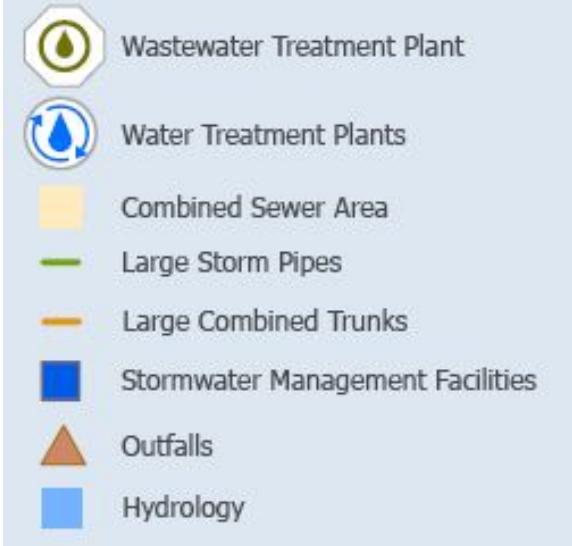




# **FROM RISK TO RESILIENCE: A FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF EPCOR'S STORMWATER INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN**

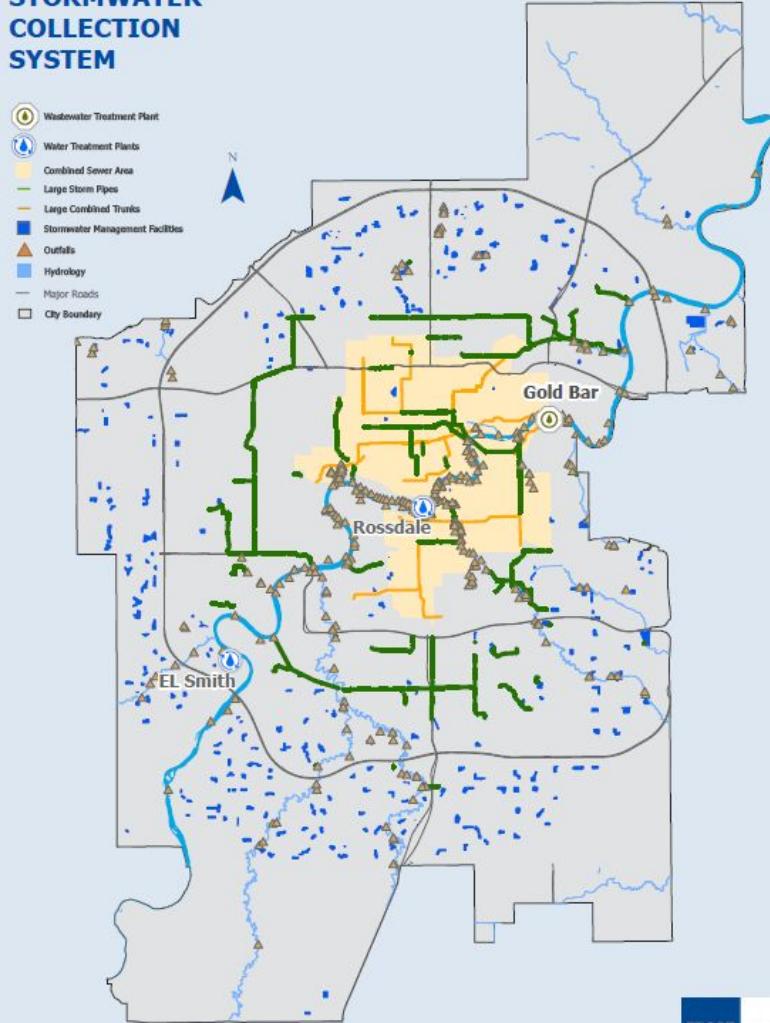
**Nicola Lewin MSc., P. Eng.**

# Our System at a Glance



## EDMONTON STORMWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM

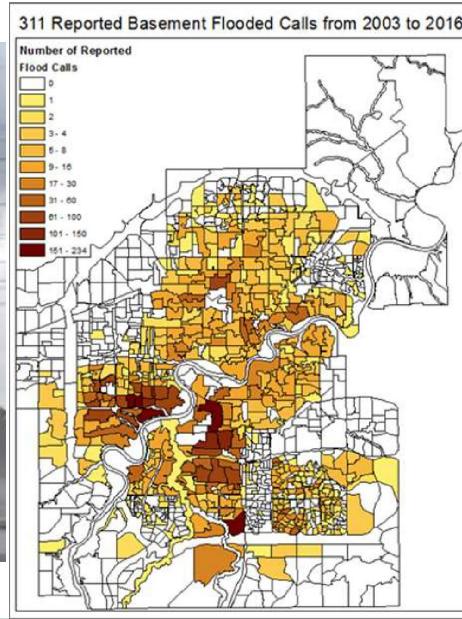
- Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Water Treatment Plants
- Combined Sewer Area
- Large Storm Pipes
- Large Combined Trunks
- Stormwater Management Facilities
- Outfalls
- Hydrology
- Major Roads
- City Boundary



# State of Stormwater System and Planning (pre-2018)

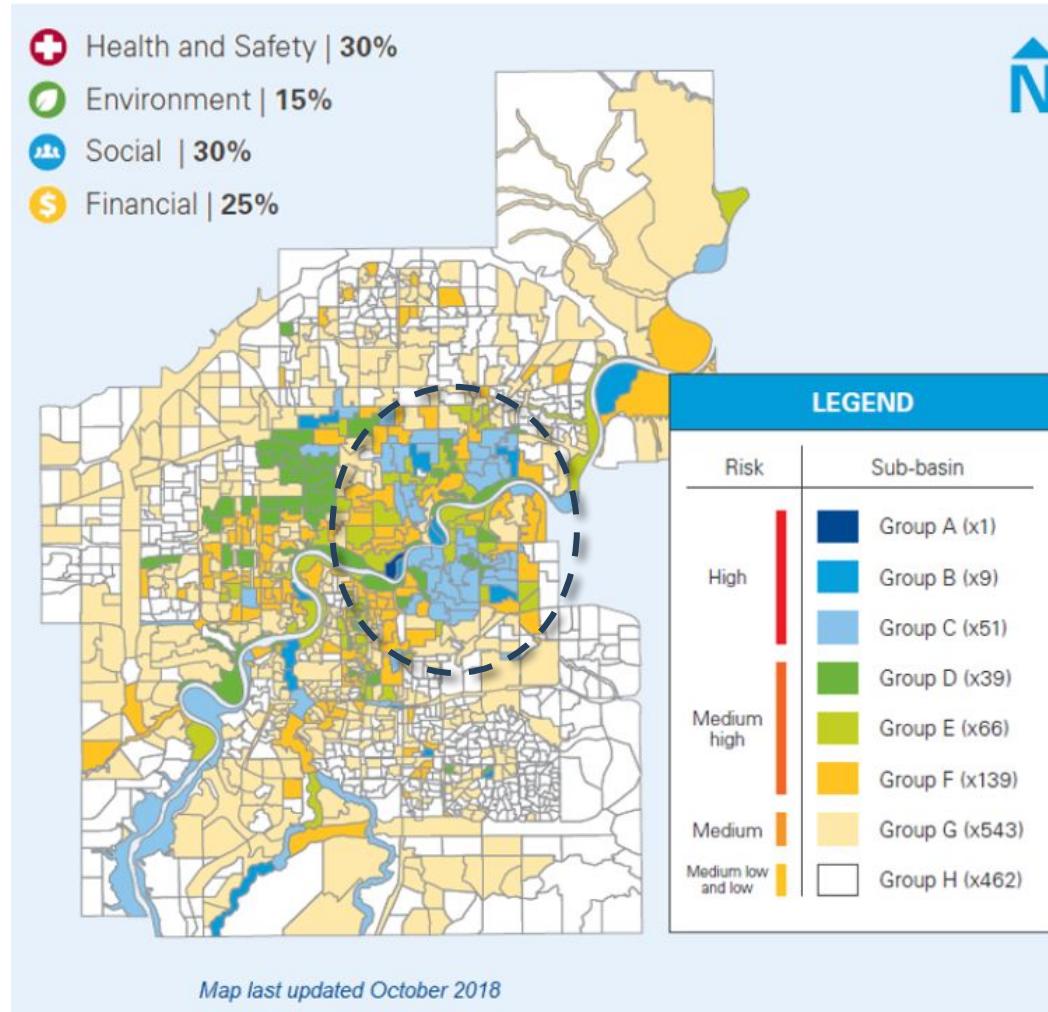
- High volume of basement flood calls
- High inflow / infiltration in sanitary pipe network
- Underpass flooding and safety issues
- More frequent high intensity rainfall events
- Philosophy based on building bigger/ more pipes (\$4.6 billion)

**Flood mitigation became new planning driver**



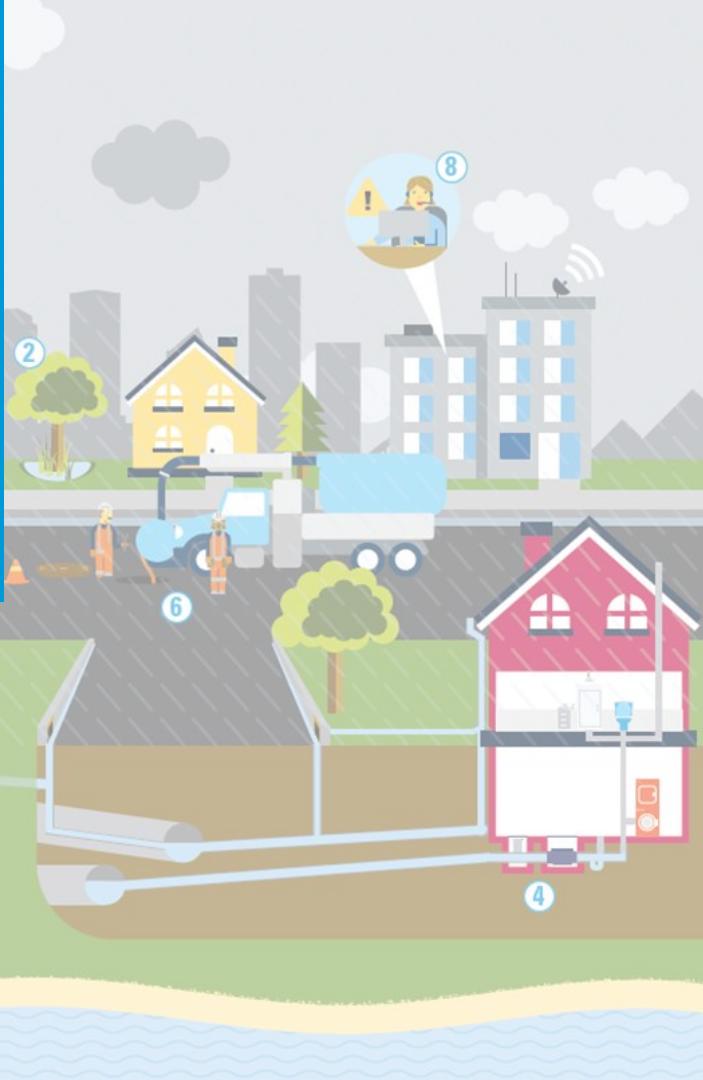
# Risk-based Approach

- Evaluated four community flood risks
  - Health and safety, environment, social/service impacts, and potential for financial loss
- Likelihood over five storm intensities
  - 1:20 1:50 1:75 1:100 1:200
- Neighbourhood scale
- Capital improvements targeted in high-risk areas (A, B, C)
- Opportunistic (D to H)



# Stormwater Integrated Resource Plan (SIRP)

- \$1.6 billion plan over 20-30 years
- Includes both capital and operational budget
- Increased operational programs enabling reduced capital expenses



## SLOW

We slow the entry of stormwater into the drainage network by absorbing it in green infrastructure and holding it in ponds.

1 Dry ponds

2 Low impact development — including rain gardens, bioretention basins, box planters and tree soil cells

## MOVE

We move excess water safely away from areas at risk.

3 Tunnels and trunks

3 Separation of storm and sanitary sewers

## SECURE

We help secure individual properties in higher risk areas.

4 Enhanced Building Flood Proofing Program for residential, multifamily and commercial properties

4 Engage and educate owners of 40,000 homes in targeted high and medium-high risk areas

5 Additional control gates at outfalls

6 Increased maintenance and repair priorities

## PREDICT

7 8 We predict and manage the movement of stormwater in real time through smart sensors, automatic controls and operational dashboards

## RESPOND

We respond through the fast rollout of flood barriers, traffic diversions and public communications.

8 Emergency response in coordination with the City of Edmonton Office of Emergency Management

# SIRP Projects and Programs

## SLOW

### Dry Ponds

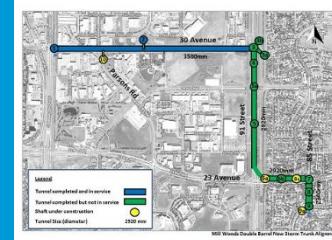


### Low Impact Development



## MOVE

### Trunks and Sewer Separation



## PREDICT

### Monitoring and Forecasting



## SECURE

### Building Flood Proofing



### Maintenance Hole and Pipeline Relining



## RESPOND

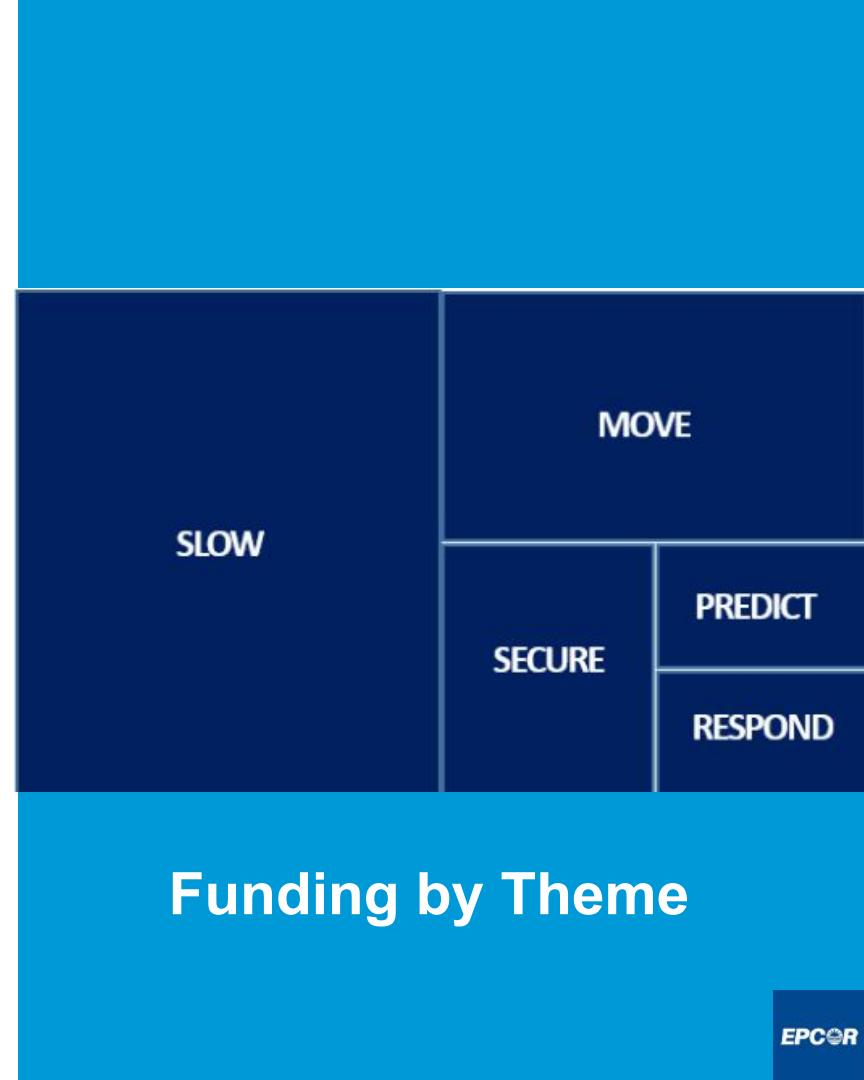
### Emergency Response



# Funding Allocation (20 - 30 Year Investment)

Theme	Projects & Programs	Original Investment (\$Million)
Slow	Dry Ponds	\$ 520
Slow	Low Impact Development	\$ 520
Move	Trunks and Sewer Separation	\$ 300
Secure	Outfalls and Control Gates	\$ 30
Secure	Inflow & Infiltration Reduction	\$ 100
Secure	Home Flood Proofing	\$ 60
Predict	Monitoring and Controls	\$ 70
Respond	Emergency Response	\$ 45
Total		\$ 1,645

Funding by Program



Funding by Theme

# Completed Programs/Projects (2019 – 2024)

## SLOW AND MOVE

- Dry Ponds with Sewer Separation
- Low Impact Developments

## SECURE

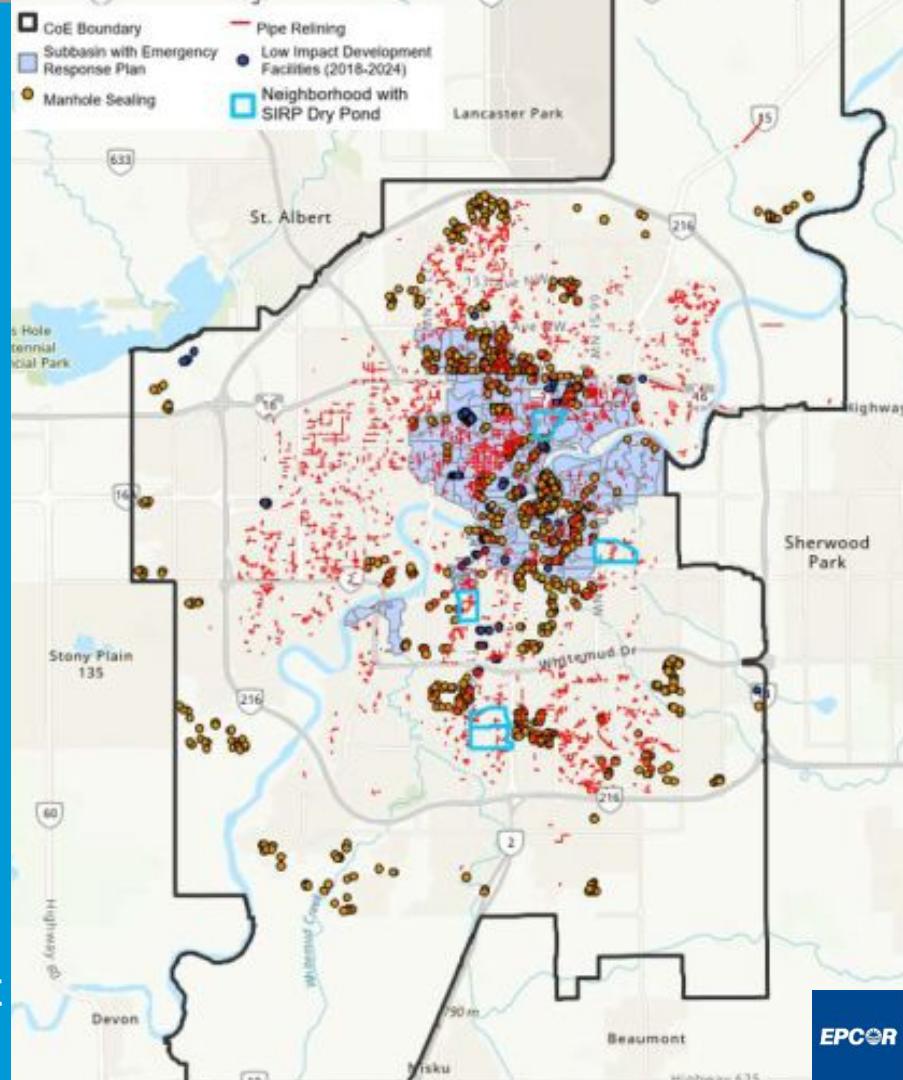
- Inflow & Infiltration Reduction
- Enhanced Flood Proofing Program

## PREDICT

- Operational Dashboard
- Monitoring and Controls

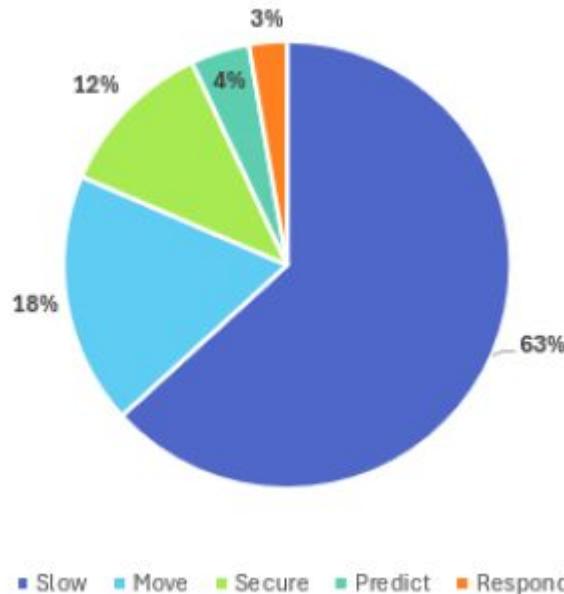
## RESPOND

- Emergency Response Plans and Equipment



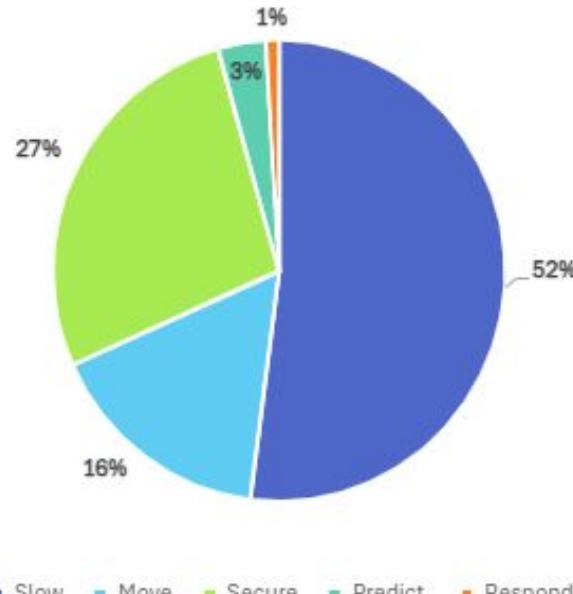
# Financial Progress – By Theme

Original Funding Split by Theme



Original \$1.6B

Actual Funding Split by Theme



First 5 Years \$350M

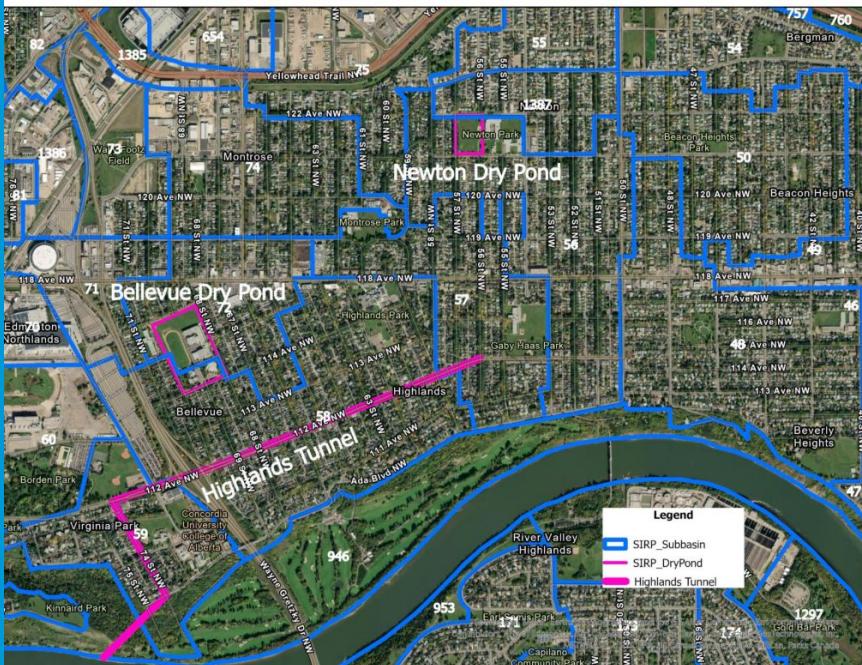
# SLOW and MOVE – Dry Ponds and Sewer Separation

- Cost higher and length of time for construction longer than expected
- Land acquisition challenging for large parcels
- Public impacts due to duration/extent of construction in neighbourhood for pond and connecting pipes
- Pivoting to pocket ponds and basin-wide stormwater management approach

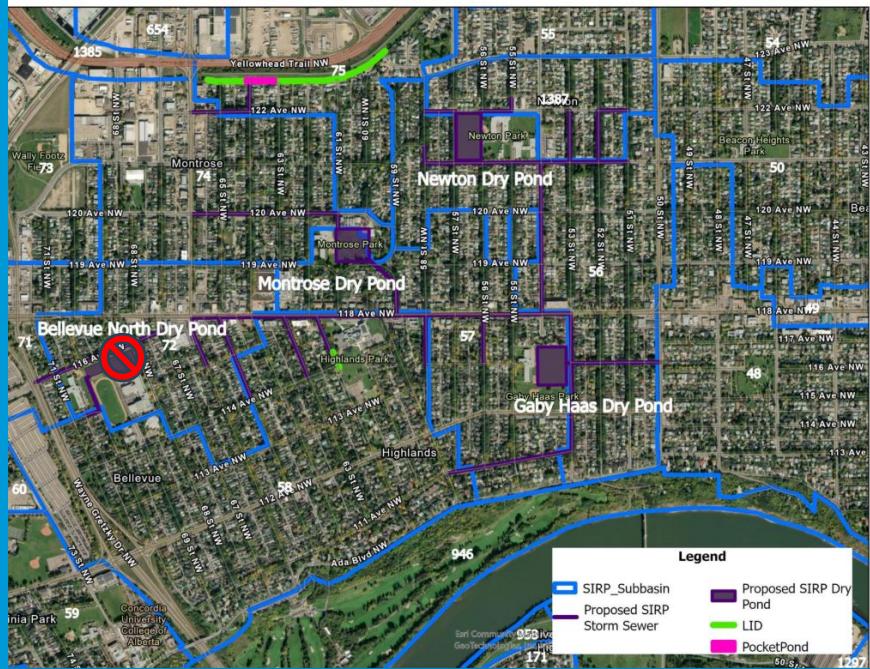
**7 dry ponds  
slowing  
> 300,000 m<sup>3</sup>**



# Future Dry Pond Concepts



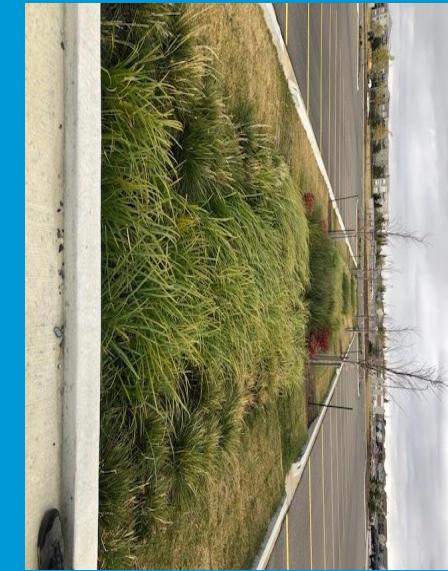
Original – 2 large ponds, new tunnel, neighbourhood based



Revised – 3 small ponds, pocket ponds, LID, basin based

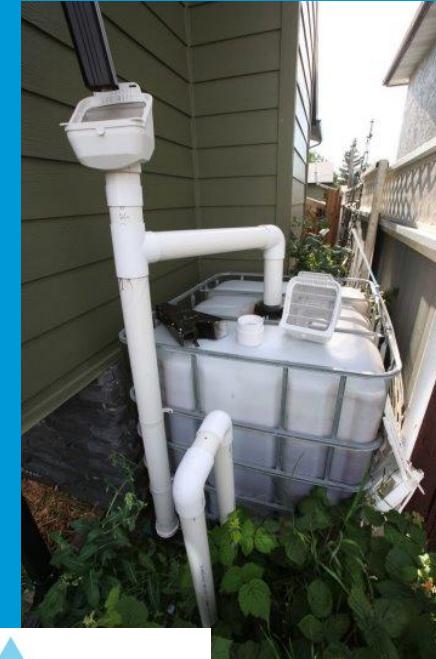
# SLOW – Low Impact Developments

- Stormwater storage through soil cells, rain gardens, permeable pavement, bioswales etc. that activate during regular storm events
- Installed 360 greened hectares throughout the city (slowing  $\sim 53,000\text{m}^3$ )



# SLOW - Low Impact Developments

Project/ Program	Learnings
Low Impact Developments (LIDs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cost and complexity higher than expected</li><li>• LID on public property has been successful, worked closely with City</li><li>• Pivoted to stormwater rebate program given limited uptake on commercial LID</li></ul>
RainWise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• &gt;150 projects in first year</li><li>• Greatest uptake on rain barrels and rain gardens</li><li>• Targeted advertising can increase participation</li><li>• No uptake from commercial customers</li></ul>



# SECURE - Inflow and Infiltration Reduction

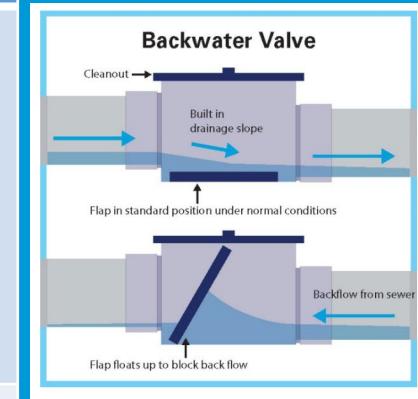
- Maintenance hole sealing and MH cover plugs effective and simple
- Pipeline relining hard to quantify until we have more monitoring data
- High I&I from private property, which we have no control over
- Consider a program to work with property owner to line or replace pipe on their property

Project	Completed
Maintenance Hole Sealing	3,000
Proactive Pipe Relining	21 km

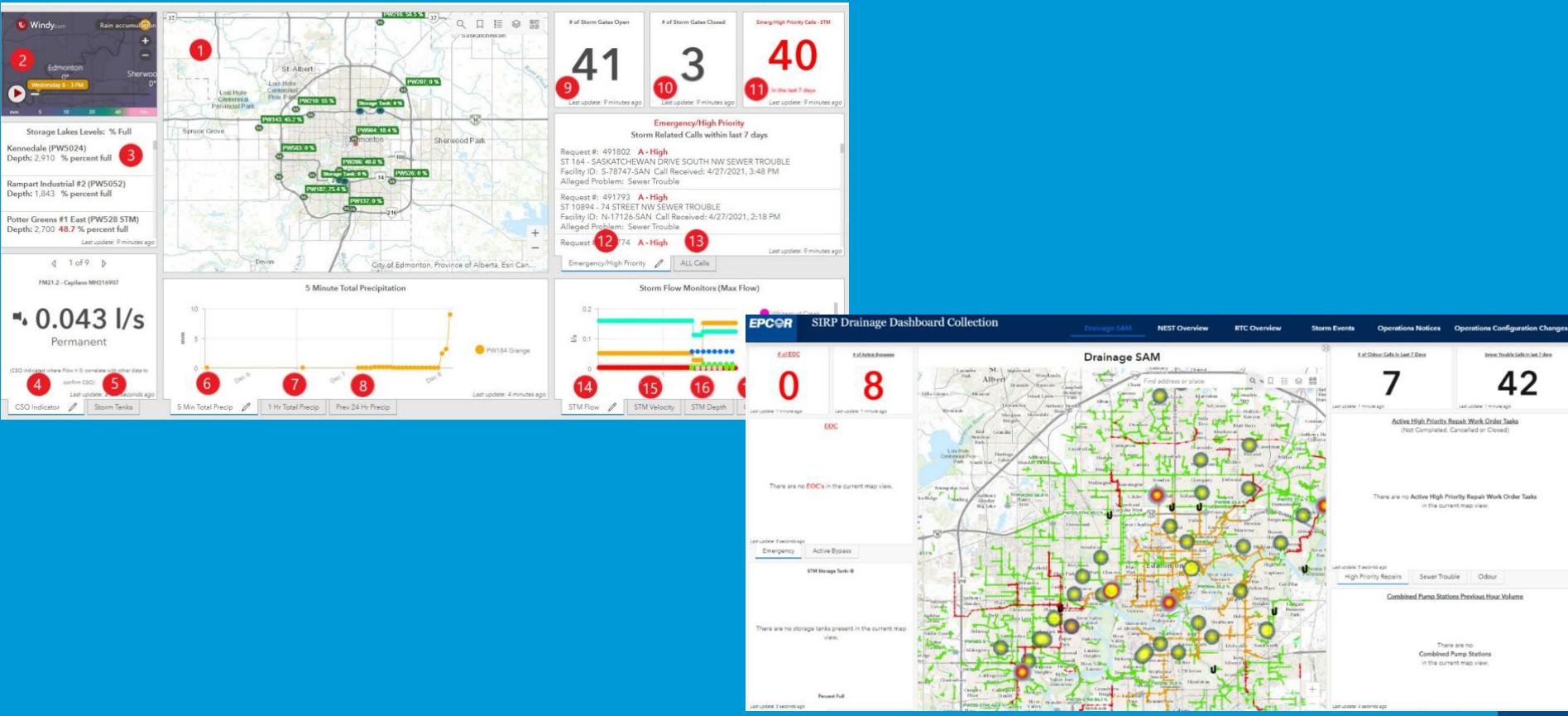


# SECURE – Enhanced Flood Proofing Programs

Program	Learnings
Backwater Valve Subsidy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>~300 installations / year</li><li>Expanded from residential to multi-family and commercial</li><li>Rebate covers 50-75% cost</li><li>Targeted education, advertising and promotion required</li></ul>
Flood Prevention Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>~1,500 free home inspections / year</li><li>Expanded from residential to multi-family and commercial</li><li>Facilitated cross-promotion for RainWise and Backwater Valve programs</li></ul>

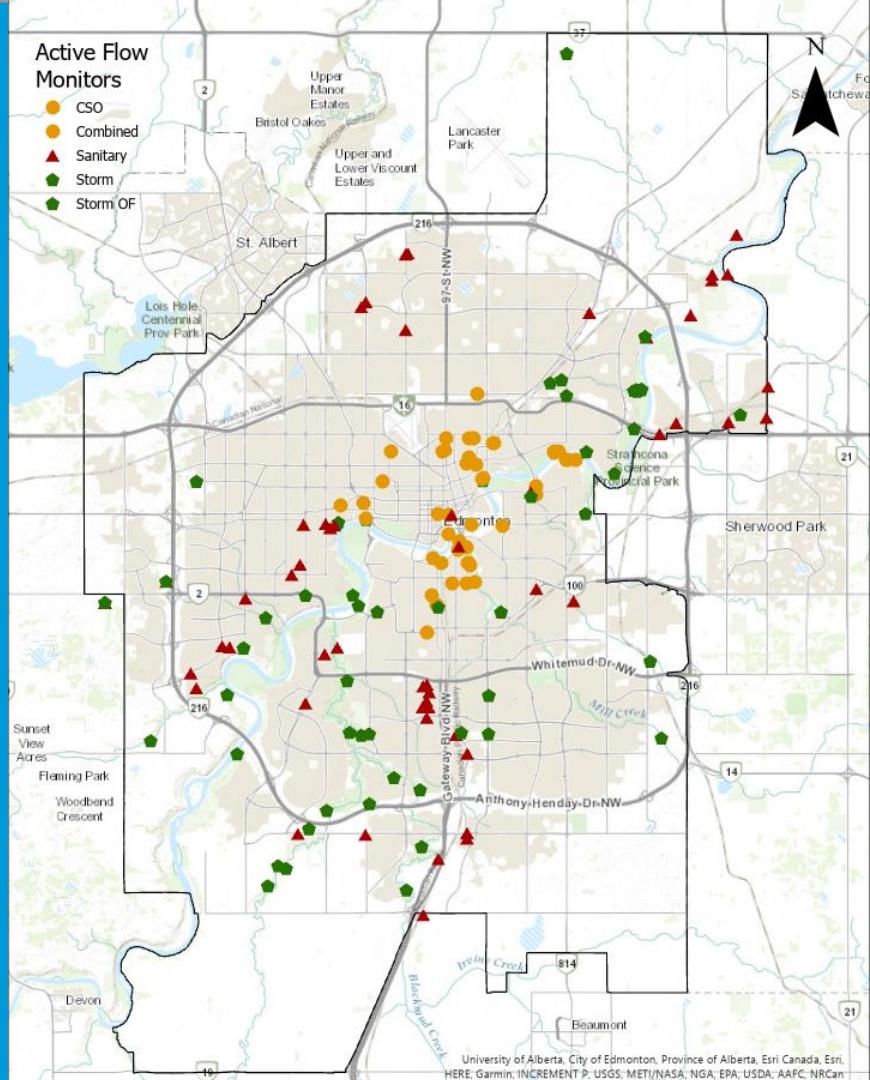


# PREDICT – Situational Awareness Dashboard



# PREDICT – Monitoring and Controls

Project	Learnings
Monitoring and Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Key to understanding how the storm and sanitary system works</li><li>Underpass warning systems installed</li><li>Locations selected must consider ease of access</li><li>Public consultation when installing in neighbourhoods</li></ul>



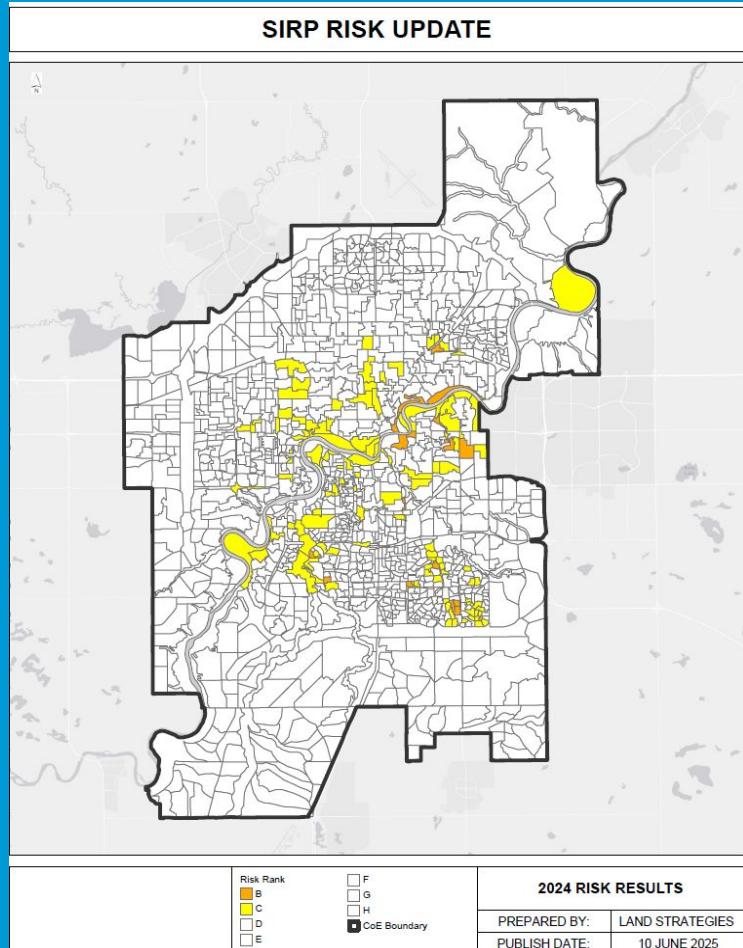
# RESPOND – Emergency Response

Project/Program	Learnings	
Emergency Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equipment storage and deployment exercises need to be considered</li><li>• Establishing a Linear Operations Center and integrating our linear operations teams are key to success</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>120 tiger dams</b></li><li>• <b>6,000 sand bags</b></li><li>• <b>Linear Operations Center under construction</b></li></ul>



# What's Next

- Update SIRP risk map
- Continue to promote SLOW solutions
- Continue reducing inflow / infiltration
- Enhance RainWise program
- New Projects:
  - Smart Ponds
  - Automated Outfall Control Gates



# Key Takeaways

- Bundle capital projects and operating programs to help drive down costs
- Expect some change management
- Don't be afraid to pivot
- Collaboration needed to effect change
- Partnerships are important to success
- Leverage grant funding opportunities





**EPCOR**

**THANK YOU**