

April stream walk in the South Hills;
tributary of Saw Mill Run.

Sarah Buffington was off biking, so Chuck walked the neighborhood stream by himself. The stream arises from a spring on the old Smith farm, which is currently the Mt. Lebanon Golf Course. It comes out of a pipe in the ground and enters a storm water drain behind the brick wall.



The drain runs under the street for perhaps 0.15 miles and then opens into a deep ditch beside the road. Almost empty now, but roaring when there's a heavy rain.



A little further along, the stream has whittled away at a bank. Several local homeowners including "Duke" maintain the walk beside the stream. Logs are present as a reminder that a dangerous situation exists. Major work to fix this.



A bit further downstream, a newly installed culvert adds water in wet times from a diversion ditch located between the golf course and several houses. Pretty dry today. In fact, the water virtually disappears, flowing into the coarse gravel of the stream bed.



All this comes to a head at a partially blocked entrance of a culvert that takes the water several hundred yards downstream under a site that's been graded for development. This area floods in heavy rains and was the most productive trash site.



Forty five minutes of picking yielded an almost full trash bag, a plastic chair refugee from one of the houses in the area and a section of drain pipe. Plastic bottles were plentiful and expected. A partially deflated football with "TB" written on the side, a small basketball, a large Xmas ornament and many, many used bags of dog excrement

rounded out the haul.



Oh, I forgot to mention finding a 10' long piece of drain pipe in the woods and hauling it up with the rest. I was happily tying it onto the rack on my car when a neighbor asked me "Did Duke give that to you?" Well, no, I found it in the woods near the stream and thought it was trash" I replied. Not so, it's part of the path project that was staged for a work party to fix a wash. OOPS. Sorry, I returned it to the work area and skedaddled back home. Always good to check with the land owner and interested parties before you go a wandering.

A true adventure for Chuck
Buffington

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