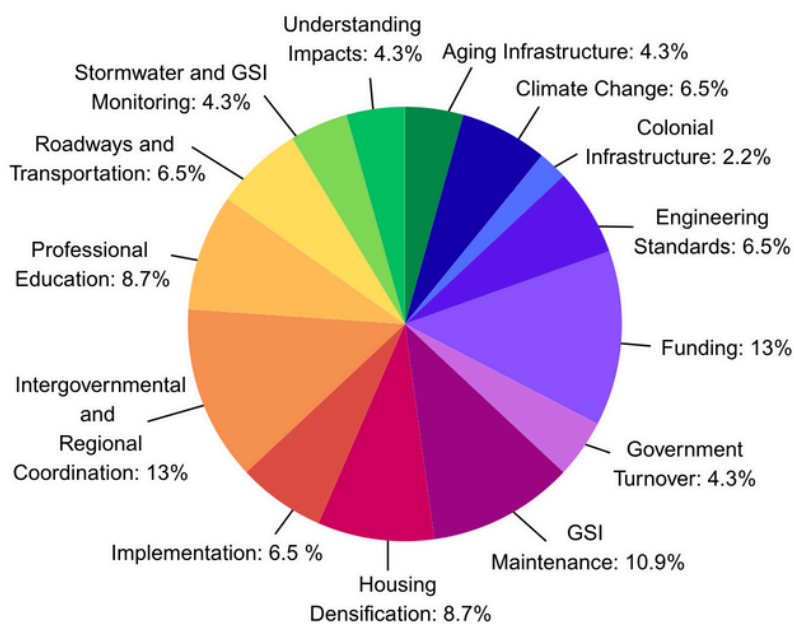


STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN THE CRD

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Stormwater management is an important issue in the Capital Regional District (CRD). The research report *Bracing for Rain: A cross-municipal analysis of stormwater policy in the capital region* examines the state of Stormwater management in the Capital Regional District (CRD). This report reviews how stormwater is managed through an analysis of current stormwater policies and interviews. Through interviews with 11 stormwater professionals working in the region, the following challenges in management, and opportunities for improvement were identified.

Interview Results: Challenges in Stormwater Management



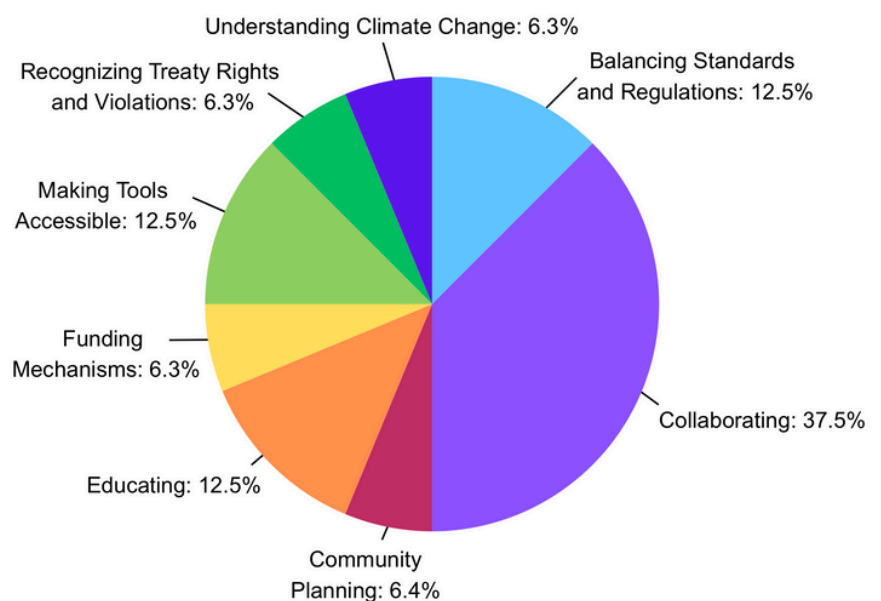
CHALLENGES IN MANAGEMENT

- Aging infrastructure is costly to replace and undersized for current needs.
- Climate change impacts such as sea level rise and more intense rainfall.
- Rigid engineering standards and colonial infrastructure legacies that favour grey systems.
- Limited funding and inconsistent financial incentives.
- Coordination issues between municipalities, agencies, and levels of government.
- Lack of education for stormwater professionals on Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI).
- Lack of public education and awareness.
- Maintenance and monitoring difficulties, particularly for decentralized GSI systems.
- Site-specific design needs that make GSI difficult to standardize.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Collaborating across municipalities, First Nations, and community groups to share resources and expertise.
- Balancing regulations, allowing flexibility in engineering standards while embedding stronger requirements in policy.
- Creating accessible tools and education for both professionals and homeowners.
- Expanding funding mechanisms to support implementation.
- Integrating GSI into community planning, including housing development and transportation.
- Recognizing treaty rights and addressing pollution impacts on Indigenous harvesting.
- Preparing for climate change through adaptive infrastructure planning.

Interview Results: Opportunities for Stormwater Management



STORMWATER POLICY IN THE CRD

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Managing stormwater is key to reducing runoff impacts in our increasingly urbanized and impermeable landscapes, making it an important issue in the Capital Regional District (CRD). As stormwater runs off of hard surfaces like roofs, driveways, and roads, it also carries pollutants to those environments, impacting local wildlife and public health (Congressional Research Service, 2016).

The research report *Bracing for Rain: A cross-municipal analysis of stormwater policy in the capital region* examines the state of Stormwater management in the Capital Regional District (CRD). This report reviews how stormwater is managed through an analysis of current stormwater policies. Using a rating framework standard established for this study, bylaws and policies across nine municipalities, including Central Saanich, Esquimalt, Langford, North Saanich, Oak Bay, Saanich, Sidney, Victoria, and View Royal, were compared.

POLICY RATING RESULTS

- Most municipalities have taken initial steps toward implementing GSI, often through Official Community Plans.
- Few municipalities have fully integrated stormwater management plans that prioritize GSI.
- Small-scale permit-exempt GSI projects are restricted in most municipalities.
- Watercourse protection measures are common, but vary in strength.
- Tree protection bylaws and development requirements provide some minor guidelines for the removal of natural vegetation and soil.
- Grey infrastructure is still required in many municipalities, with few incentives for alternatives.
- Financial incentives are limited, with Victoria standing out for its stormwater utility fee reduction program.
- Penalties exist in several jurisdictions, but consistency and monitoring are lacking.
- Overall, municipal performance falls short of ideals for the established standard, with significant room to expand mandated requirements, coordination, and incentives.

Rating Results Averaged Across All Municipalities

