

FOSC Outfall Monitoring Blog – Maple Ave Detergent Detective: Part 2

FOSC Outfall Monitoring Team – Outfall Time Lapse Data

This post is a quick update on our efforts to find out more about the source and frequency of the illicit detergent discharges into Sligo Creek from the Maple Avenue stormwater outfall pipes. These pipes discharge into Brashears Run, which empties into the main stem of Sligo Creek directly across from the Adventist Hospital. About 2 weeks ago, Environmental Restoration Specialist Lori A. Lilly installed a time lapse camera just downstream of these pipes as a next step in understanding how often and how consistently these discharges are taking place.



The camera took a photo every 10 minutes, day and night, for almost two weeks. While we're still sorting through the data, it does appear that these discharges take place many times during the day, every day. The time/date stamp appears off, so we're working on getting that corrected. Despite this, as best we can tell, the discharges usually include



two larger slugs of suds; one that typically occurs in mid- to late-morning, and another that hits in late afternoon or early evening. The discharges appear to come only from the pipe on the left, but we will need to examine the pictures more closely to see if this bears out.



The time lapse pictures have also revealed events we would have otherwise missed, including a large discharge of sediment and/or iron algae from the right outfall pipe that covered the apron and filled the receiving pool for much of a day.



This has the look of a sediment wash caused by a water main break, and we'll follow up with WSSC to see if that was indeed the case here.

We still have a lot of work to do, but the time lapse series helps us get a better handle on the timing, extent and variety of discharges taking place at Brashears Run. If you have any information, suggestions or ideas about the source of these discharges, please

contact FOSC [FOSC Water Quality](#) or Montgomery County DEP [MoCo DEP](#). Thanks again for taking an interest in Sligo Creek, and we hope you get a chance to get out and enjoy it during this holiday season!