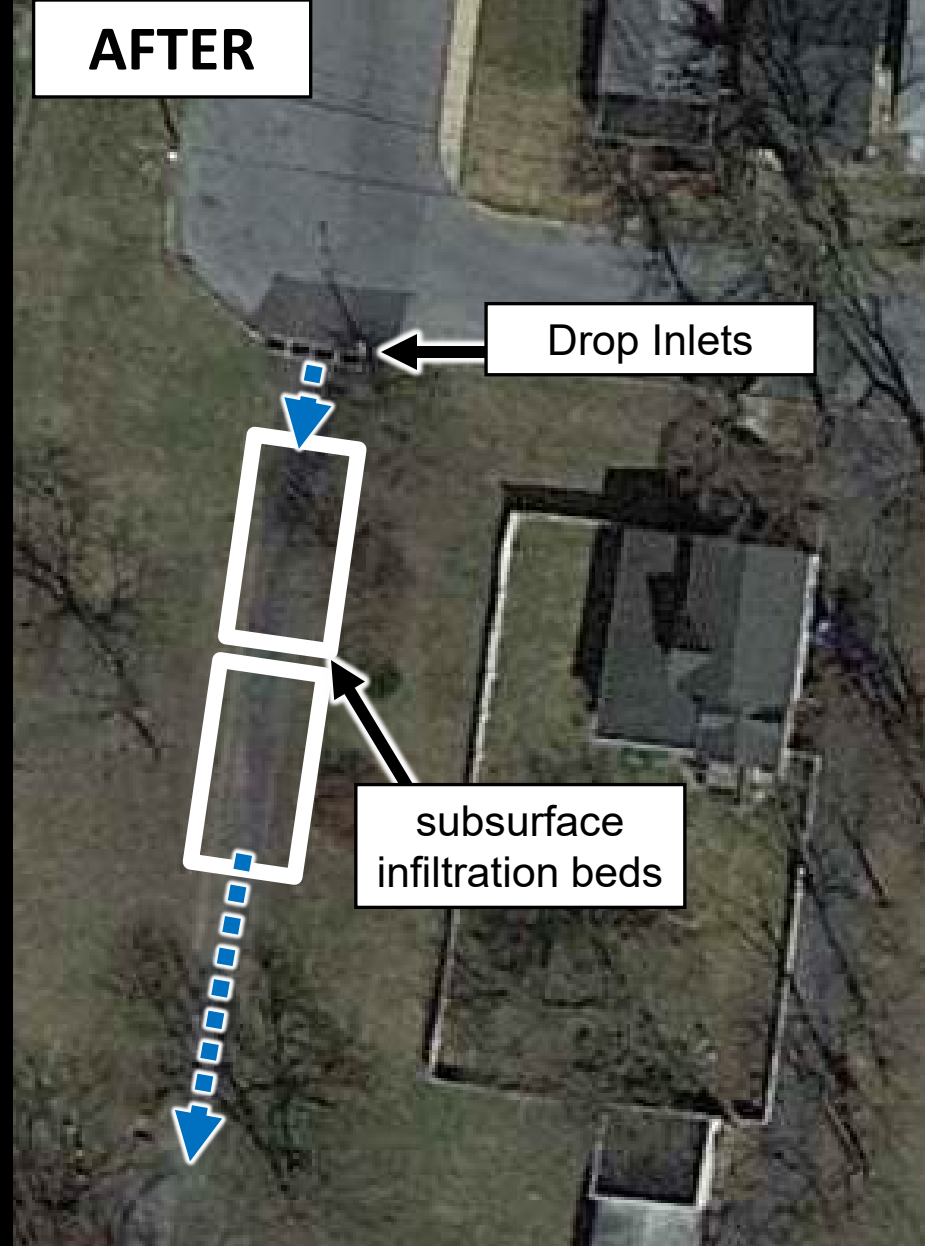
**Dauphin, 31<sup>st</sup> St 2/7**

- Installed drop inlets to “cascading” subsurface infiltration structures

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

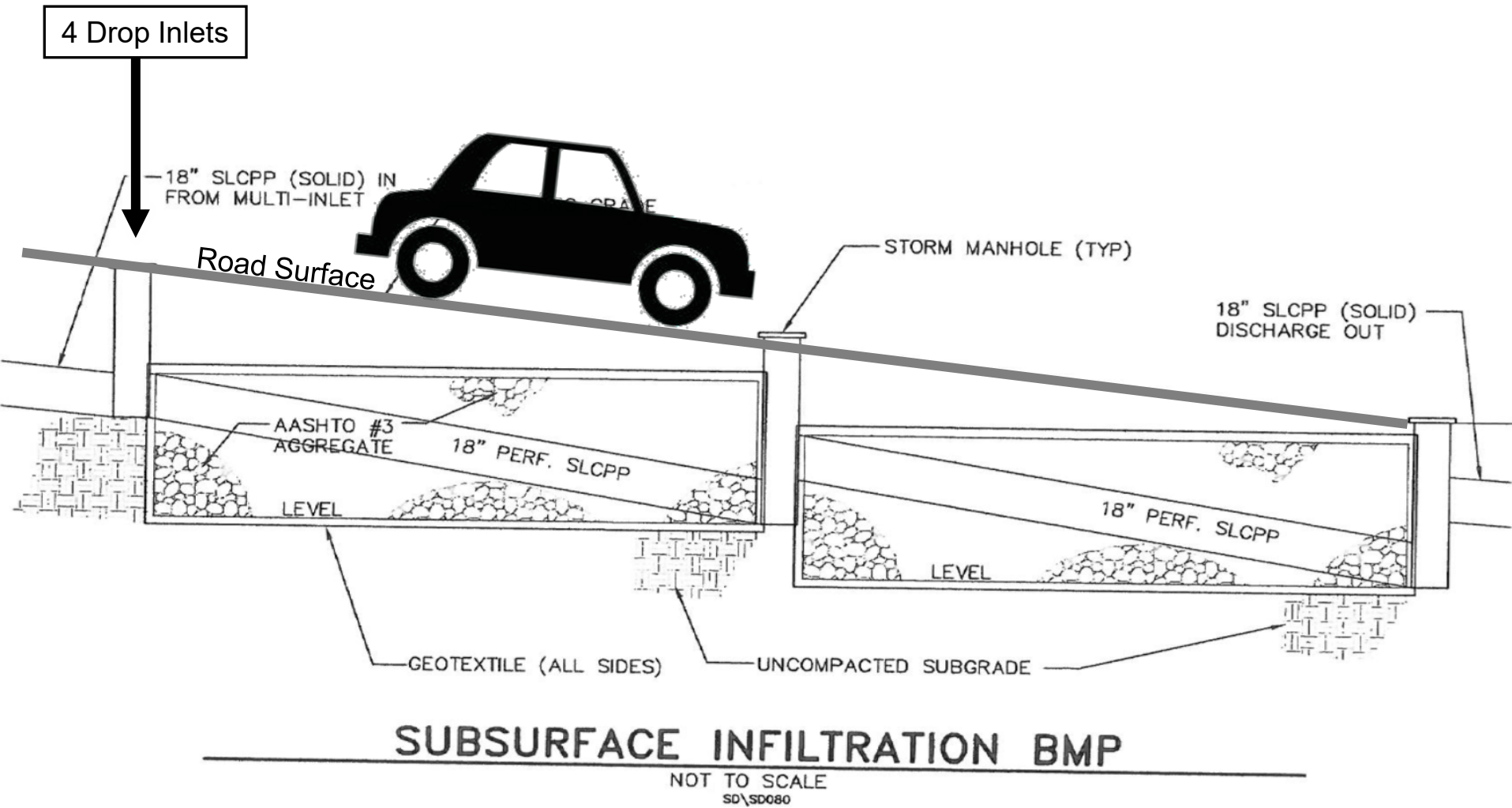


**Drop Inlets**

**subsurface  
infiltration  
beds**

**Dauphin, 31<sup>st</sup> St 3/7**

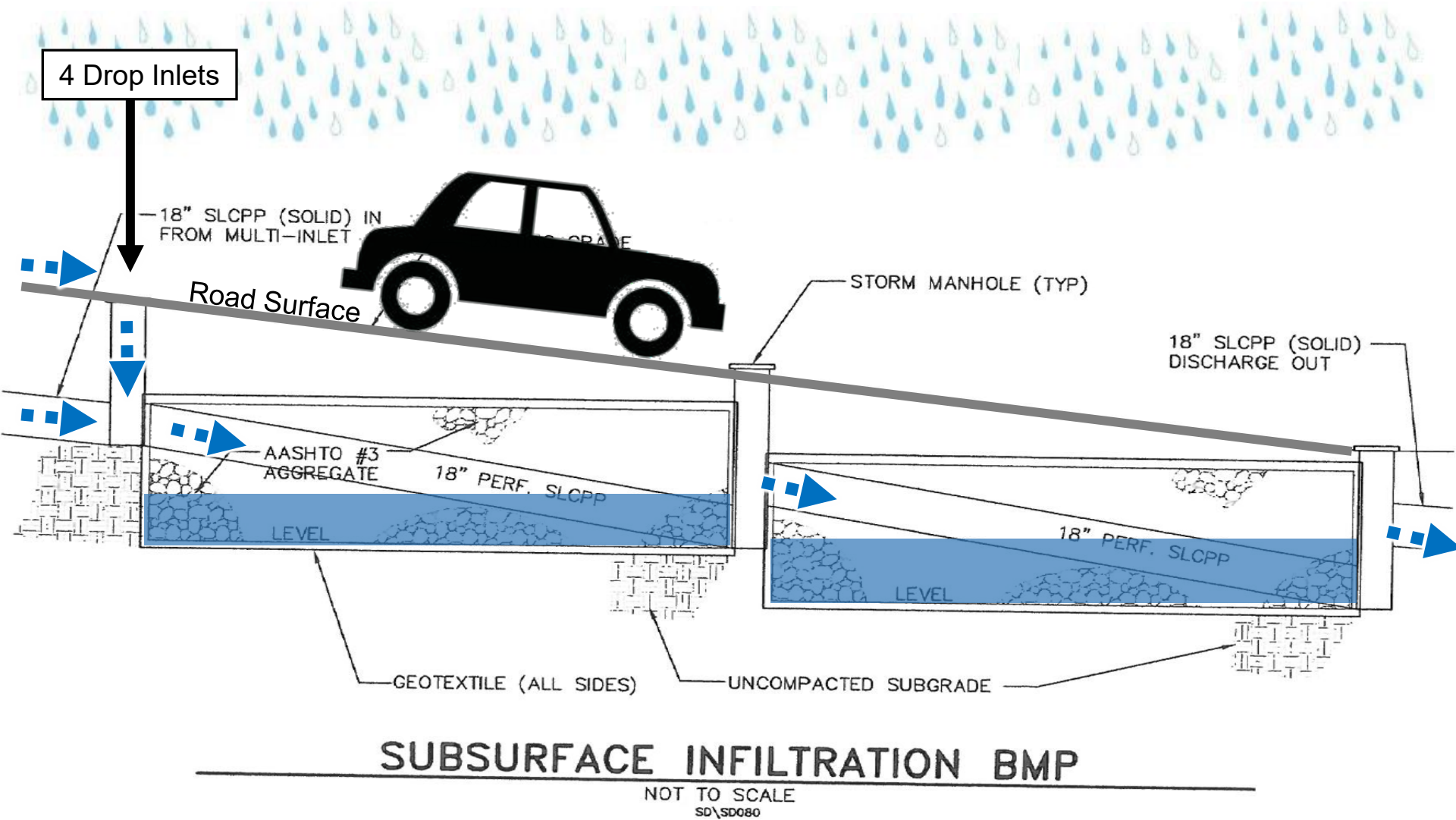
- Installed drop inlets to “cascading” subsurface infiltration structures



## Dauphin, 31<sup>st</sup> St 4/7

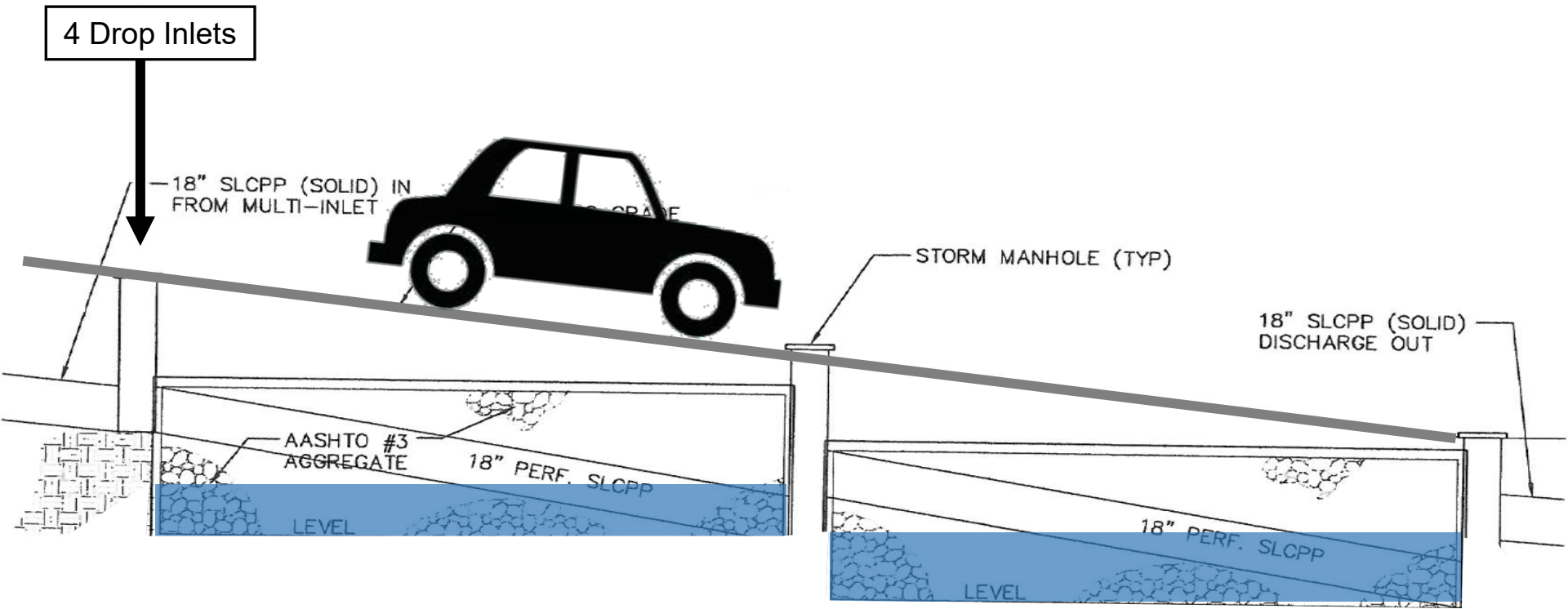
- Installed drop inlets to “cascading” subsurface infiltration structures





## Dauphin, 31<sup>st</sup> St 4/7

- Installed drop inlets to “cascading” subsurface infiltration structures



## Dauphin, 31<sup>st</sup> St 4/7

- Installed drop inlets to “cascading” subsurface infiltration structures

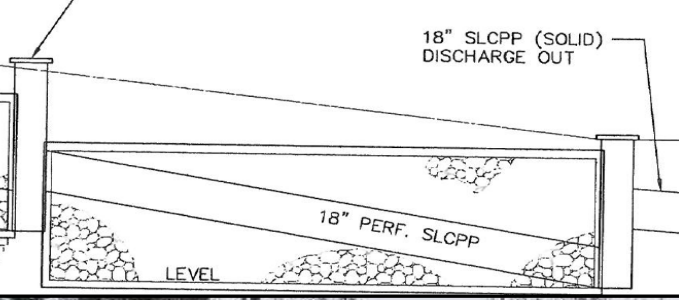


Bank of drop inlets installed at top of project to capture all runoff

### Dauphin, 31<sup>st</sup> St 5/7

- Installed drop inlets to “cascading” subsurface infiltration structures





# Excavation and filling of lower subsurface infiltration beds



**Dauphin, 31<sup>st</sup> St 6/7**

- Installed drop inlets to “cascading” subsurface infiltration structures



# Structural Infiltration practices:

Any structure designed to capture stormwater runoff and allow it to slowly seep into the soil.

- Infiltration Basin
- Rain Garden
- Detention Basin
- Infiltration Trench
- Infiltration Swale
- Stilling Basin
- Bio-Swale
- Grassed Waterway
- Permeable Pavement
- Constructed Wetland

Examples: too many types and sizes to cover them all

# Structural Infiltration Practices

## QUESTIONS?

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Your Conservation District
- Your Municipal Engineer
- **PA Stormwater Best Management Practices:** Specifically chapter 6 on “Structural BMPs”
- **PA MS4:** DEP stormwater management resources. (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System)

next chapter:

# DSA

