



STORM WATER UTILITY

2025 Annual Report



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MESSAGE FROM DIRECTORS

The Storm Water Utility funds the complex system of a storm water infrastructure network, which starts from the collection ditches, storm ponds, and sewer infrastructure and ends at the South Saskatchewan River by discharge through the City's 91 active outfalls. The Storm Water Utility is responsible for the planning and design, management, storage, operation and maintenance, asset preservation programming, and system engineering, which is managed by the following departments:

- Saskatoon Water
- Water and Waste Operations
- Technical Services

The Storm Water Utility also funds the Drainage Inspector within the Bylaw and Compliance section in Community Standards and the oversight of the riverbank stability by the Principal Geotechnical Engineer in Saskatoon Water.

Management and staff from the responsible departments are committed to providing exceptional storm water management and flood protection services, including operations and maintenance of assets in the most reliable and cost-efficient way for the citizens of Saskatoon. We are pleased to present our results in the Storm Water Utility 2025 Annual Report on behalf of our departments.

This report describes our contributions to achieving the City of Saskatoon's Strategic Plan. We take great pride in efficient storm water management and reducing the flood risk for the citizens of Saskatoon. Several initiatives have been completed, and more are underway to further enhance service to the citizens, increase efficiencies, reduce costs, and strengthen our environmental leadership.

Our financials show responsible stewardship of the resources that Saskatoon citizens have entrusted to us. We continue to provide excellent value to our citizens as we undertake capital and Continuous Improvement projects that ensure asset and financial sustainability. Our utility rates are designed to fund the needed capital, asset preservation, operation and maintenance costs for current and future storm water management, and flood protection considering climate change. The departments have been focusing on customer service, storm water management for current and new neighbourhoods, flood protection for the most at-risk areas, and addressing aging infrastructure for storm water related services.

We are proud to work with a dedicated group of professionals who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to storm water management and flood protection, as well as ensuring the storm water infrastructure is sustainable. The work of the Storm Water Utility departments is greatly appreciated.

Russ Munro – Director of Saskatoon Water

Brendan Lemke – Director of Water and Waste Operations

Dan Willems – Director of Technical Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Storm Water Utility funds storm water management and flood protection services, including ongoing operations and maintenance of assets with an estimated replacement value of \$3.0 billion. The Storm Water Utility also monitors and stabilizes the East Riverbank to protect strategic public infrastructure. In 2025, the Storm Water Utility had revenues of \$14.3 million, with \$14.0 million allocated to operating expenses, which included \$9.6 million transferred to Capital and Infrastructure Reserves.

In 2025, progress was made implementing the Storm Water Utility Business Plan, with the following highlights:

- Continued to progress the nine-project Flood Control Strategy that will reduce the flood risk for at least ten top flood prone locations within the city before 2028. Landscape construction was completed for the fourth project (Brevoort Park South Underground Storage), while construction began for the Cumberland Park Dry Storm Pond and USask Dry Storm Pond project. The detailed design and public engagement for the seventh and eighth (Cahill Park Dry Storm Pond and 24th Street Storm Sewer, respectively) were completed. Additionally, the feasibility assessment and preliminary design began for the ninth project, the 46th Street Storm Sewer.
- Construction of Phase 3 of the Montgomery Place Drainage Improvement Project began in Fall 2025. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.
- Additional landscaping at Cartwright Pond was completed in 2025 through the CN Industrial Neighbourhood Drainage Improvement project.
- Responded to 913 storm water and drainage inquiries through our Customer Care Centre. Bylaw and Compliance also responded to 247 drainage related complaints, and the Storm Water Utility responded to 258 inquiries.
- Roadways, Fleet and Support completed the fall sweep, which included 107 km of streets and 1,034 tonnes of debris collected. Water and Waste Operations completed 1,088 catch basins inspections and completed 141 repairs or replacements based on the inspection findings. Water and Waste Operations also completed 490 manhole inspections and executed 94 manhole repairs.
- Continued asset management planning of infrastructure, including completion of the 2025 Outfall Visual Inspections and updating the Storm Water Asset Management Plan.
- Monitored sediment levels of storm ponds, including the bathymetric surveying of three wet storm ponds.
- Completed the annual Spring Reconnaissance comprising of a visual inspection of the slopes and monitoring of instrumentation of the East Riverbank to assess and rate specific sections. Monitoring programs were completed near 16th Street and 11th Street.
- Continued collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan, Meewasin Valley Authority, and others to monitor and research storm water quality and related concepts of the storm water system and South Saskatchewan River.

- Collaborated with the University of Saskatchewan on an ongoing multi-year research project regarding storm pond sediment, with the results of the project anticipated to guide future storm water design standards at the City.
- Completed billing reassessments of 326 industrial, commercial, institutional, or multi-residential sites in the annual storm water utility billing process.

Saskatoon had an above average rainfall year with 280 mm of rainfall recorded. This accumulation was above the historical average of 263 mm, with it being the 41st highest seasonal rainfall total since 1900. Five measured rain events occurred on the following dates:

- June 19, 2025 (2-to-5-year return period)
- July 6, 2025 (2-year return period)
- July 20, 2025 (2-to-5-year return period)
- August 5, 2025 (2-year return period)
- August 8, 2025 (2-to-25-year return period)

1.0 OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

The Saskatoon Storm Water Utility (Utility) provides storm water management and flood protection through funding the storm water system's operations and maintenance, asset preservation, capacity enhancements, and drainage inspections. The Utility also monitors and mitigates damage to strategic public infrastructure along the riverbank.

Storm water services are provided to residential; and industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) properties. In 2025, storm water charges were applied to approximately 69,172 single-family residential properties, 1,215 multi-family residential, and 3,451 ICI properties including City of Saskatoon (City)-owned sites.

Saskatoon's storm water infrastructure includes over 21,723 manholes and catch basins; 963 km of linear infrastructure, such as storm sewer pipes and culverts; 47 storm ponds; and other drainage infrastructure with a replacement value of approximately \$3.0 billion.

A list of key definitions and abbreviations for the report is provided in [Appendix 1](#).

1.2 Strategic Linkages

The City's [2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#) provided the direction that guided the activities of the Saskatoon Water Utilities. The following section outlines our Vision, Mission, linkages to the Corporate Strategic Goals, and Guiding Values.

Our Vision

The City is a leader in storm water design and asset management. We effectively collaborate with citizens and partners to utilize storm water as a resource and mitigate the risk of flooding.

Our Mission

The Utility provides safe, efficient, and cost-effective storm water management to Saskatoon citizens through teamwork and innovation. We develop proactive strategies that ensure the effective long-term performance of our storm water systems, supported by sustainable, accountable, and responsive funding structures. Storm water management charges entrusted by citizens are used as effectively as possible to minimize storm water and snow melt impacts.

Our Corporate Purpose

Our Purpose

Our Purpose describes the reasons we come to work every day.

- **We are making** Saskatoon a great place to live, work, learn and play every day.
- **We are creating** a welcoming workplace where each of us are encouraged to realize our full potential.
- **We are building** a sustainable future upon our predecessors' legacy and history of success.
- **We are exceptional** in delivering public services.
- **We are innovative** and unleash creative solutions and investments that contribute to a great city.
- **We adopt and support** behaviours that reduce the environmental footprint of the city.



Our Guiding Values



Our Values

Our values are part of who we are, what we stand for and how we behave towards each other.

PEOPLE MATTER

We work together as one team, seek input when it matters, support each other to grow and be our best selves, and foster a culture where we use our voices to drive change.

RESPECT ONE ANOTHER

We value the diversity each of us brings, celebrate our successes – big or small, and take the time to listen, understand and appreciate each other.

ACT AND COMMUNICATE WITH INTEGRITY

We are honest and take ownership of our actions, transparent in our decision-making, and question actions inconsistent with our values.

SAFETY IN ALL WE DO

We never compromise on the safety, health and well-being of ourselves and those around us, we put safety at the forefront of all decisions, and take responsibility to act on unsafe or unhealthy behaviours.

TRUST MAKES US STRONGER

We depend on each other and know we will do what we say, we assume the best of others, and support, inspire and empower each other every day.

COURAGE TO MOVE FORWARD

We lead and embrace change, think outside the box, and ask the tough questions.



Our Strategic Goals

The Strategic Goals are based on areas that the community, Administration, and City Council identified as important to realize the long-term vision of Saskatoon as *a great place to live, work, learn and play*.



ASSET & FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Saskatoon invests in what matters.



CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Saskatoon is the best-managed city in Canada.



ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

Saskatoon grows in harmony with nature.



MOVING AROUND

Saskatoon is a city on the move.



QUALITY OF LIFE

Saskatoon is a warm and welcoming place for all.



SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Saskatoon is known for smart, sustainable growth.



ECONOMIC DIVERSITY & PROSPERITY

Saskatoon thrives thanks to a diverse local economy.

Quality of Life: Provide citizens with cost effective, reliable, and high-quality storm water management services.

Continuous Improvement: Increase workplace efficiencies and improve services through implementing innovative approaches that maximize value.

Asset and Financial Sustainability: Implement capital preservation and expansion plans that provide the most cost-effective, storm water-related infrastructure for current and future citizens and businesses.

Environmental Leadership: Implement leading-edge innovations for environmentally responsible storm water-related infrastructure and services.

Sustainable Growth: Work closely with other departments to provide efficient and resilient designs for storm water infrastructure for new developments.

Moving Around: Collaborate with all stakeholders to minimize storm water-related transportation disruptions.

Economic Diversity and Prosperity: Provide competitively priced and reliable storm water related services, and cost-effective designs for new developments.

2.0 OUR STORM WATER UTILITY TEAM

The Utility is part of the Saskatoon Water Department in the Utilities and Environment Division. The Utility had three full-time employees and two engineering interns in 2025.

Saskatoon Water's Engineering and Planning: Responsible for overseeing the Utility and providing storm water engineering expertise. Saskatoon Water provides the following storm water management services:

- Flood Control Strategy (FCS) design and project management.
- Montgomery Place Drainage Improvement Project (MPDIP) design and project management.
- CN Industrial Drainage Improvement Project design and management.
- Montgomery Place driveway ditch crossing permitting.
- Rainfall monitoring and storm water quality monitoring.
- Assessing runoff factors of multi-residential and ICI properties for billing purposes.
- Analyzing and administering storm water billing credit applications.
- Engineering support for drainage projects.
- Community liaison for storm water issues.
- Modelling storm system capacity relative to rainfall volume and intensity.
- Planning and design of storm water infrastructure for new land development.
- Asset management of the City's storm ponds and outfalls.
- Monitoring the stability and condition of the riverbank and coordinating remediation of slope failures and/or erosion in the area.

The Utility also funds services provided by the following departments:

Construction and Design: Operates the “Connection Desk” and provides project management services, including survey work and inspection, for storm water infrastructure construction projects.

Communications and Public Engagement: Assists in initiatives to enhance citizen awareness and engagement to improve flood resiliency.

Community Standards: provides drainage inspections, drainage advice to residents and developers, [Bylaw No. 9772 The Drainage Bylaw, 2021](#) updates, and Drainage Bylaw enforcement.

Corporate Revenue: Provides storm water billing and collection services.

Finance: Provides accounting and administrative support.

Parks: Provides landscape design services for the FCS projects and provides ongoing day-to-day operations and maintenance of areas surrounding some storm ponds.

Roadways, Fleet and Support: Maintains above-ground drainage, including culverts, and completes a fall street sweep.

Sustainability: Provides leadership in activities that contribute to storm water practices that protect our watershed and natural resources.

Technical Services: Tracks the inventory, completes condition assessment, and oversees asset preservation for storm sewer infrastructure.

Water and Waste Operations: Provides the ongoing day-to-day operations and maintenance of storm water ponds, outfalls, and below-ground (sewer) storm water drainage infrastructure.

3.0 OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

Table 1 summarizes the City's storm water infrastructure with a replacement value of \$3.0 billion.

The Storm Water Utility's **minor system** consists of sewer pipes, manholes, catch basins, and outfall structures that convey runoff from more frequent, lower intensity storm events (up to a "1-in-2-year" storm). The system includes 963 km of linear infrastructure, such as storm sewer pipes and culverts, 8,178 manholes, 13,545 catch basins, 2,880 service connections, 91 functioning river outfalls, and minor ditches.

The **major system** consists of overland street drainage, 13 dry ponds, 34 wet ponds (including 10 naturalized wetlands) major ditches, swales, and any other land that is required to convey runoff from less frequent, higher intensity storms that produce runoff in excess of what the minor system typically handles.

Table 1: Storm Water Inventory

Asset	Type	2025 Inventory
Sewer Mains	Collectors	683 km
	Trunks	70 km
Manholes	-	8,178 ea.
Force mains	-	3.7 km
Service Connections	-	2,880 ea.
Catch Basins	-	13,545 ea.
Leads	-	155 km
Storm Ponds	Dry	13 ea.
	Wet	34 ea.
Underground Storage	-	1 ea.
Culverts	-	11 km
Outfalls	-	91 ea.
Sub-drainage	Roadways	38.7 km
	Riverbank	1.7 km
Oil & Grit Separators	-	1 ea.
Lift Stations	-	2 ea.
Replacement Value		\$3.0 billion



Figure 1: Circle Drive South Storm Water Outfall

4.0 OUR RESULTS

4.1 Climate and Precipitation

Annual Rainfall

Eleven rainfall gauges, within the City's network, were regularly monitored between April 1, 2025, and September 30, 2025. A summary of Saskatoon's 2025 rainfall season is provided in the [2025 Annual Rainfall Report](#). Overall, Saskatoon had an above-average rainfall year with 280 mm of rainfall accumulating. This was above the historical average of 263 mm, with it being the 41st highest seasonal rainfall total in the last 126 years. Rainfall decreased from 2024 when the city received 337 mm of rainfall.

Five rainfall events occurred throughout the year; four with a 2-to-5-year return period and one with a 5-to-25-year return period. Table 2 provides the rain event details for all rain events recorded by nine rain gauges.

Table 2: Rain Events in 2025

Date	Rain Event Statistics	Acadia Reservoir	Attridge Fire Hall	City Hall	Light and Power	Shaw Centre	Wastewater Treatment Plant	Aden Bowman	Water Treatment Plant	Parks Ave P
June 19, 2025	Peak Intensity (mm/hr)	45	103	96	40	69	12	31	45	129
	Total rainfall (mm)	13.8	19.0	20.6	6.2	12.2	4.4	8.2	11.6	17.6
	Return Period (yr.)	<2	2	2	<2	2	<2	<2	<2	5
July 6, 2025	Peak Intensity (mm/hr)	60	34	72	67	53	41	58	65	60
	Total rainfall (mm)	41.4	27.4	28.0	40.0	23.0	27.6	30.4	36.8	34.0
	Return Period (yr.)	2	<2	2	2	2	<2	2	2	2
July 20, 2025	Peak Intensity (mm/hr)	53	53	0	0	0	10	89	0	5
	Total rainfall (mm)	18.4	26.4	0	0	0	3.2	17.4	0	0.6
	Return Period (yr.)	2	<5	<2	<2	<2	<2	<5	<2	<2
August 5, 2025	Peak Intensity (mm/hr)	58	48	34	34	10	29	58	17	50
	Total rainfall (mm)	16.4	18.8	13.6	12.4	7.0	13.0	17.2	7.0	10.4
	Return Period (yr.)	2	2	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2
August 8, 2025	Peak Intensity (mm/hr)	91	77	86	106	-	58	101	132	72
	Total rainfall (mm)	42.4	36.0	32.2	38.8	-	30.0	38.4	33.8	22.2
	Return Period (yr.)	<25	5	5	5	-	5	5	5	2

August 8, 2025, Storm

The greatest rain event of the year occurred on August 8, 2025, where a total average of 39 mm of rainfall occurred, which represented approximately 14% of the total 2025 rainfall. During this rain event, the southeast areas of the city received the highest rainfall amount, with the Acadia Reservoir capturing 42mm of rain over the course of the rain event. The storm in this area was classified as “1-in-25-year” storm, as per the current City Intensity-Duration-Frequency curves.

Following the storm, the City received numerous calls from private property owners who experienced property damage because of flooding due to heavy rainfall. As a result, the City applied and was designated as an Eligible Assistance Area under the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP), which provides financial assistance to restore essential services and property as a result of rainfall damage during this storm.

4.2 Capital Programs

Flood Control Strategy

The FCS includes nine projects to reduce the flood risk for at least ten flood zones before 2028. The FCS construction is funded by the Utility (60%) and the Government of Canada (GoC) Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (40%), up to a total project cost of \$54 million. Any cost overages would be funded through capital reserve allocations within the Utility if required.

Landscaping construction was completed in Brevoort Park South in 2025. While the underground storage is in service to mitigate flooding in the area, the park will remain closed to the public through much of 2026 while the landscaping continues to root and establish. Brevoort Park South is currently expected to reopen to the public in fall 2026.



Figure 2: Brevoort Park South Sod Installation

Construction of the storm sewer infrastructure was completed, while landscape construction progressed for the new dry storm pond in Cumberland Park in 2025, which is the fifth FCS project. Landscape construction is expected to be completed in the summer of 2026, and the park is anticipated to reopen to the public in 2027. In the meantime, the dry pond will be in service to mitigate flooding for the 2026 rainfall season.



Figure 3: Cumberland Park Landscape Construction

Construction of the sixth FCS project, the University of Saskatchewan (USask) dry storm pond, also progressed in 2025 with completion of new storm sewer infrastructure, relocation of existing sanitary sewer infrastructure, and partial excavation of the new dry storm pond. The remaining pond excavation and electrical infrastructure relocations are anticipated to be completed in early 2026, with the landscaping work estimated to begin in late 2026. Once the remaining civil construction is completed, the dry pond is anticipated to be in service to mitigate flooding for the remainder of the 2026 construction season.



Figure 4: USask Dry Pond Storm Sewer Construction

Public engagement and final detailed design plans were completed for the seventh FCS Project, the Cahill Park Dry Storm Pond. Construction will begin in 2026 and will mitigate flooding for the 21st Street West and Avenue W South intersection.



Figure 5: Rendering of Cahill Park Dry Pond

The detailed design for the eighth FCS project, the 24th Street Storm Sewer, was completed in 2025. The project, which will mitigate the flood risk at properties near 24th Street East and 3rd Avenue North is expected to be constructed in multiple phases throughout the 2026 and 2027 construction seasons. Additionally, the feasibility

assessment for the ninth FCS project, the 46th Street Storm Sewer, commenced in 2025 to mitigate the flood risk at properties near 46th Street East and 1st Avenue North.

During the overnight hours of August 8, the constructed FCS projects in W.W. Ashley Park, Churchill Park, Weaver Park, and Brevoort Park South demonstrated their effectiveness, as a large storm approaching a “1-in-25-year” rain event hit Saskatoon. All four of the constructed dry pond and underground storage locations to date took in significant amounts of storm water and mitigated flooding that otherwise would have occurred in the neighbourhoods.



Figure 6: Water in Churchill Park Dry Pond on August 8, 2025

“The Churchill Park Dry Pond project is a great success & a great amenity for our community”

Resident near Churchill Park

Montgomery Place Drainage Improvement Project

Construction began for Phase III of the MPDIP in 2025, beginning in the southern portion of the Montgomery Place neighbourhood along a segment of Cassino Avenue. Construction of the remaining work in Phase III is expected to be completed in 2026. The construction deficiencies from Phase 2 of the project were also addressed in 2025. The construction areas included segments of Bader Crescent, Bader Crescent, and Mountbatten Street.

The drainage improvement project is expected to cost \$8.0 million and is partially funded through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program where 40% is contributed by the GoC and 33.33% is contributed by the Government of Saskatchewan (GoS). The drainage improvement phases will be completed in collaboration with roadway preservation work to achieve an efficient, cost-effective, and one-city approach for the neighbourhood.



Figure 7: Ditch Improvements Under Construction in Montgomery Place

CN Industrial Neighbourhood Drainage Improvements

In collaboration with the Sustainability Department, Saskatoon Water was approved to receive up to \$4.1 million in GoC funding through the Natural Infrastructure Fund in 2021. The final scope of work within this project included landscape enhancements for Cartwright Pond, which was completed in 2025.



Figure 8: New Tree Plantings at Cartwright Pond

4.3 Maintenance and Operations

Citizen Inquiries

In 2025, the Customer Care Centre responded to 913 inquiries from citizens regarding culverts, drainage, storm sewer, and storm water flooding issues, which was up from 885 inquiries in 2024. The type of inquiries received are shown below in Table 3 below.

The Utility group responded to 258 citizen inquiries in 2025, up from 226 in 2024. Of these inquiries, 88 inquiries were related to storm water billing, 11 were inquiries regarding the FCS projects, while 11 required a site visit. Table 4 below summarizes the completed inquiries.

Note that complaints received by the Bylaw and Compliance group are not included in Tables 3 and 4. This information is provided later in the report in Section 4.7.

Table 3: 2024 and 2025 Customer Care Summary of Inquiries

Description	2024	2025
CB Plugged/Clogged/Frozen	167	152
Street Drainage	35	8
Lane and/or Lot Drainage	3	3
CB Damaged	192	215
CB Lead Damaged	24	74
Manholes	115	212
Spring Drainage	275	160
Storm Sewer Blockage	31	30
Storm Ponds	19	30
Other	24	24
Total	885	913

Table 4: 2024 and 2025 Storm Water Group Customer Inquiries

Description	2024	2025
Alley Drainage	4	0
Surface Drainage	11	9
Sewer Drainage	9	3
Montgomery General	3	1
Montgomery Drainage Strategy	23	20
Montgomery Ditch Crossings	10	11
Flooding	0	18
Flood Control Strategy	24	11
Storm Water Utility Billing	49	88
General	23	29
Bylaw	5	4
Catch Basin Drainage	23	30
Councillor Requests	15	13
City of Saskatoon Internal ¹	13	6
Storm Ponds	10	10
Storm Water Credit	4	5
Total	226	258

Roadways, Fleet and Support Fall Sweep

The 2025 Fall Street Sweep Program utilized a tree density and flood risk approach similar to the methodology used in previous years. A total of 107.2 km of streets were swept, with 1,034 tonnes of debris collected. The tonnage of debris removed was down significantly from 2,024 tonnes collected in 2024, though similar to 1,060 tonnes collected in 2023, as shown in Figure 9. There were portions of Avenue E and D in Mayfair that were added to the program (around 674 meters). However, approximately 1,790 meters of the typical program could not be completed due to construction.

By designing the program based on higher tree density, increased debris captured during the sweep provides better flood protection per kilometer swept. The RFS team also completes many of the overland drainage inquiries received by the Customer Care Centre.

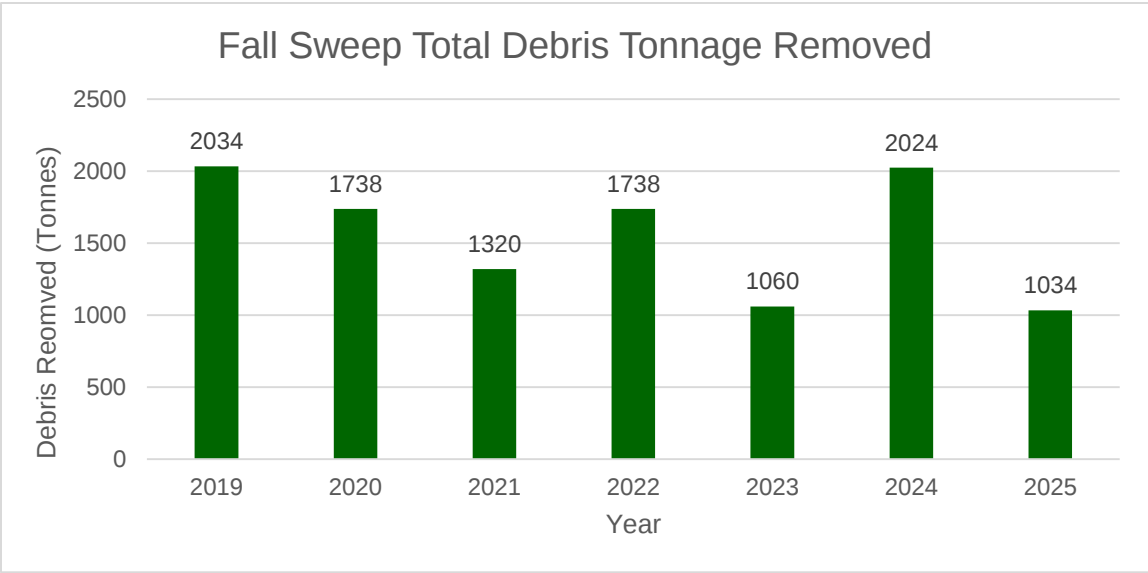


Figure 9: Fall Sweep Total Debris Tonnage Removed

Water and Waste Operations Maintenance

Water and Waste Operations (WWO) operates and maintains below ground storm water infrastructure, including sewer mains, manholes, and catch basins. Table 5 on the following page summarizes WWOs 2025 storm-water-related maintenance activities, including flushing and televising storm water sewers, and cleaning and inspecting infrastructure.

Table 5: WWO's Storm Water Infrastructure Maintenance

Activity	2024	2025	Units
CCTV of Storm Mains	11,859	16,152	Meters
CCTV of CB Leads	1,297	3,240	Meters
Storm Sewer Meters	49,547	41,985	Meters
Catch Basin Leads	289	327	Each
Inspect Catch Basins	521	1,088	Each
Maintain Catch Basins	11,101	11,505	Each
Repair Catch Basins	163 repaired, 15 replaced	113 repaired, 28 replaced	Each
Inspect Storm Manholes	430	490	Each
Repair Storm Manholes	60	94	Each
Grout MHs/CBs	33	50	Each
Outfalls	84	107	Each
Storm Ponds	114	69	Each

*Clean Catch Basins Activity does not include drainage/thawing operations.

Table Definitions

- “Storm Sewer Meters” refers to the storm segment meters flushed.
- “Catch Basin Leads” is the number of leads flushed or cleaned.
- “Outfalls” is the number of total times outfalls inspected and/or cleaned.
- “Storm Ponds” is the number of trips made to maintain storm ponds.
- “Inspect Catch Basins” refers to the number of formal inspections completed at catch basins.
- “Maintain Catch Basins” refers to the number of catch basins visited and maintained by operations staff.

In 2025, a total of 113 catch basins, 94 manholes, 8 segments of catch basin leads, and 17 segments of storm sewer were repaired, while 28 catch basins and 50 segments of catch basin leads were replaced. Additionally, 69 maintenance visits to storm ponds were completed. Figure 10 displays the 2025 WWO repairs and replacements of storm water infrastructure compared to the previous five years.

WWO Storm Water Maintenance: 2020 to 2025

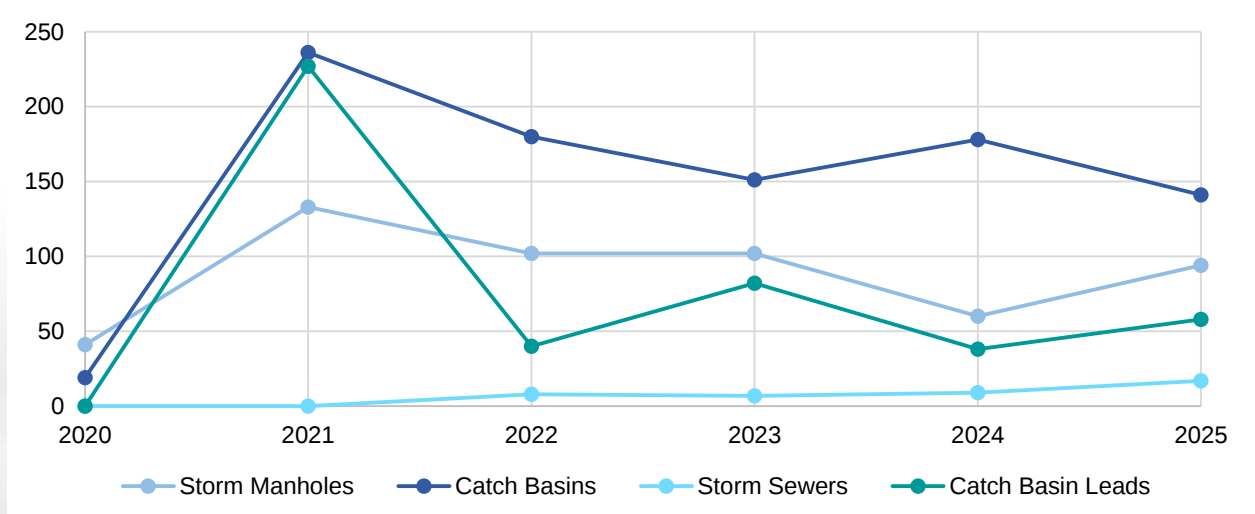


Figure 10: Storm Water Maintenance Repairs and Replacements: 2020 to 2025

4.4 Asset Management

Storm Sewer Inspection, Cleaning, and Lining

In 2025, the Storm Water Utility funded the cleaning and inspection of approximately 16 km of storm sewers. As of the end of 2025, over 207 km of storm pipes have been inspected (23% of linear storm sewer pipe system), and 151 km of these have been rated (21% of linear storm sewer pipe system). The inspected storm sewers were rated using a five-point scale:

- A: No structural problems evident
- B: Some structural deficiencies noted
- C: Sewer main showing deterioration
- D: Physical condition is near failure
- F: Physical condition has failed

The rating for 151 km of inspected sewer mains is provided in Figure 12.



Figure 11: Image of Sediment within Storm Sewer Pipe

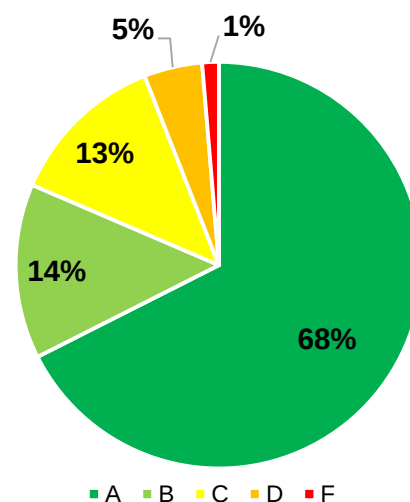


Figure 12: Image of Storm Sewer Main & Trunk Ratings

Storm Water Asset Management Plan

The current inventory of storm water infrastructure has a replacement valuation of approximately \$3.0 billion. As of the end of 2025, storm ponds, outfalls, and lift stations have at or near 100% reporting levels for condition data, while approximately 22% of the storm infrastructure linear network (i.e. storm sewers) has been inspected. Future work will be to continue inspections of the storm water infrastructure network, so conditions are known for the entire system. Other priorities include documenting service expectations and accounting for climate change in future infrastructure projects.

The [2025 State of Saskatoon Storm Water Infrastructure](#) Report was prepared and presented to City Council in 2025. The report summarizes the current state of the City's

storm water assets, including inventory, condition ratings, and data reliability information. Additionally, the report outlined investment needs and current gaps, as well as plans to improve asset management and decision making.

Some of the recommendations and action plans identified within the report included:

- Developing lifecycle management strategies for critical assets.
- Documenting current levels of service to optimize approved funding.
- Developing and implement pond dredging program.
- Continue to monitor and assess storm water network performance.
- Collaborating with internal and external stakeholders to update storm water service levels.
- Preparing a business case for a Utility rate increase.

4.5 Storm Water Outfalls

Outfall Inventory

The City currently has 91 owned and maintained storm water outfalls. The Utility formally inspects the outfalls every three years as part of the Storm Water Asset Management Plan, with the last comprehensive inspection program completed in 2025. WWO also completes inspections at select outfall locations annually, as well as inspections on an emergency or inquiry basis.

2025 Outfall Visual Inspections

In 2025, Saskatoon Water completed visual inspections of 93 storm water outfalls, including 83 City-owned and maintained, and 10 privately-owned and maintained locations. The overall condition of each outfall was graded from a scale of A to F (A being the best condition and F being the worst) as shown in Figure 13. Overall, 30% of the outfalls inspected were in the top two graded categories “A” and “B”, 32% were in the middle range grade “C”, while 38% were in the bottom two graded categories “D” and “F”.

Outfall Condition Grades

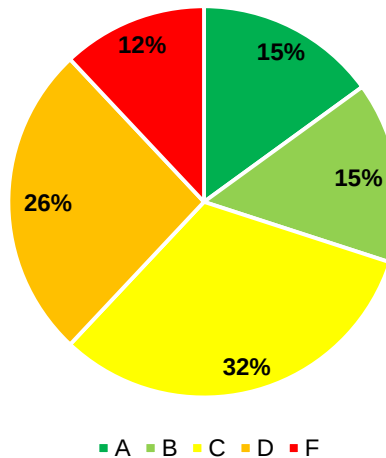


Figure 13: Outfall Condition Grades

The detailed report and recommendations are still being finalized at time of reporting. Once finalized, the recommendations and action items are expected to be completed in coordination with Saskatoon Water, WWO, and through external contracts.

4.6 Storm Water Ponds

Storm Water Ponds Inventory

The City currently has 34 wet ponds and 13 dry ponds within the storm water management network. The Utility formally inspects the storm water management ponds every three years, with new ponds inspected the year they are in service, as part of the Storm Water Asset Management Plan. A comprehensive inspection program was last completed in 2024. WWO also completes inspections at select pond locations annually, as well as inspections on an emergency or inquiry basis.

2024 Storm Pond Visual Inspections

In 2024, Saskatoon Water completed visual inspections of 45 ponds in the City's inventory. The visual inspections documented the condition of pond infrastructure (such as storm sewer pipes, slopes, shoreline, and water appearance), identifying deficiencies or areas requiring maintenance. The ponds were classified into four categories: Good, Average, Poor, and Under Construction as shown in Figure 14. Overall, most of the ponds were considered to be in average condition (75%), with only 13% considered to be in poor condition at time of inspection.

Storm Pond Condition Grades

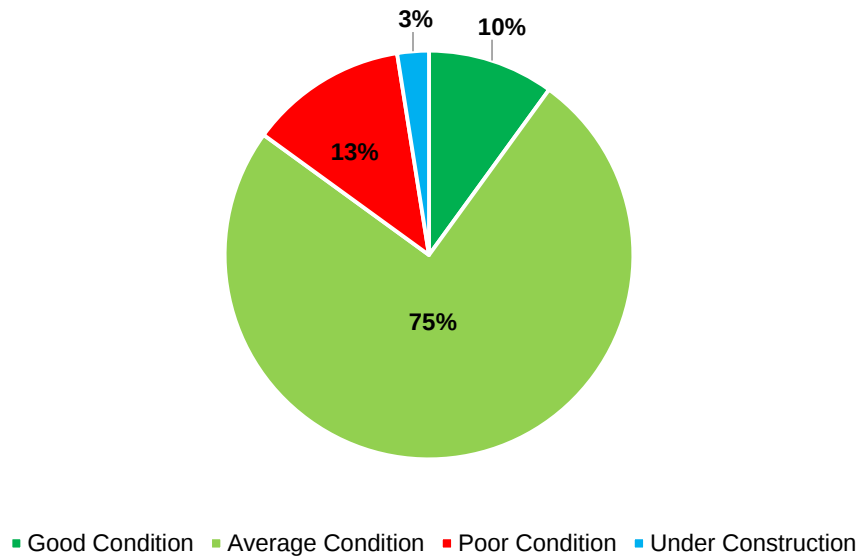


Figure 14: Storm Pond Condition Grades

A total of 268 action items were identified, and 92 of these action items were classified as Moderate to Urgent. The detailed report and recommendations have been finalized at the time of this report. Action items will begin to be addressed in order of their importance in Summer 2026 in coordination with Parks, WWO, and external contractors as necessary.

Storm Water Ponds and Recreational Use

The City permits use of storm water ponds for recreational use through *Policy C10-024*. A Storm Pond Recreational Use Committee that meets quarterly includes members from Saskatoon Fire, Recreation and Community Development, Communications, WWO, Technical Services, and Saskatoon Water to discuss safety of the storm pond system. Saskatoon Fire completes ice thickness testing in the winter to permit recreational use of the storm ponds for the season. Additional seasonal testing is completed by Saskatoon Fire as required based on weather conditions. Only select storm ponds are permitted for recreational use based on infrastructure and site inspections.

Storm Pond Bathymetric Survey Program

In 2025, Saskatoon Water continued its bathymetric survey program, identifying sediment infill volumes and determining if sediment is affecting the operation of the City's wet storm ponds. Five wet ponds were surveyed in 2025, which contained an average sediment build-up equivalent to 45% of the pond's dead storage. Since 2017, 72% of the City's wet storm ponds have been surveyed, including 95% of wet ponds greater than 20 years of age. To monitor sediment levels, Saskatoon Water plans to continue annual surveys with the program to be incorporated into the Storm Water Asset Management Plan.

Floating Treatment Wetland Installation

In 2024, the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds, in partnership with the City, Water Security Agency, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the Meewasin Valley Authority, installed 12 floating treatment wetlands in the City's Kensington 1 Storm Pond. The wetlands are anticipated to provide a benefit to the natural ecosystem, including pond water quality improvements, as well as to wildlife and pollinators in the area. The wetlands have continued to establish throughout 2025, as shown in Figure 15.



Figure 15: Floating Wetlands at Kensington 1 Pond (2025)

Goldfish in Storm Ponds

In 2025, The City hired EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. to complete DNA testing of the fish at Peter Zakreski (Stonebridge 3) and Dundonald ponds. The results indicated that fish species, other than goldfish, were present in Peter Zakreski Pond, including a weak detection of exotic fish and several native species.

No goldfish removal projects were completed in 2025, in part due to limited local availability of the natural fish toxicant Rotenone. The City is currently considering options for future goldfish removal in 2026.

4.7 Bylaws and Compliance

The Storm Water Utility funds a dedicated drainage inspector position and partially funds three other positions in the Community Standards Bylaw Compliance section. The drainage inspector helps citizens and developers ensure compliance to the City's [*Bylaw No. 9772 The Drainage Bylaw, 2021*](#) through a model of education and enforcement. In 2025, Community Standard's Bylaw Enforcement Network software tracked 247 property drainage-related complaints, up from 221 in 2024. Table 6 displays the number of drainage-related complaints in 2025 compared to 2024.

Table 6: Drainage Complaint Numbers

Complaint Type	2024	2025
Lot Grading Advice & Education	32	42
Sump Pump Discharge	47	89
Sump Pump Winter Bypass	45	47
Lot Grading Plan Requests & Questions	3	2
Rear Property Line Drainage	11	10
Eaves Trough & Downspouts	44	33
ROW Closure Approvals	0	0
Side Yard Drainage Concerns	8	7
Commercial Property Development	6	6
Groundwater Issues	1	1
Infill Development	5	2
Multi-Family Development	7	0
Garage Pad Elevations	3	1
Water Retention Structure	3	2
Concrete Swale	2	1
Other	4	4
Total	221	247

4.8 Riverbank Slope Stability

The Utility funds riverbank slope stability projects due to the impact of snow melt and rainfall on groundwater levels and erosion. The City's goal is to manage the riverbank slope stability more proactively for increased efficiency and lower long-term costs.

East Riverbank Reconnaissance

Since 2009, an annual reconnaissance has been completed on the East Riverbank for areas considered most susceptible to slope instability, between the North and South Railway Bridges. This reconnaissance comprises visual inspections of the slopes and monitoring of slope inclinometers and standpipe and vibrating wire piezometers. The reconnaissance aims to provide a yearly review of the riverbank status from a geotechnical and risk of slope instability perspective. In 2020, the inspection extents were expanded to the south to the east Raw Water Intake and Pumping Facility, and in 2021 to the north to Peturrson's Ravine.

In addition to the monitoring completed as part of the annual reconnaissance, Saskatoon Water staff visually monitored East Riverbank sites near 15th and 16th Streets and 11th Street, with monitoring being more frequent when risk of slope movement was higher.

Nutana Slope Area

Geotechnical instrumentation in the Nutana Slope Area was monitored three times in 2025 with the results communicated to residents of the area. Visual inspections were

completed monthly between April and October and occasionally during the winter. Instrumentation monitoring was also completed by City staff in spring, summer and fall.

Geotechnical Support

In addition to managing the riverbank, the City Principal Geotechnical Engineer is a resource for all City departments, and in 2025, was involved in several projects, providing geotechnical support. Some of these projects included the following:

- Cahill Park Dry Pond Design
- USask Dry Pond Design
- Trenchless CN and CP track crossings for the Blairmore Primary Water Main
- Riverbank Overlay District building permit review
- Land Development Review
- Sump Pump Project – reviewing the management of the interaction between high groundwater and residential development

4.9 Community Awareness and Engagement

Flood Control Strategy

Communications and engagement for the FCS is a priority for the Utility. The following communications were mailed to area residents and stakeholders regarding ongoing FCS projects in 2025:

Brevoort Park South Underground Storage (4th FCS Project)

- Landscape Construction Update (May 2025)

Cumberland Park Dry Pond (5th FCS Project)

- Engagement Summary Mailer (January 2025)

Cahill Park Dry Pond (7th FCS Project)

- Notification of City Council meeting requesting project approval (May 2025)
- City Council approval of Project & Engage webpage (August 2025)
- Public Engagement Event Invitation and Video Presentation on Engage webpage (September 2025)

Two FCS news releases were completed in 2025 for the Weaver Park, Cumberland Park, and USask Dry Pond Project, which are shown in [Appendix 2](#) and described below:

- June 2, 2025: Work begins on the City's fifth and sixth flood mitigation projects
- June 9, 2025: City's third Flood Control project complete: Weaver Park now open

Engage pages are active for each FCS project and can be found on saskatoon.ca/engage.

A social media post was also created in coordination with the news release indicating the start of construction in Cumberland Park and on USask land, which is shown in Figure 16.

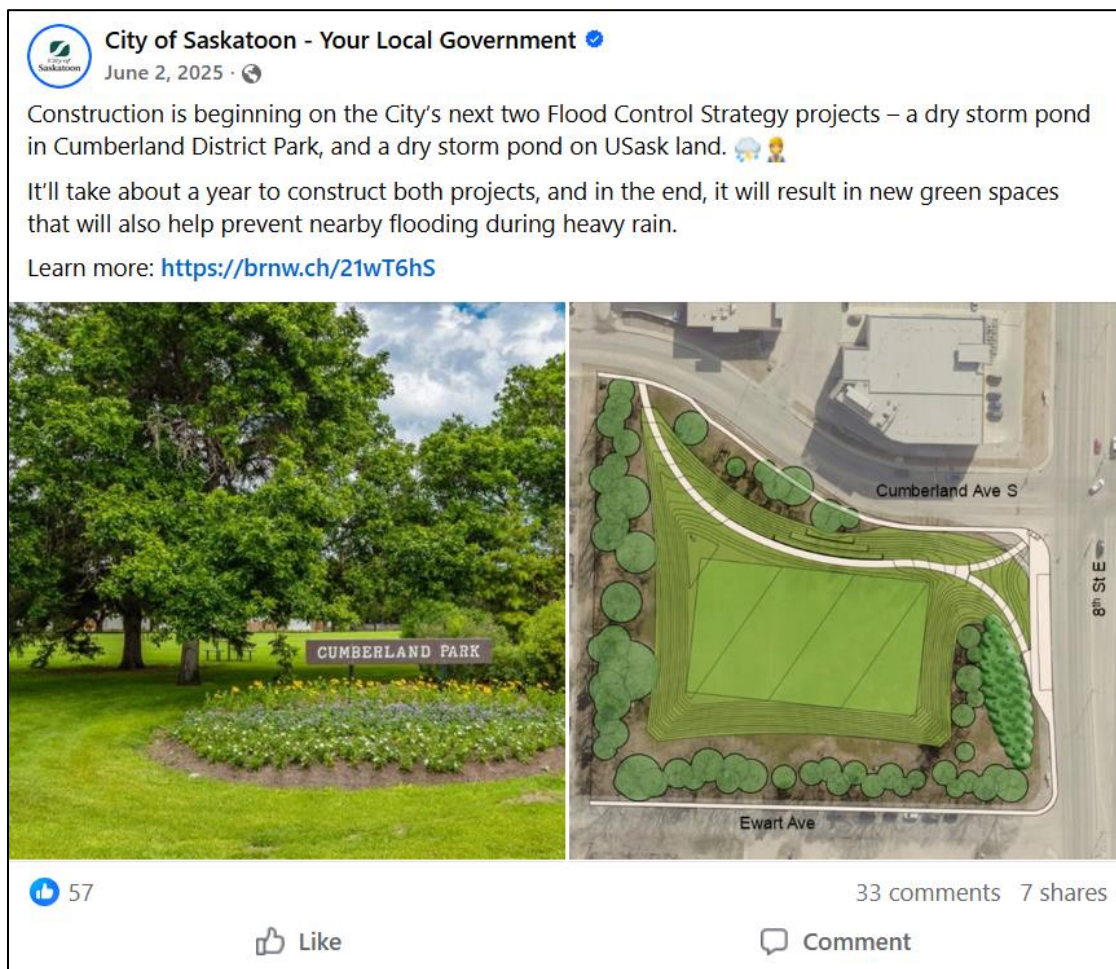


Figure 16: Social Media Post – Construction Start in Cumberland Park

Additionally, a social media post was created after the Churchill Park Dry Pond successfully mitigated flooding during a July 2025 storm, which included photos submitted by a local area resident. An image of this post is shown in Figure 17.



City of Saskatoon - Your Local Government

July 9, 2025 · 🌐

When the rain came down last Sunday, we saw a flood control strategy success story. 🌧️

In just a few hours, over 30mm of rain hit Saskatoon. Thanks to the Churchill Dry Storm Pond, the impact was significantly reduced in historically flood-prone areas. Resident submitted photos show the storm pond in action.

Churchill was the third of nine projects to reduce flood risk in Saskatoon's most flood-prone areas. Construction is now underway at Cumberland Park to continue this important work. We know construction and detours can be an inconvenience and we thank you for your patience as we continue to build this vital infrastructure to mitigate flooding in Saskatoon.

➡️ Learn more about the Flood Control Strategy at saskatoon.ca/floodplan



Churchill Park Dry Storm Pond
saskatoon.ca/floodplan



Churchill Park Dry Storm Pond
saskatoon.ca/floodplan



Churchill Park Dry Storm Pond
saskatoon.ca/floodplan



Churchill Park Dry Storm Pond
saskatoon.ca/floodplan



👍 343

22 comments 28 shares



Like



Comment

Figure 17: Social Media Post – Churchill Park Dry Pond Success

Montgomery Place Drainage

The construction notices and updates for Phase 3 of the MPDIP were completed by the Construction Management Team of Construction and Design. The engage page for the MPDIP can be found at [Saskatoon.ca/engage](https://saskatoon.ca/engage).

Nutana Slope

Two flyers were distributed to residents in spring and fall near the Nutana Slope to inform them of instrumentation monitoring results. A “Notice to Residents” was also delivered in the spring to provide information on what to expect from the City and what citizens can do to reduce risk from slumping.

Yellow Fish Road™ Program

The Utility, in collaboration with Sustainability, the Wastewater Utility, and WWO, supported the Meewasin Valley Authority in delivering the Yellow Fish Road™ Program to make students and citizens aware that water goes through the storm water system untreated to the South Saskatchewan River. In 2025, in-person presentations were offered to schools and other community groups in the city. Sixteen schools/groups and 563 students and teachers participated in the Yellow Fish Road™ Program. Yellow fish were painted on 145 storm drains in 11 neighbourhoods, and 943 door hangers were distributed. The Yellow Fish Road™ Program is currently approved to continue until at least 2028, as a new agreement with Meewasin Valley Authority to continue delivering this program was approved in 2025.

Storm Water Charges

Bill inserts were prepared to provide information to ICI property owners about the storm water management charges, including information about the Storm Water Management Credit Program.

Saskatoon.ca Website Updates

The Storm Water website is reviewed as needed to ensure up-to-date information is provided to Saskatoon residents. In 2025, the following webpages were updated:

- Flood Control Strategy
- Storm Water Utility Charges
- Storm Water System
- Rainfall Reports
- 24th Street Storm Sewer Project

Provincial Disaster Assistance Program

A news release was completed by the City Solicitor’s Department regarding the application process for the PDAP in response to the August 2025 storm event. This news release is also included in [Appendix 2](#) and described below:

- September 15, 2025: Provincial Financial Assistance Now Available for Flood-Affected Saskatoon Residents

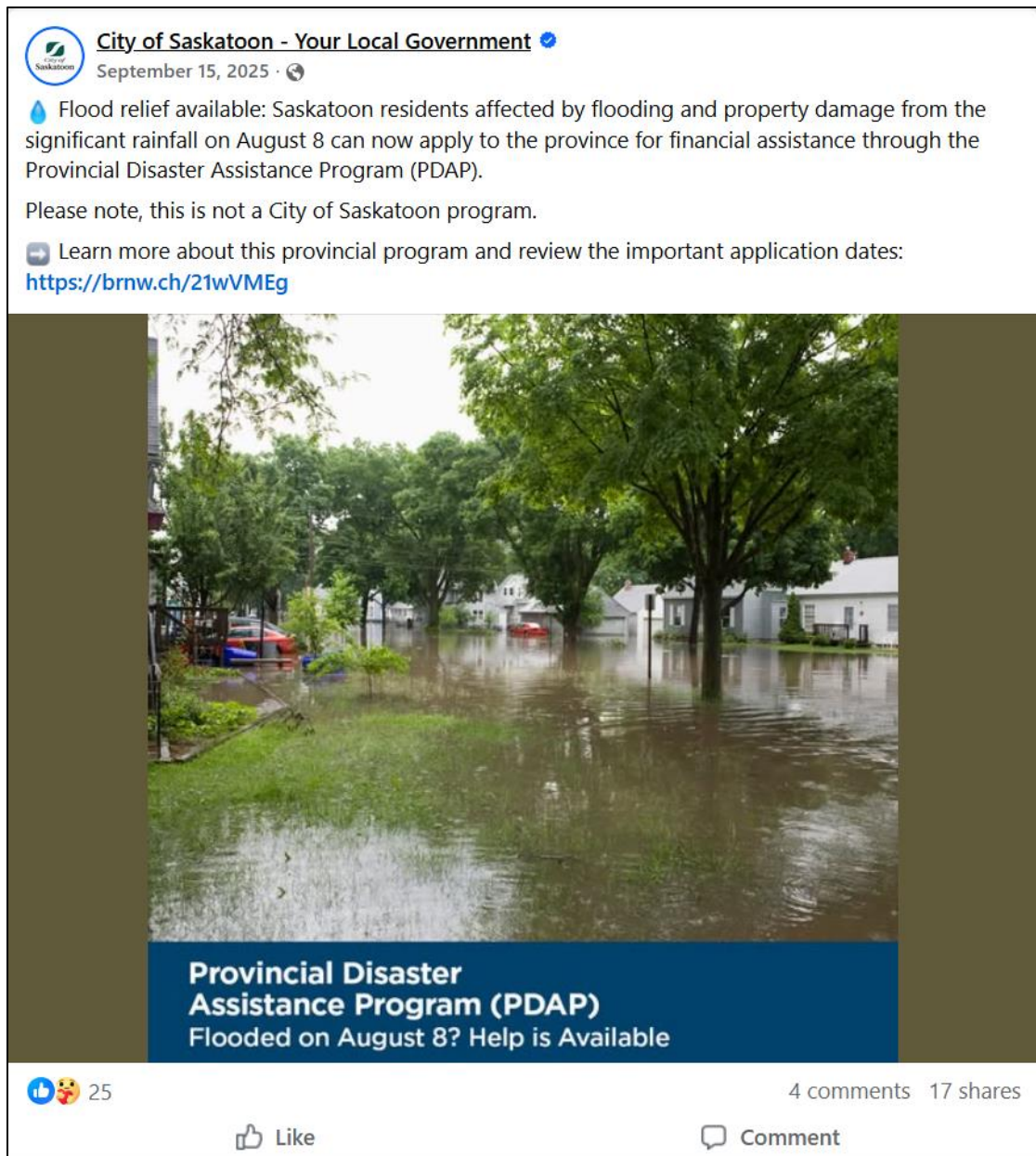


Figure 18: Social Media Post – PDAP

4.10 Storm Water and the Environment

Storm Water Quality Monitoring

Saskatoon Water monitors 16 major outfalls for storm water quality. These outfalls are sampled and tested for temperature, chlorine, E.coli, and total coliforms every alternate week.

The monitoring program also tracks changes in water quality and quantity for the Northeast Swale. The monitoring measures basic water quality parameters, and monthly water samples provide for more detailed analysis. Annual reporting includes trend analysis of samples and comparisons to guidelines and historical data.

Water quality monitoring was also expanded to select storm ponds in 2025, with water quality testing being completed at a total of seven pond locations. The testing was completed on three occasions throughout 2025, with a variety of parameters being sampled including ions and indicators, solids, nutrients, microbiological, and other field measurements.

Natural Infrastructure

Saskatoon's green network includes features such as parks, trees, storm ponds, natural and naturalized areas, and other green spaces. These forms of natural infrastructure provide several benefits – such as storm water management, flood protection, and habitat – and can be used in place of or in combination with grey infrastructure to enhance the resilience, performance, and/or lifespan of urban infrastructure.

[Pathways for an Integrated Green Network](#) (approved in principle by City Council in 2022) is a 10+ year implementation plan that outlines actions to enhance, grow, and conserve Saskatoon's green network. Several initiatives are underway to support storm water management using natural infrastructure, including vegetated ditches, structural soil cells, naturalized storm pond enhancements, floating wetlands, and park upgrades. Some of the City's active projects are featured online at saskatoon.ca/naturalinfrastructurefund.

Outfall Debris Catchment Bags

In 2022, the City partnered with the USask on a research project (which also received funding through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) that included the installation of trash trap nets on two of the City's storm water outfalls. The nets capture trash and other pollutants that would have otherwise reached the South Saskatchewan River through the storm water system.

2025 was the final year of collection within the research project. Overall, while the nets did capture some debris throughout the project and provide some insights for the type of debris entering the South Saskatchewan River from the storm system, they did not capture as much trash as initially anticipated. The nets are planned to be removed from the outfalls in 2026.

Storm Pond Sediment Research Project

In 2025, the USask progressed on the four-to-five-year research project that began in 2024. The research project focuses on studying sedimentation in storm ponds, with the project receiving funding from the City, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and Mitacs Inc. The goal of the overall project, which is led by three PhD students and two master's students at USask, will be to establish a scientific foundation to enhance sediment retention in wet ponds, improve sediment management, and reduce overall costs for the City. As of 2025, the PhD students continue to work on the modelling portion of the project, with the two master's students expected to start in May 2026.

Outcomes from the project will be used to make future revisions to the City's pond design standards, the development of design standards for sediment forebays, increased

efficiency in pond maintenance and budgeting, and improved safety management planning for pond winter recreation.

Contractor Environmental Guidelines

In 2025, the City launched a project to update its Contractor Environmental Guidelines and develop new Erosion and Sediment Control Standards, which is continuing into 2026. These updated tools aim to reduce construction-related impacts, such as sediment, pollutants, and dust, while ensuring consistent environmental practices and helping safeguard Saskatoon’s waterways, natural areas, and stormwater systems.

4.11 Utility Billing

Equivalent Runoff Unit Assessment Updates

In 2025, the Storm Water team reassessed a total of 326 ICI and multi-residential properties. Of these sites, 298 assessments were due to internal observations of recent construction, 18 assessments were due to new sites being created, and 10 assessments were due to customer inquiries.

Storm Water Management Credit Program

The [Storm Water Management Credit Program](#) took effect January 1, 2019, providing the opportunity for a reduction in Storm Water Management Charges for ICI and multi-residential property owners who have implemented onsite storm water management measures. Properties are eligible for a credit in the three categories up to a maximum total combined credit of 50%. The details of the three categories are provided in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Storm Water Management Credit Categories

Category	Evaluation Criteria	Total Credit (50% Maximum)
Water Quality Improvements	Based on the percentage of storm water directed through a quality control infrastructure that meets the minimum standard of 80% total suspended solids removal for particles sizes 50 micron or larger.	Up to 20%
Peak Flow Reduction	Based on the proportion of storm water for a standard “1-in-2 year” rain event held onsite and released slowly to the City’s storm water system. The credit is equal to 0.4 multiplied by the peak flow reduction percentage up to 75%.	Up to 30%
Onsite Retention (Runoff Volume Reduction)	Based on 2% per millimeter of storm water up to 25 mm that is retained onsite and not released to the City’s storm water system.	Up to 50%

The Storm Water website includes Frequently Asked Questions, a fillable application form, a user-friendly credit calculation calculator, an inspection and maintenance template, and a comprehensive guidance manual. Information about the credit program

was sent with all 2025 ICI Storm Water Utility bills. No new applications for the storm water credit program were approved in 2025. The Utility will continue to explore options in the future to increase awareness of the credit program for ICI and multi-residential property owners.

4.12 Continuous Improvement

The Utility has undertaken a Continuous Improvement approach to increase service levels, improve efficiencies, and reduce costs in 2025:

- The FCS cost-shared with the GoC to help the City adapt to the risk of more intense storms associated with climate change. Project 4 (Brevoort Park Underground Storage) reached substantial completion, while significant construction progress was made in Project 5 (Cumberland Park Dry Pond) and Project 6 (USask Dry Pond). As of December 31, 2025, the GoC contributed approximately \$12.95 million as part of the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund agreement.
- The MPDIP cost-shared with the GoC and GoS to help restore the drainage routes in the Montgomery Place neighbourhood through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program continued in 2025 with the start of construction of Phase III of the project. As of December 31, 2025, approximately \$4.3 million has been contributed by the GoC and GoS. Phase 3 will be completed before the end of 2026.
- The restoration of drainage routes in the CN Industrial Neighbourhood was cost-shared with the GoC, and remaining landscape enhancements were completed in 2025. As of December 31, 2025, approximately \$3.3 million has been contributed by the GoC Natural Infrastructure Fund.
- Cost-effective research was leveraged through additional partnerships with the USask, including the ongoing new project regarding storm pond sedimentation.
- Storm sewer asset inventories were updated in 2025, including visual inspections of all outfalls in the City's pond network (at time of reporting), with action items being identified for each location.
- Participation in the Canadian Infrastructure Benchmarking Initiative (CIBI) provided access to best practices and lessons learned from other Canadian municipalities regarding storm water management. Saskatoon was the host city of the 2025 CIBI Annual Workshop, with the Storm Water Utility leading a tour for conference attendees of various storm water infrastructure sites in Saskatoon, as well as completing presentations regarding the history of Saskatoon's Utility and the Brevoort Park Flood Control Strategy project.

5.0 OUR FINANCES

The Utility is funded through a user-pay principle with charges proportional to storm water runoff generated according to property size and surface imperviousness (i.e., green space is charged less than buildings and pavement). A single-family residential dwelling is deemed to produce one Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU) of storm water, which forms the unit for charging other property types. The Storm Water Management Charge for single residential properties in 2025 was \$8.90 per month (\$106.80 annually). In 2025, 69,172 single family dwellings were charged storm water management fees (one ERU each).

Commercial properties can generate significantly more storm water than single unit residential properties; therefore, they are charged multiple ERUs from a minimum of two annual ERUs (\$213.60) to a maximum of 100 ERUs (\$10,680) in 2025. In 2025, the Utility billed 4,666 properties, including 3,451 ICI properties and 1,215 multi-residential properties.

5.1 Revenues

Storm Water Utility 2025 Revenues \$14,281,385

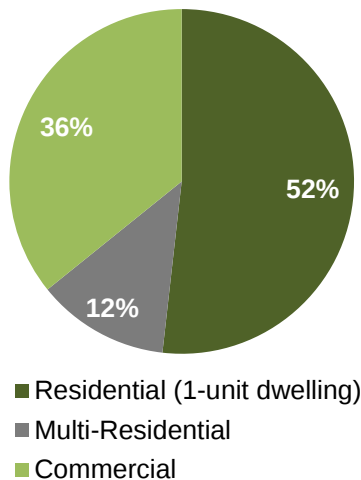


Figure 19: 2025 Revenues by Category

In 2025, total Utility revenues were \$14.3 million, an increase of 0.9% from 2024. Storm Water Management revenues based on ERUs included \$5.1 million from ICI properties (36% of total revenues and 5% of customers of the storm water management charge), and \$9.2 million from residential properties (64% of total revenues and 95% of customers of the storm water management charge). Figure 19 displays the revenues in percentage by category.

Variances: Actual total Utility revenues were \$34,000 (0.2%) lower than budgeted in 2025 due to lower than anticipated storm water payments received.

5.2 Operating Expenditures

Storm Water Utility 2025 Operating Expenses \$13,968,549

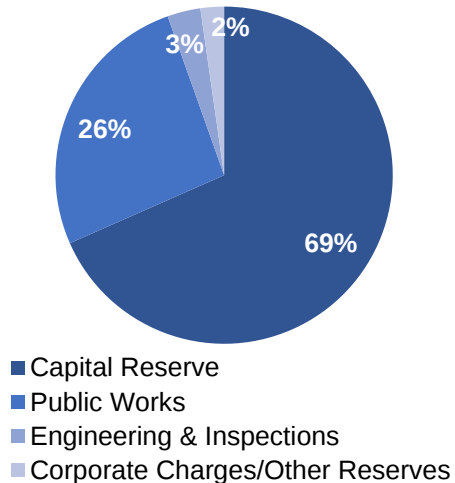


Figure 20: 2025 Operating Expenses by Category

The Utility's 2025 operating expenditures were \$14.0 million, including \$9.6 million (69%) allocated to Capital reserves. Figure 20 displays operating expenses in percentage by category.

WWO and RFS (Public Works) expended \$3.7 million (26% of total operating expenses) to operate and maintain the storm water system, including handling citizen drainage inquiries, keeping storm drains clear, replacing and repairing infrastructure, and sweeping streets in the fall. Of the \$3.7 million, \$2.5 million was spent on sewer maintenance by WWO, while \$1.2 million was spent on drainage by RFS.

Administration costs (corporate charges) included billing services by Corporate Revenue, financial and administration services from Finance, and insurance. Engineering and inspections, including overall utility management, accounted for \$0.5 million.

Variances: Operating expenditures in 2025 were \$0.3 million (2.4%) under budget. Expenses also included a \$71,100 transfer to a capital reserve for the City's enterprise resource program (Fusion).

Table 8 displays the actual 2025 operating revenues and expenditures compared to the 2025 budgeted and 2024 actual amounts.

Table 8: 2025 Storm Water Operating Revenues and Expenditures

Storm Water Utility Operating Revenues and Expenses (\$1000s)			
	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2024 Actual
Revenues			
Storm Water Charges	\$ 14,278	\$ 14,304	\$ 14,140
Late Charges	\$ 15	\$ 12	\$ 15
Ditch Crossing Permits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenues	\$ 14,281	\$ 14,316	\$ 14,155
Expenses			
Engineering & Inspections Operations	\$ 444	\$ 675	\$ 522
Maintenance (Public Works)	\$ 2,476	\$ 2,532	\$ 2,500
Drainage (Public Works)	\$ 1,181	\$ 1,168	\$ 987
Customer Billing	\$ 127	\$ 139	\$ 125
Corporate Services	\$ 63	\$ 94	\$ 82
Licenses & Insurance	\$ 102	\$ 133	\$ 95
Other Admin Expenses	\$ 6	\$ 20	\$ 11
Interest Expense/(Revenue)	\$ (54)	\$ (54)	\$ (29)
Provision to Capital Reserve	\$ 9,553	\$ 9,553	\$ 9,556
Provision to Other Reserves	\$ 71	\$ 58	\$ 85
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 13,969	\$ 14,316	\$ 13,935
Revenues Less Expenses	\$ 313	\$ -	\$ 220

5.3 Storm Water Stabilization Reserve

The Storm Water Stabilization Reserve has been established to provide for normal fluctuations in storm water expenses because of differences in weather conditions, such as widespread severe rain events that impact requirements for storm water maintenance services. Changes in the stabilization reserve since 2023 are shown in Table 9. The reserve cap is 50% of the one-year operation budget of WWO and RFS. The stabilization reserve at the end of 2025 has a balance of \$1.8 million, which is the maximum reserve cap.

Table 9: 2025 Change in Stabilization Reserve

Change in Storm Water Stabilization Reserve (\$1000s)			
Description/Year	2025	2024	2023
Stabilization Reserve Beginning of Year	\$ 1,497	\$ 1,277	\$ 1,669
Balance From Year	\$ 313	\$ 220	\$ (392)
Transfer out to Capital Project	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Storm Stabilization Reserve End of Year	\$ 1,810	\$ 1,497	\$ 1,277

5.4 Capital Funding

In 2025, \$9.6 million was allocated to the Storm Water Capital Reserve. In addition to revenue allocated to capital from the Storm Water Operations, \$2.4 million from the GoC's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund Program was utilized for the FCS (Brevoort Park South Underground Storage, Cumberland Park Dry Pond, and USask Dry Pond eligible expenditures), while \$0.3 million from the GoC's and GoS's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program was utilized for the drainage improvement project in Montgomery Place. The GoC's Natural Infrastructure Fund also contributed \$0.7 million for the drainage improvement project in the CN Industrial Neighbourhood.

5.5 Capital Expenditures

In 2025, Utility capital expenditures were approximately \$9.9 million (Figure 21). Approximately 95% of capital expenditures were for storm sewer network management, asset preservation, and capacity improvements (\$9.4 million). Total capital expenditures decreased by approximately 58% compared to 2024 due to reduced (planned) spending for capacity improvement projects.

East Riverbank Stabilization expenditures were \$201,000 including the internal Principal Geotechnical Engineer salary, slope instrumentation monitoring, and other riverbank monitoring costs.

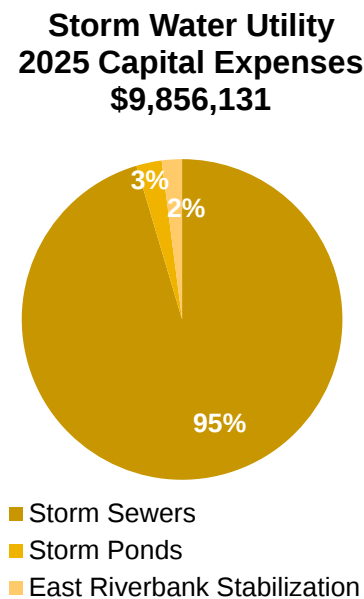


Figure 21: 2025 Capital Expenditures by Category

Storm pond preservation expenditures were \$252,000 and included inspections, monitoring, asset management, and minor capital repair costs. Significant capital expenditures are expected for storm pond maintenance in the future.

Variances: Table 10, on the following page, displays the actual 2025 Storm Water Capital Expenditures compared to the 2025 budget and 2024 actuals. The amounts shown in Table 10 does not factor in reimbursement from the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, and Natural Infrastructure Fund contribution agreements. These reimbursements factor in the “Storm Trunk and Collection Sewer” capital expenditures. Total net capital expenditures are reduced from \$9.9 million to \$6.4 million, factoring in the external funding.

2025 actual expenditures were lower than budgeted due to less than anticipated construction progress of the Cumberland Park Dry Pond, USask Dry Pond, and Phase III of the Montgomery Place Ditch Improvement Project. As a result, 2026 capital expenditure budgets will be increased to account for the remaining work.

At the end of 2025, ongoing capital projects with durations exceeding one year had unspent capital balances of \$41.0 million. This does not include the capital reserve balance of \$0.9 million but does include funding allocated from external sources (Government of Canada and Government of Saskatchewan) for funding agreements.

Table 10: Storm Water Capital Expenditures from Capital Reserve Fund

Storm Water Capital Expenditures (\$1000s)			
	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2024 Actual
Storm Trunk and Collection Sewers	\$ 9,403	\$ 16,192	\$ 22,955
Storm Sewer Pond Preservation	\$ 252	\$ 837	\$ 360
East Riverbank Stabilization	\$ 201	\$ 248	\$ 217
Watershed Mgmt and Assessment Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Capital Expenditures	\$ 9,856	\$ 17,277	\$ 23,532

5.6 Storm Water Capital Reserves

The Storm Water Capital Reserve provides funding for future large-scale capital projects. The capital reserve at the end of 2025 was \$0.9 million. Table 11 displays the comparison of the 2025 Capital Reserves of this year to those of 2024 and 2023.

Table 11: 2025 Change in Storm Water Capital Reserve

Change in Storm Water Capital Reserve (\$1000s)			
Description/Year	2025	2024	2023
Capital Reserve Beginning of Year	\$ 2,001	\$ 4,650	\$ 5,550
Provision to Capital Reserve	\$ 9,553	\$ 9,556	\$ 9,489
Capital Budget	\$ (12,572)	\$ (12,241)	\$ (10,389)
Redevelopment Levy Adjustment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer in from Stabilization	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Closures and Adjustments Returned to Capital Reserve	\$ 1,923	\$ 37	\$ -
Capital Reserve End of Year	\$ 905	\$ 2,001	\$ 4,650

At the conclusion of 2025, the total balance of the three storm-water-related reserves (Stabilization Reserve, Capital Reserve, and Infrastructure Reserve) was \$2.8 million, shown in Table 12.

Table 12: 2025 Year End Balance of Storm Water Reserves

All End of Year Storm Water Reserves (\$1000s)			
Description/Year	2025	2024	2023
Storm Stabilization Reserve	\$ 1,810	\$ 1,497	\$ 1,277
Capital Reserve	\$ 905	\$ 2,001	\$ 4,650
Infrastructure Reserve	\$ 57	\$ 57	\$ 57
Total Storm Water Reserves End of Year	\$ 2,771	\$ 3,555	\$ 5,983

5.7 Storm Water Utility Benchmarking

In 2025, the Utility compared its utility rates to 12 other cities with utilities across Canada using publicly available information on the cities’ websites. For single residential properties, Saskatoon’s overall charge was \$106.80. This fee is the fourth lowest compared to the 12 other comparison cities, and the second lowest among the seven comparison cities located in the prairies. An image of the comparison to prairie cities is shown in Figure 22.

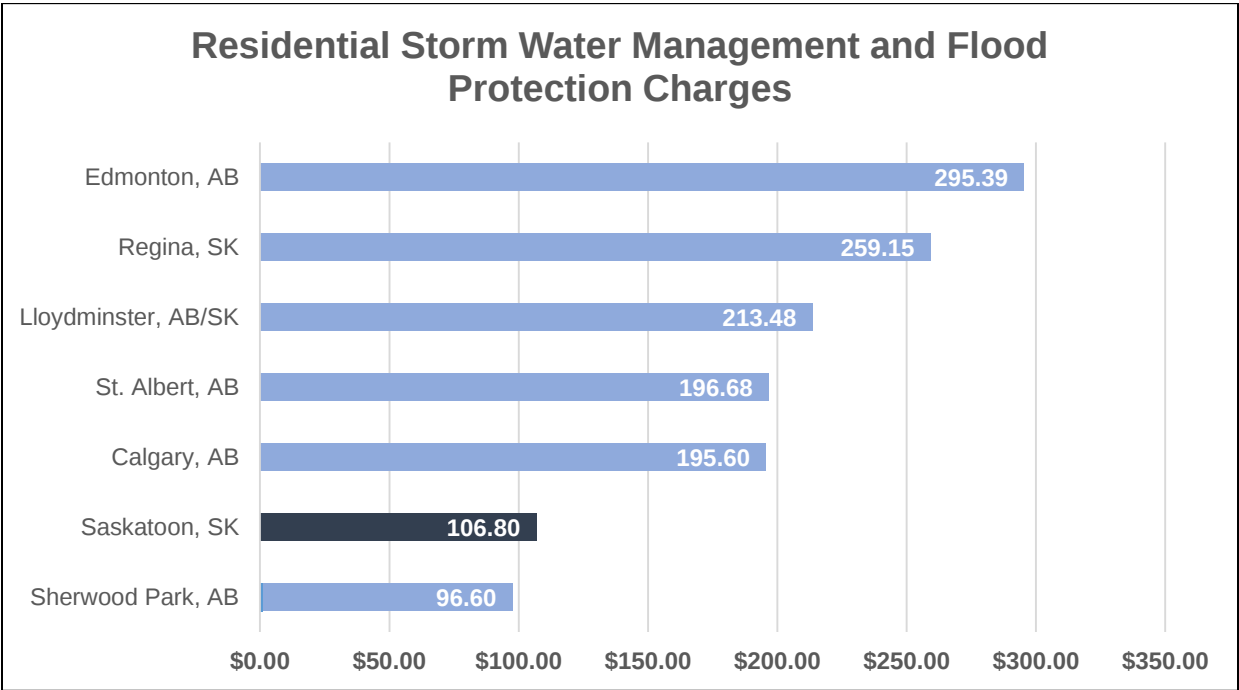


Figure 22: 2025 Residential Storm Water Management and Flood Protection Charges¹

Non-residential properties are more difficult to compare, as storm water utility programs ranged from flat rates for all customers to charges based on area size and imperviousness.

- For a typical restaurant (4,515 m²) that is all hard surface, municipality storm water charges range nationally from \$96.60 (Sherwood Park) to \$4,522.68 (Edmonton). Saskatoon has the tenth highest rate among nationally surveyed cities, and the fourth highest annual rate among surveyed prairie cities, charging \$1,602.00.
- For a large shopping centre (37,200 m²) that is all hard surface, municipality storm water charges range nationally from \$96.60 (Sherwood Park) to \$37,263.24 (Edmonton). Saskatoon again has the tenth highest rate among nationally surveyed

¹ Sources: Rates from websites of cities of Calgary, Lloydminster, Regina, Sherwood Park, St. Albert, and EPCOR.

cities, and fourth highest annual rate among surveyed prairie cities, charging \$10,860.00.

Saskatoon's maximum annual storm water charge was \$10,860.00 in 2025 for non-residential properties, which was the second highest maximum charge out of the seven prairie cities surveyed. A comparison between the maximum and minimum commercial fees of the seven prairie cities is shown in Figure 23.

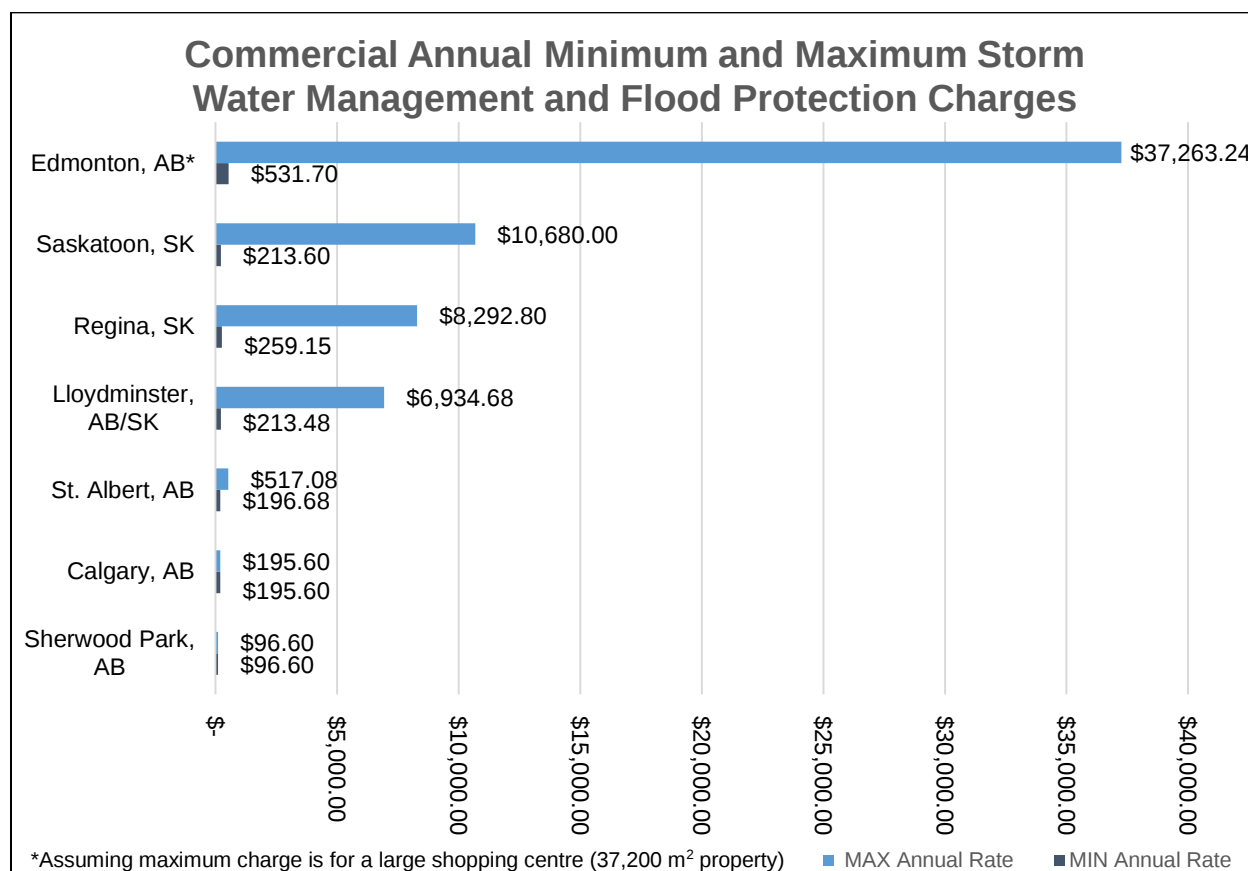


Figure 23: 2025 Commercial Annual Minimum and Maximum Storm Water Charges

6.0 OUR CHALLENGES

Storm water management has continuing and expected future challenges that are summarized below:

Citizen Expectations: Citizens have high expectations for storm water drainage that minimizes ponding on their streets and on properties. Flooding happens relatively rarely, but when it does, it can impact many properties at once. Citizens expect quick reactions by the City to their areas.

Climate Change: Climate change adds to the potential of more frequent, higher intensity rain events, and increased demands on the storm water infrastructure.

Condition of Existing Infrastructure: Storm water infrastructure has a limited life expectancy. Over time, the pipes, culverts, and other infrastructure must be repaired or replaced. Some of Saskatoon's storm water infrastructure dates back to the early 1900s.

Costs for Businesses: Storm water charges for some businesses have increased over the past ten years, which may generate negative feedback. Actions that businesses can take to reduce their storm water run-off (storm water credits) generally have high capital costs relative to the annual reduction in storm water management charges.

Drainage Bylaw Enforcement: Neighbourhood storm water drainage is negatively impacted by properties developed contrary to approved design standards or drainage paths that are not maintained. When development occurs, inspections are necessary to minimize future problems.

Fluctuating Groundwater Levels: Higher groundwater levels have changed drainage patterns as water is unable to seep into the ground. The groundwater levels impact neighbourhood drainage and contribute to East Riverbank slumping and slope failure. As groundwater levels decrease during times of drought, the impact of high groundwater can be forgotten by non-technical staff and residents alike, resulting in lower implementation of groundwater management practices.

Historical Design Standards: Limited standards for storm water infrastructure were in place when Saskatoon neighbourhoods began to develop. In 1989, new storm water standards for new neighbourhoods were established to handle "1-in-100-year" storms. Surface flooding during high intensity storms continues to be an issue for many low-lying areas in older parts of the city.

Infill Development: Cumulative impacts of infill development are placing higher demands on our storm-water-related infrastructure. Infill reduces greenspace and increases surface runoff.

Inflow & Infiltration to the Sanitary Sewer: Extraneous inflow and infiltration of snowmelt, rainfall, and groundwater to the sanitary system increases risk of sanitary

sewer back-up during rain events and creates unnecessary costs for treatment and capacity upgrades for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

7.0 CONCLUSION

Several initiatives the Utility progressed in 2025 will be further developed in 2026 and beyond, including the following:

- Flood Control Strategy
- MPDIP
- CN Industrial Drainage Improvement
- Asset Management
- Storm Pond Inspections
- Outfall Inspections
- Storm Water Management Charge Billing
- Storm Pond Sediment Research
- Canadian Infrastructure Benchmarking Initiative

The Utility is committed to working collaboratively with other departments making Saskatoon a more flood-resilient City.

8.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Definitions and Abbreviations

Definitions

Catch Basins: Used to convey storm water from the ground surface, usually on a street or parking lot, to the storm water collection system. Collector catch basins are located on collector mains, and trunk catch basins are located on trunk mains.

Culverts: Used to channel water under roads, railways, or embankments. Culverts have open inlets and outlets, usually transporting water from one ditch to another.

Equivalent Runoff Unit: A measurement unit for runoff that is used for storm water management fees. One ERU is based on an average single-family residential property's areas and types of surfaces (i.e. amount of grass, hard surface, etc.).

Force Mains: Pressurized mains from 100 mm to 900 mm in diameter that connect storm water lift stations to the gravity collection system.

Leads: Pipes connecting catch basins to the storm collection system that range in diameter from 100 mm to 900 mm. Collector leads are located on collector storm mains. Trunk leads are located on trunk storm mains.

Lift Stations: Move storm water from lower to higher elevations, particularly where the elevation of the source is not sufficient for gravity flow and/or when the use of gravity conveyance will result in excessive excavation depths and high sewer construction costs.

Lining: A layer of material installed in a sewer main to improve performance and extend the lifespan.

Manholes: Chambers used to access sewer mains for maintenance and inspection purposes.

Outfalls: The discharge point of the storm sewer system to the river and include the following three categories:

- Local – Expel water from relatively smaller local areas than the collector or trunk outfalls.
- Collector – Connect to the storm sewer system through collector mains.
- Trunk – Connect to the storm sewer system through trunk mains.

Piezometers: Devices used to measure pressure or depth of groundwater at a specific location.

Return Period: The estimated average time between equivalent rain events based on rainfall intensity and duration. A rain event with a two-year return period has a 50% probability of occurring in any year. A rain event with a 100-year return period has a 1% probability of occurring in any year.

Runoff: Rain and snowmelt draining from land, buildings, or other surfaces.

Service Connections: Connect drainage systems from customer properties to storm mains in the street.

Sewer Mains: Principal pipes in a system that distribute water or collect storm water and wastewater and include the following two categories:

- Collector – Sewer mains that are less than 1350 mm in diameter.
- Trunk – Sewer mains that are more than 1350 mm in diameter.

Slope Inclinometer: Geotechnical instruments used to measure horizontal displacements along various points on a borehole to detect slope movement.

Storm Water Ponds: Constructed basins that control excess storm water during and after heavy rainfall events and provide water quality improvements for runoff.

- Dry Ponds – normally do not store water. They detain runoff during intense rain events and then gradually release the water back into the storm sewer system.
- Wet ponds – permanently retain water throughout the year.

Sub-Drainage: Perforated pipes located in the slope along the riverbank used to collect ground water and remove it from the slope. This decreases the groundwater level in the slope and helps to stabilize the area.

Sump Pumps: Remove water that has accumulated in a water-collecting sump basin, commonly found in the basements of homes.

Vibrating Wire Piezometers: Used to provide accurate pore-water pressure readings in soils to measure groundwater levels.

Abbreviations

CN Industrial	Canadian National Industrial
CIBI	Canadian Infrastructure Benchmarking Initiative
City	City of Saskatoon
ERU	Equivalent Runoff Unit
FCS	Flood Control Strategy
GoC	Government of Canada
GoS	Government of Saskatchewan
ICI	Industrial, Commercial, Institutional
MPDIP	Montgomery Place Drainage Improvement Project
NIF	Natural Infrastructure Fund
PDAP	Provincial Disaster Assistance Program
RFS	Roadways, Fleet and Support
USask	University of Saskatchewan
Utility	Storm Water Utility
WWO	Water and Waste Operations

Appendix 2: Communications

FCS Engagement Summary – Cumberland Park

Cumberland Park Dry Storm Pond Project Update

BACKGROUND

The City of Saskatoon is upgrading the storm water system to reduce the flood risk for properties near the intersection of Cumberland Avenue South and Main Street.

When intense rainfall occurs, storm water will drain into a newly constructed dry storm pond in the nearby Cumberland Park rather than flood intersections. It will then slowly drain into the storm water system and to the river.

SCHEDULE

Construction of the dry storm pond at Cumberland Park begins with excavation in early 2025. The remaining phases (storm sewer pipes and landscape construction) will be scheduled between May and November 2025. Water main replacements and road paving will be completed within the same time frame.

PROJECT FUNDING

The Cumberland Park dry storm pond is the fifth of nine projects that will address flooding at Saskatoon's most flood-prone areas through the nine-year \$54-million Flood Control Strategy. The Government of Canada is contributing 40% of the eligible construction costs up to a maximum of \$21.6 million.

ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

Learn more about the Cumberland Park Dry Storm Pond at saskatoon.ca/engage. Properties adjacent to the park and construction area will receive a Construction Notice with important information prior to excavation beginning in early 2025.

In the meantime, please sign up to receive project updates by e-mailing your name and e-mail address to constructionupdates@saskatoon.ca. In the subject line, please include "Cumberland Park."

DESIGN

Feedback Included

Feedback from the online survey and information session was incorporated into the design of the dry storm pond:

- Most trees along the perimeter of the park will remain in place. Any removed trees will be replaced as per the City Council Policy for Trees on Public Property (C09-011). Efforts will be made to prioritize the health of existing trees, ensuring that excavation will be outside of tree drip lines when possible.
- The dry pond will have capacity to store storm water volume for a 1-in-10-year rain event.
- Asphalt or concrete pathways with gradual slopes at the southeast and northeast end of the pond will allow citizens to safely descend to and ascend from the pond.
- A 70 m x 40 m multi-purpose recreational field will be included in the bottom of the constructed dry pond.
- Concrete terracing (similar to what was used at W.W. Ashley Park Dry Pond) will be installed on the east side of the pond to provide viewing opportunities for the multi-purpose field.
- The roadway design of the Cumberland Avenue South and Main Street intersection will be reviewed, with drainage deficiencies being corrected in upcoming repaving work.



Customer Care Centre | 306-975-2476 | stormwater@saskatoon.ca



saskatoon.ca/engage

Work begins on City's fifth and sixth flood mitigation projects

Work begins on City's fifth and sixth flood mitigation projects

For immediate release: June 2, 2025 - 11:00 am

UE25-10945

Construction on two new dry storm ponds begins this month in Cumberland Park and on University of Saskatchewan (USask) land adjacent to 14th St E. They are the fifth and sixth of nine Flood Control Strategy (FCS) projects the City of Saskatoon has undertaken, which will be completed in 2026.

The Cumberland Park project will reduce the flood risk for properties near the intersection of Cumberland Avenue South and Main Street, while the USask project will reduce the flood risk for properties near the intersection of Cumberland Avenue South and 14th Street East. The FCS, aimed at reducing neighbourhood flooding during intense rainfalls, was approved by City Council in 2018.

Dry storm ponds hold water that would otherwise cause flooding in intersections and nearby properties during intense rainfalls. The water flows into the pond instead, then slowly drains into the storm sewer system. Whenever dry, it is used as recreational or park space.

The first three dry ponds constructed as part of the FCS are complete and open to the public in W.W. Ashley Park, Churchill Park, and Weaver Park. The fourth project, which includes underground storm water storage in Brevoort Park South is in service to mitigate flooding, with landscaping work to commence this year. Additionally, three more FCS projects will be built in Saskatoon in 2026 and 2027.

For more information about the FCS program and future project locations, visit saskatoon.ca/floodplan.



City's third Flood Control project complete: Weaver Park now open

For immediate release: June 9, 2025 - 1:00 pm

UE25-10951

Residents in Saskatoon's Avalon neighbourhood can look forward to reduced flood risk as the City of Saskatoon officially opens the newly upgraded Weaver Park dry storm pond. The park is open to the public, offering both improved flood protection and a revitalized recreational space.

This is the third project completed under the City's Flood Control Strategy (FCS), which was approved by City Council in 2018. This spring, construction will start on a dry storm pond in Cumberland Park, and [five more FCS projects will be built between 2025 and 2027](#). The Government of Canada has contributed \$21.6 million towards Saskatoon's Flood Control Strategy through the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund.

"Today marks an exciting milestone for Saskatoon's Flood Control Strategy with the grand opening of the Weaver Park dry storm pond. The new park will not only be an important recreation space for residents, it will also protect homes from flooding. Investing in essential public infrastructure is key to building healthy, vibrant and resilient communities," said the Honourable Buckley Belanger, Secretary of State for Rural Development, on behalf of the Honourable Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Communities and Minister responsible for Pacific Economic Development Canada.

"This project is a great example of how we can build a more resilient Saskatoon while also enhancing the places where people gather and play," said Mayor Cynthia Block. "This is about protecting homes, supporting families and investing in smart infrastructure that serves both safety and quality of life."

"We are immensely proud of how this strategy is coming to life," said Russ Munro, Director of Saskatoon Water. "Each project completed means fewer families dealing with flooded basements and costly damage. And with Weaver Park now open, people can experience firsthand infrastructure and public spaces working together."

Dry storm ponds hold water that would otherwise cause nearby flooding during intense rainfall. The water flows into storm drains, then runs through underground pipes into the dry storm pond. From there, the water flows toward and empties into the South Saskatchewan River.

Once the FCS projects are completed, the City anticipates seeing a substantial decrease in the amount of neighbourhood flooding in the top 10 highest risk areas of Saskatoon.

For more information about the FCS, visit saskatoon.ca/floodplan.



Provincial Financial Assistance Now Available for Flood-Affected Saskatoon Residents

For immediate release: September 15, 2025 - 1:54 pm
S025-11437

The Province of Saskatchewan has approved the City of Saskatoon's application to be officially designated as an **Eligible Assistance Area** that qualifies for the [Provincial Disaster Assistance Program \(PDAP\)](#).

This means that Saskatoon residents who experienced flooding and property damage due to the significant rainfall on **August 8, 2025**, may now apply to the Province for financial assistance through the [Provincial Disaster Assistance Program \(PDAP\)](#).

Residents, please note:

- The PDAP program is wholly administered by the Province of Saskatchewan - **PDAP is not a City of Saskatoon program.**
- **The Province via PDAP makes all decisions** regarding your claim.
- Please direct all questions regarding the PDAP application process for your claim to the numbers provided in the province's [PDAP Fact Sheet](#), it outlines all the details you'll need to know.

PDAP Information packages (including a printed application form) are available for pick up at the Information Desk in the lobby of City Hall at 222 3rd Ave North **starting Monday, September 15, 2025.**

Important dates for residents to be aware of with respect to the potential claim you submit to the Province:

- **Your claim must be submitted to PDAP by February 8, 2026**
- **All repair work must be completed by August 8, 2026.**

Check the [2025 PDAP General Claim Guidelines](#) to learn everything you'll need to get started **on your PDAP claim application to the Province, here are your forms:**

- [PDAP Private Property Fillable Application Form](#)
- [PDAP Printable Application Form](#)

Questions? Residents are to **call PDAP directly at (306) 787-7800** or the toll-free line at **1-866-632-4033**. The Provincial Office is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

