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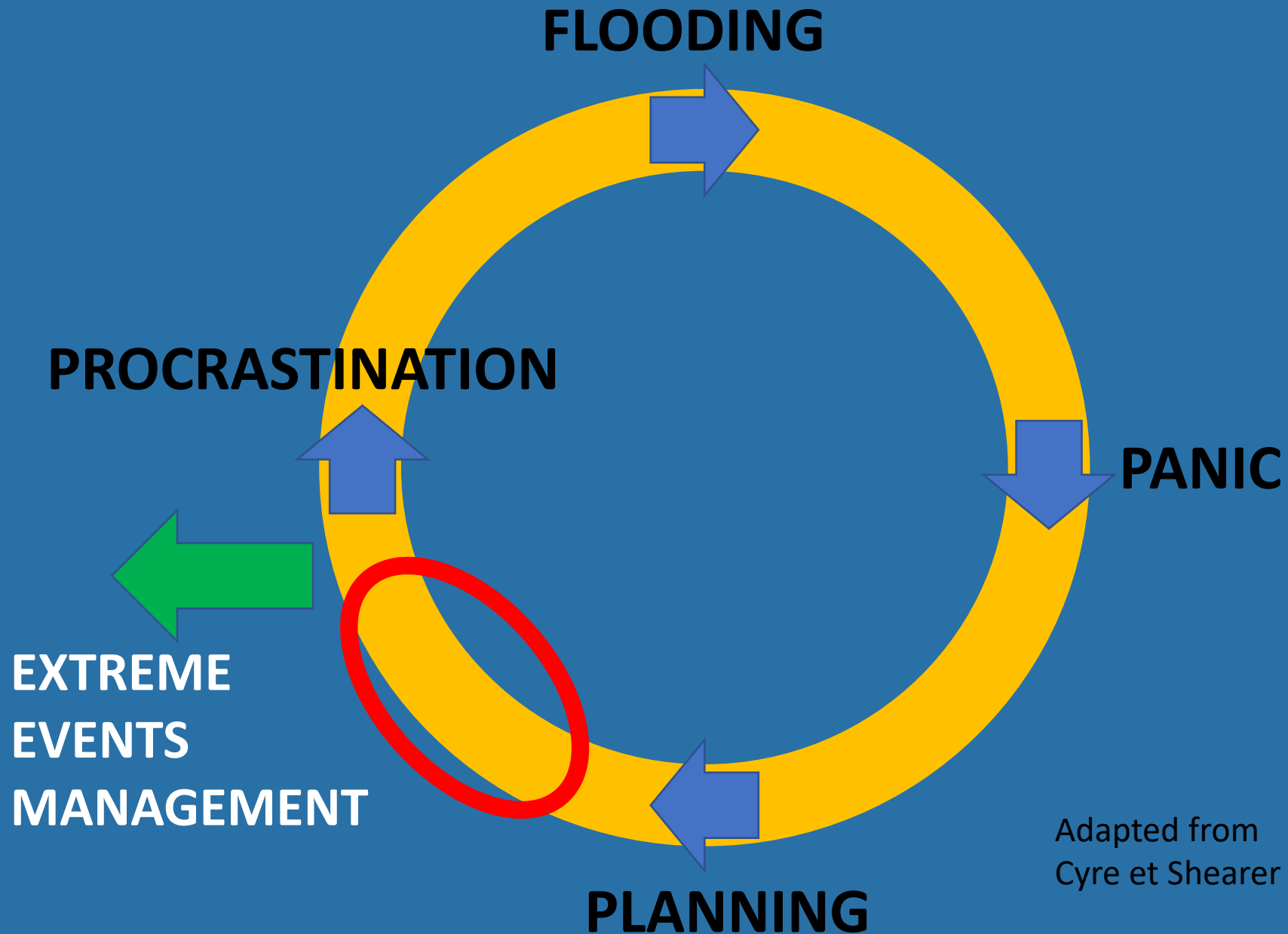


# Building Up Resilience for Existing Drainage Networks: Approaches with Water Squares and Sponge Parks in Montreal (QC)

Gilles Rivard, Ing., M. Sc.



# HYDROILLOGICAL CYCLE



Adapted from  
Cyre et Shearer (1987)



# Why talk about resilience ?

The future is not  
what it used to be....



Montreal area (Spring 2017)



Toronto



# Why talk about resilience ?

A wise man proportions his belief to the evidence.

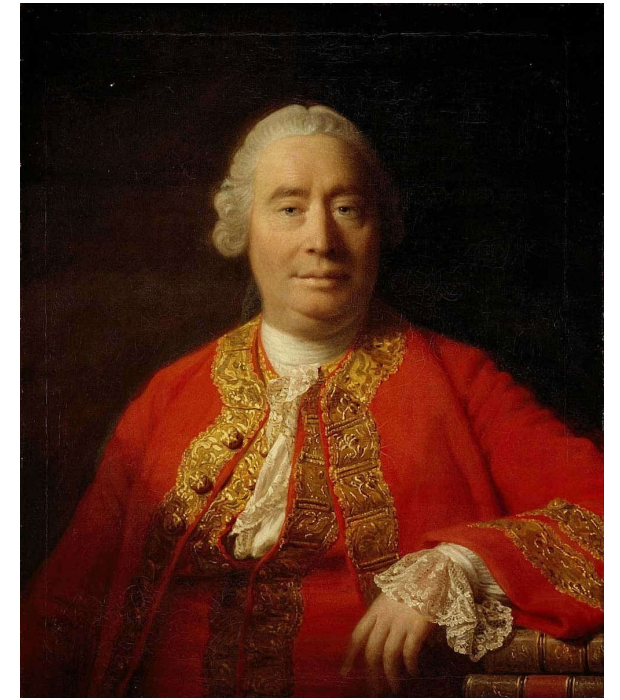
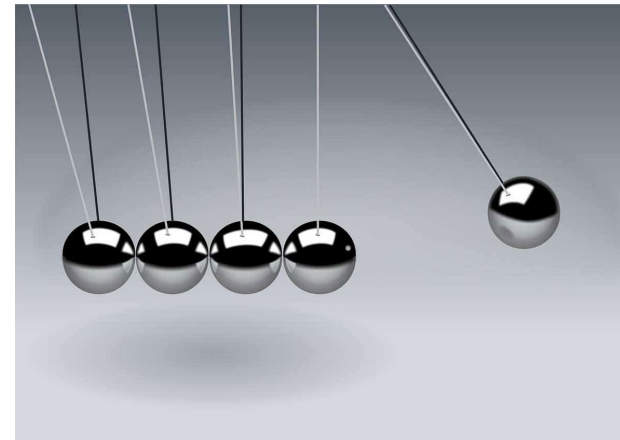
All knowledge degenerates into probability.

The only immediate utility of all sciences is to teach us how to control and regulate future events and their causes.

We see many successions, never causalities.

**Climate change and  
observed flooding events**

Causes and effects



**David Hume**  
**(1711—1776)**

*An Enquiry Concerning  
Human Understanding*

# Why talk about resilience ?

The problem with existing systems and urban flooding



Rebuild all the sewer networks ?



Debby (Aug. 9th 2024)



# The case of Montreal



- Large part of the sewer networks is combined
- Basin divide near the center of the island
- Old system of collectors draining to the interceptors
- Different **causes of flooding** (rivers – local sewer network – combination)

# Action Plan

Network of resilient Cities (<https://resilientcitiesnetwork.org/>)



Developed after events of 2017





# Action Plan - Montréal

Specific action plan for flood resilience  
(announced at the Montreal Climate Summit in 2024)

- Support owners in the process of adapting their buildings;
- Focus on prevention by adapting regulations;
- Seize every opportunity to continue building **resilient infrastructures**.

Over 400 sponge sidewalks (curb extensions) and 30 sponge parks planned



# Outline

- Resilience to flooding - **A (very) short history**
- **CSA** Standards and the **problem(s)** with **existing** drainage systems
- Using **new tools** to look at old problems with a more robust and efficient approach
- Case studies – Sponge parks as a partial answer



# Resilience – A short history

## *Resilience and Stability of Ecological Systems*

### **Holling - 1973**

Resilience determines the persistence of relationships within a system and is a measure of the ability of these systems to absorb changes of state variables, driving variables, and parameters, and still persist.



# Resilience – A short history

## Reliability

### Before 1980

Systems designed to operate without problems for a given design event

**Approach:** Conduits designed for a return period of years

## Risk

### 1980 to end of 1990

Systems designed with consideration of risks and consequences for events beyond the design event

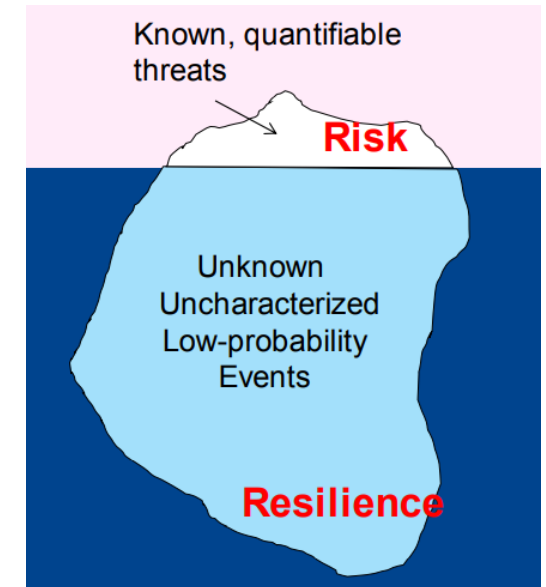
**Approach:** Considering different types of events and return periods, quantifying risks and managing consequences

## Resilience

### Since 2000

Systems designed with principles of resilience

**Approach:** Climate change and uncertainties taken into account



**Risk** = (Probability of a climatic event) × (Probability of undercapacity for the event) × (Consequence (f(Exposition, Vulnerability)) or Costs)

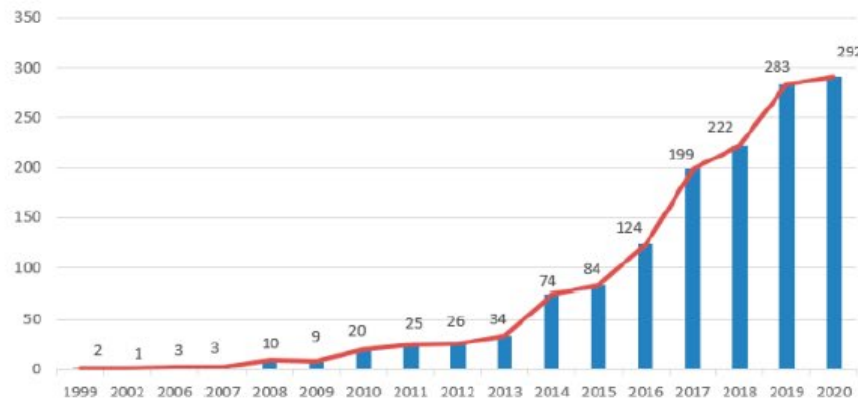


# Resilience – A short history

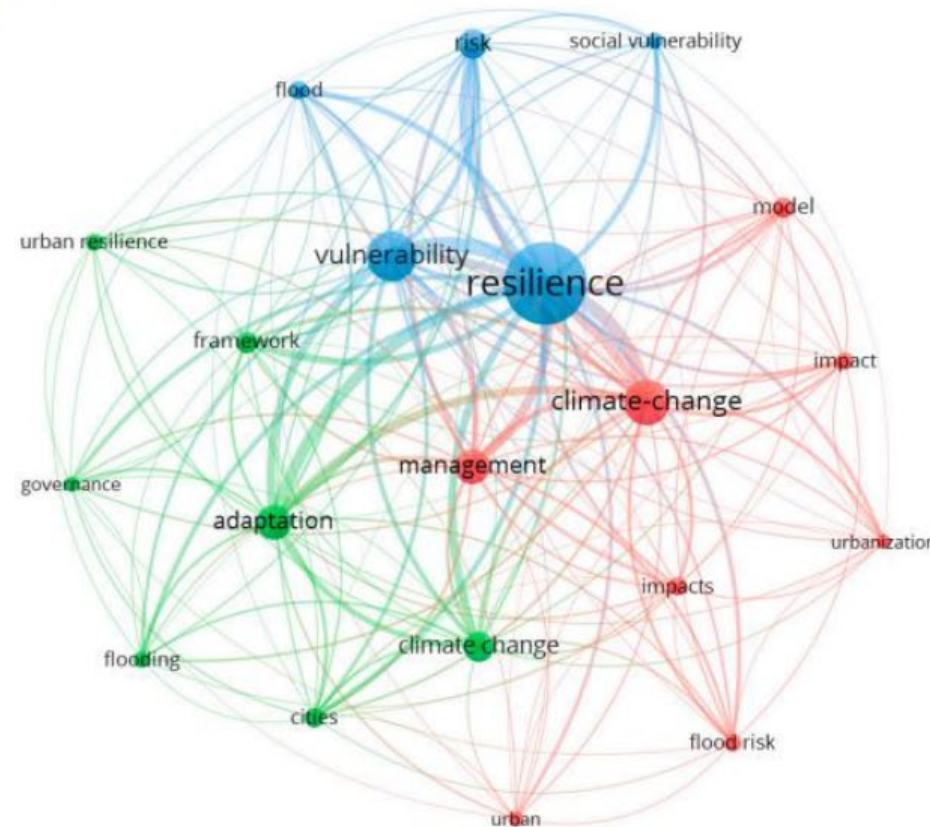
*Review*

## Review of Urban Flood Resilience: Insights from Scientometric and Systematic Analysis

Meiyan Gao <sup>1,2</sup>, Zongmin Wang <sup>1,2</sup> and Haibo Yang



**Figure 7.** Increasing trend of literature about urban flood resilience.



# CSA Standards



## **Flood resilient design of new residential communities**

**CSA W204:19**

National Standard of Canada



## **Prioritization of flood risk in existing communities**

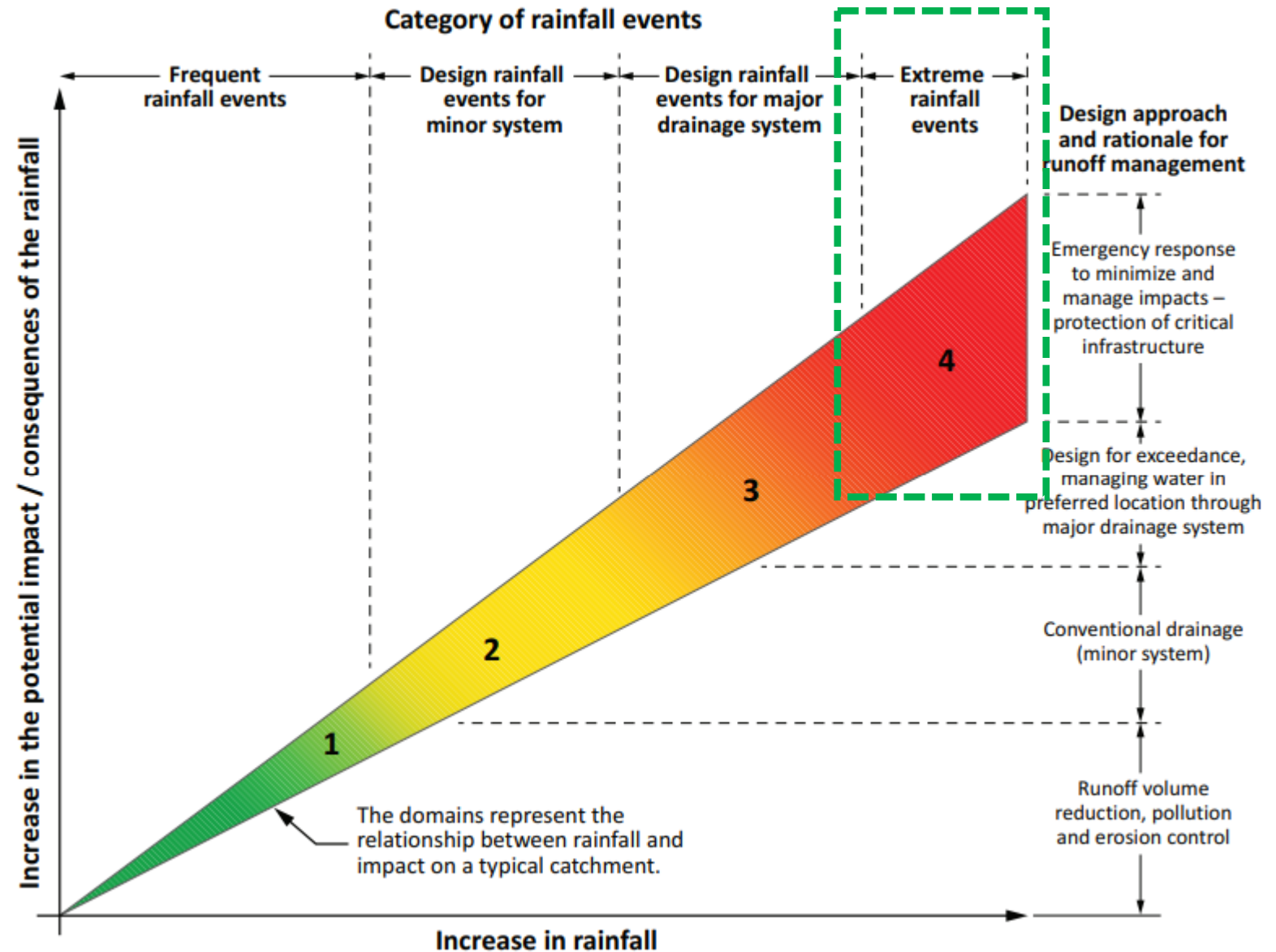
**CSA W210:21**

National Standard of Canada

# The Problem(s) with Existing Systems

## Extended range for rainfall events

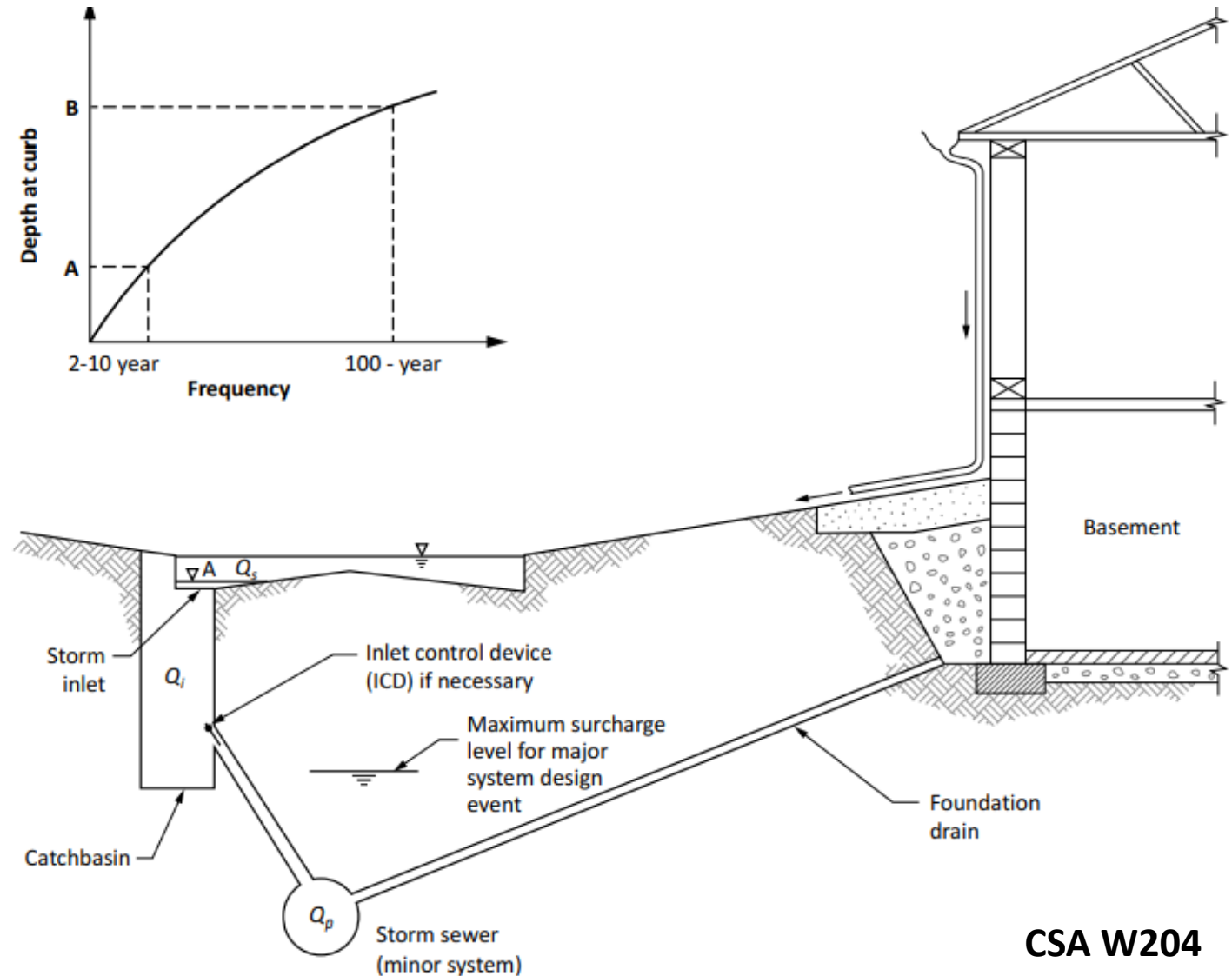
CSA W204





# CSA Standards

## Importance of dual drainage analysis



CSA W204

# The Problem(s) with Existing Systems

## Toward More Resilient Urban Stormwater Management Systems—Bridging the Gap From Theory to Implementation

Bert van Duin<sup>1,2\*</sup>, David Z. Zhu<sup>1</sup>, Wenming Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Robert J. Muir<sup>3</sup>, Chris Johnston<sup>4</sup>, Craig Kipkie<sup>5</sup> and Gilles Rivard<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada, <sup>2</sup> Water Resources, City of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada, <sup>3</sup> Dillon Consulting Limited, Toronto, ON, Canada, <sup>4</sup> Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd., Burnaby, BC, Canada, <sup>5</sup> Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd., Calgary, AB, Canada, <sup>6</sup> Lasalle | NHC, Laval, QC, Canada



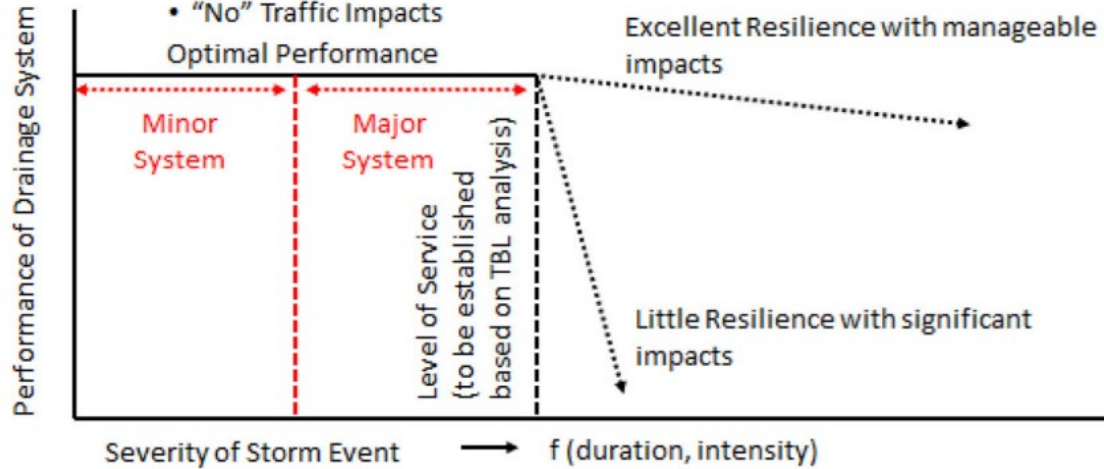
**Three main components** to create a resilient system :

1. Continuous flow route;
2. Appropriate freeboard to building entrance elevations; and
3. Appropriate setbacks.

Related to low points characteristics

# The Problem(s) with Existing Systems

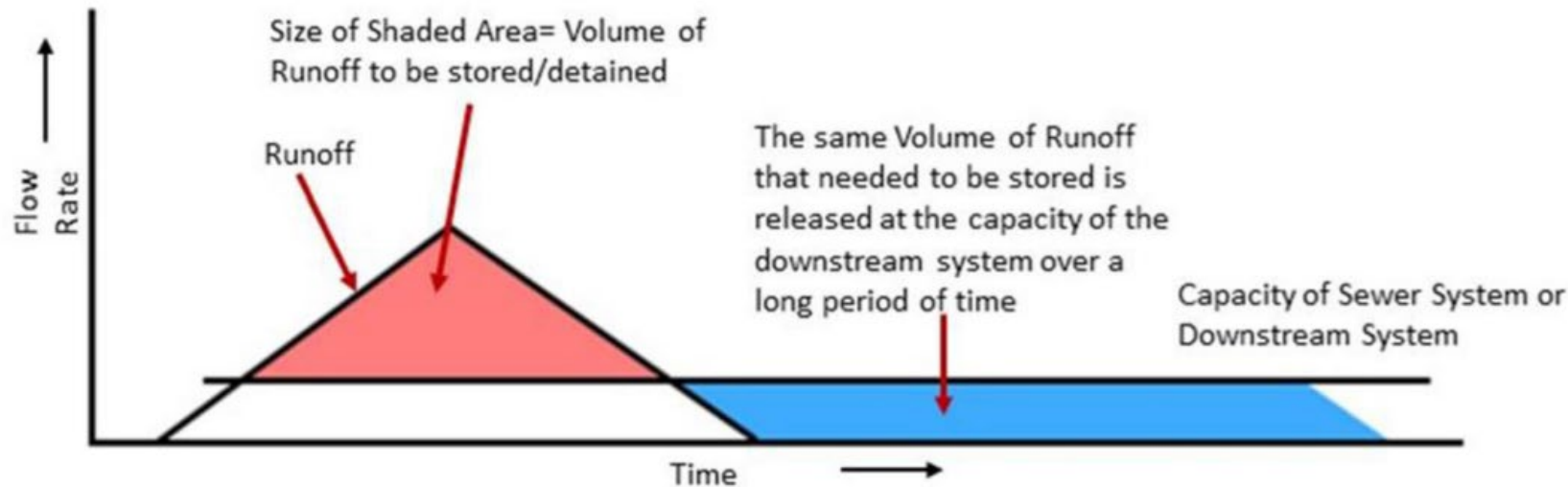
- “No” Damage
- “No” Loss of Life
- “No” Business Interruptions
- “No” Traffic Impacts



## Toward More Resilient Urban Stormwater Management Systems—Bridging the Gap From Theory to Implementation

Bert van Duin<sup>1,2\*</sup>, David Z. Zhu<sup>1</sup>, Wenming Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Robert J. Muir<sup>3</sup>, Chris Johnston<sup>4</sup>, Craig Kipkie<sup>5</sup> and Gilles Rivard<sup>6</sup>

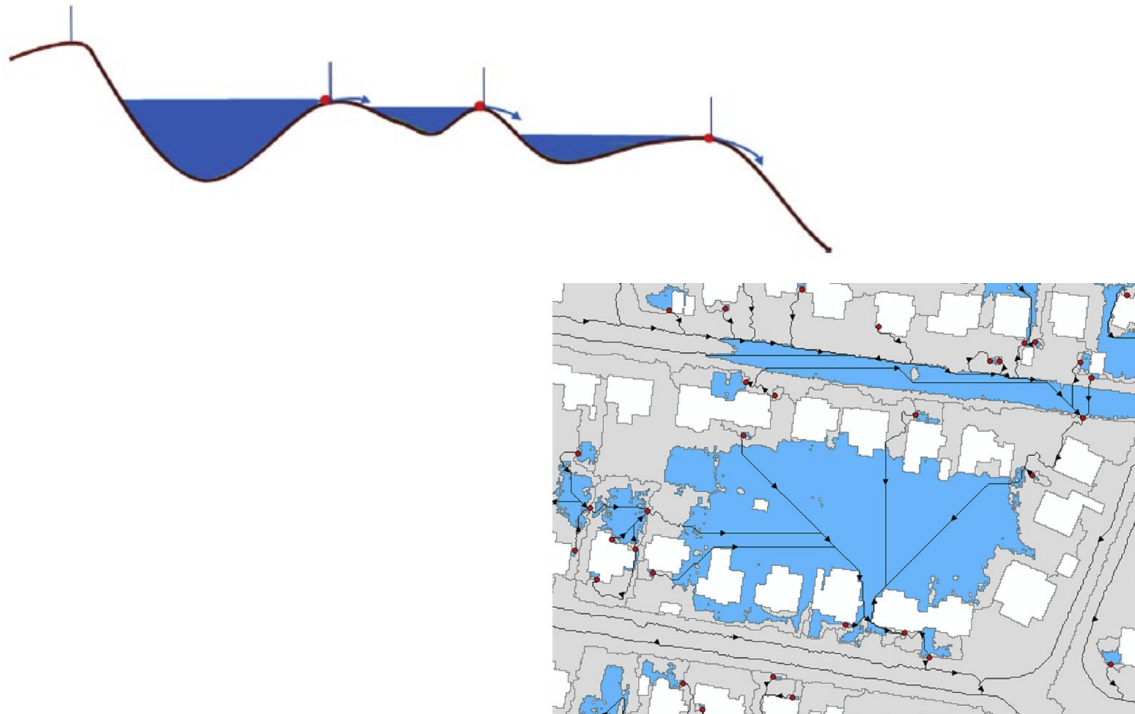
<sup>1</sup> Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada, <sup>2</sup> Water Resources, City of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada, <sup>3</sup> Dillon Consulting Limited, Toronto, ON, Canada, <sup>4</sup> Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd., Burnaby, BC, Canada, <sup>5</sup> Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd., Calgary, AB, Canada, <sup>6</sup> Lasalle | NHC, Laval, QC, Canada





# The Problem(s) with Existing Systems

**Basic task** – Gain a better knowledge of the actual flow paths during extreme events and low points in the major system



Arc-Malstrøm: A 1D hydrologic screening method for stormwater assessments based on geometric networks

Thomas Balstrøm<sup>a,\*</sup>, David Crawford<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Geosciences and Natural Resources, University of Copenhagen, Øster Voldgade 10, DK-1350, Copenhagen K, Denmark

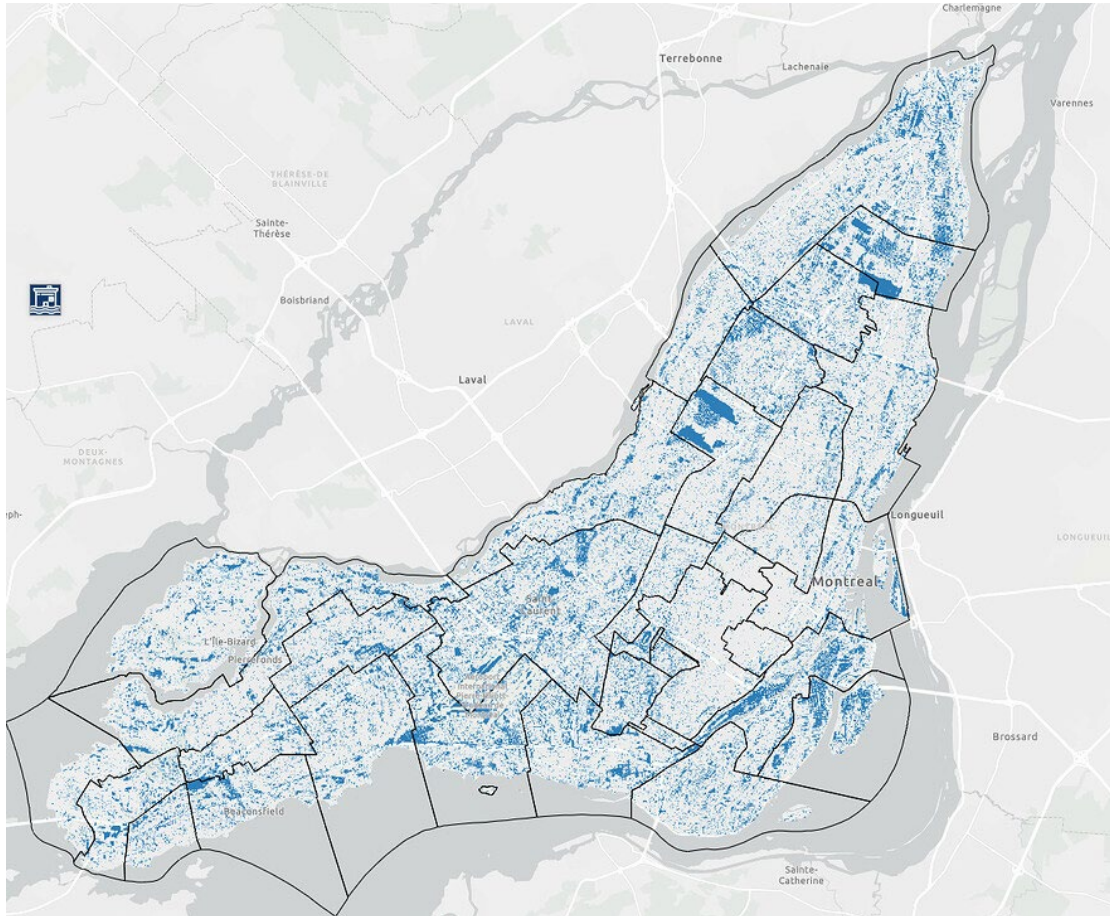
<sup>b</sup> Geodatabase Product Engineer, Esri, 380 New York St., 92373, Redlands, CA, USA

2018



# The Problem(s) with Existing Systems

**Basic task** – Gain a better knowledge of the actual flow paths during extreme events and low points in the major system



Low point accumulations  
determined for the entire  
territory



# The Problem(s) with Existing Systems

## Relevant parameters to quantify resilience



- Surface areas flooded
- Duration of flooding
- Maximum water levels at low points
- Horizontal and vertical distances to buildings or infrastructures



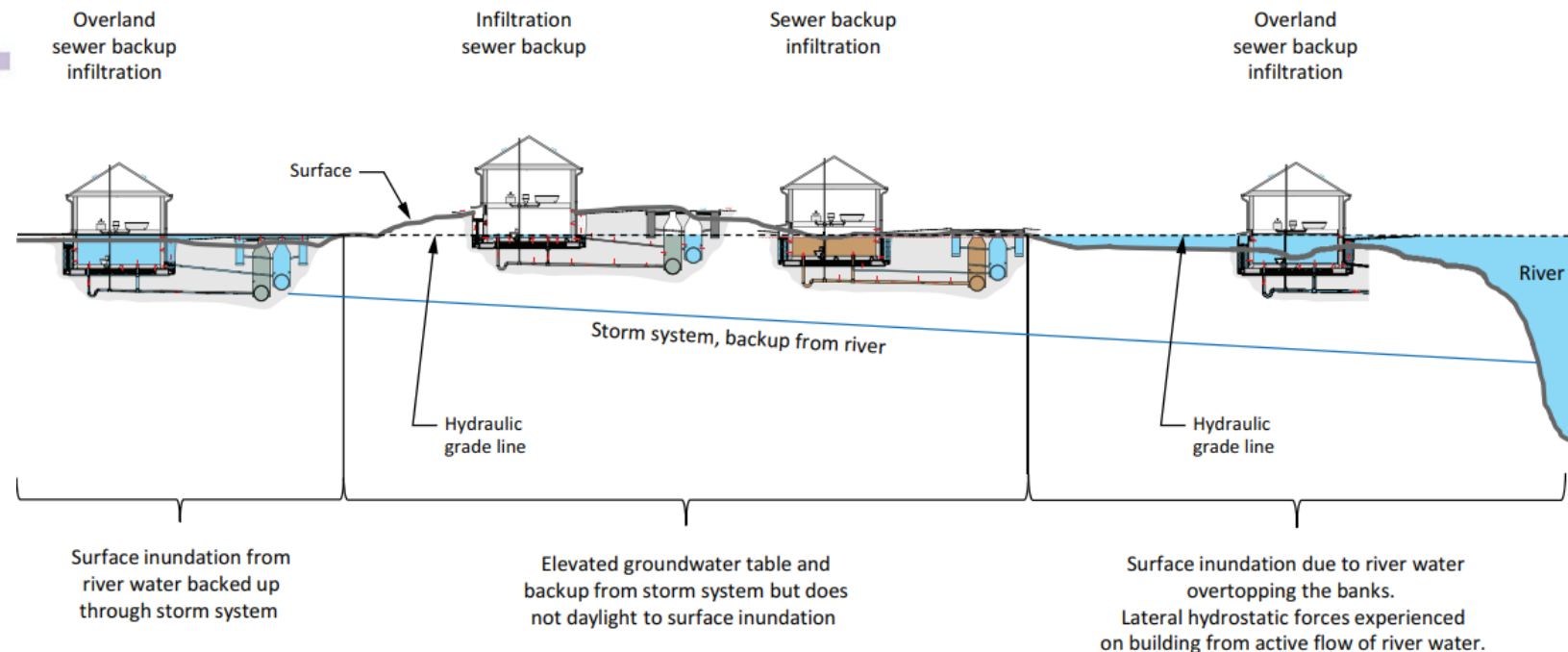
# The Problem(s) with Existing Systems

## 1. Quantify the root cause Consider the appropriate scale

(CSA Z800)



**The relationship between river flooding and flood causes discussed in the Guideline**  
(See Clause 4.5.)



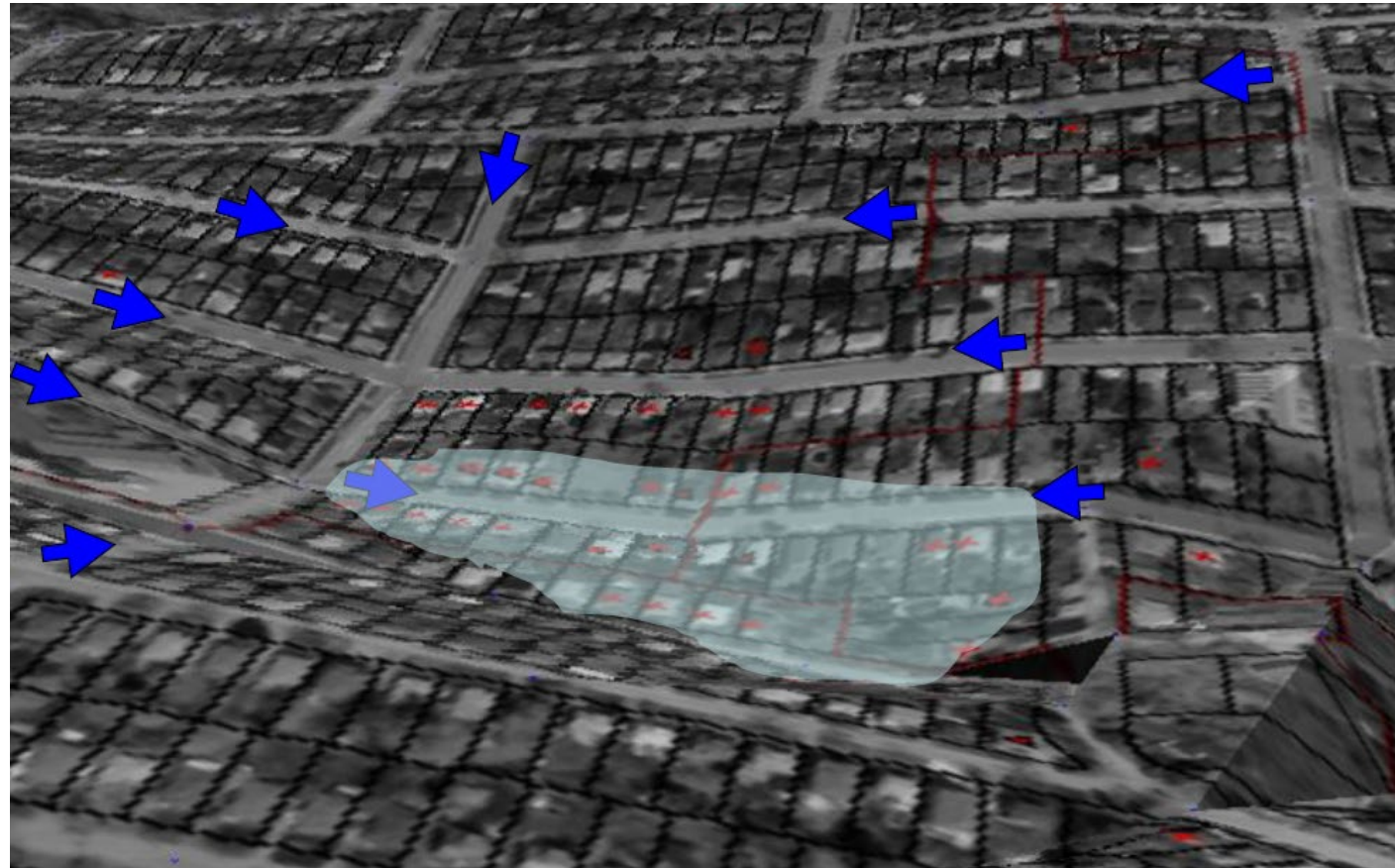
# The Problem(s) with Existing Systems

## 2. Quantify the risk and consequence of flooding

And what could (should) we do about it ?



## IMPORTANCE OF MAJOR SYSTEM AND LOW AREAS



# New Tools and Adapted Approaches

- Necessity to use 2D modeling and detailed analysis
- Important component of GIS data (DEM, elevations and characteristics of buildings, locations of catch basins, location of depressed driveways and potential entrances of water through buildings, etc.)





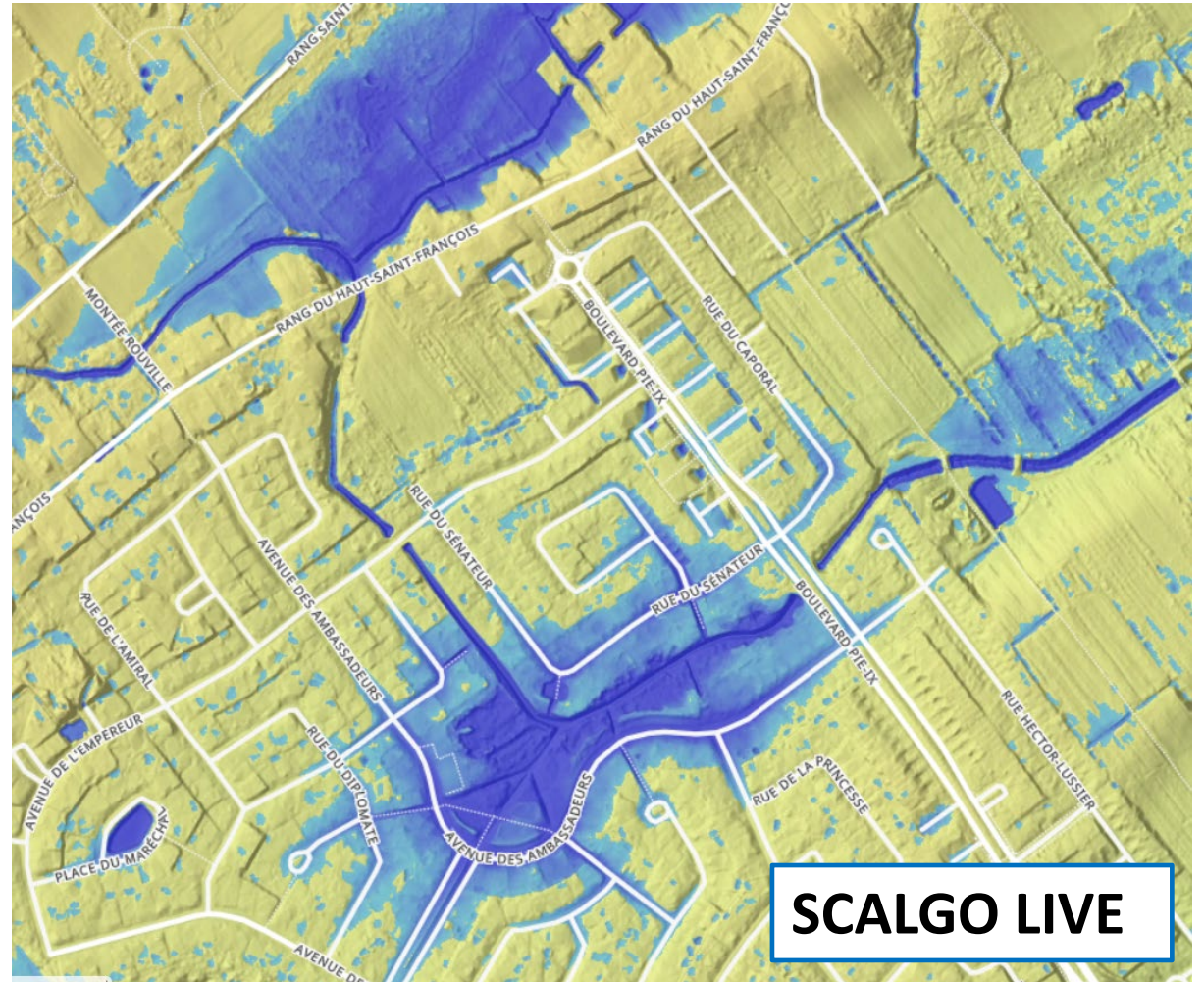
# New Tools and Adapted Approaches

- **Tools for planning**
  - Simplified hydrology
  - Simplified consideration of underground pipe systems

Scalgo Live

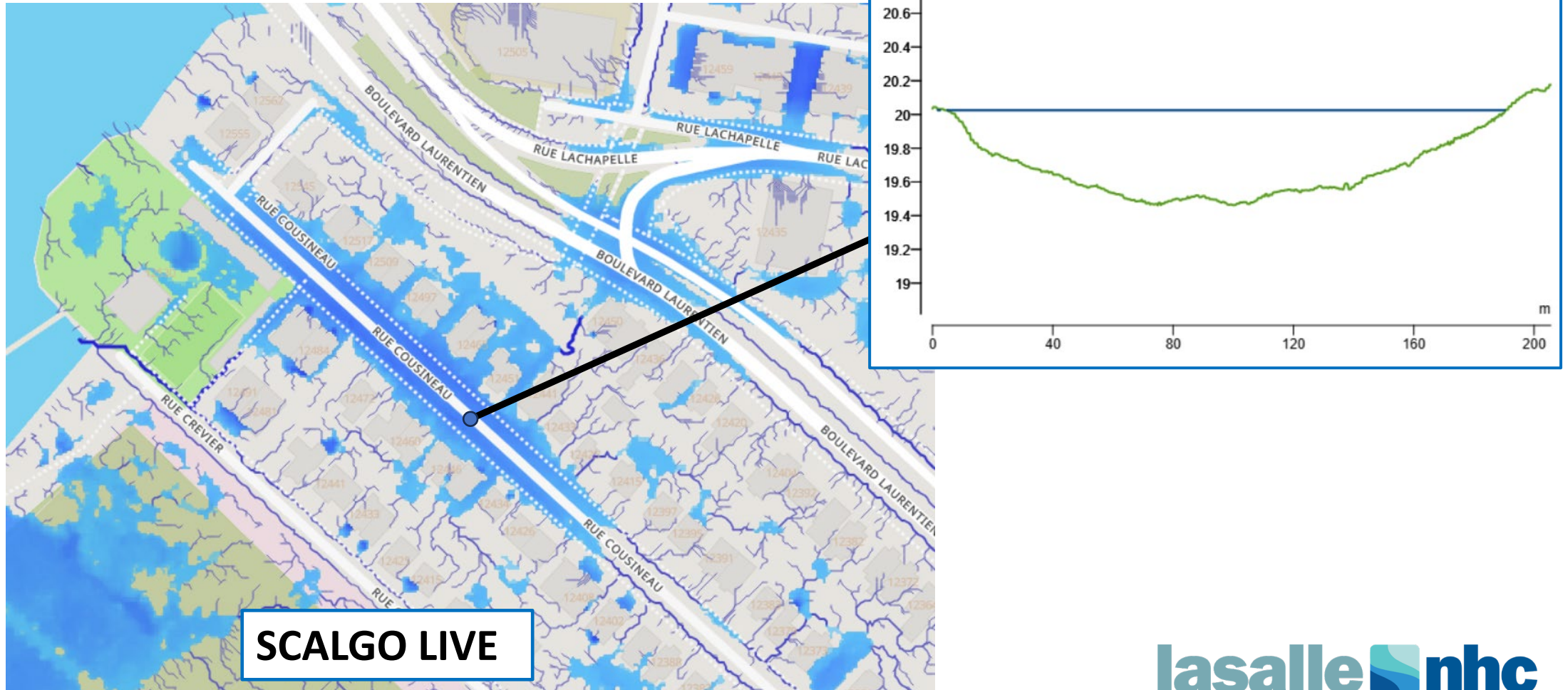
HEC-RAS 2D (Rain-on-Grid)

PCSWMM 2D(Rain-on-Grid)



# New Tools and Adapted Approaches

- Tools for planning





# New Tools and Adapted Approaches

- Tools for detailed design
  - Detailed hydrology and hydraulics
  - Detailed integration of major systems, catch basins and pipe systems



Water depth around 300 mm to 600 mm during heavy rainfall



Model gives around 600 mm depth at the same spot



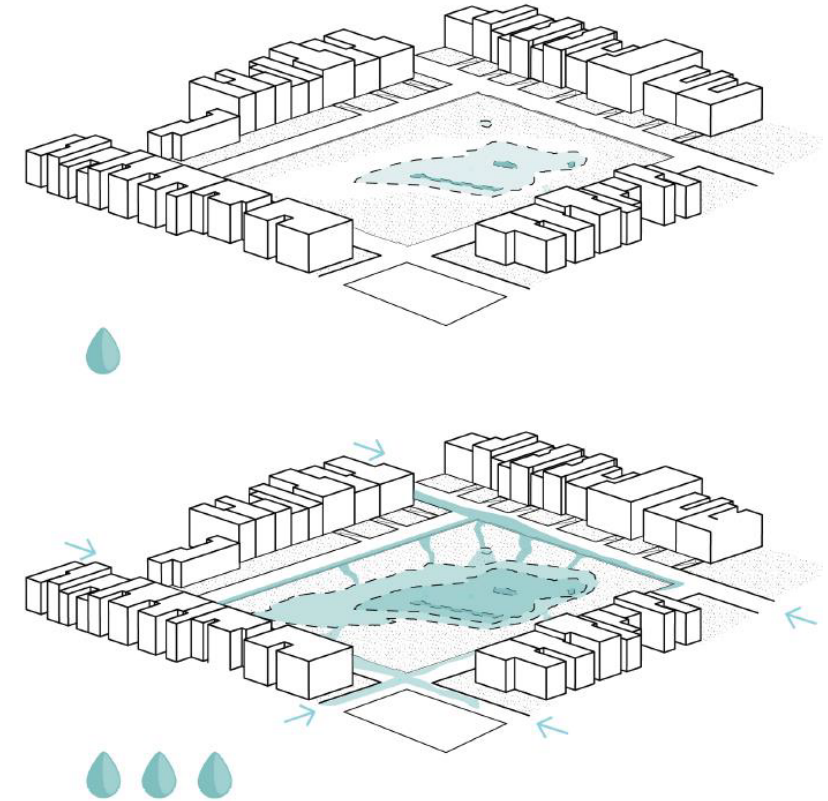
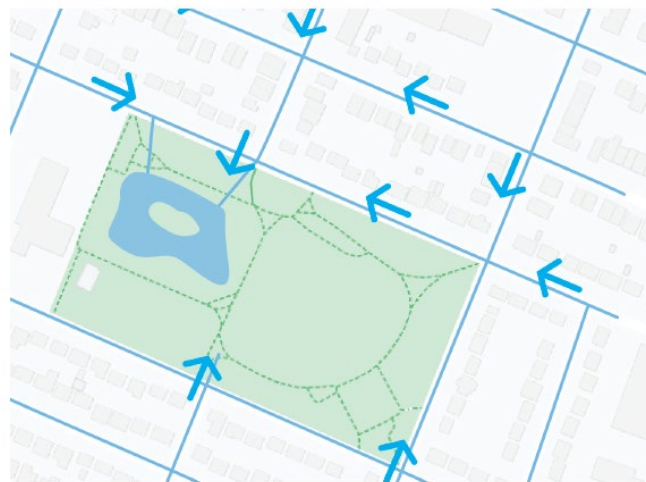
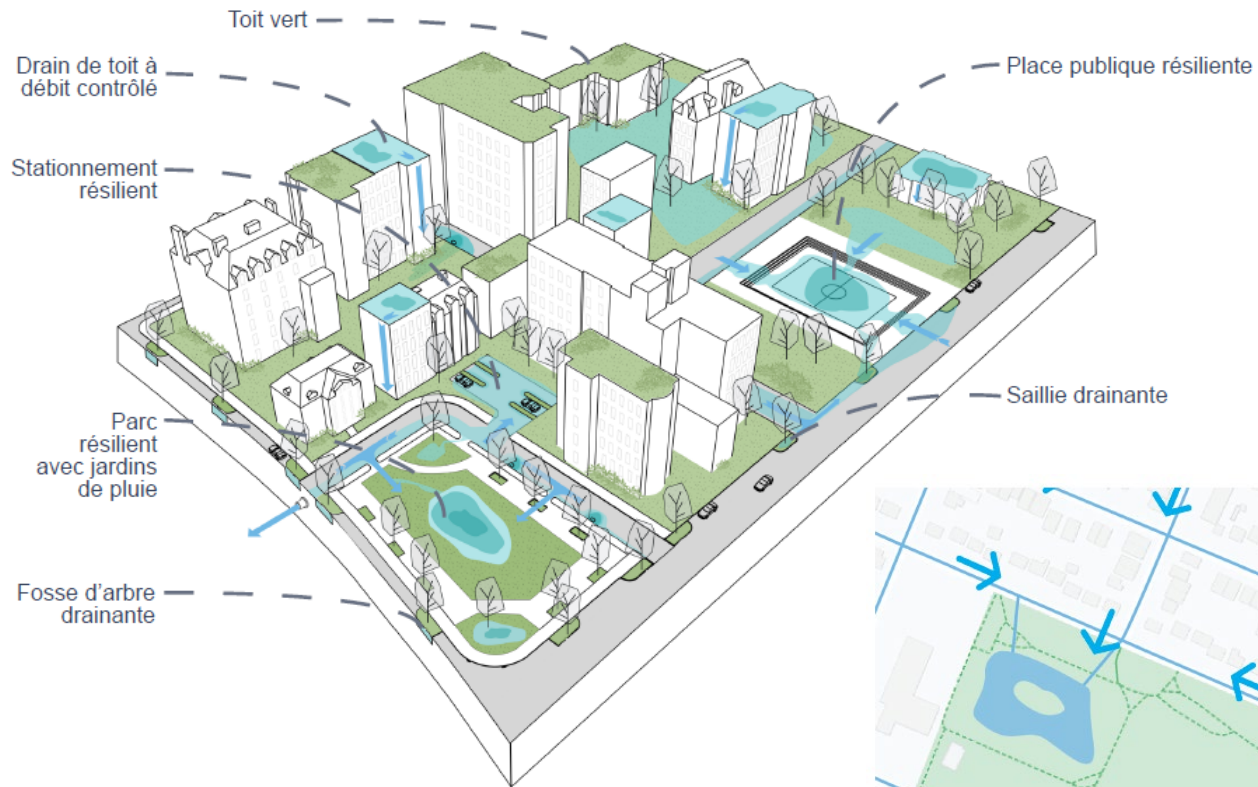
# Sponge Parks – General Concepts

Some inspiration from international examples (Water square – Rotterdam)





# Sponge Parks – General Concepts



**Montréal** – Espaces résilients publics : la boîte à outils (Toolbox)

# Sponge Parks – General Concepts

## Types of layout and design elements

Dépression végétalisée



Parc Pierre-Dansereau — Montréal



Enghaveparken - Copenhagen



Parc — Gelsenkirchen

Espace imperméable



Enghaveparken — Copenhagen



Skatepark Van Horne — Montréal



Bellamyplein — Rotterdam

Espace de biorétention



Parc Dickie-Moore — Montréal



Parc Pierre-Dansereau — Montréal



Place des Fleurs-de-Macadam — Montréal

**Montréal** – Espaces résilients publics : la boîte à outils (Toolbox)



# Sponge Parks – General Concepts

## Opportunities for multi-functional design

Variation de l'état sec et submergé



Parc Pierre-Dansereau — Montréal



Parc Pierre-Dansereau — Montréal



Place des Fleurs-de-Macadam — Montréal



Dénivelés



Ruelle verte — Montréal



Kokkedal project — Danemark



Parc Pierre-Dansereau — Montréal

Évocation de l'eau en surface



Place des Fleurs-de-Macadam — Montréal



Place des Fleurs-de-Macadam — Montréal



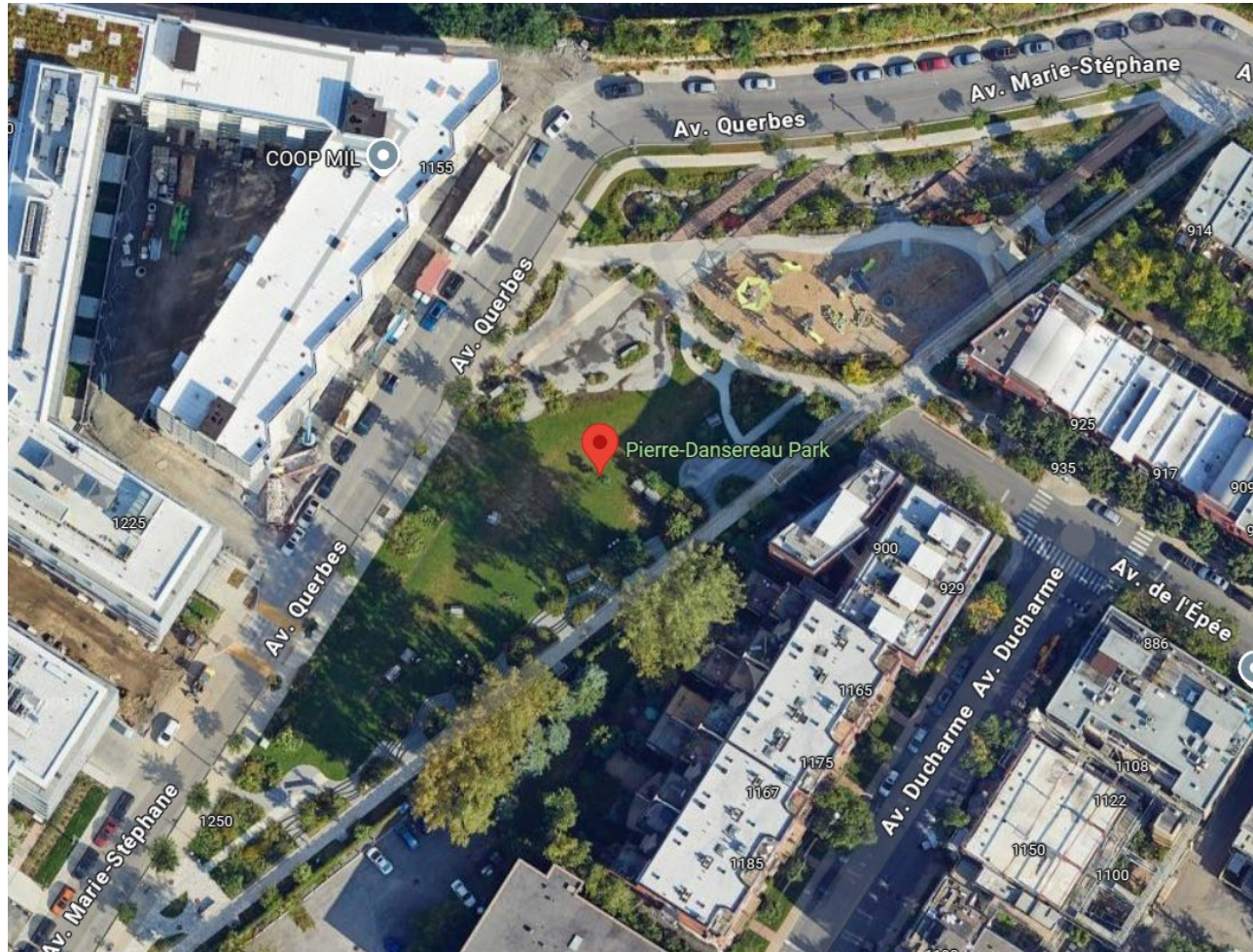
Place des Fleurs-de-Macadam — Montréal

**Montréal** – Espaces résilients publics : la boîte à outils (Toolbox)

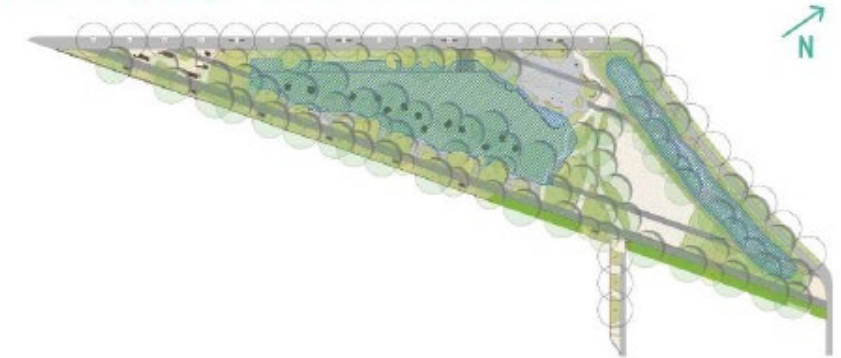


# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

## 1. Parc Pierre-Dansereau



Plan de drainage pour pluie de récurrence 20 à 50 ans

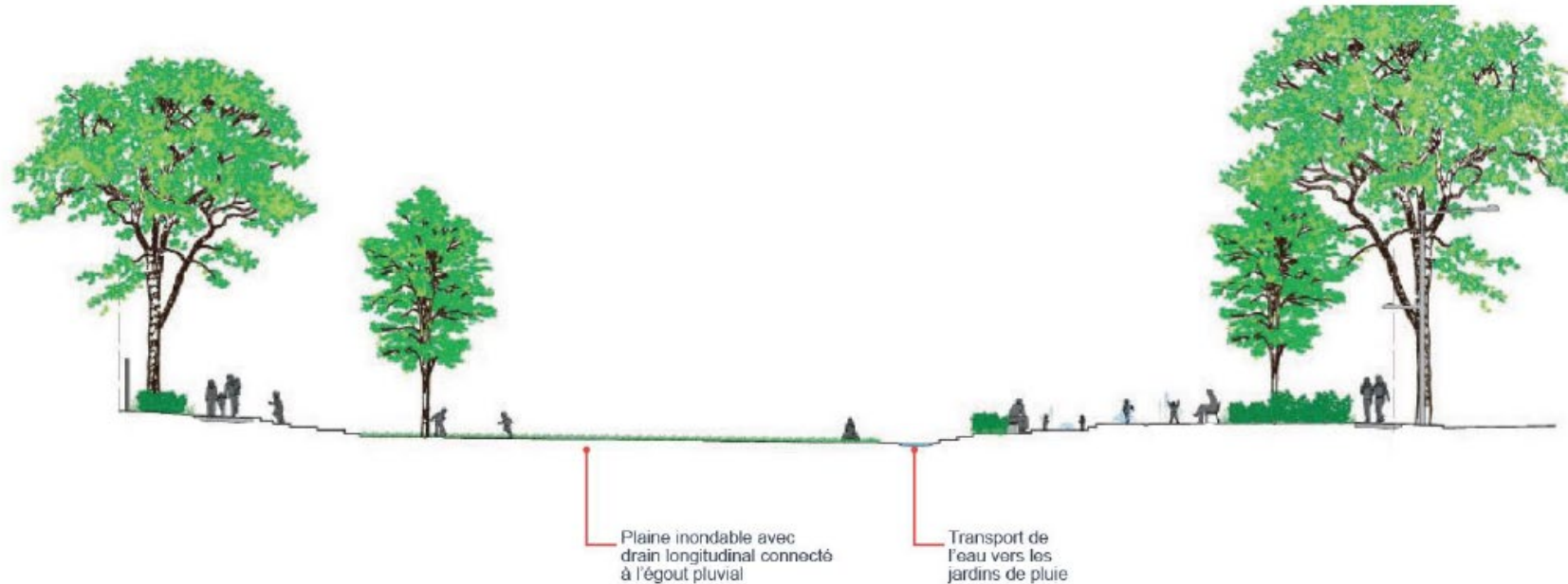


Récurrence de pluie	Hauteur d'eau	
	Espace central	Jardin de pluie
20 ans	0 - 260 mm	460 mm
50 ans	100 - 350 mm	550 mm

Construction: 2021  
Area: 6320 m<sup>2</sup>  
Volume of water: 630 m<sup>3</sup>  
Budget: 3,1 M\$

# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

## 1. Parc Pierre-Dansereau



Noue de biorétention avec trop-plein



Puisard connectant les jeux d'eau aux jardins de pluie



Pleine gazonnée multiusage inondable avec drain

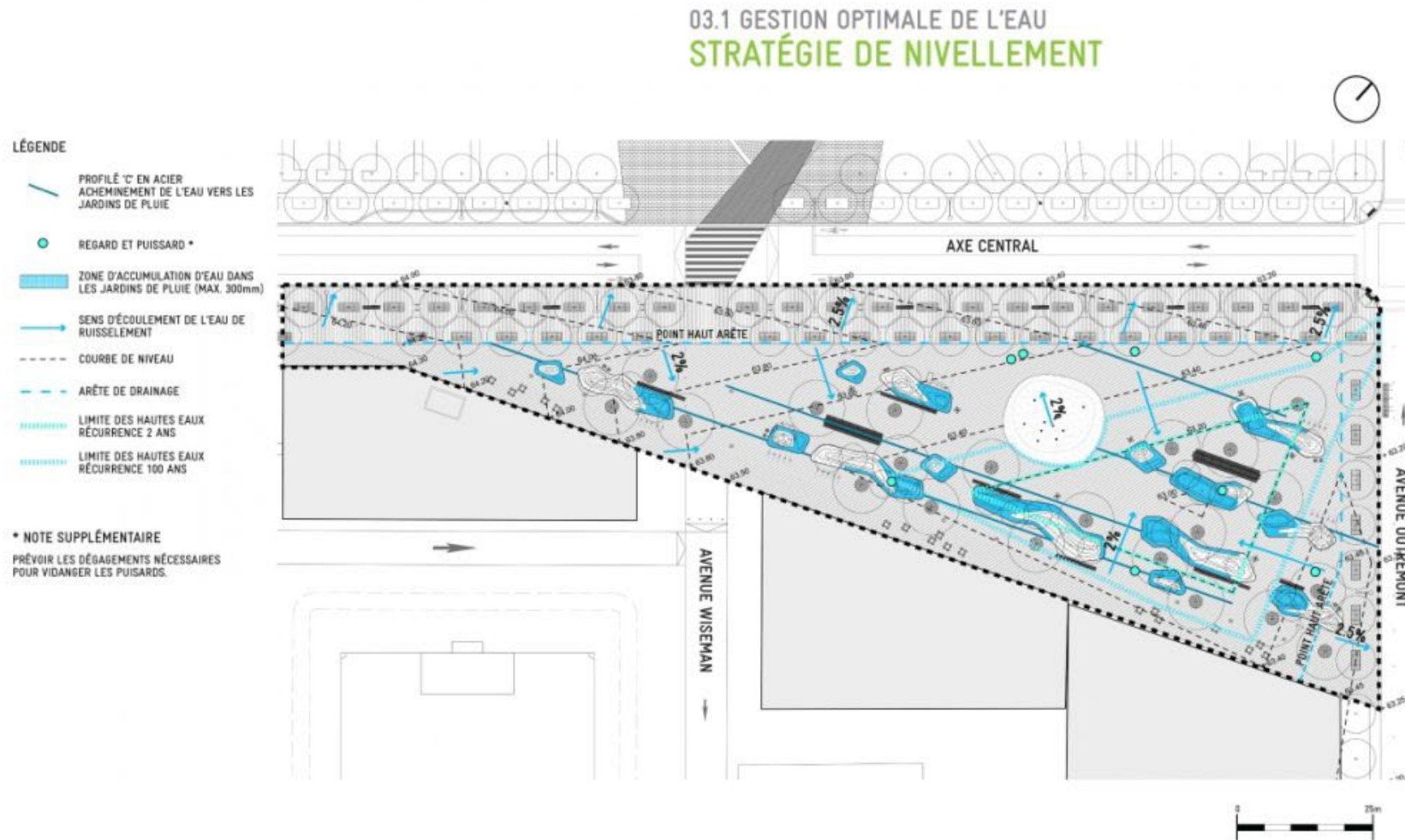


Passerelles



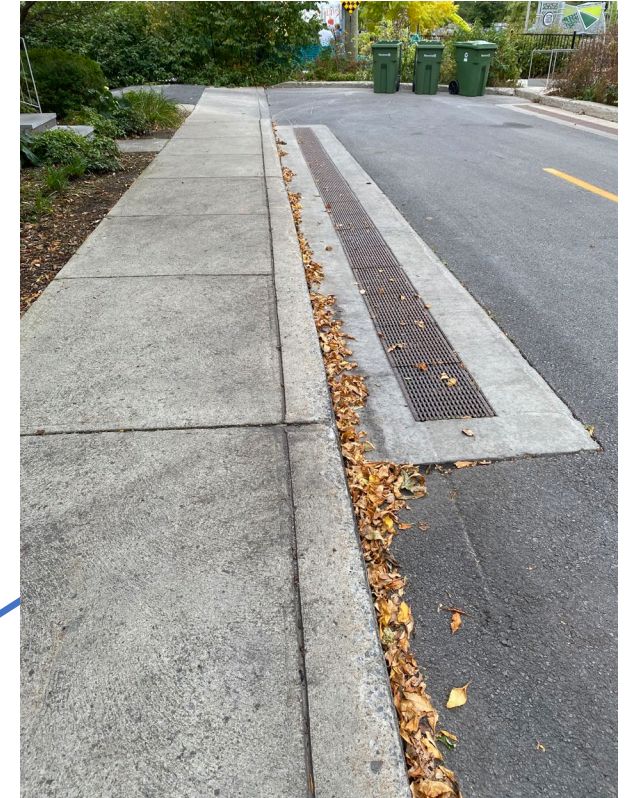
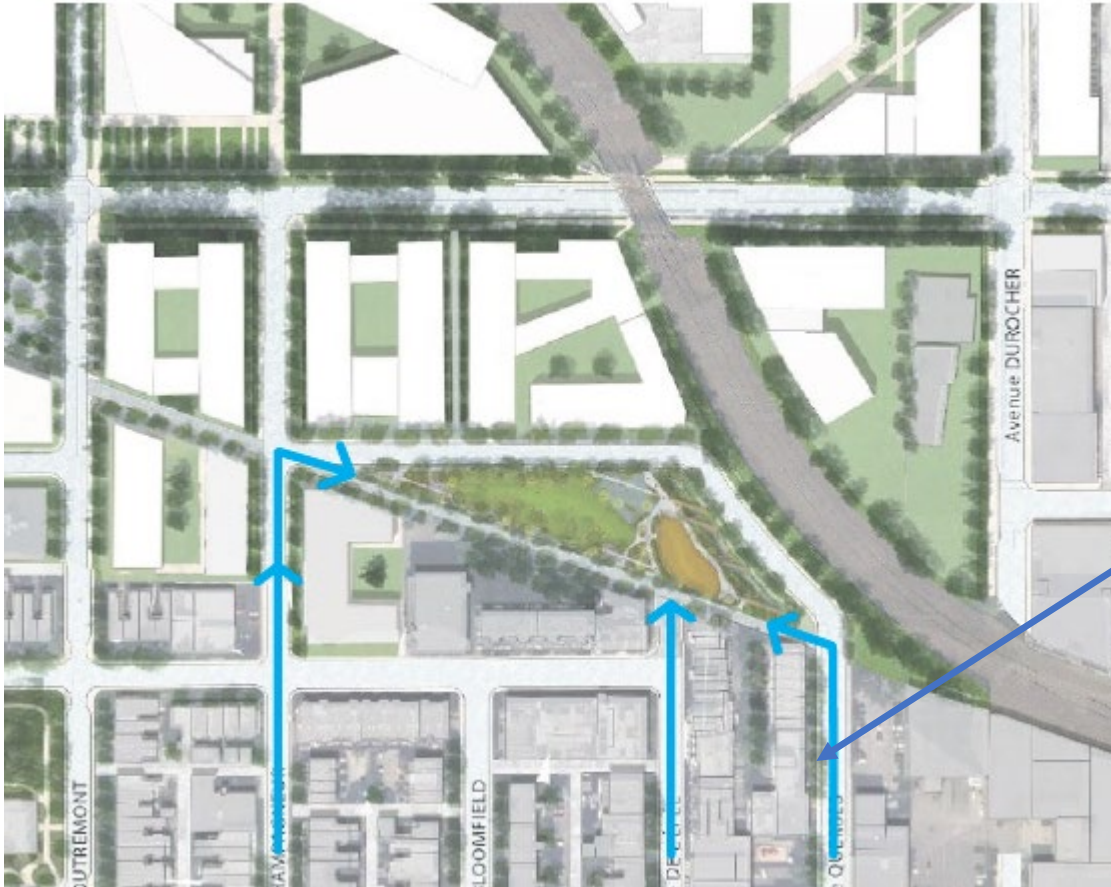
# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

## 1. Parc Pierre-Dansereau



# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

## 1. Parc Pierre-Dansereau





# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

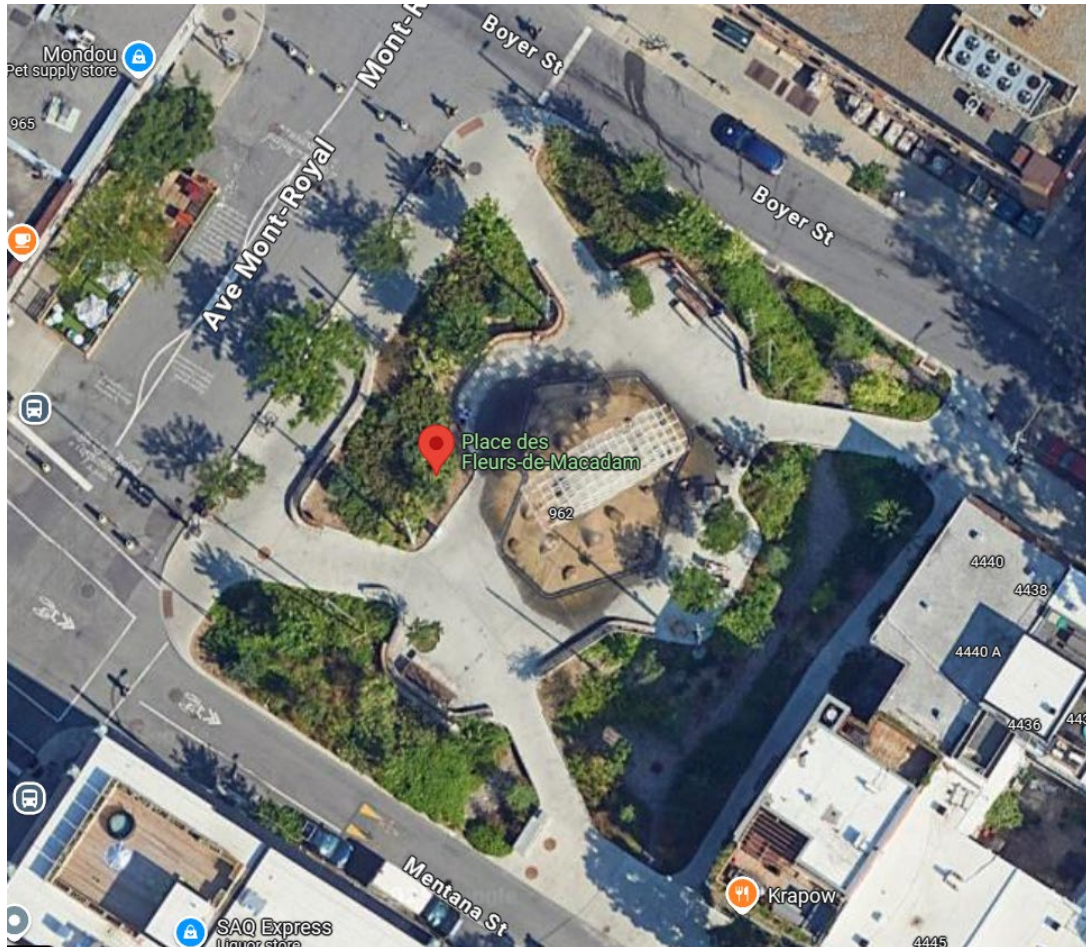
## 1. Parc Pierre-Dansereau





# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

## 2. Parc Fleur-de-Macadam



Construction: 2021

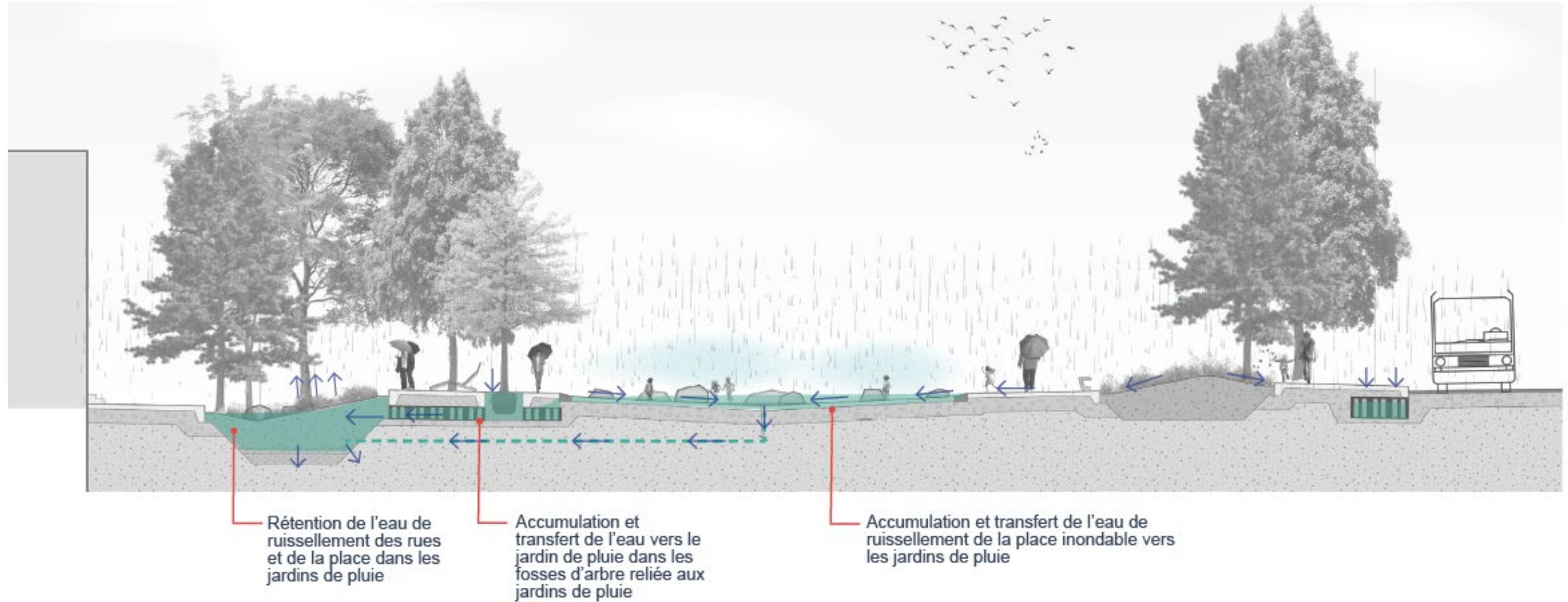
Area: 2110 m<sup>2</sup>

Volume of water: 170 m<sup>3</sup> (total infiltration)

Budget: 2,2 M\$

# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

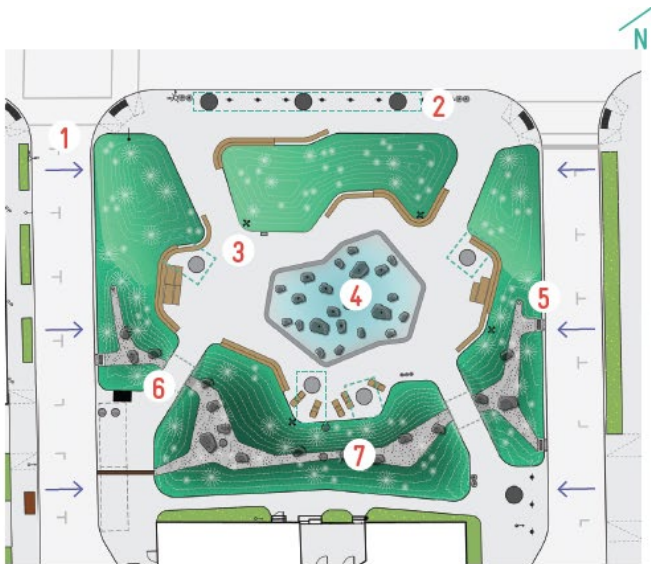
## 2. Parc Fleur-de-Macadam





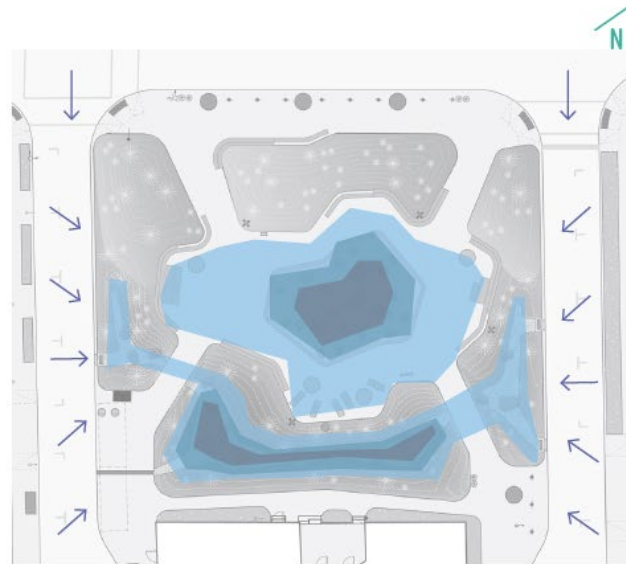
# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

## 2. Parc Fleur-de-Macadam



### Types d'ouvrages

- 1 Rue à dévers unique
- 2 Fosse d'arbre élargie
- 3 Fosse d'arbre reliée aux jardins de pluie
- 4 Espace public inondable
- 5 Abaissement de bordure et fosse de prétraitement
- 6 Sentier sur ponceau
- 7 Jardins de pluie



### Gestion de l'eau

- Rétention et transport des eaux de la place publique vers les jardins de pluie
- Rétention et infiltration des eaux provenant des rues adjacentes

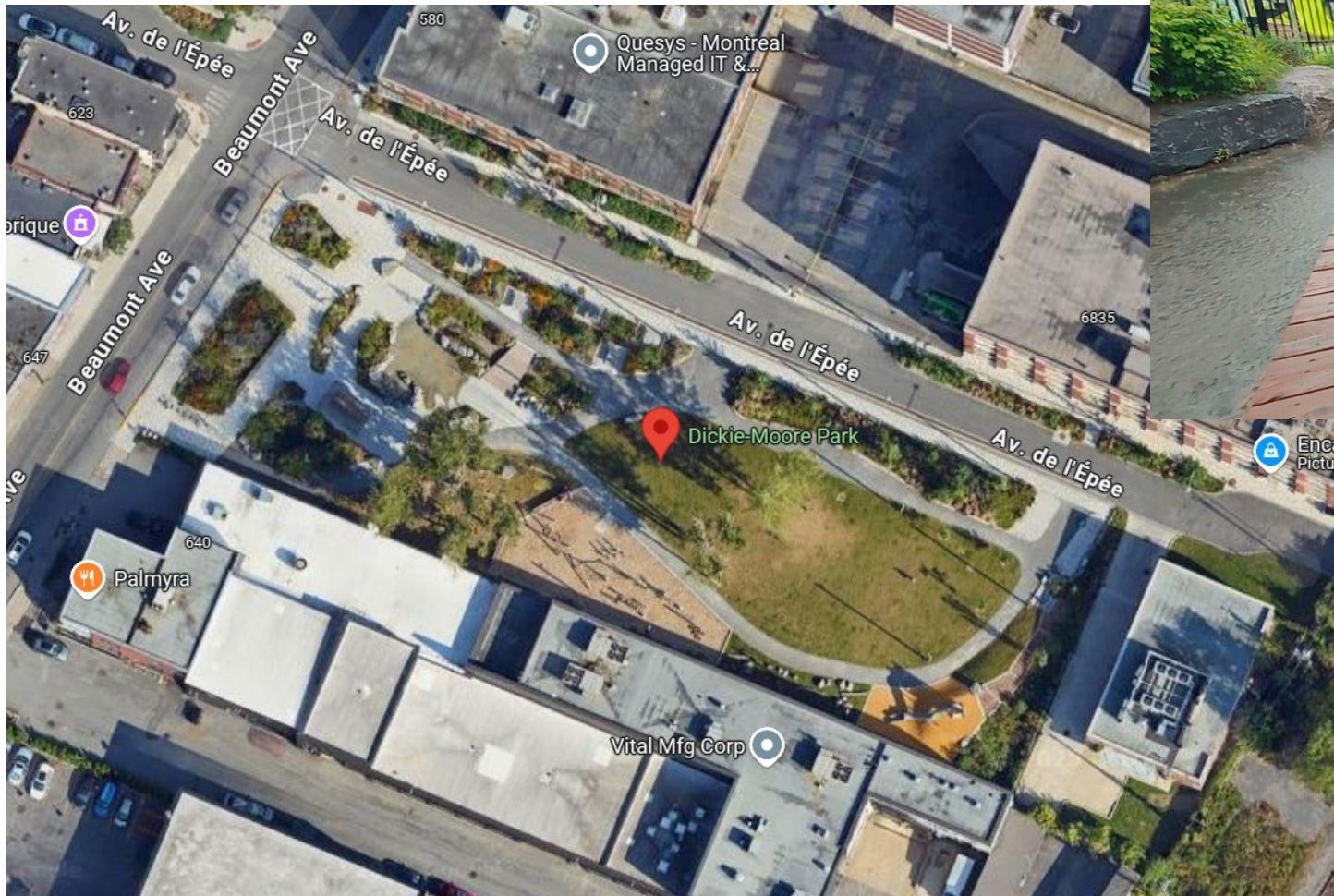
- Pluie de récurrence 100 ans
- Pluie de récurrence 10 à 25 ans
- Pluie de récurrence 5 à 10 ans





# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

## 3. Parc Dickie-Moore





# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

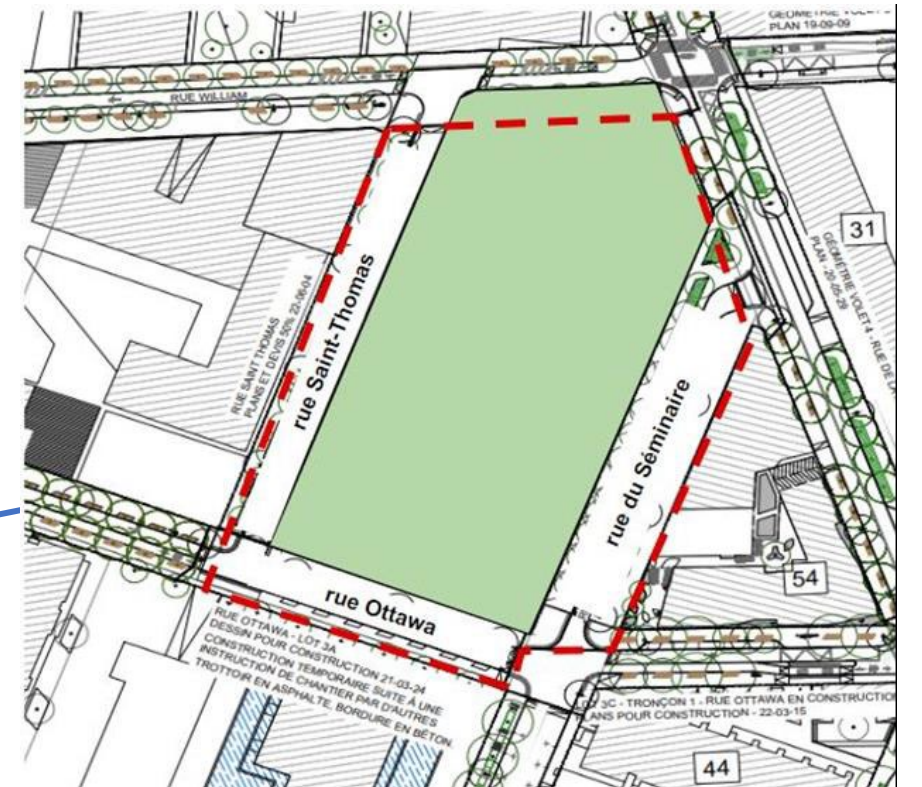
## 3. Parc Dickie-Moore





# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

## 4. Parc des Eaux-Cachées (in development)



ROUSSEAU  
LEFEBVRE  Environnements  
performants

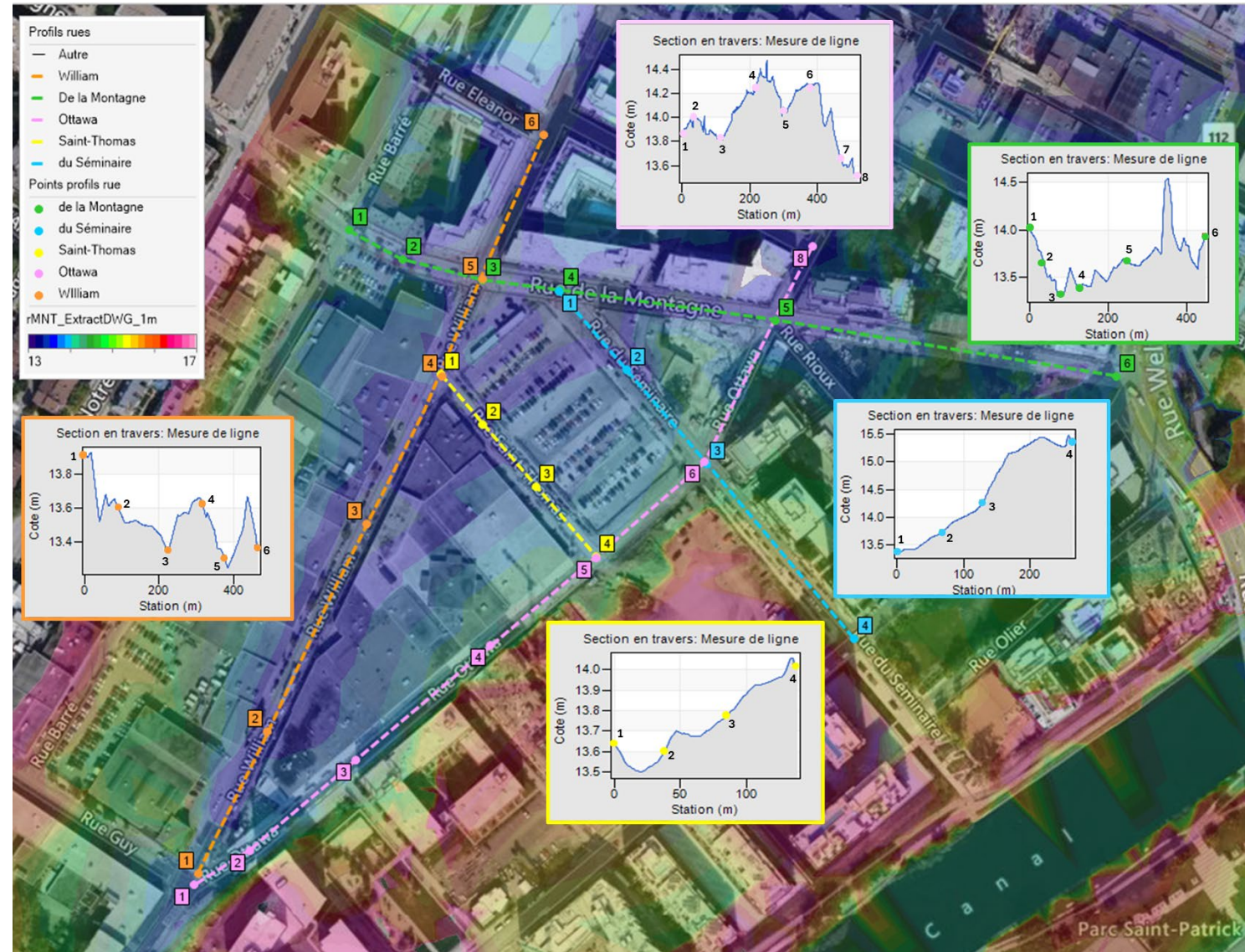
lasalle  nhc



# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

## 4. Parc des Eaux-Cachées

Detailed analyses (2D) of surrounding areas

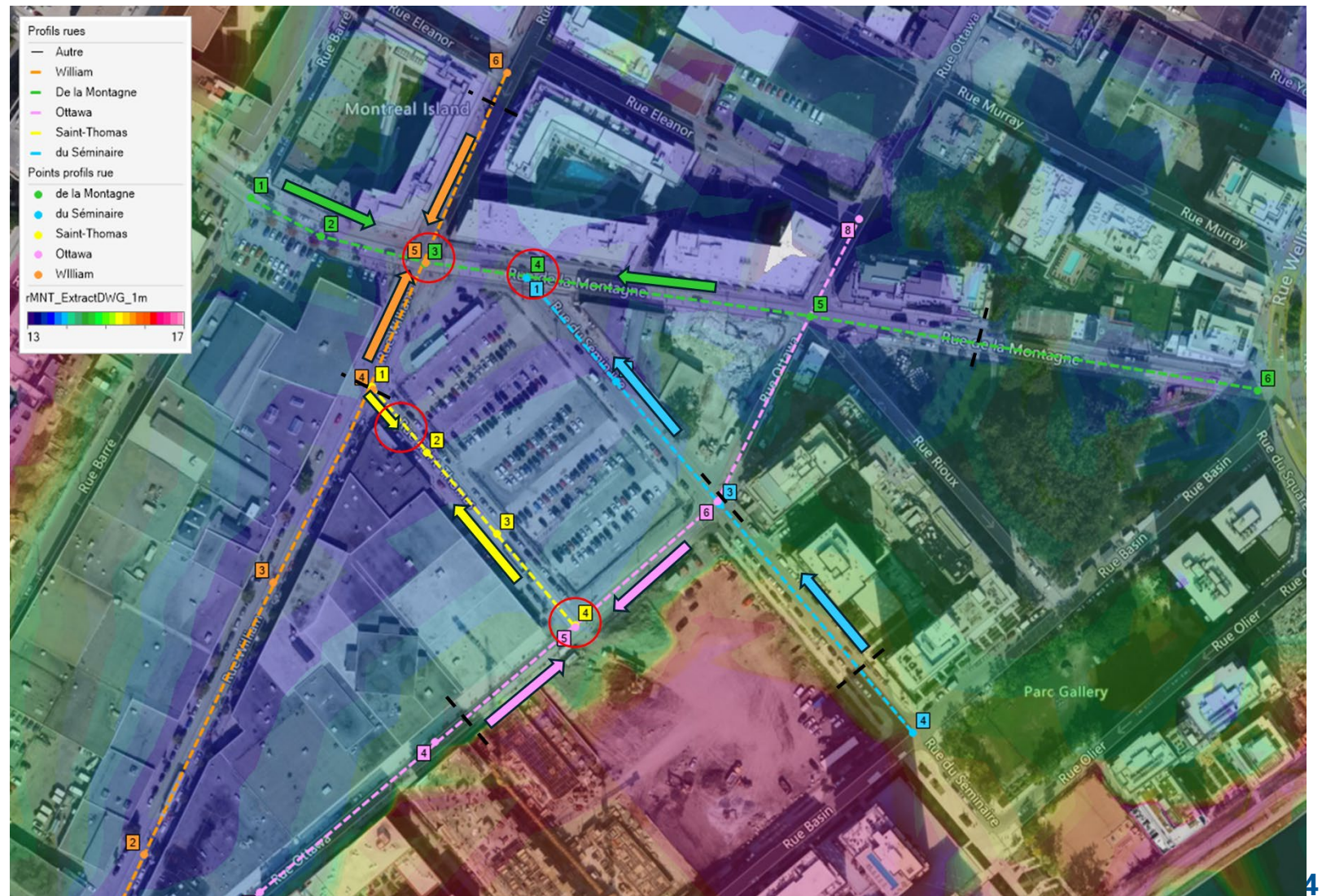




# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

## 4. Parc des Eaux-Cachées

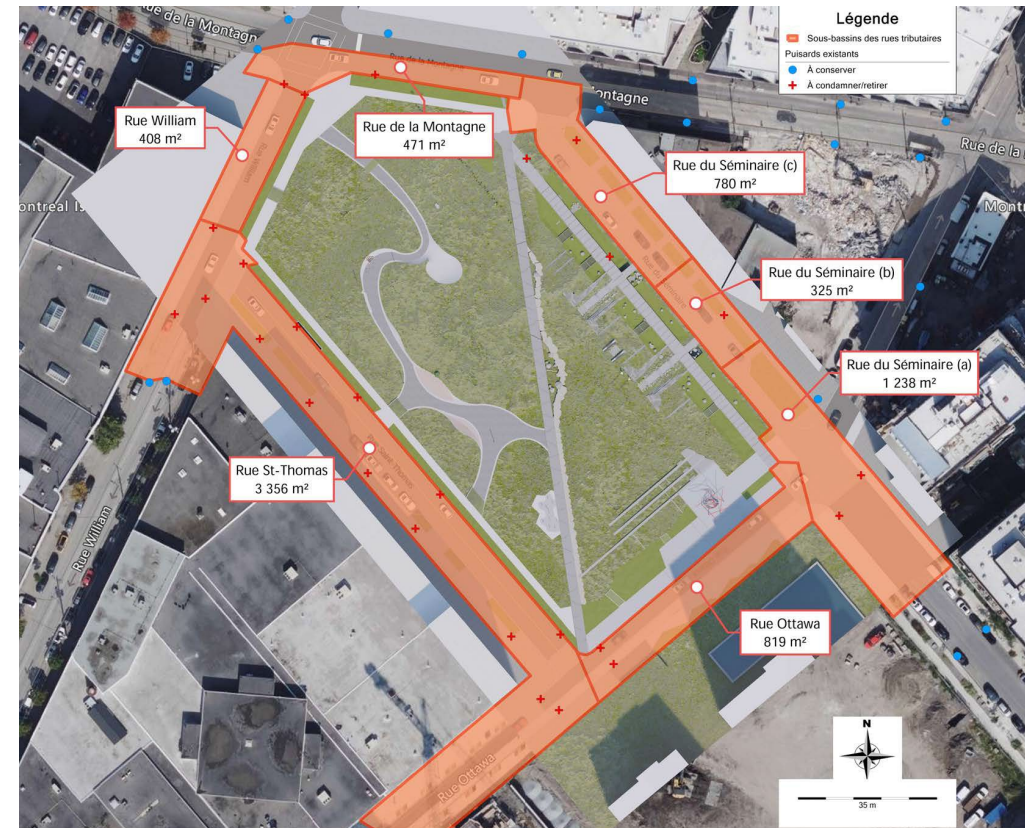
Looking for ways to maximize water directed to the park





# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

## 4. Parc des Eaux-Cachées



ROUSSEAU  
LEFEBVRE Environnements  
performants



# Case Studies – Sponge Parks

## 4. Parc des Eaux-Cachées

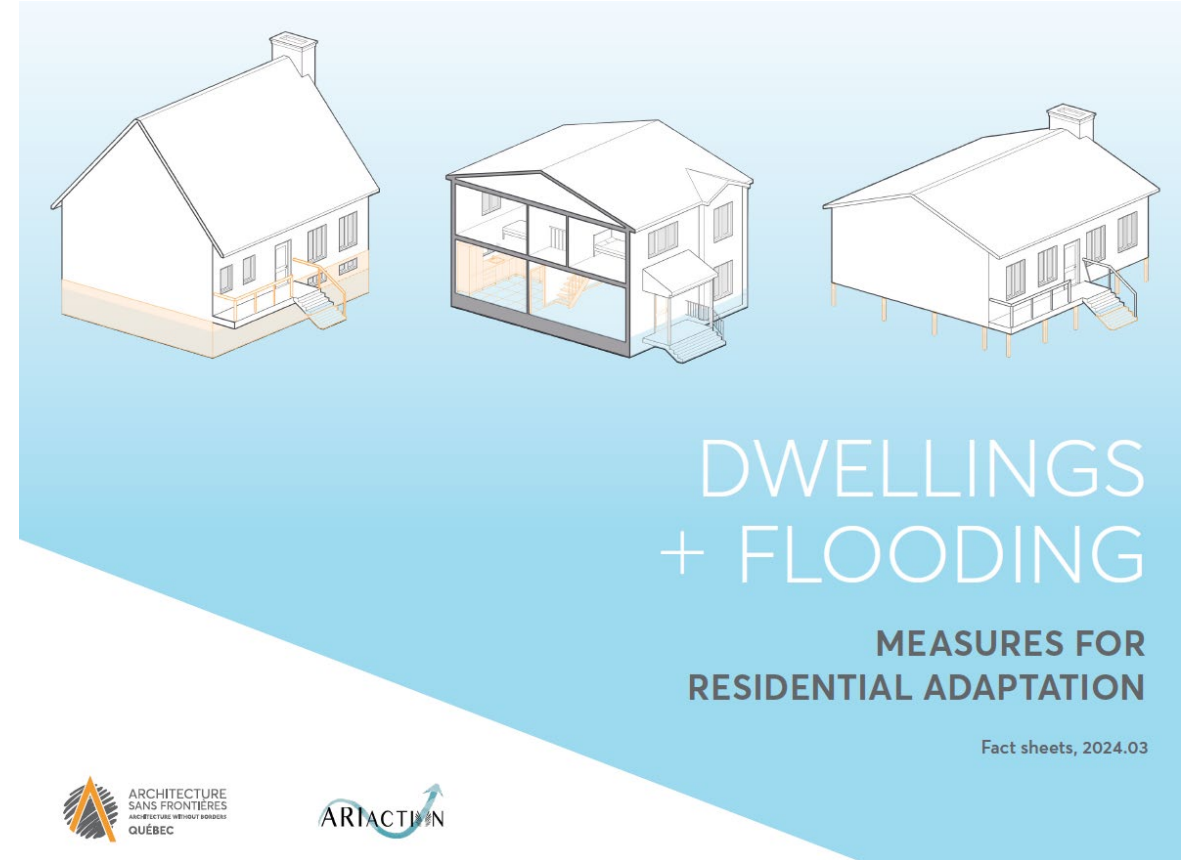


ROUSSEAU  
LEFEBVRE  Environnements  
performants

lasalle  nhc



# Another element of the strategy: Protection and Prevention



# Conclusion and Outlook

- Risk and resilience are 2 different concepts – Increase of resilience of existing networks is necessary
- Evaluating resilience for older areas provides a more robust and optimal plan of interventions
- Better understanding of major system is an important input for evaluating and increasing resilience – Sponge Parks are an essential element for a global strategy





**If you find yourself in  
a hole, the first thing  
to do is stop digging  
Will Rogers**





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