

The Challenge of Urban Flooding

Steven E. Eubanks, P.E., CFM
City of Fort Worth

Urban Flooding Awareness Bill

- Introduced into Congress in 2014 & 2015
- Based on Illinois law passed in 2014
- Study urban flooding, with “primary focus ... on urban areas outside of special flood hazard areas”
- Never got out of committees

Urban Flooding Awareness Bill

- Adequacy of federal flood risk information
- Investigate causes:
 - global climate change;
 - increasing urbanization
 - undersized, deteriorating stormwater infrastructure
- Evaluate funding mechanisms
- Relevance of NFIP & CRS to urban flooding areas outside traditional floodplains

The Challenge of Urban Flooding

WHAT IS URBAN FLOODING?

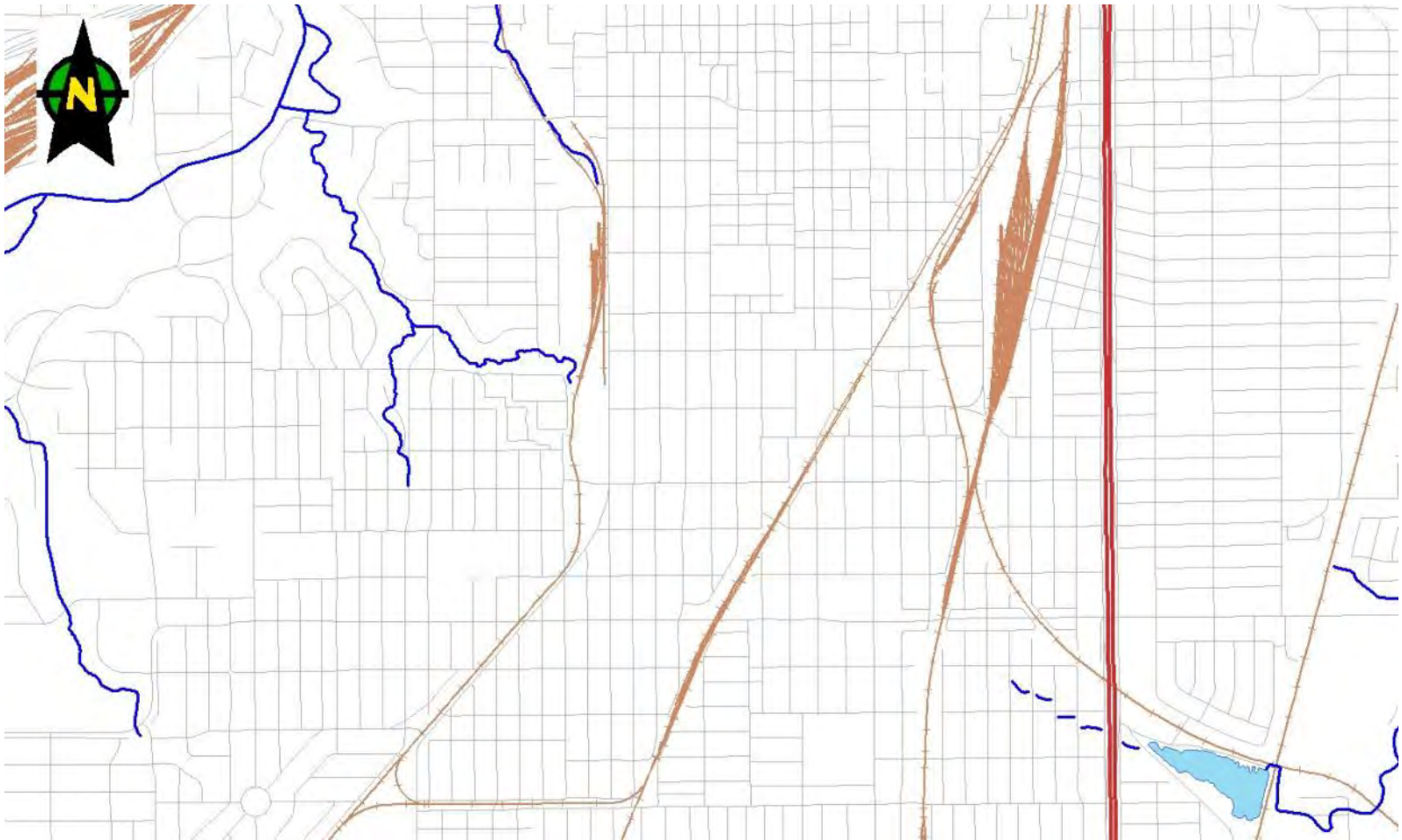
What Is Urban Flooding?

- Long-term chronic or nuisance flooding
- Typically older parts of town
- Small streams or storm drain system
- Happens fast: often gone in an hour
- Often only brief public attention
- Exacerbated by redevelopment activity

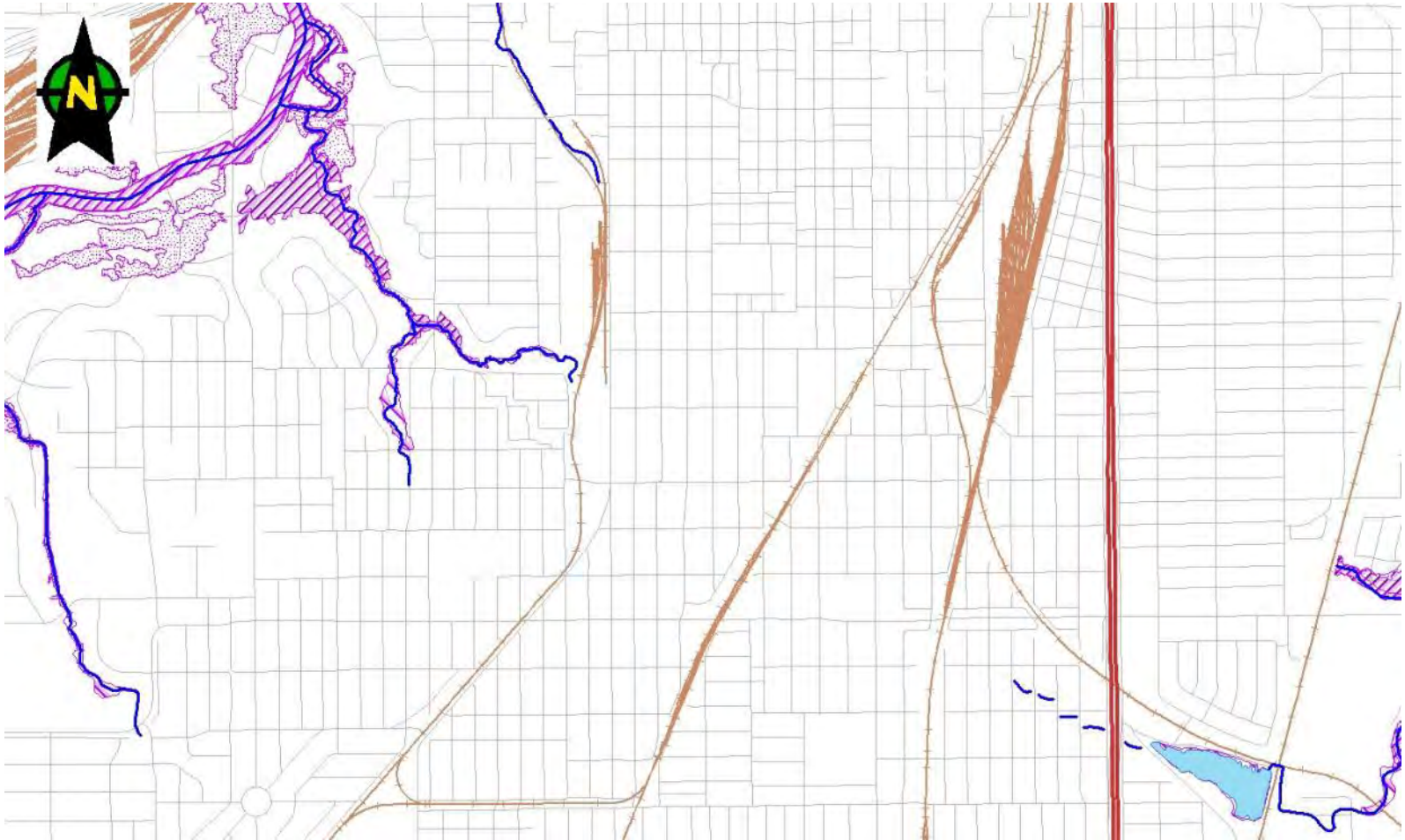
The Challenge of Urban Flooding

- Generally not addressed by NFIP
- Considered local problem only
- No affordable solutions available
- Low grant priority
- Flood risk and BFE's not mapped
- “Not floodplain”

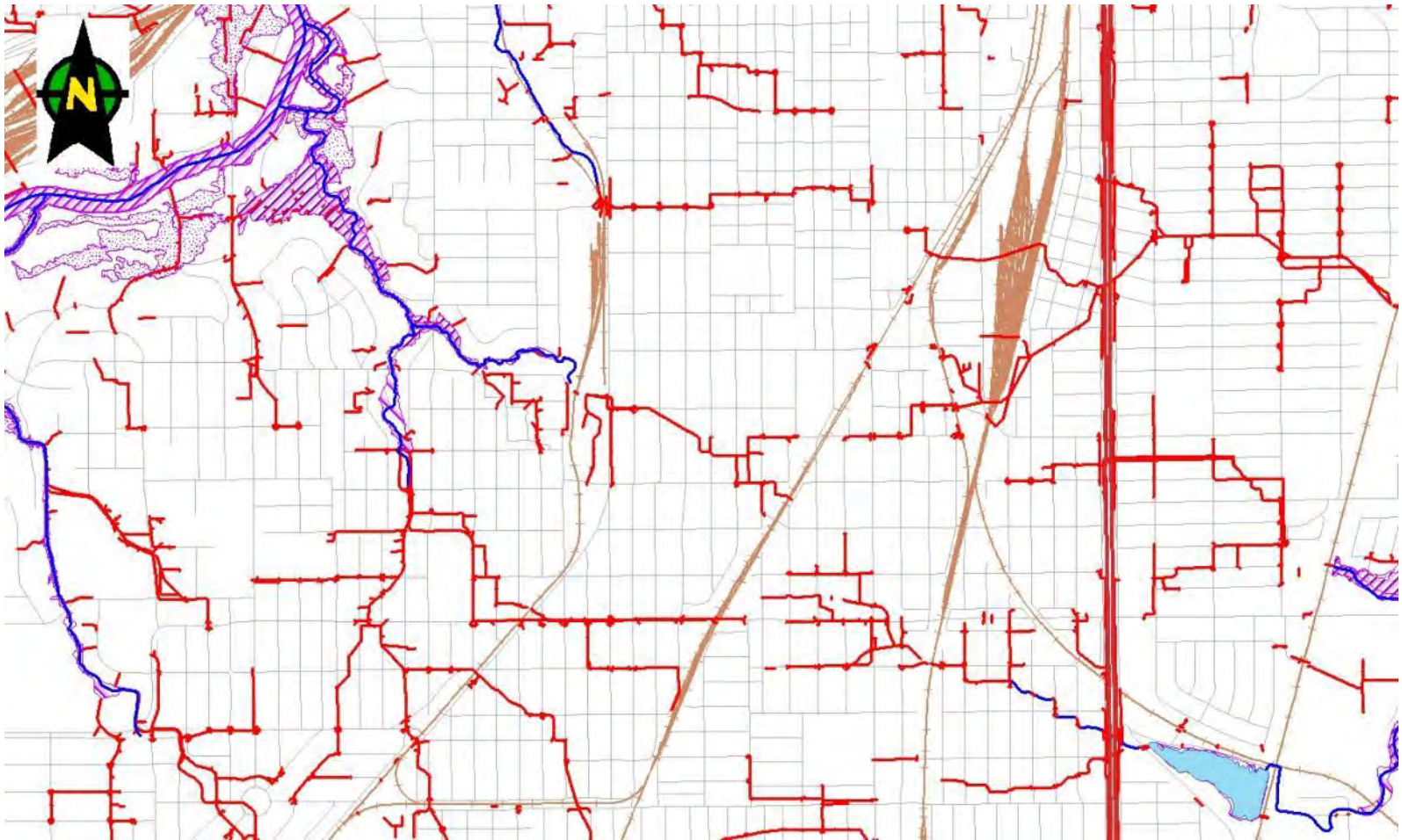
Typical urban drainage patterns



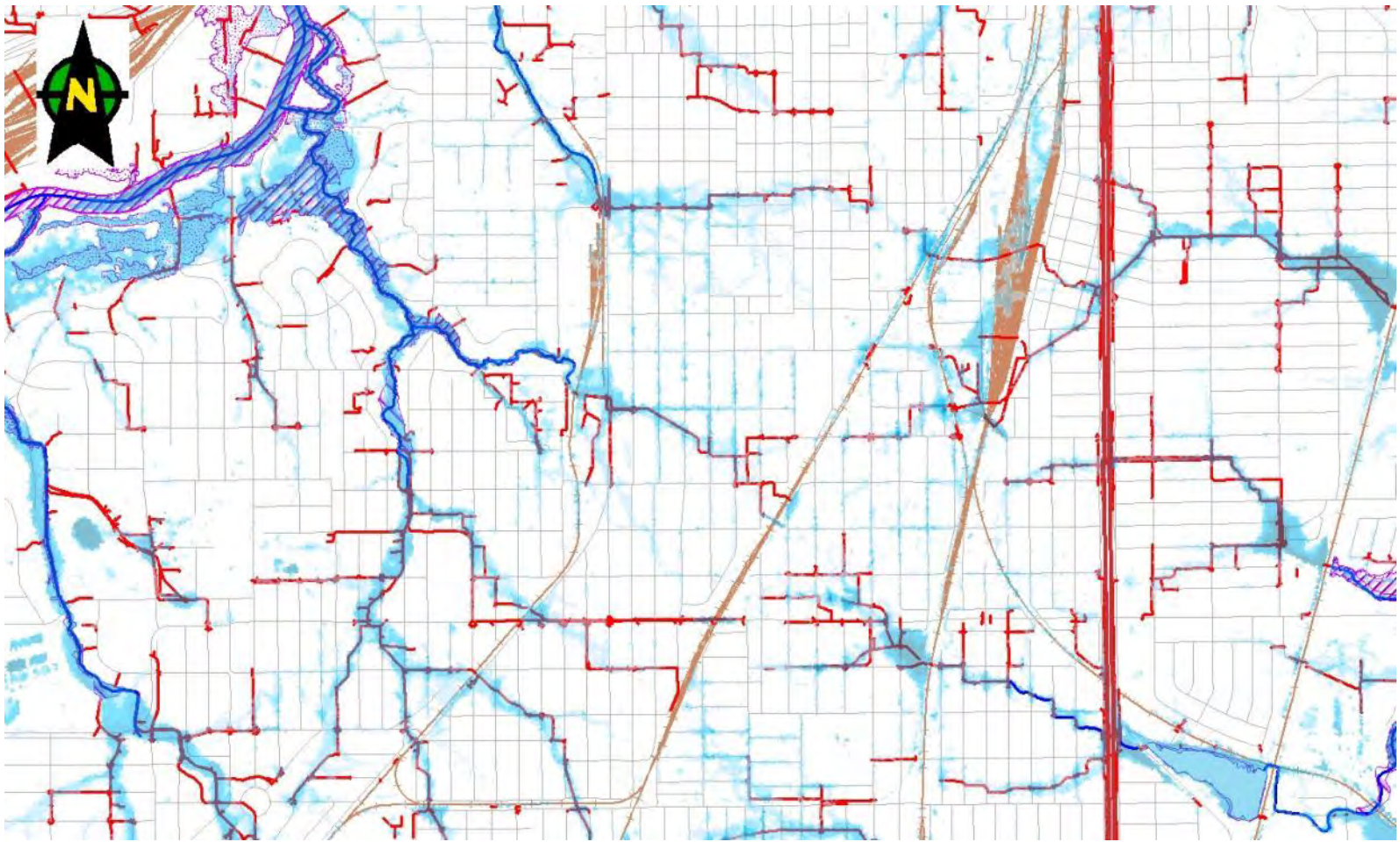
Typical urban drainage patterns



Typical urban drainage patterns



Typical urban drainage patterns



Main Causes of Urban Flooding

- Pre-1970, small creeks often enclosed in storm drains, usually severely undersized
- Street grid often ignored drainage patterns, leading to mid-block sumps
- Homes and buildings constructed over these creeks and storm drains, with overflow path running through them

Typical Older Neighborhood









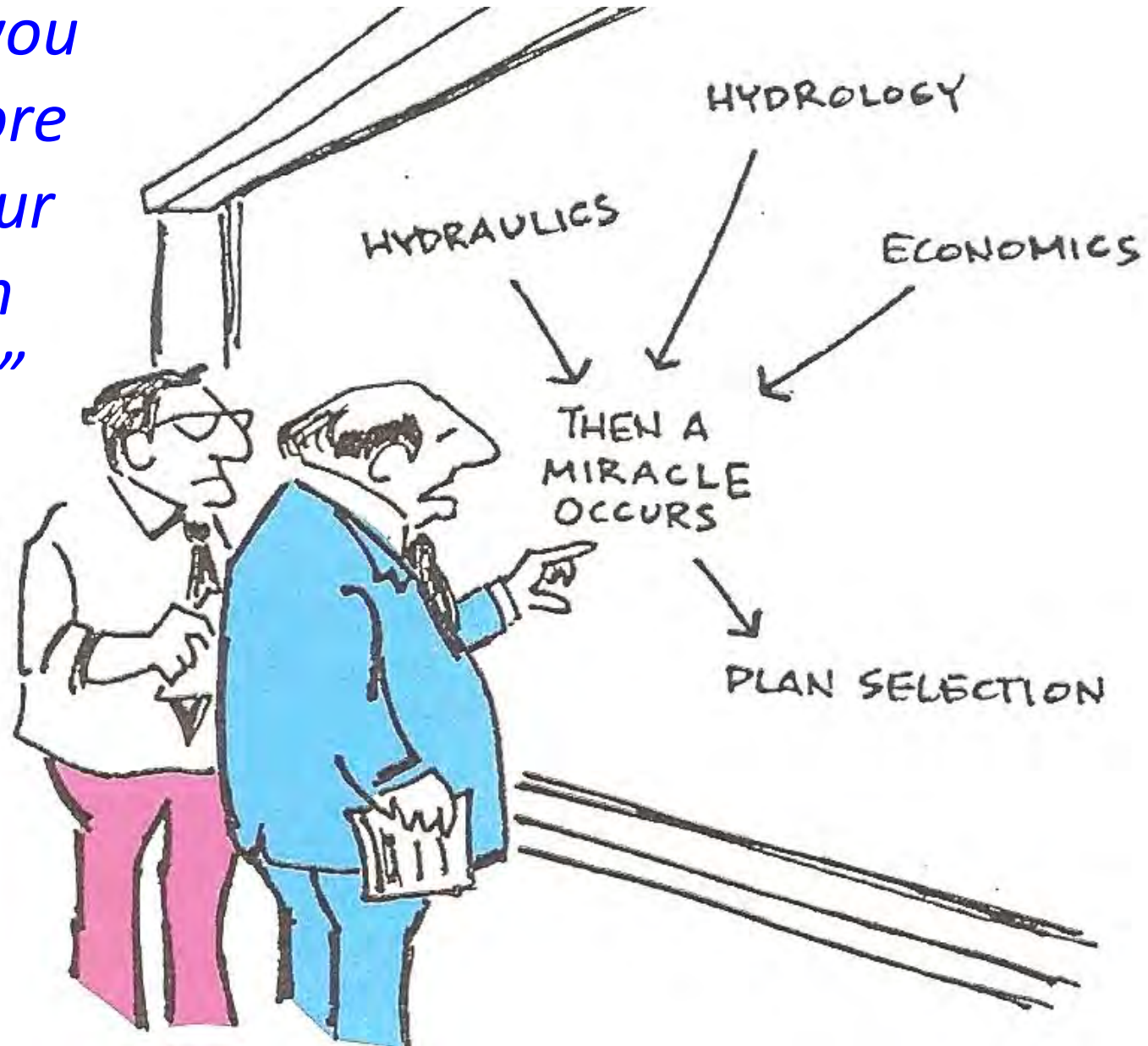




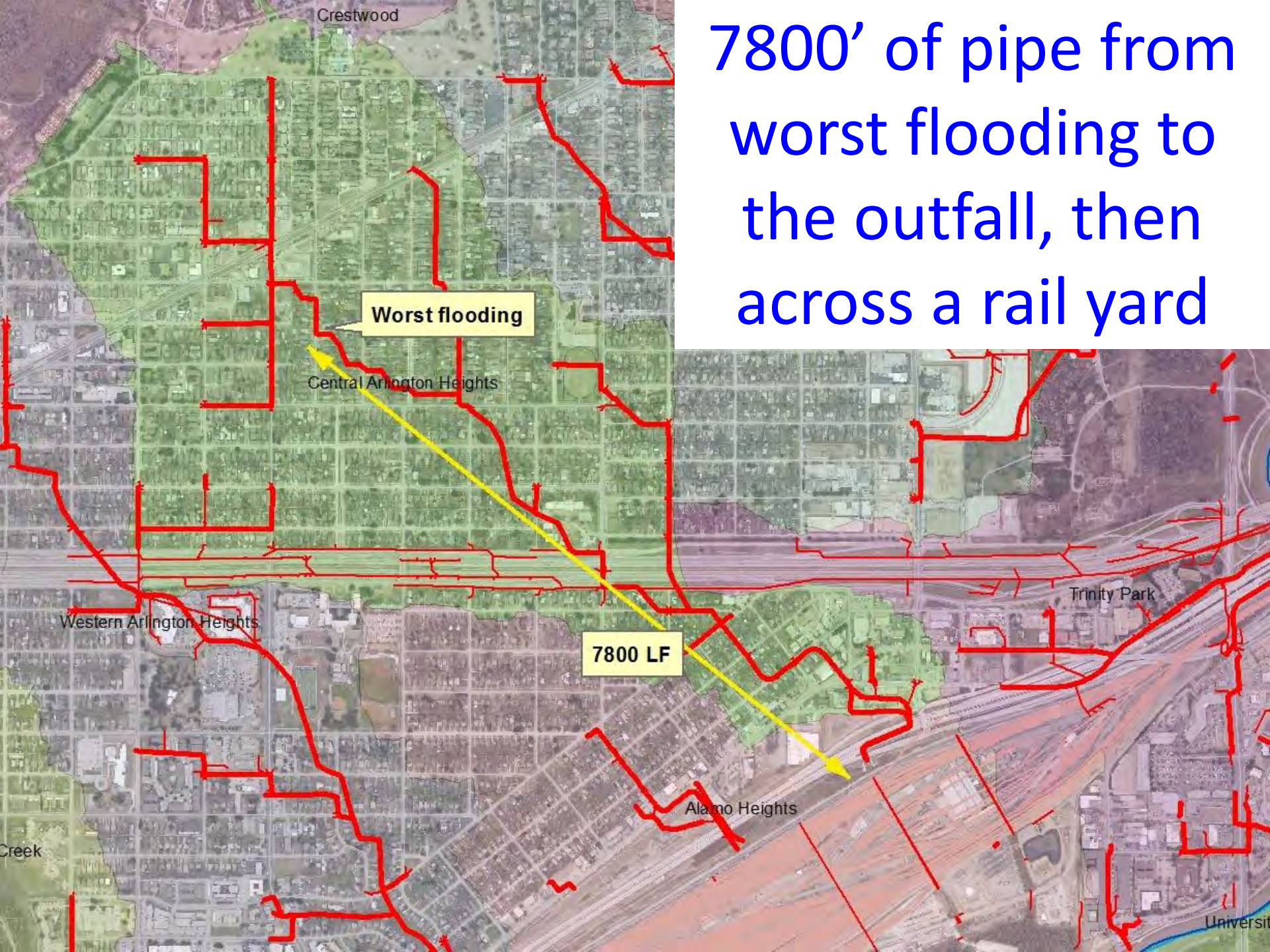
The Challenge of Urban Flooding

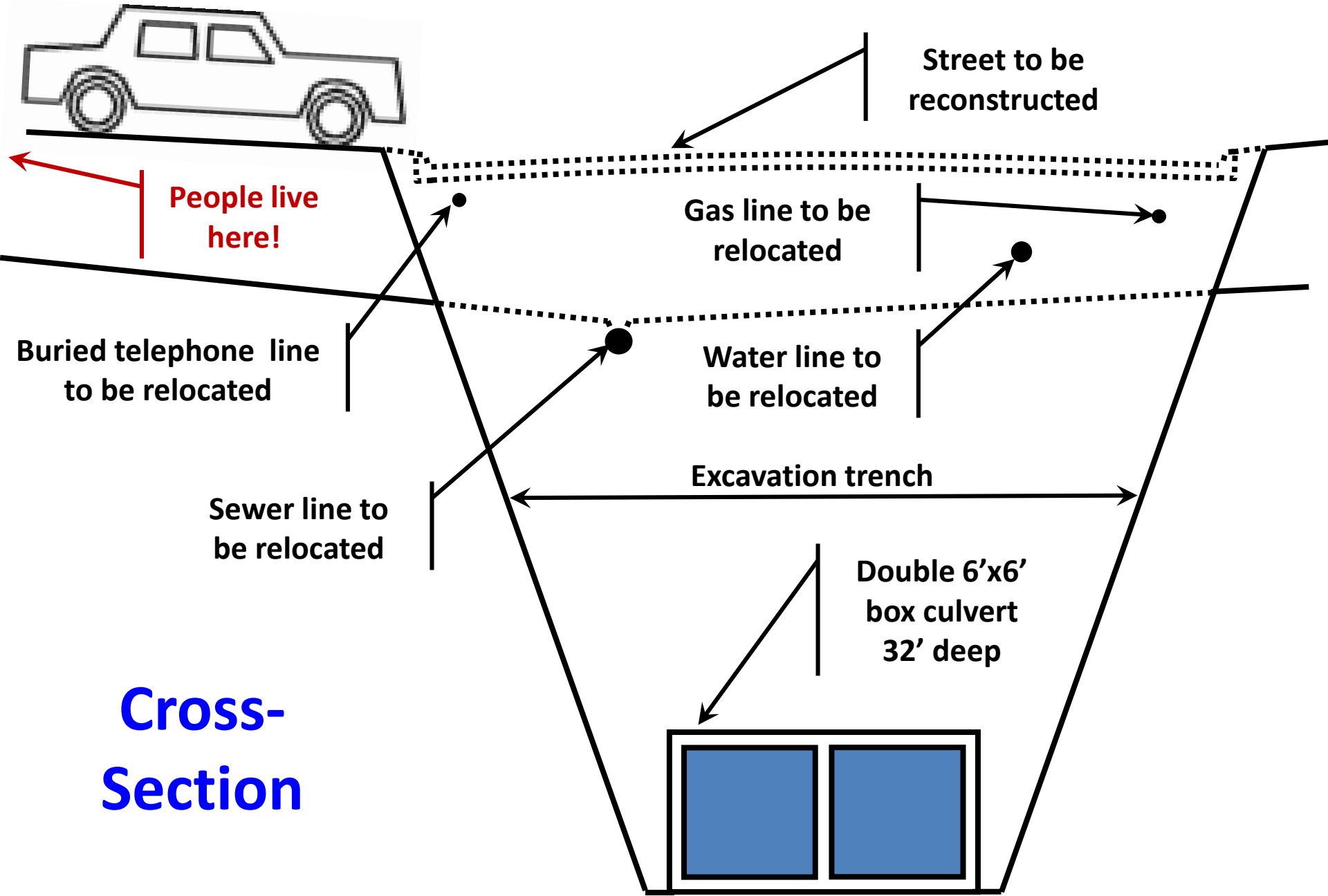
**TRADITIONAL SOLUTIONS
ARE NOT FEASIBLE**

“I think that you should be more explicit in your explanation of this step.”



7800' of pipe from worst flooding to the outfall, then across a rail yard



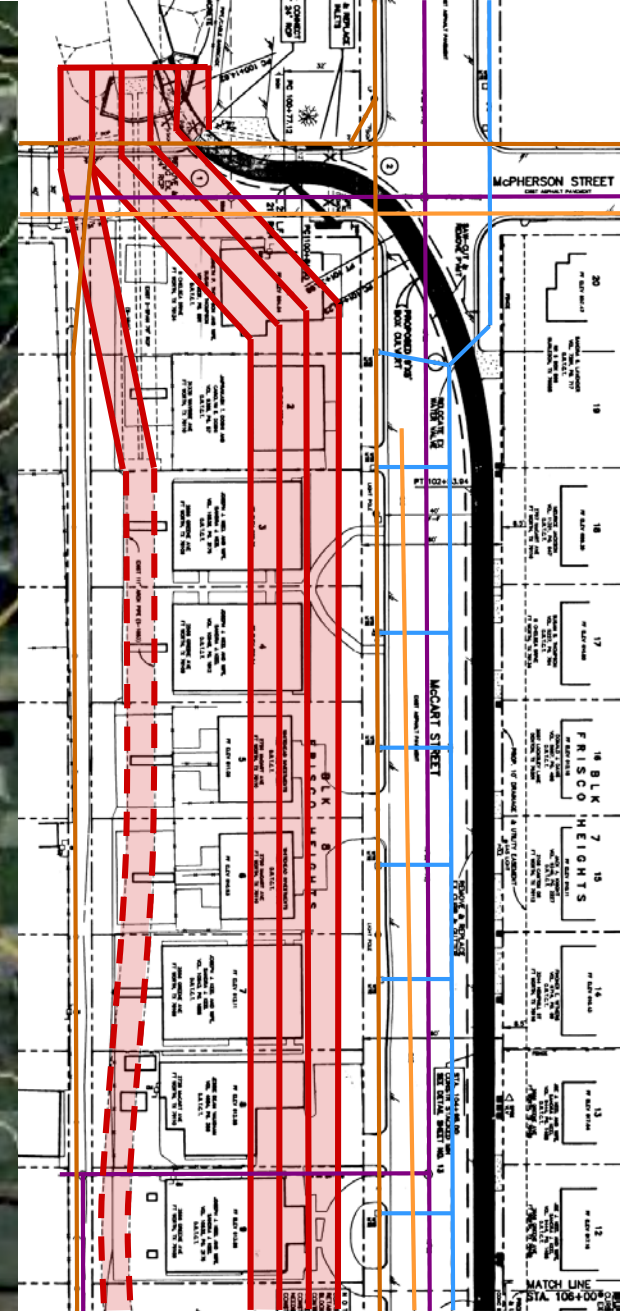


Cross-Section

The only place
for 3 6'x10' box
culverts in this
street is...

3-6 x 10

where the
houses are!





Central Arlington Heights
Watershed Planning Study

FORT WORTH

FILE: E:\HW\06134
DATE: May 14, 2007
SCALE: H/vertical

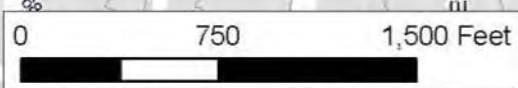
FIGURE



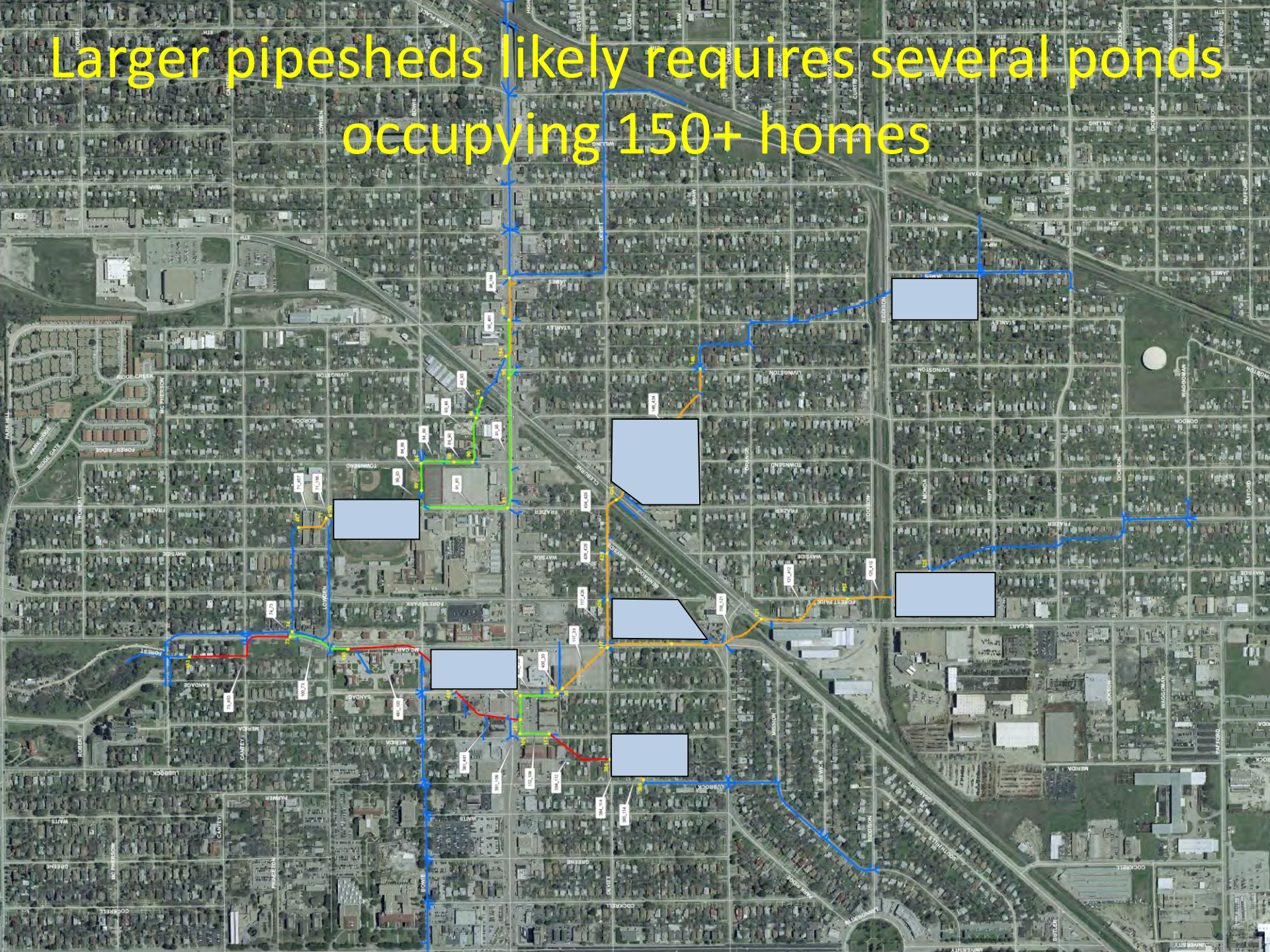
Tunneling
preserves
neighborhood

\$30.5 million!

- Legend**
- Points**
- Manhole
 - Junction Box
 - Access Shaft
 - ▲ Outfall
 - 10 ft Contours
- Conduits**
- Open Cut
 - Rehabilitate
 - Tunneling
 - Close and Abandon Pipe

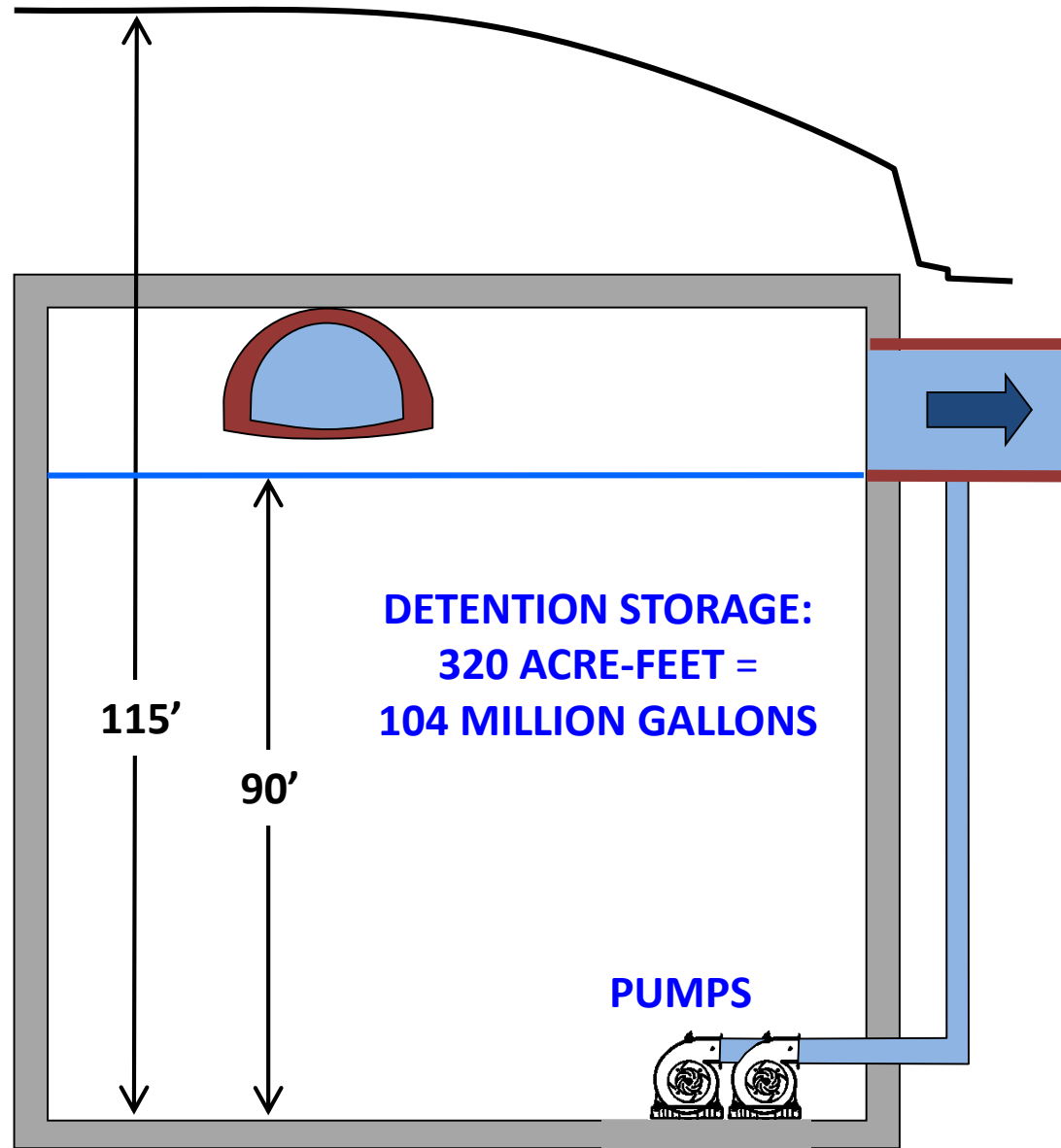


Larger pipesheds likely requires several ponds occupying 150+ homes





Deep Detention with Pumps



Buyouts and Neighborhood Integrity

- Empty lots destroy neighborhood integrity
- Are linear parks greenways and pocket parks acceptable?



The Challenge of Urban Flooding

DOWNSTREAM CONSIDERATIONS

No Adverse Impact

- *“No Adverse Impact floodplain management takes place when the actions of one property owner are not allowed to adversely affect the rights of other property owners.”* (ASFPM, 2008)
- Consistent with Texas Water Code §11.086 and similar laws in other states.

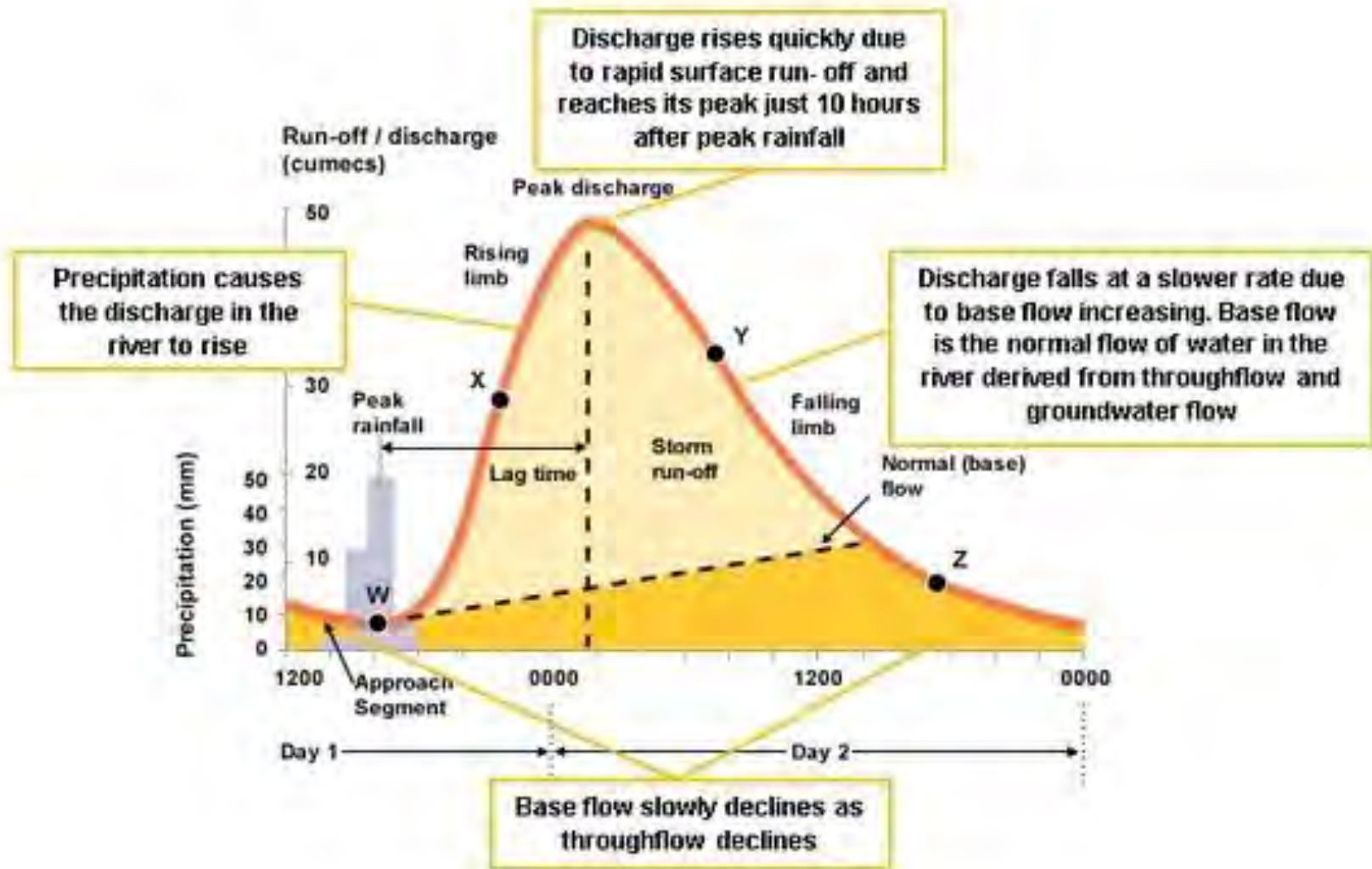
Texas Water Code §11.086

- a) No person may divert or impound the natural flow of surface waters in this state, or permit a diversion or impounding by him to continue, in a manner that damages the property of another by the overflow of the water diverted or impounded.
- b) A person whose property is injured by an overflow of water caused by an unlawful diversion or impounding has remedies at law and in equity and may recover damages occasioned by the overflow.

Downstream Impacts Factors

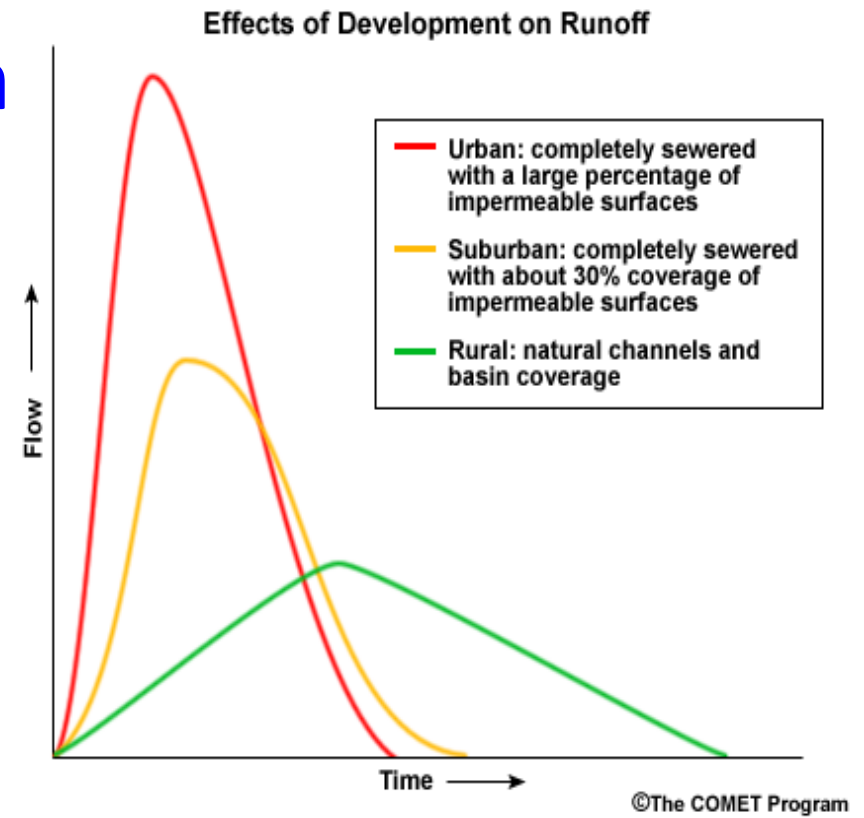
- Increased runoff due to more impervious cover
 - Increased runoff due to faster travel time in storm drains
 - Increased runoff due to loss of valley storage (a/k/a “living room detention”)
- Any solution has to consider these

Unit Hydrograph



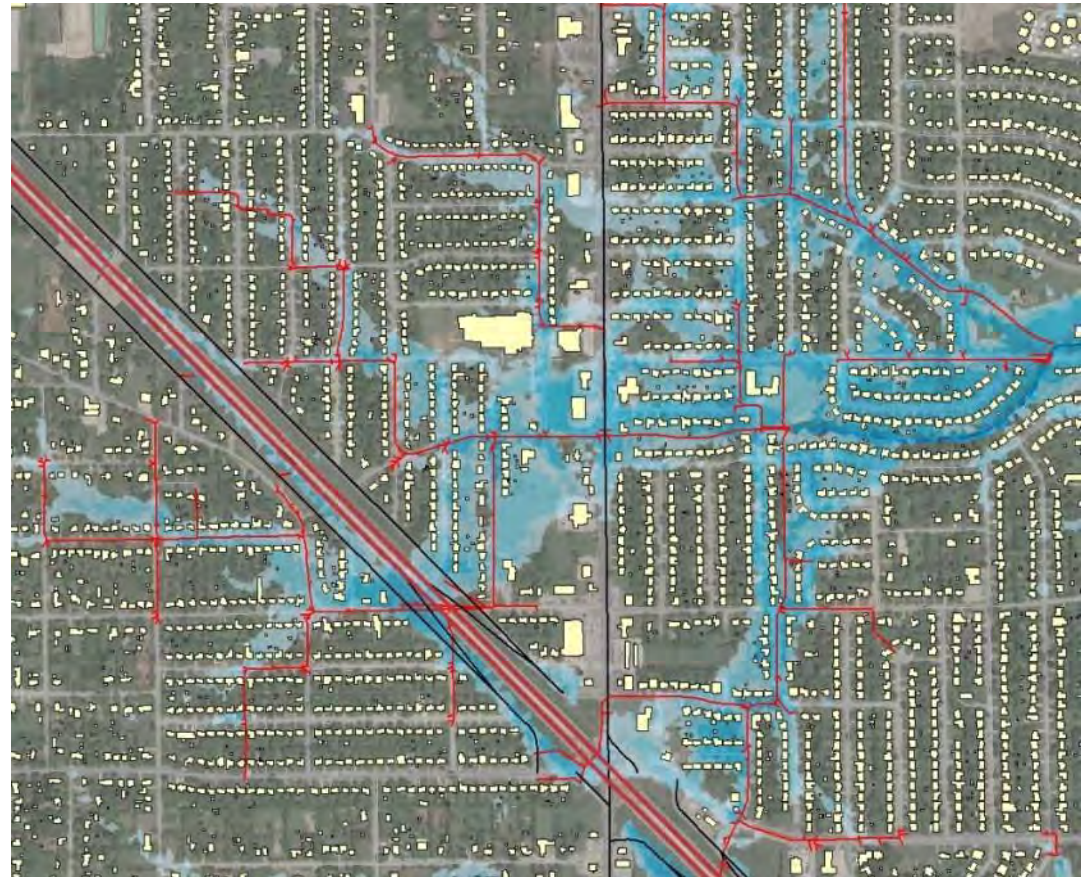
Effects of Urbanization

- Total Volume greater due to less infiltration
- Time to peak shorter due to faster flow on paving and in pipes
- Peak flow rate may be doubled or tripled



Volume Issues

Valley Storage:
Undersized pipes cause floodwater to be stored in neighborhoods, decreasing the peak flows downstream.

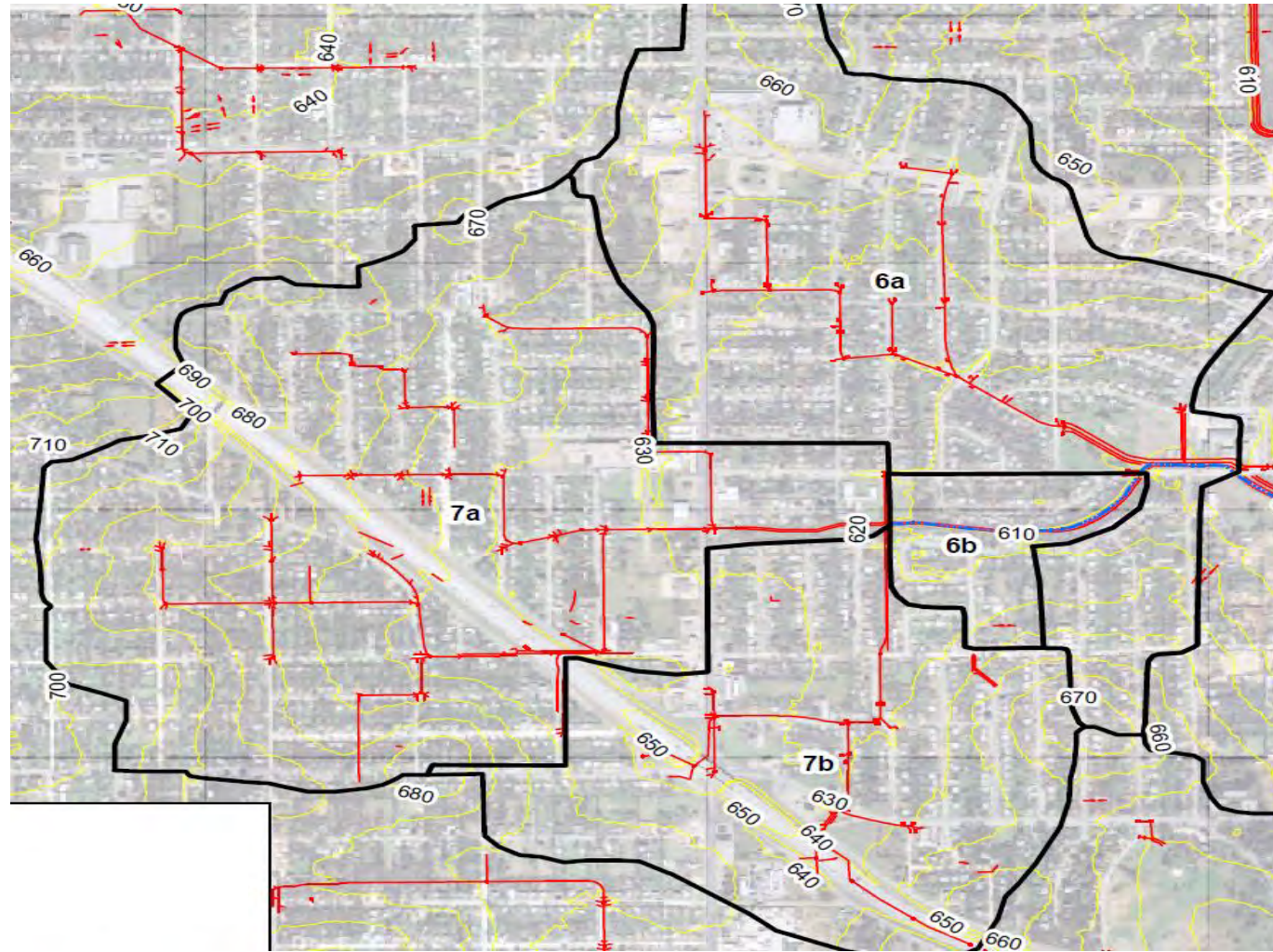


System Timing: A Case Study

EASTLAND CREEK

Eastland Creek – Eastern Fort Worth

- 800 acres
- Mostly Residential
- Extensive Storm Drain System in top 3 basins

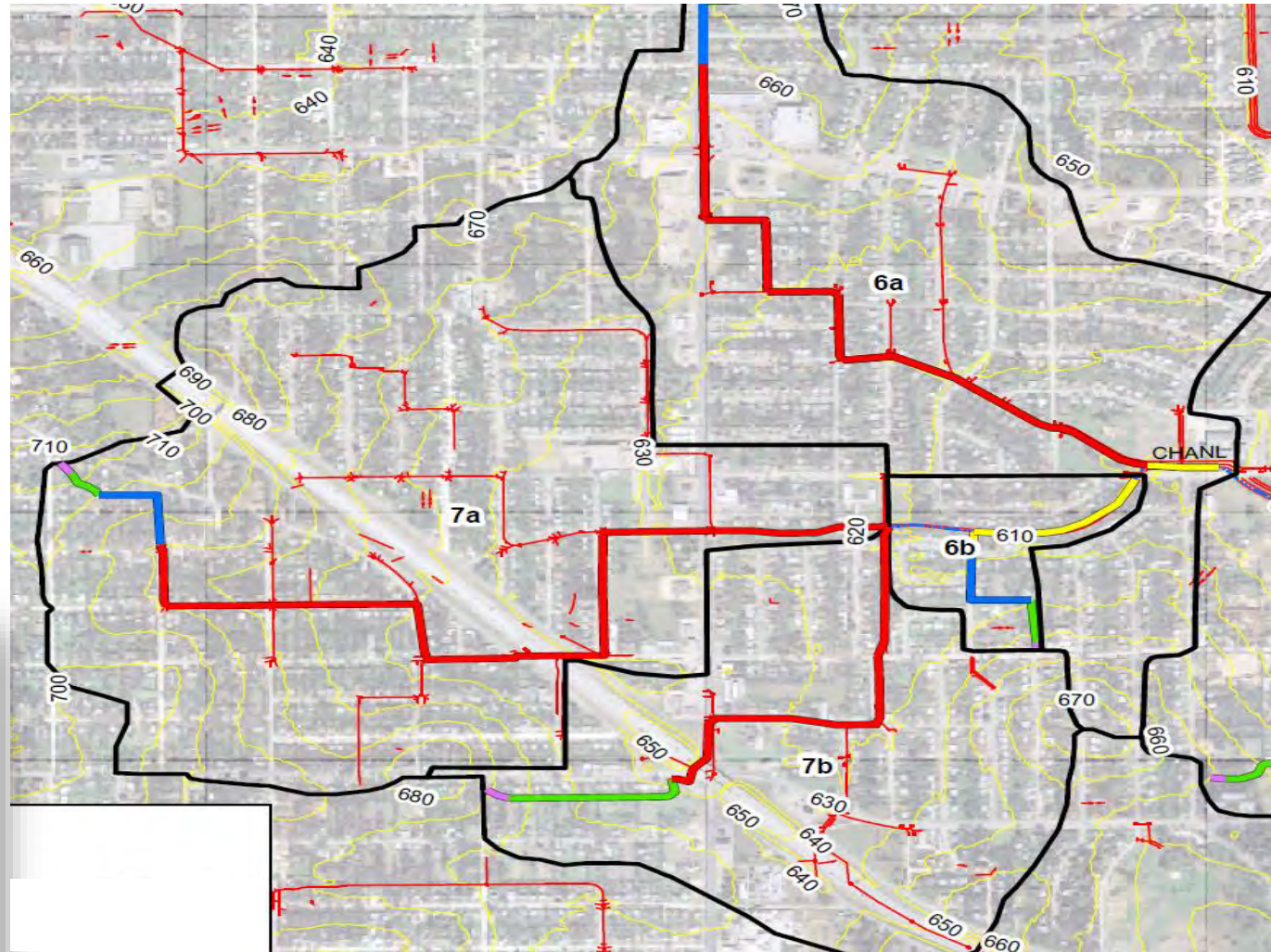


Storm Drain Flow Paths

- 18,000 Ft
- Average 4 ft/s Velocity

Legend

- Eastland Watershed Delineation
- Tc Flow Type
 - channel
 - gutter
 - pipe
 - shallow
 - sheet
- Eastland Creek
- Storm Sewer
- 2001 NCTCOG 10' Contours

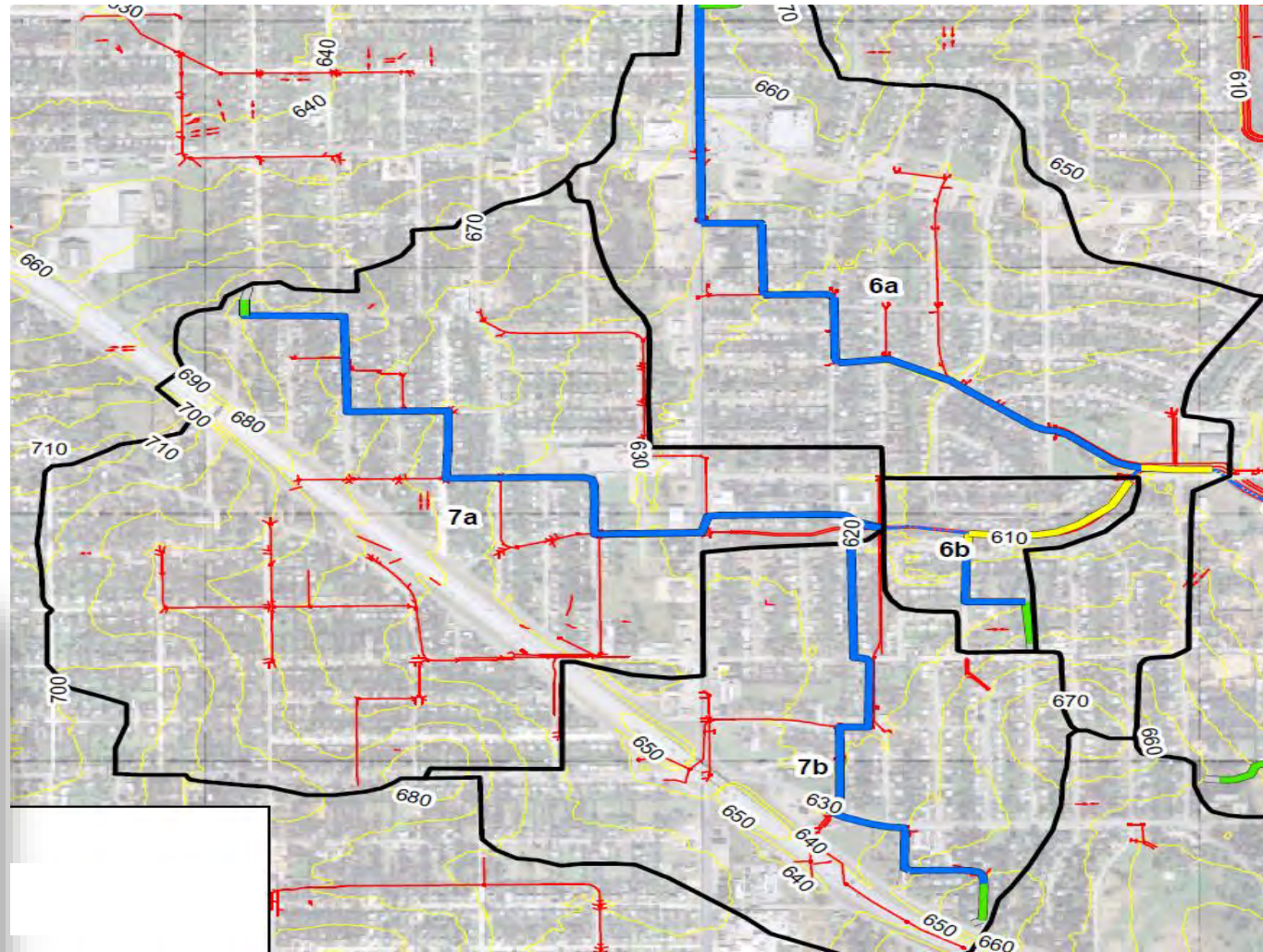


Overland Flow Paths

- 17,000 Ft
- Average 1.5 ft/s Velocity

Legend

- Eastland Watershed Delineation
- Tc Flow Type
 - channel
 - gutter
 - pipe
 - shallow
 - sheet
- Eastland Creek
- Storm Sewer
- 2001 NCTCOG 10' Contours





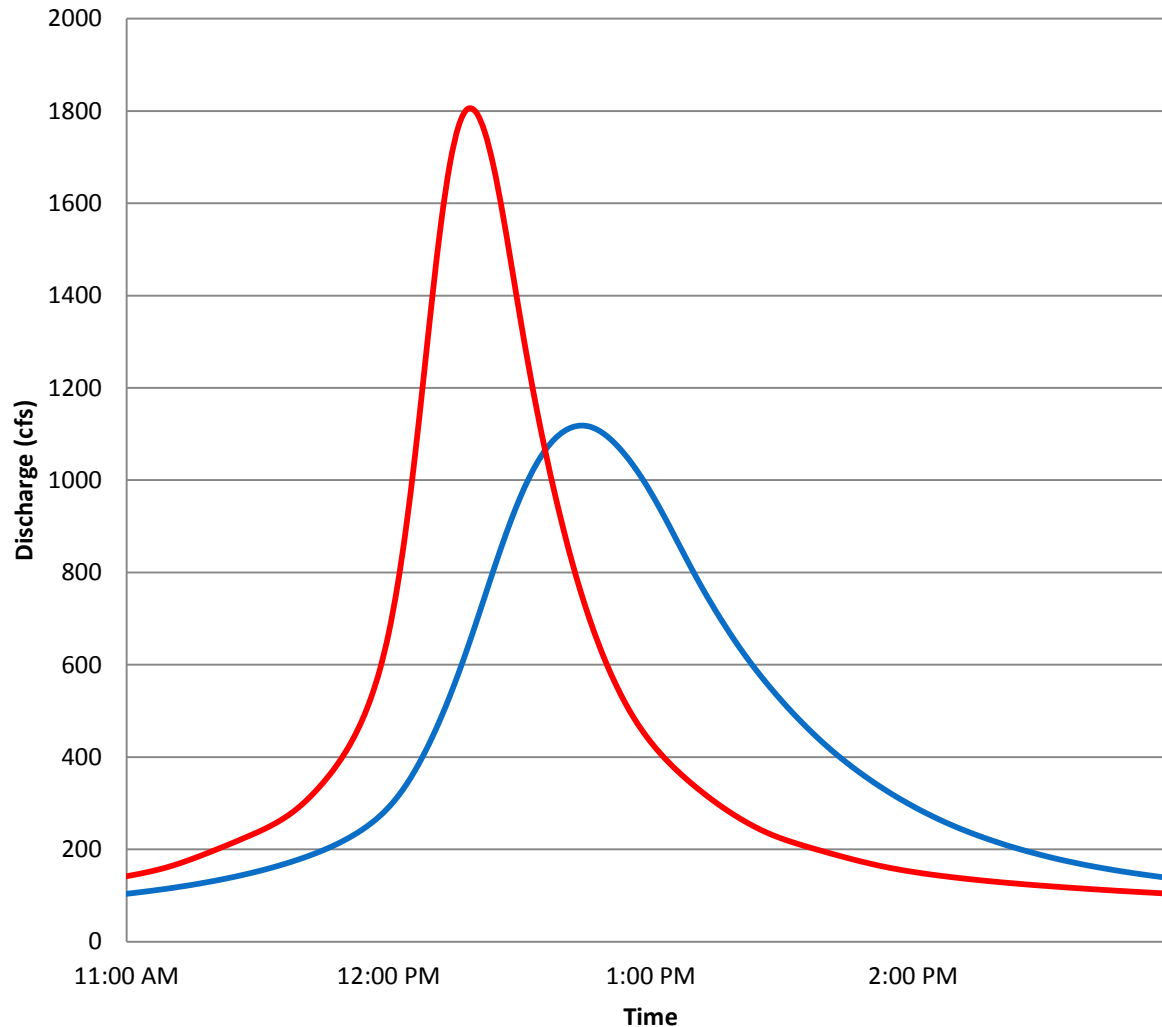
Sub-basin	Area	Tc (min)		Peak Discharge (cfs)		% Difference
	(acres)	Overland	Storm drain	Overland	Storm drain	
6a	272	57	25	1,023	1,561	34%
7a	342	68	28	1,118	1,804	38%
7b	177	54	22	695	1,069	35%



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Hydrograph Comparison

SUB-BASIN 7a 100-YR HYDROGRAPH COMPARISON

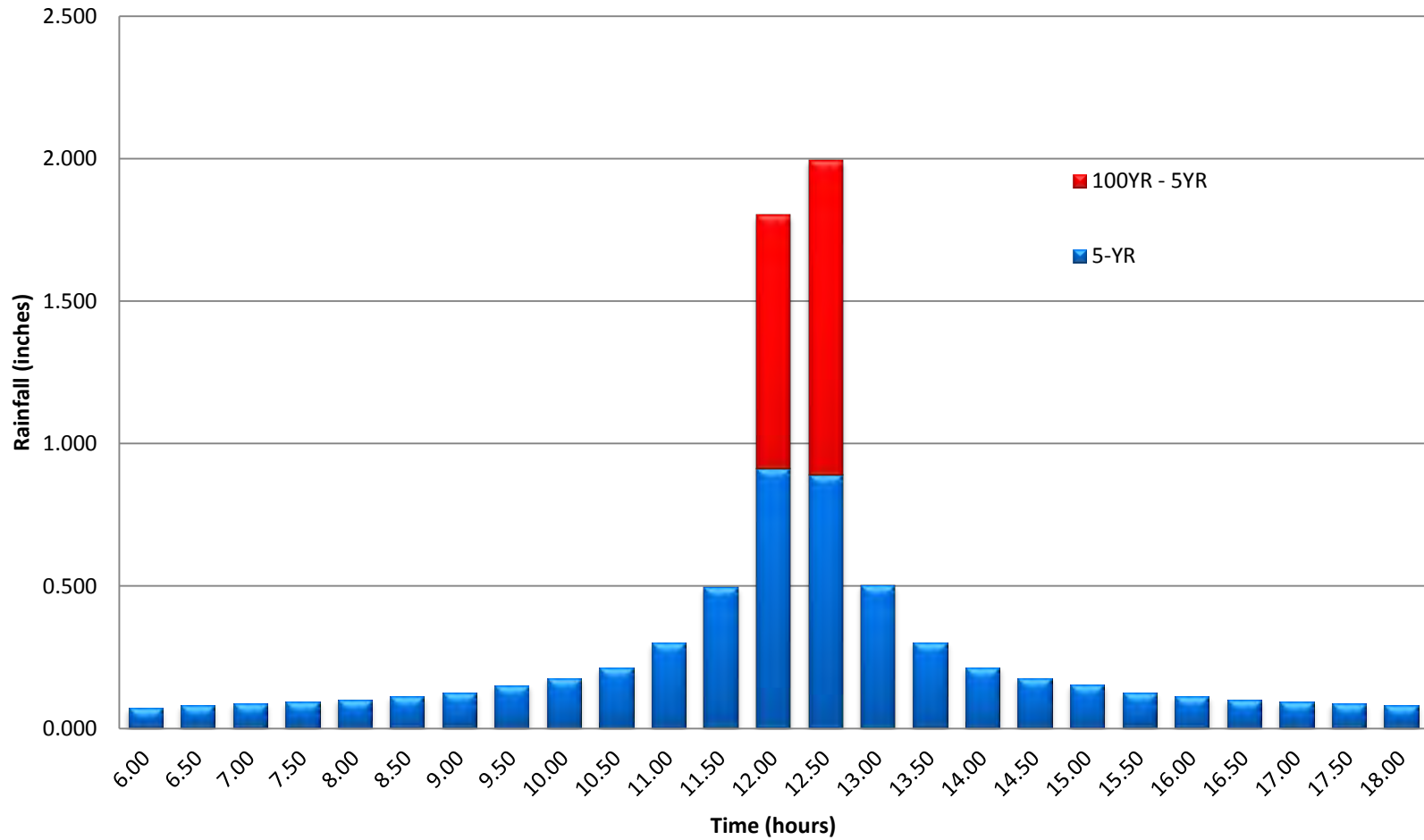


- 50% Longer Time to Peak
- 38% Lower Q

— Overland Tc
 — Storm System Tc

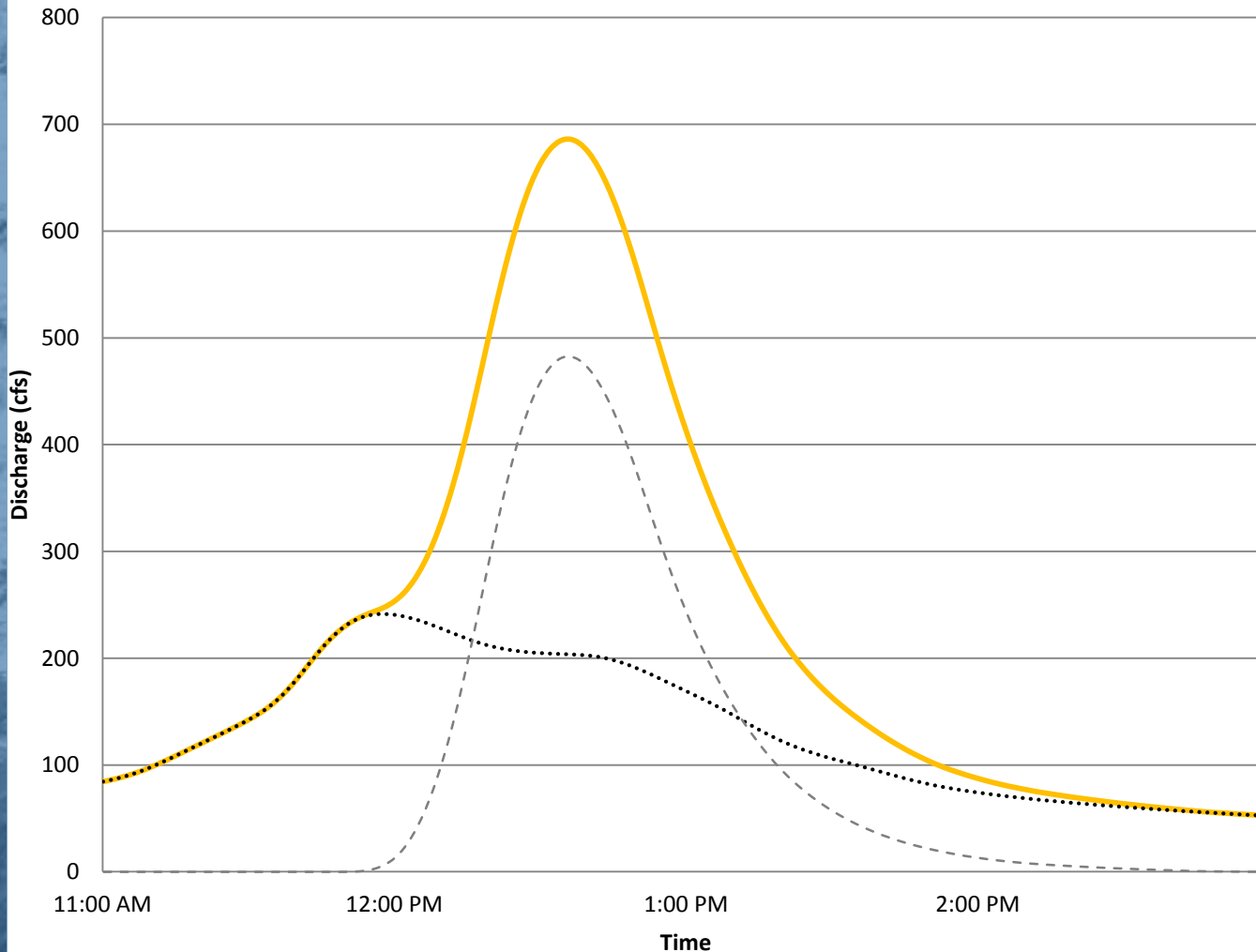
Hyetographs

Sub-basin 7a



Combined Hydrograph

SUB-BASIN 7b 100-YR RESULTING HYDROGRAPH FROM COMBINED T_c

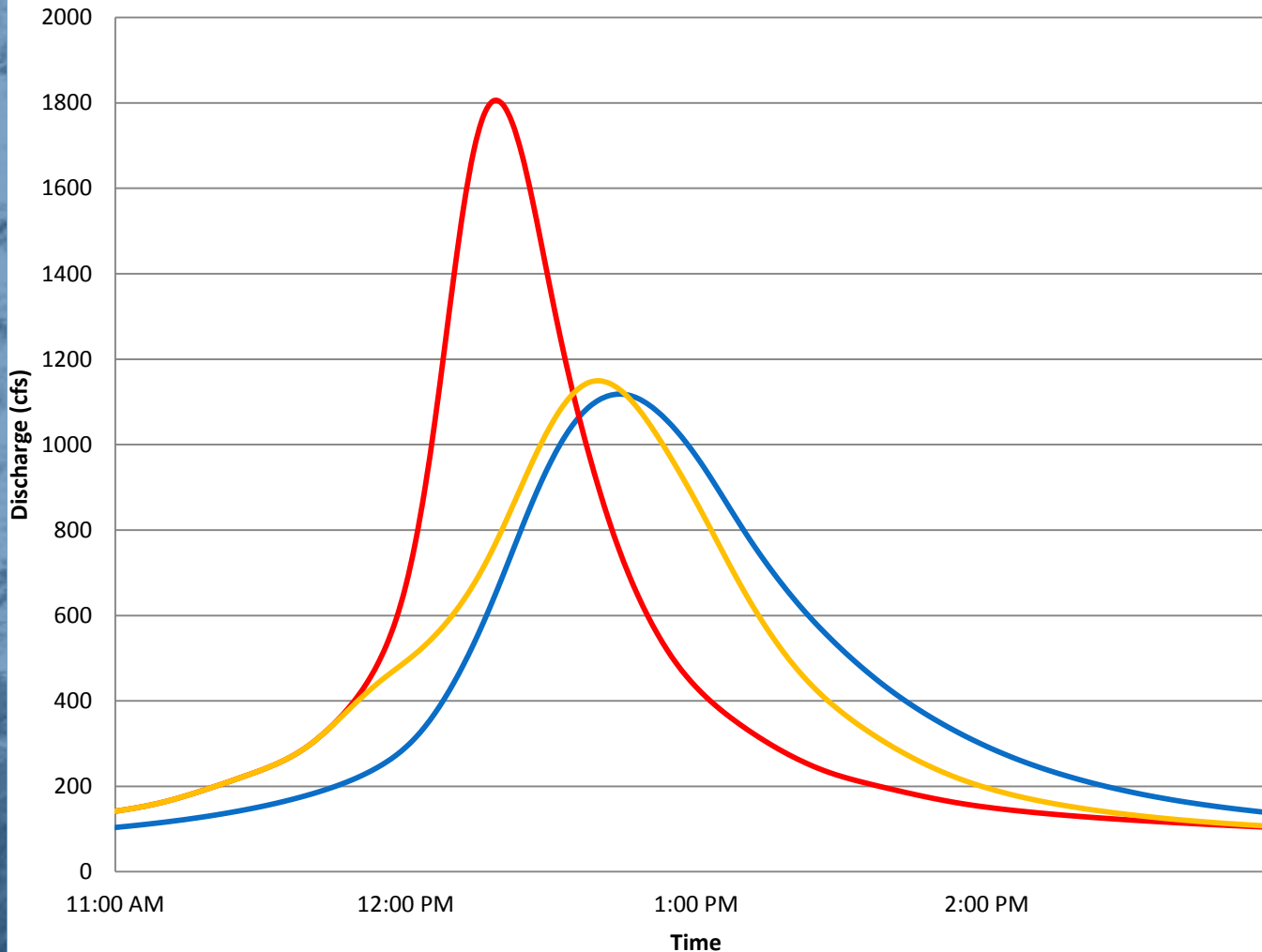


- Double peak hydrograph
- 66" pipe capacity = 250 cfs

— Resulting hydrograph
..... Inflow from pipe
- - - Inflow from overland

Hydrograph Comparison

SUB-BASIN 7a 100-YR HYDROGRAPH COMPARISON

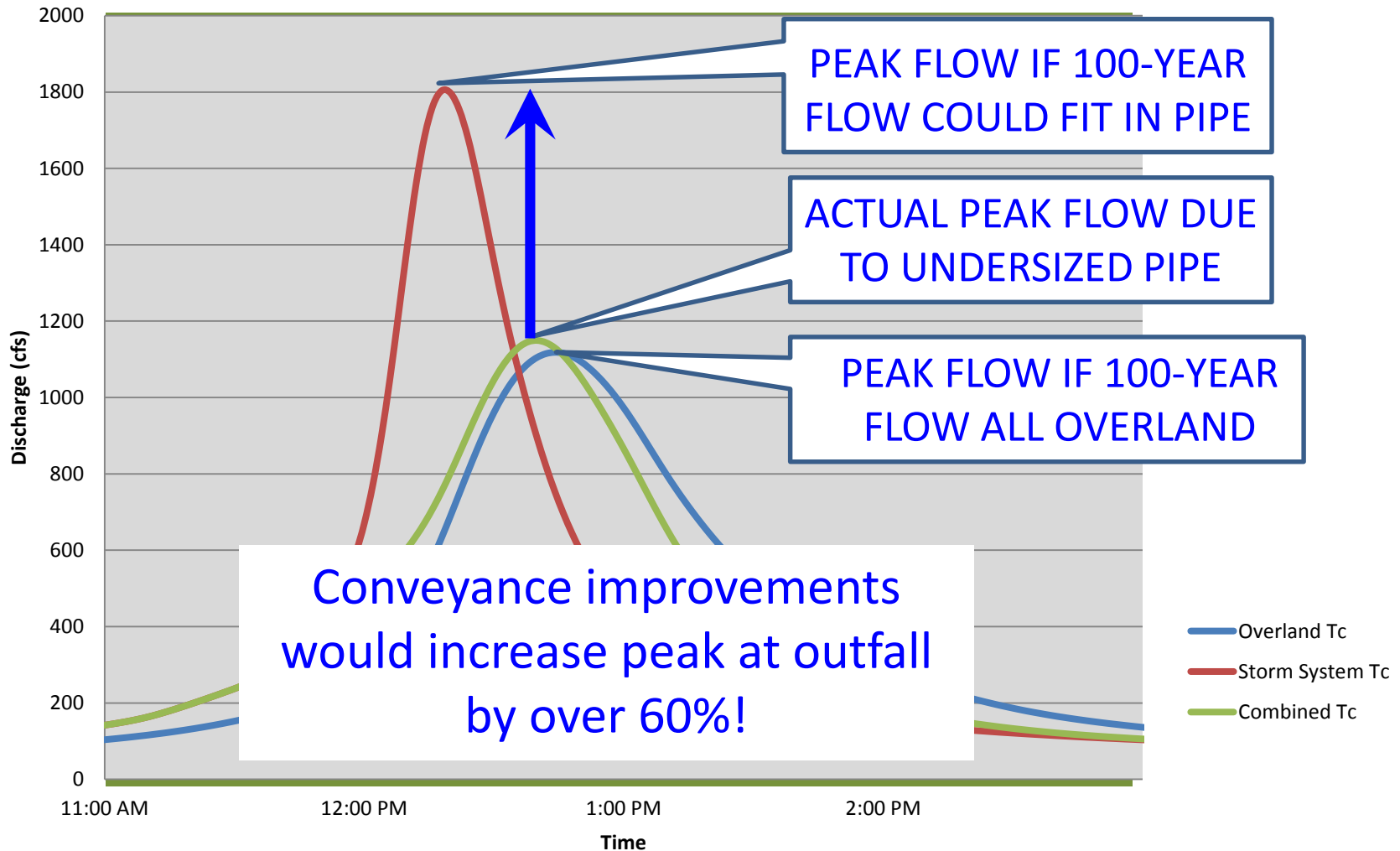


- Similar Time of Peak as Overland
- Q within 1% of overland
- Outfall is an 84" RCP & 36" RCP

— Overland Tc
 — Storm System Tc
 — Combined Tc

Timing Issues: Summary

SUB-BASIN 7a 100-YR HYDROGRAPH COMPARISON



Increased Flooding Downstream



Downstream Impacts?

- Should FEMA floodplain be mapped based on existing storm drain constraints or potential capacity improvements?
- Should capacity improvements be considered an adverse impact?
- How do you prevent future downstream flooding as a policy?

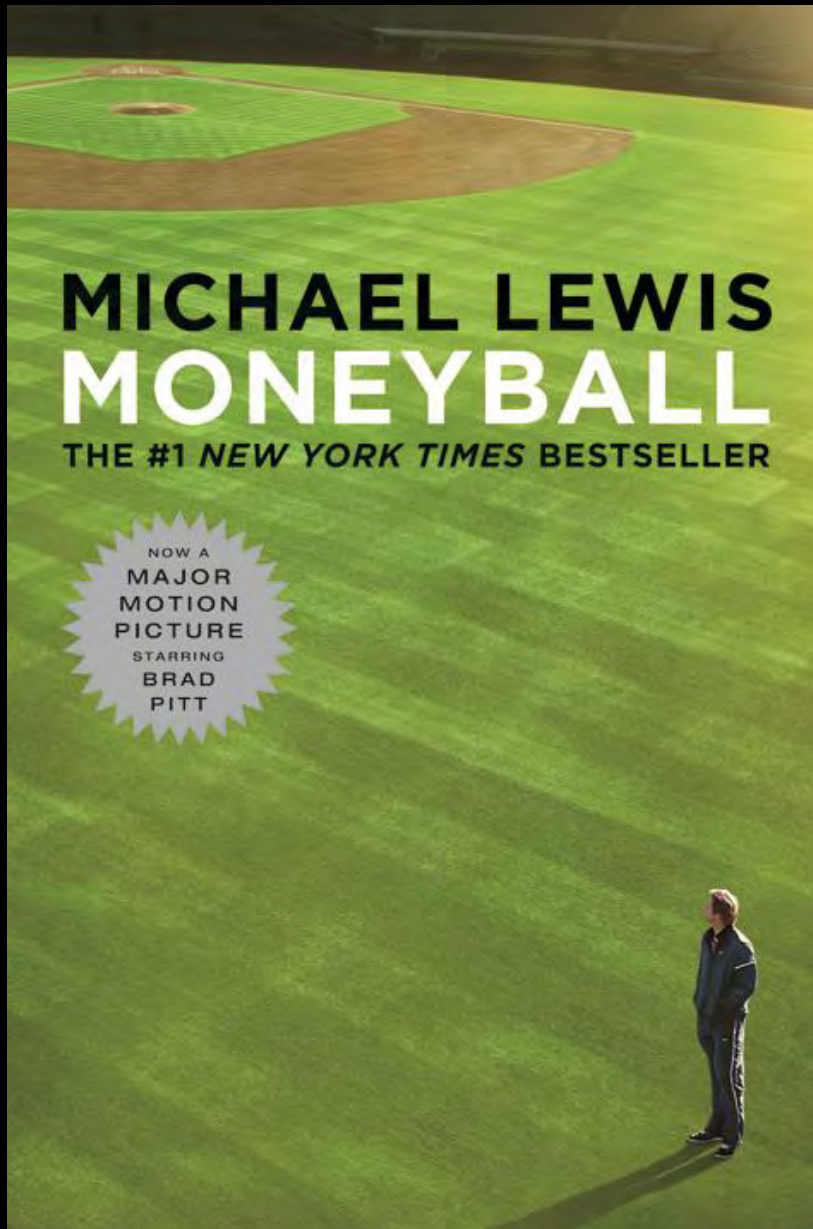
Downstream Impacts Summary

- Flooding upstream caused by undersized pipes reduces flooding downstream.
- Increased conveyance (larger pipes) is likely to move flooding downstream.
- “Managing flooding in place”
 - Detention and related solutions.
 - Downstream impacts are beneficial.



Issues in Urban (Zone X) Flooding

A DIFFERENT PARADIGM



New York Yankees
\$114,457,768
vs
\$39,722,689
Oakland Athletics

How do you compete?

- Challenge the conventional wisdom
- The numbers do not lie

Challenging the conventional wisdom

- Baseball teams have traditionally relied upon scouts who assess players based upon observations, biases, and prejudices
- Process never challenged or validated
- A “good ol’ boy” system
- A lot of bad investments



The numbers do not lie

- Sabremetrics – the search for objective knowledge about baseball
- Coined by Bill James, after Society for American Baseball Research
- Statistical measures to:
 - Question traditional measures of baseball evaluation
 - See true value in players (bargains)
 - Example: OBP >> AVG

Moneyball Example – 2002 A's



- After 2001, lost 3 best players to free agency
- Couldn't afford to replace with "all star" players
- Signed 3 players whose combined OBP equalled Damon and Giambi
- Won Division in 2002
- 20-game winning streak

What does this have to do with flood mitigation?

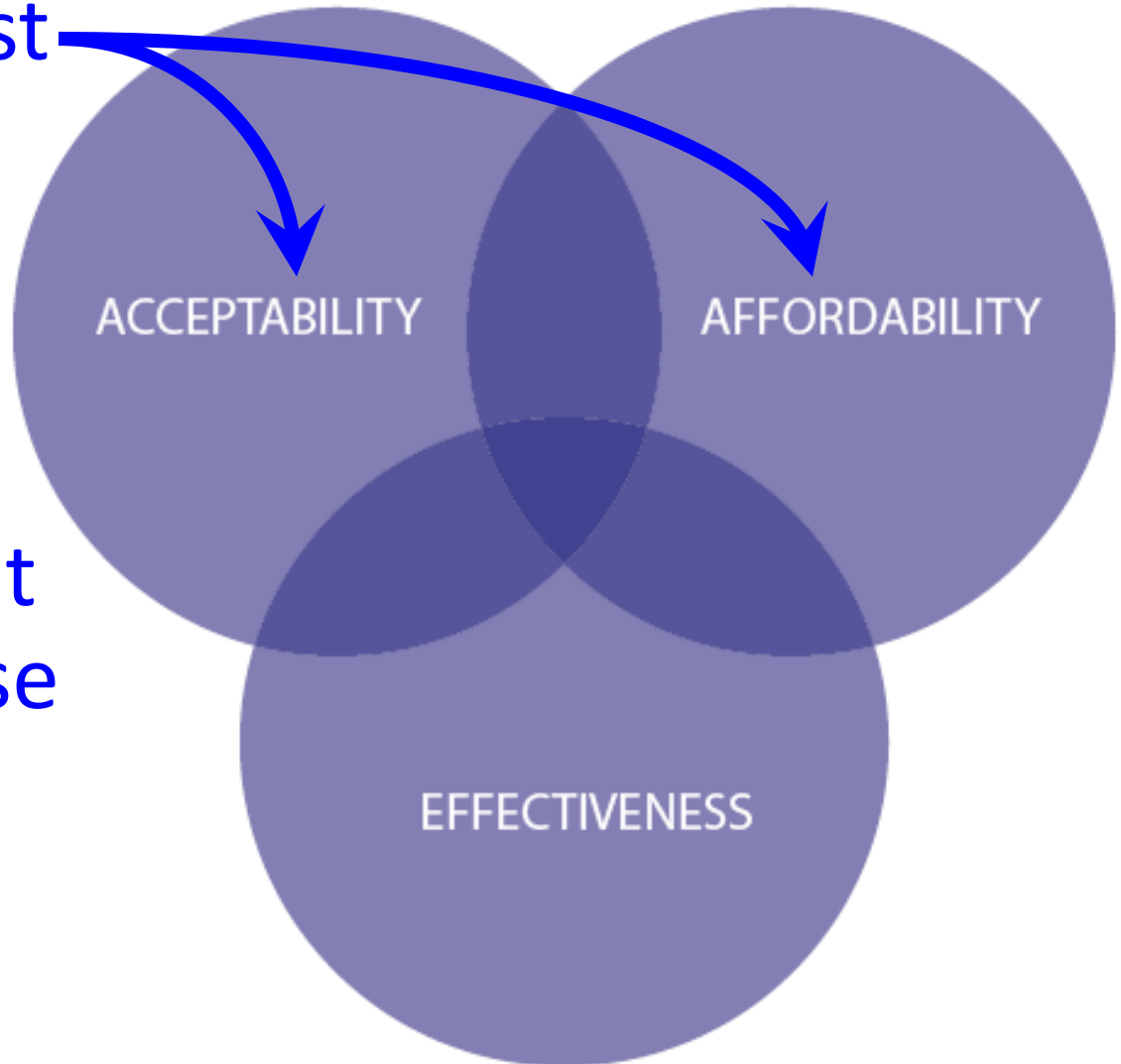
- You are the Oakland A's, not the Yankees!
 - Never enough funding
 - Your fans have high expectations
 - Must compete with higher profile funding expenditures (traffic, police, schools)
- Can we take a “sabremetric” approach to flood mitigation?
- Should we? YES!

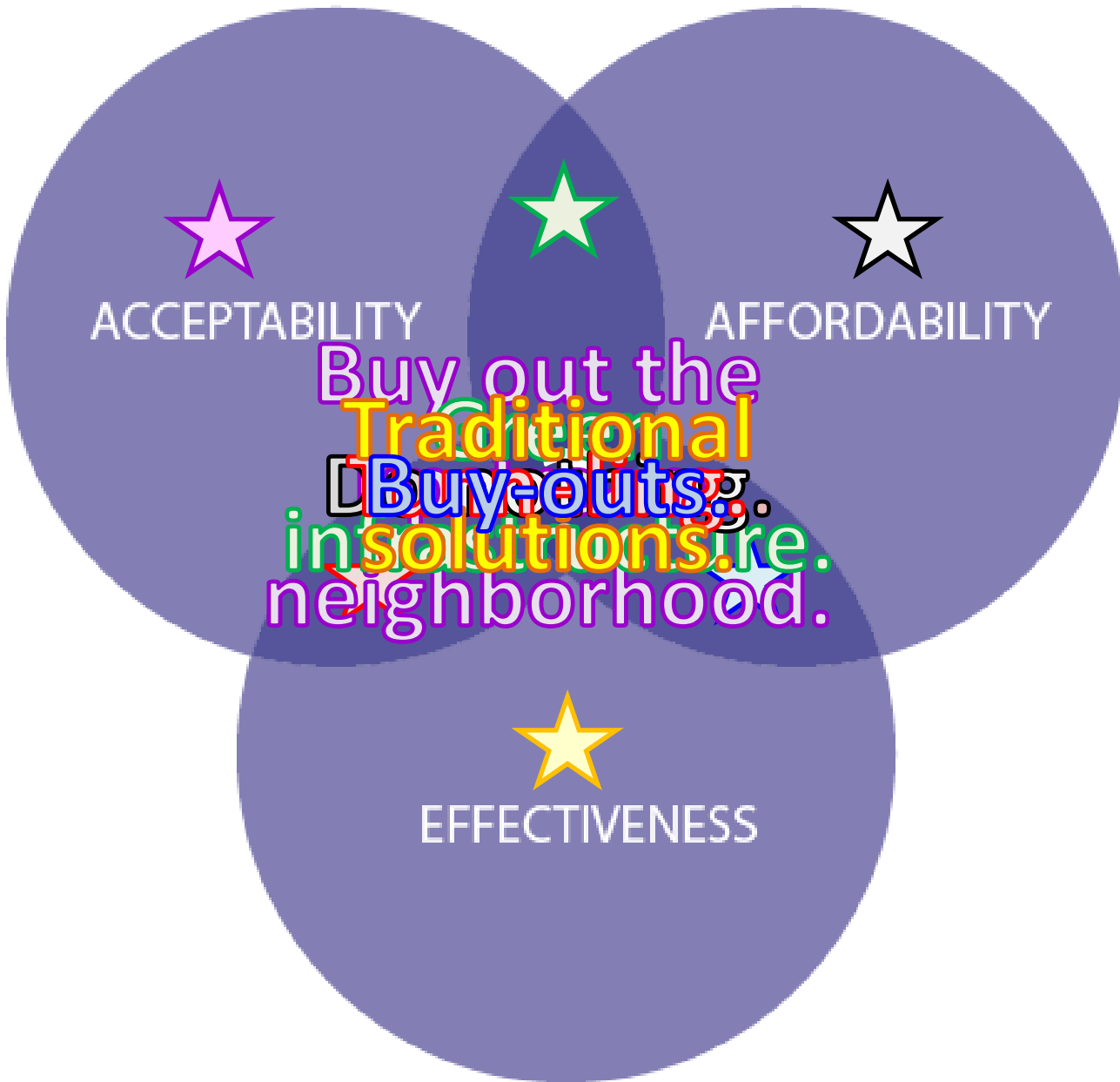
Understanding Risk

- Usually public safety not a major threat
- Zone X: nothing hinders rebuilding
- Chronic flooding vs. periodic flooding
- Manage flooding like other risks in life
- Flood risk management:
 - Avoidance: move out
 - Coping: minor prevention and repair
 - Insurance: limit economic losses

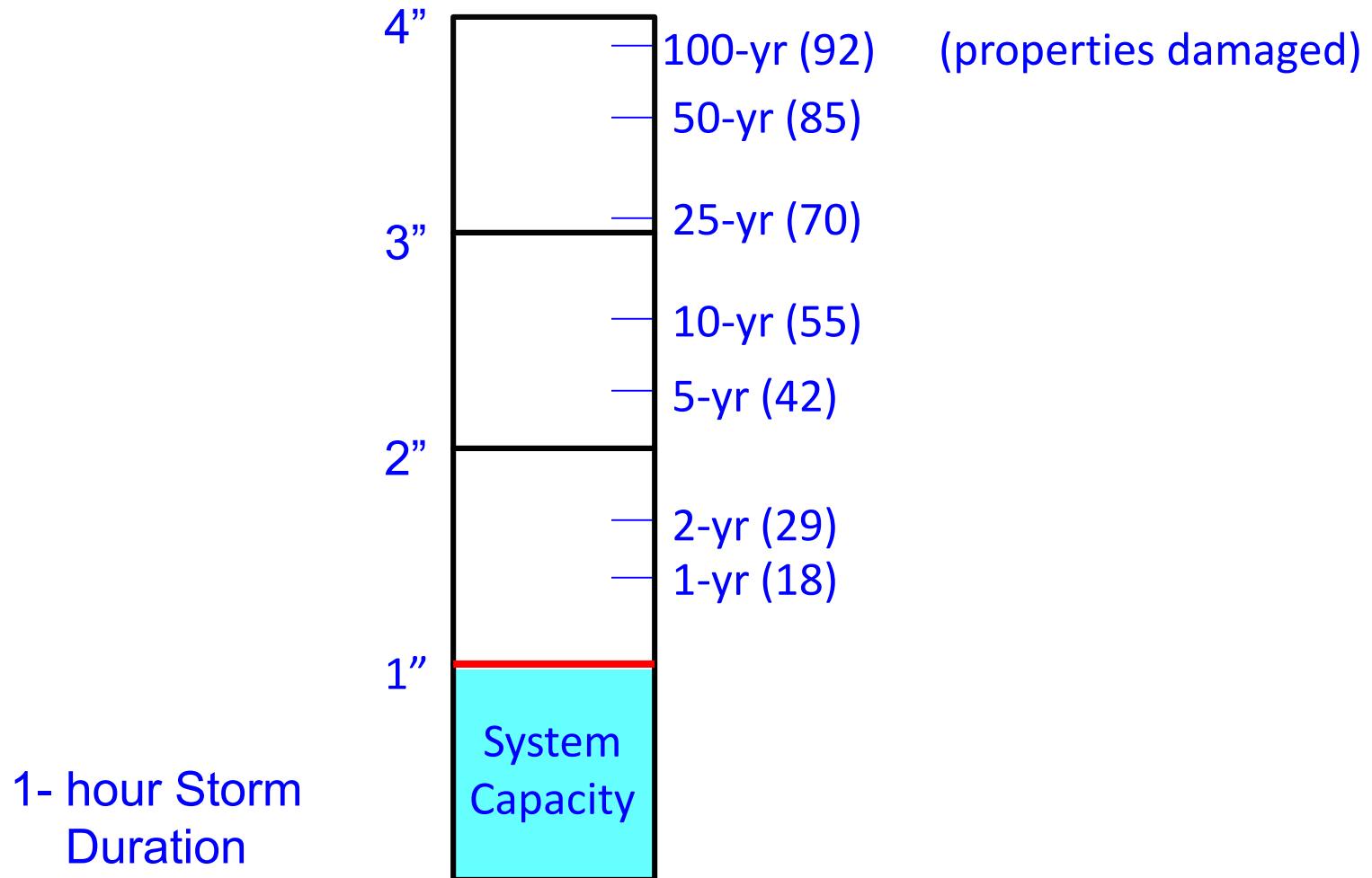
The Challenge

- More than just a technical challenge!
- In most situations we must find a bit of compromise in all three elements.

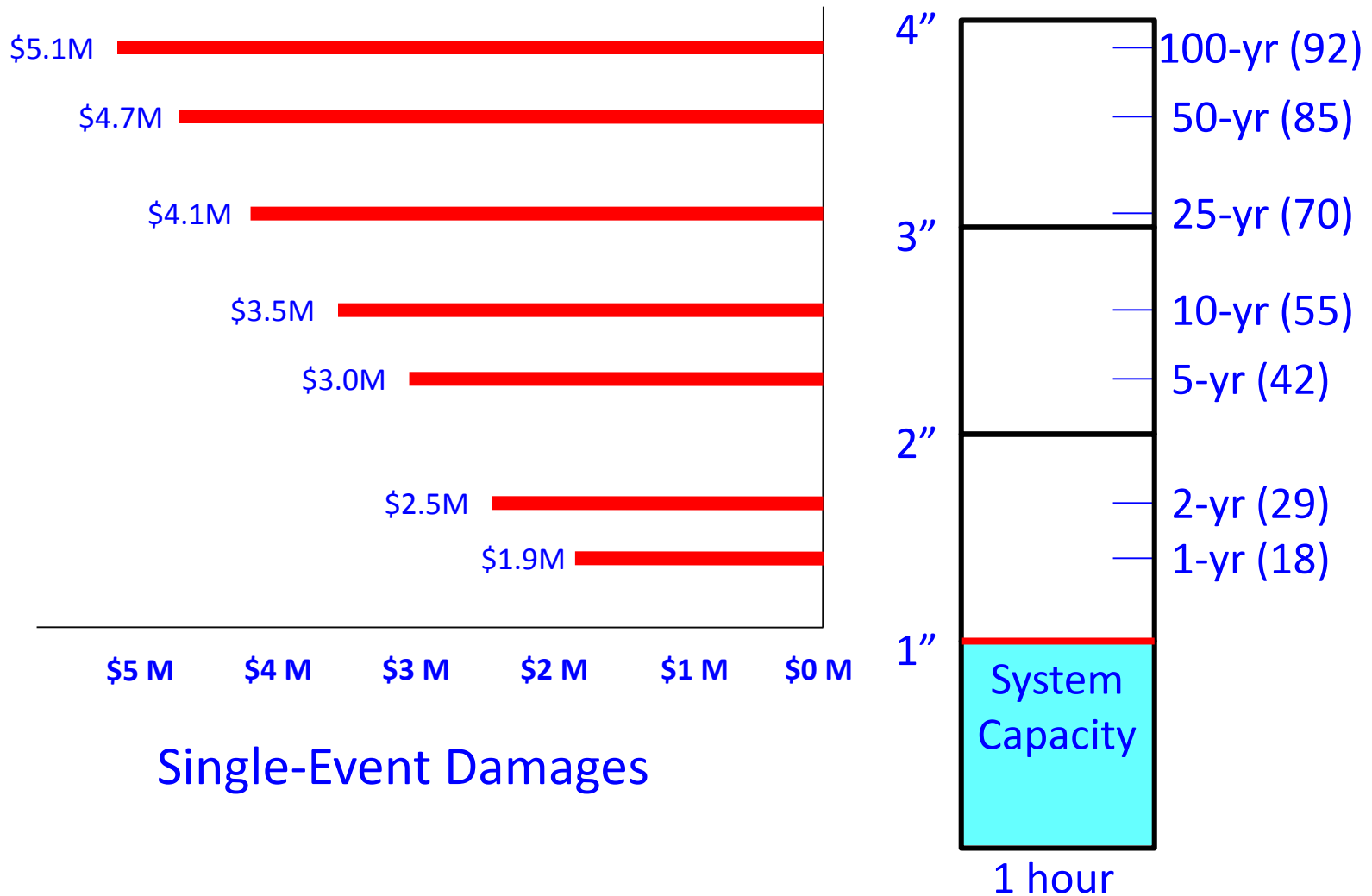




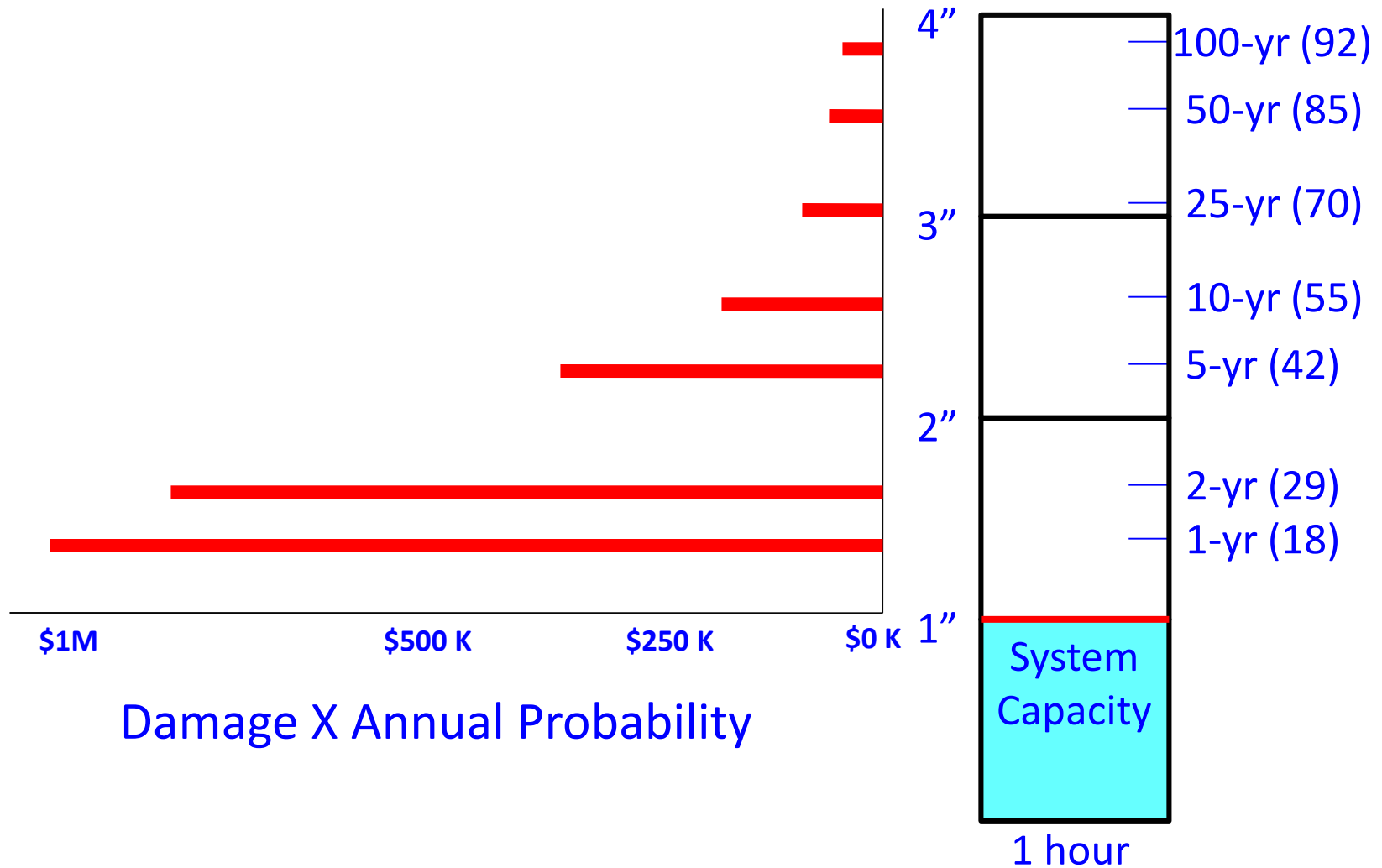
Let's think about a rain gage



What if it rains more than 1"?

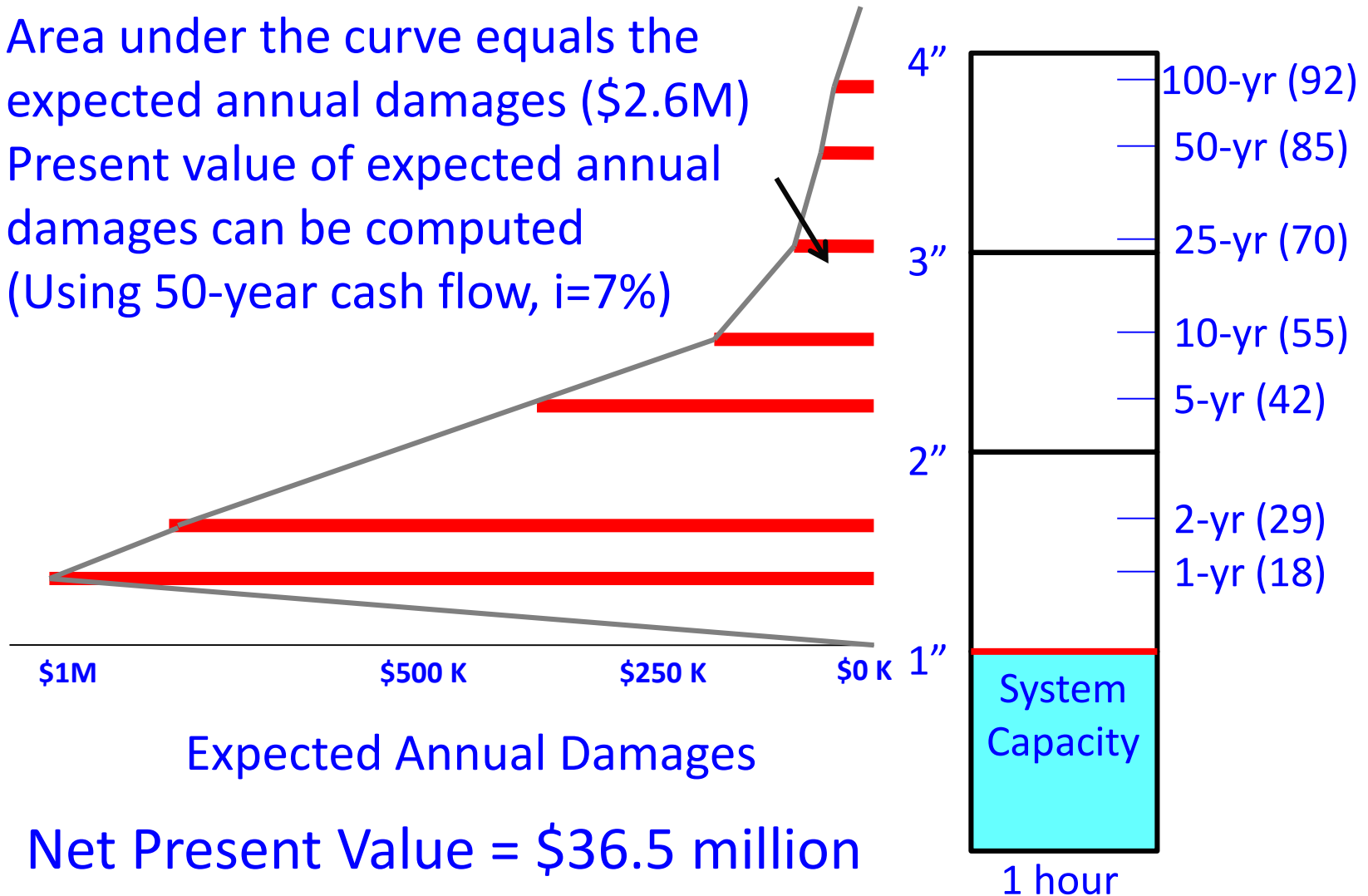


Damage X Annual Probability



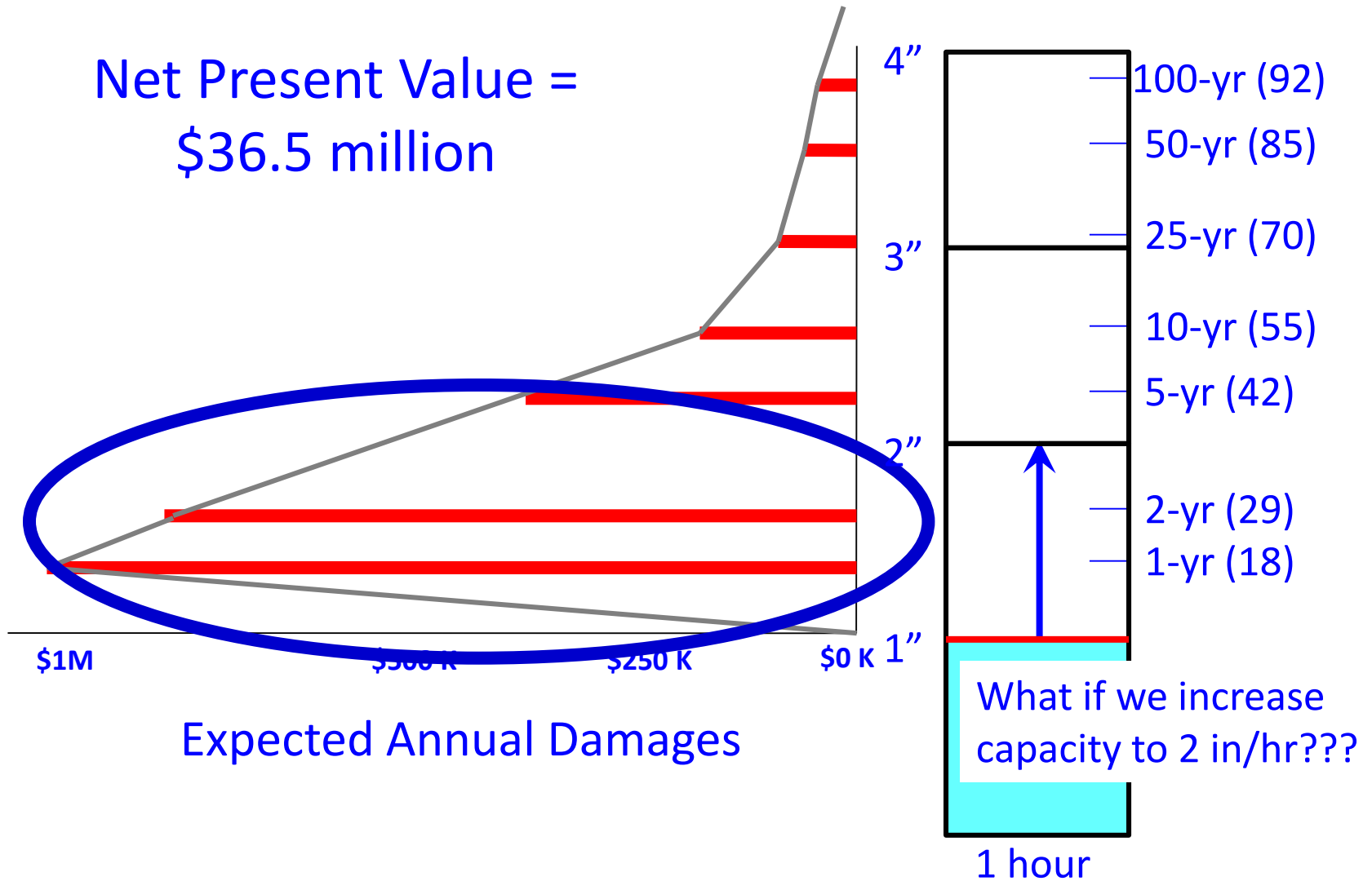
Expected Annual Damage

- Area under the curve equals the expected annual damages (\$2.6M)
- Present value of expected annual damages can be computed (Using 50-year cash flow, $i=7\%$)



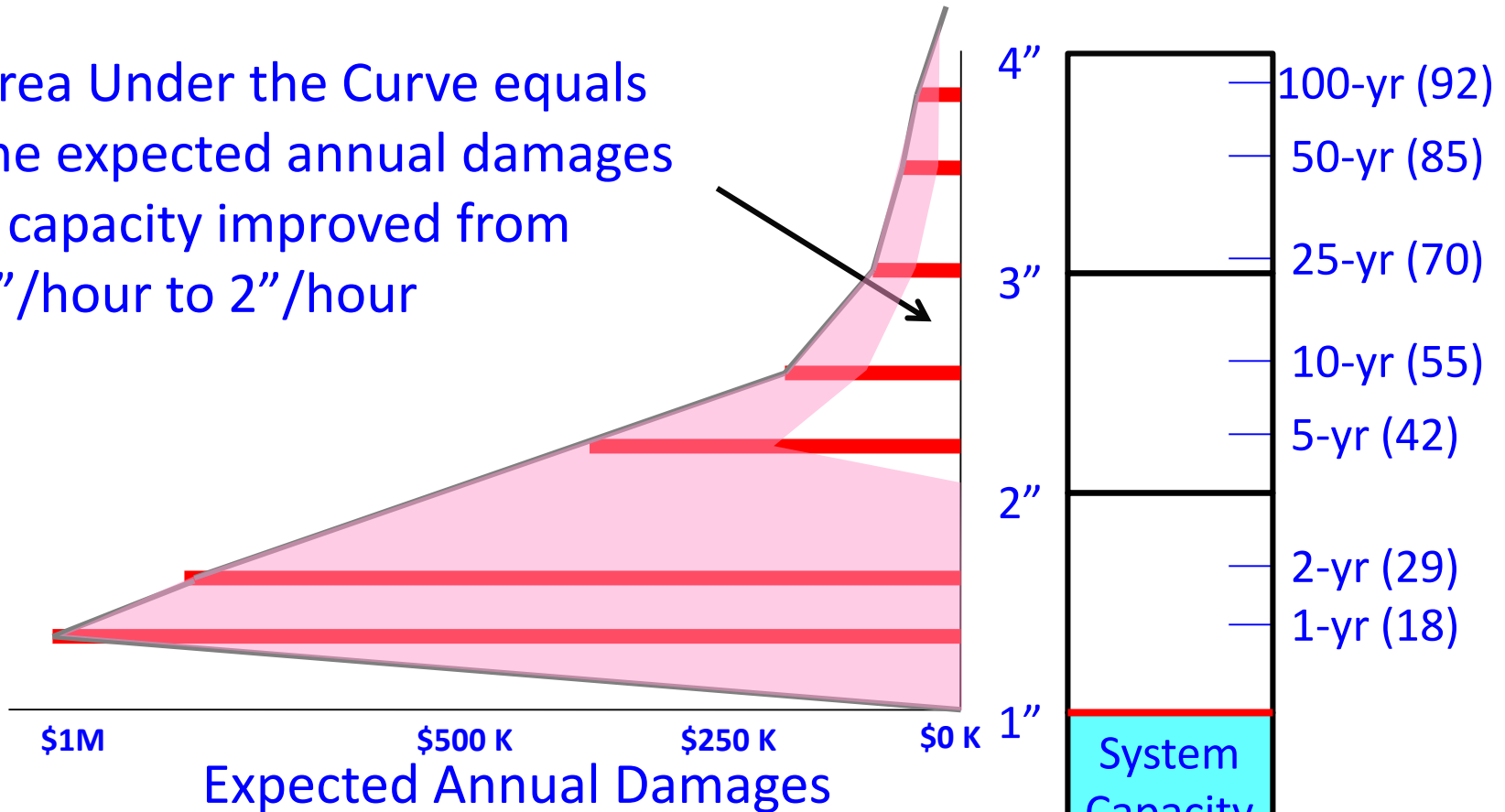
Expected Annual Damage

Net Present Value =
\$36.5 million



Net Present Value of Damages

Area Under the Curve equals the expected annual damages if capacity improved from 1"/hour to 2"/hour



Existing Damages = \$36.5 million
 Residual Damages = \$7.5 million
 Benefit = \$29 million

1 hour

The Challenge of Urban Flooding

MANAGING FLOODING IN PLACE

NOT THIS!

- Historically, detention viewed as fenced-off drainage facility
- Ends up as eyesores and wasted land



Multi-Use Detention

Detention areas can be used for aesthetics and water quality

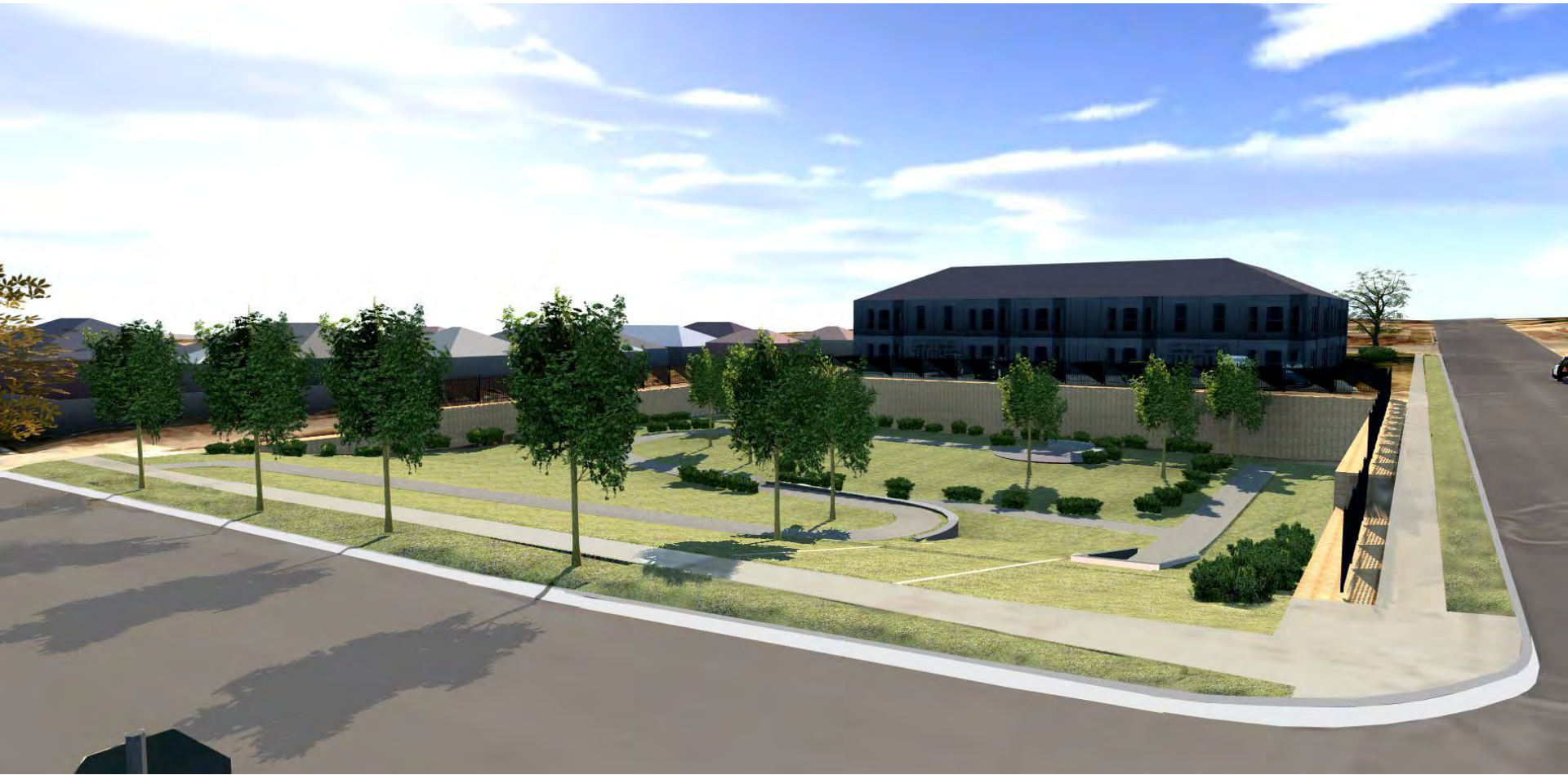


Multi-Use Detention

Detention areas can be used for recreation and open space



Detention Basin—Neighborhood Park



Integrated with Urban Redevelopment



Daylighting Streams



Storm Drain with Overflow Swale



Linear Parks and Greenways



URBAN FLOODING

- Solutions must be **EFFECTIVE, AFFORDABLE & ACCEPTABLE**
- **NO ADVERSE IMPACT** principles require evaluating downstream effects
- **INCREMENTAL** improvements may be the only cost-effective option
- **MANAGING FLOODING IN PLACE** is likely to be most feasible solution

URBAN FLOODING

- It is receiving more attention.
- Handled differently than riverine flooding.
- Hydrodynamic modeling and citizen videos provide a better understanding.
- Major issues:
 - How to map it
 - How to enforce it
 - Who should regulate it

The Challenge of Urban Flooding

QUESTIONS?

City of Fort Worth
TPW Stormwater
Major Capital Projects

Steven E. Eubanks, P.E., CFM

Major Projects

1. Central Arlington Heights

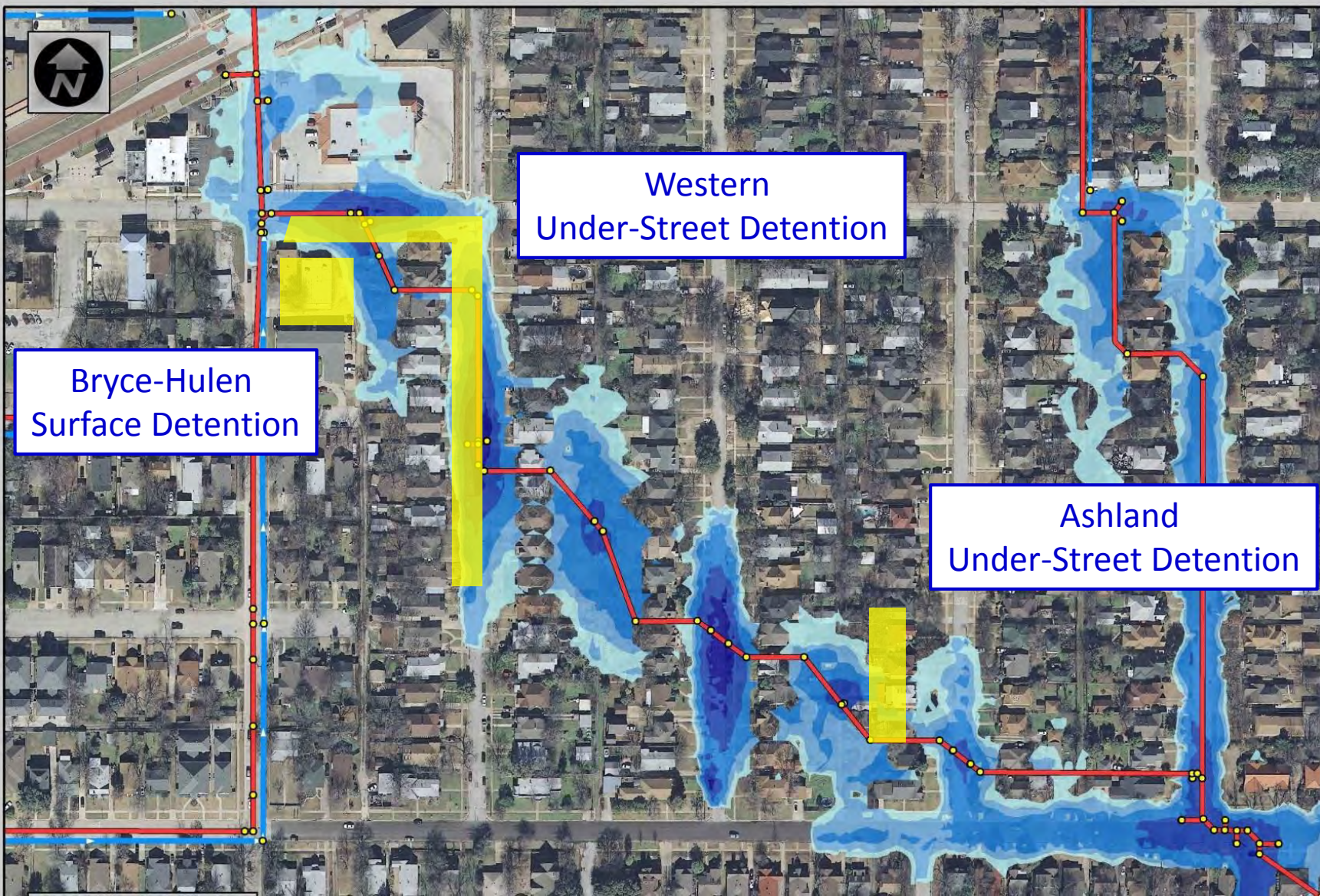
June 28, 2004 – Central Arlington Heights



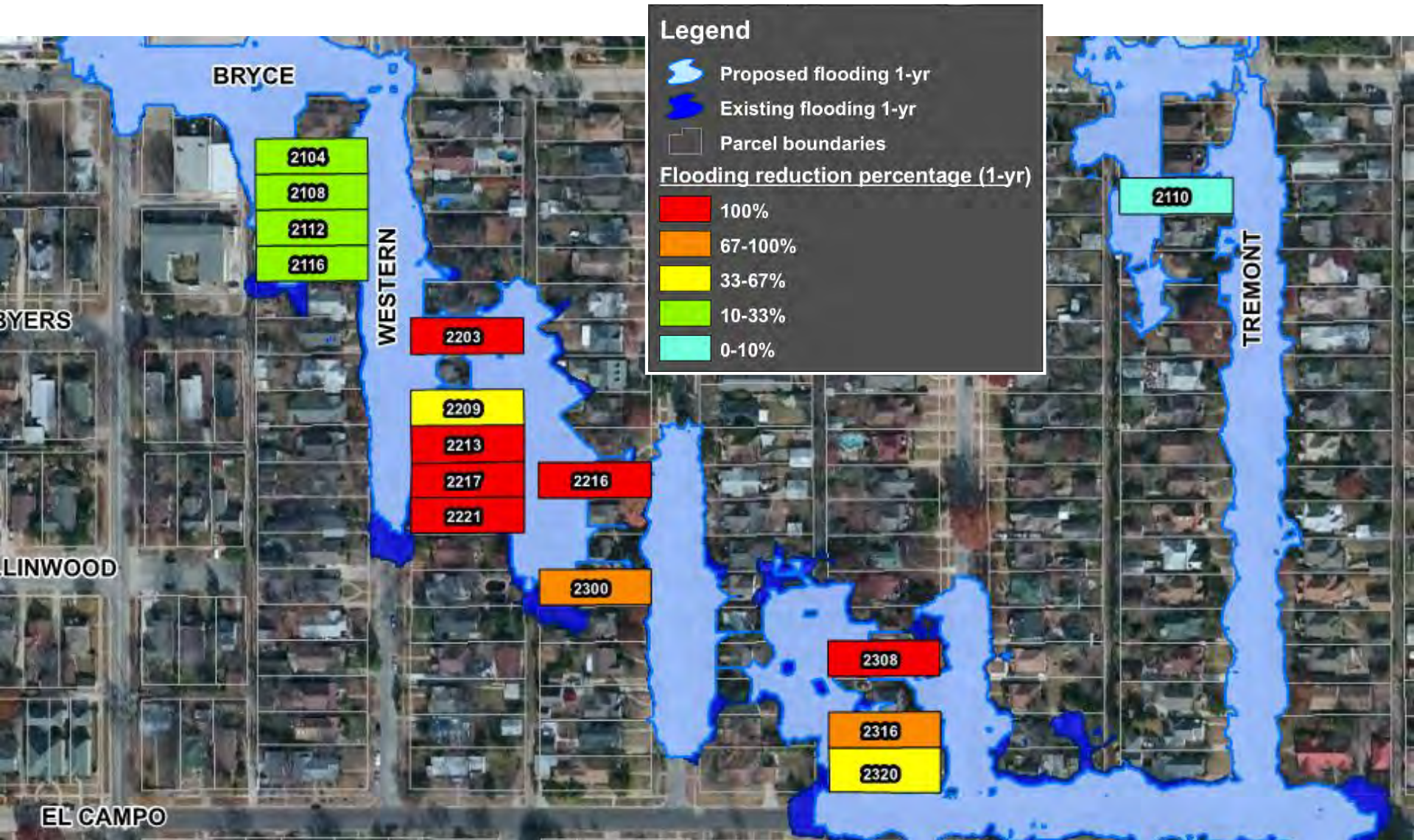
Central Arlington Heights



Proposed Under-Street Detention



Modeled Flood Reduction



BCA for Planned Detention Projects

	Damages	Cumulative Benefits	Cumulative Cost	Cumulative BCR
Existing Conditions	\$ 36,503,254	--	--	--
Ashland Detention	\$ 35,220,075	\$ 1,283,180	\$ 975,000	1.32
Ashland Detention + Western Detention	\$ 32,332,898	\$ 4,170,356	\$ 3,177,284	1.31
Ashland Detention + Western Detention + Hulen/Bryce Detention	\$ 30,759,546	\$ 5,743,708	\$ 4,084,284	1.41



Worker in safety gear

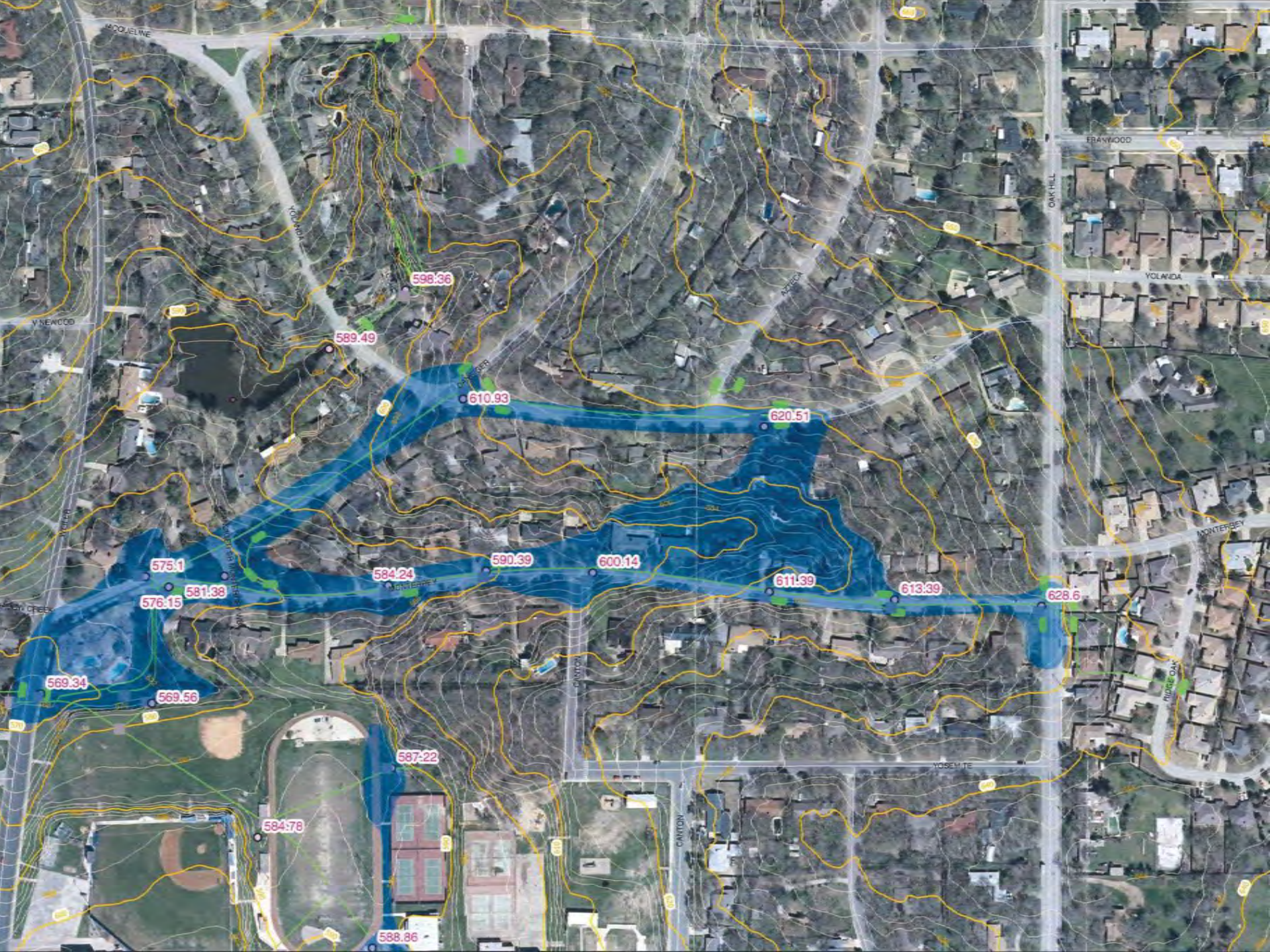
Woody
CRIST

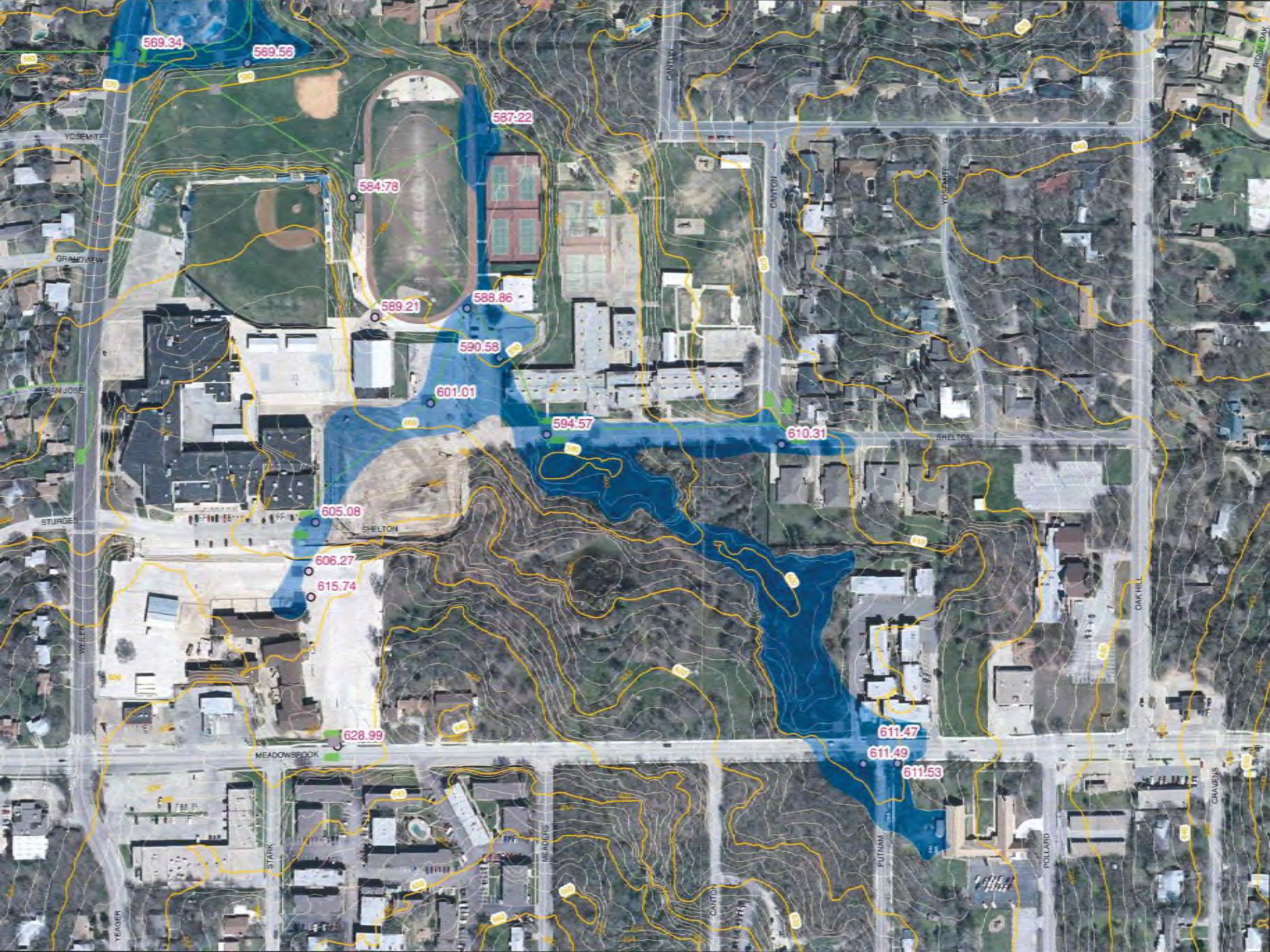
KOMATSU



Major Projects

1. Central Arlington Heights
- 2. Eastern Hills**







North Weiler Extension

Jacqueline Inlets

Pond Improvements

New Outlet

Yolanda/Danciger Improvements

Shadow Creek Box Culvert

Improve Monterrey

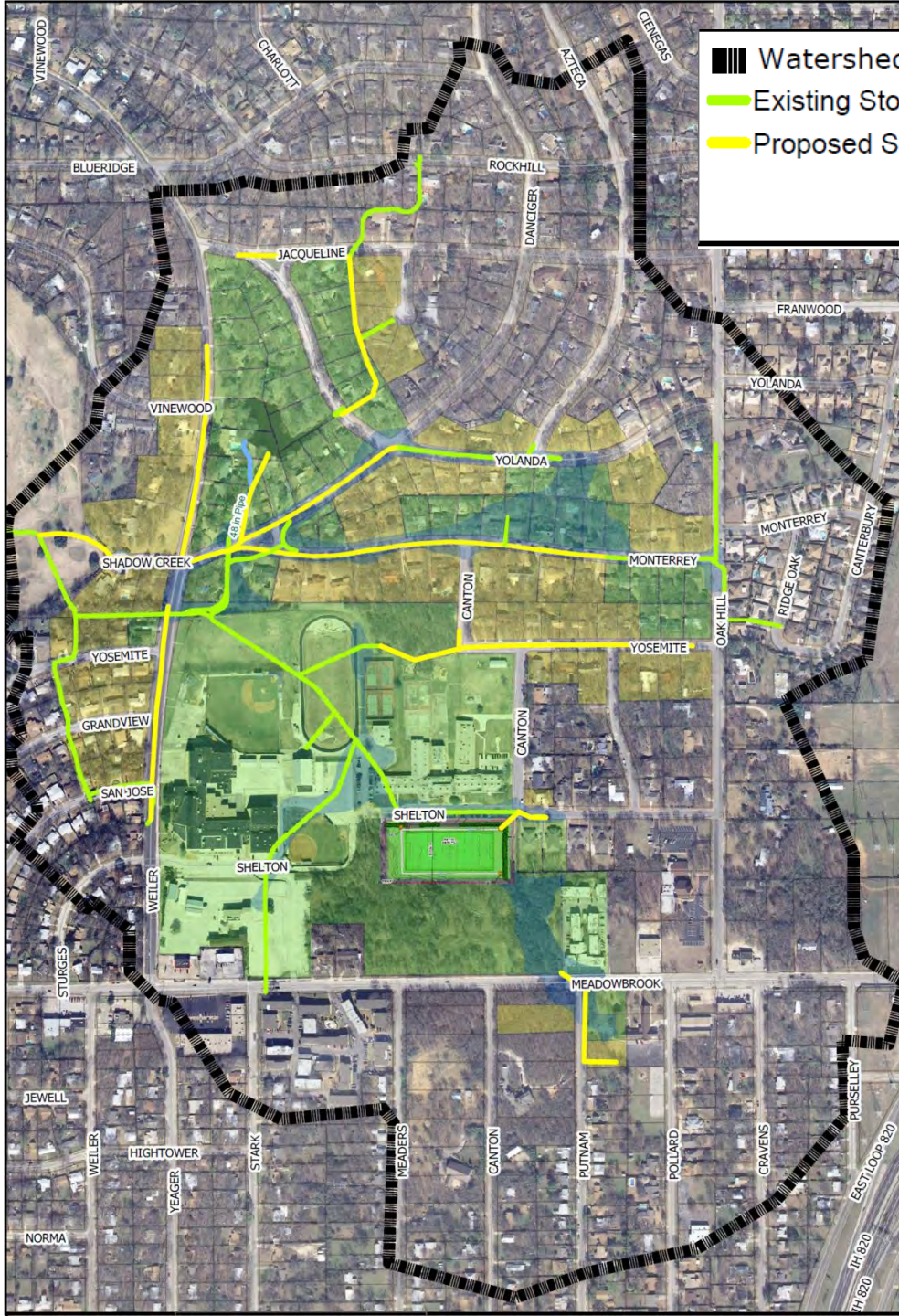
Yosemite Extension

South Weiler Extension

Shelton Inlets

Proposed Multi-Use Detention Basin

Putnam And Meadowbrook Improvements



Watershed Boundary
 Existing Storm Drain Lines
 Proposed Storm Drain Lines

55	Res	Com
54	82	5
	82	0

1 inch equals 350 feet

CITY OF FORT WORTH
2004 CIP
WATERSHED PLANNING
STUDY

EASTERN HILLS
DRAINAGE SYSTEM

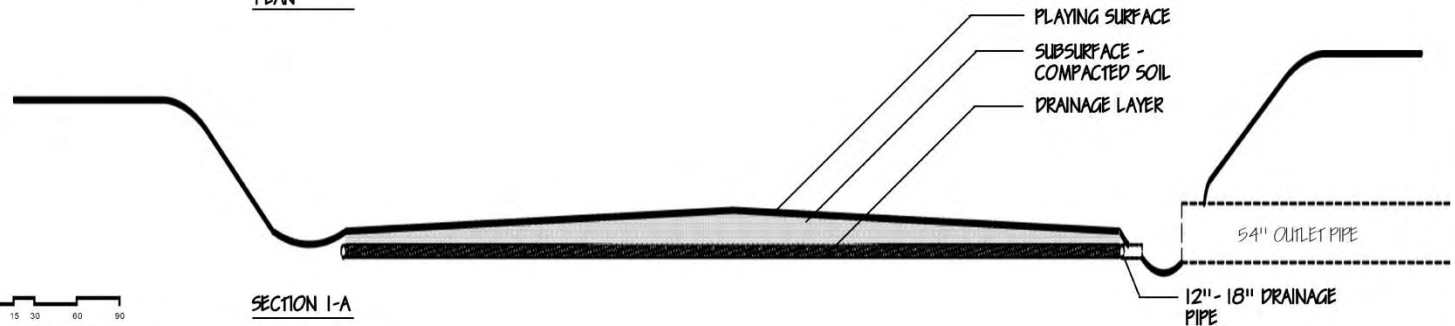
PROPOSED
MULTI-PURPOSE
STORM WATER
DETENTION POND

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- REDUCED FLOODING
DOWNSTREAM
- IMPROVED STORM WATER
QUALITY
- MULTI-SPORT ATHLETIC FIELD



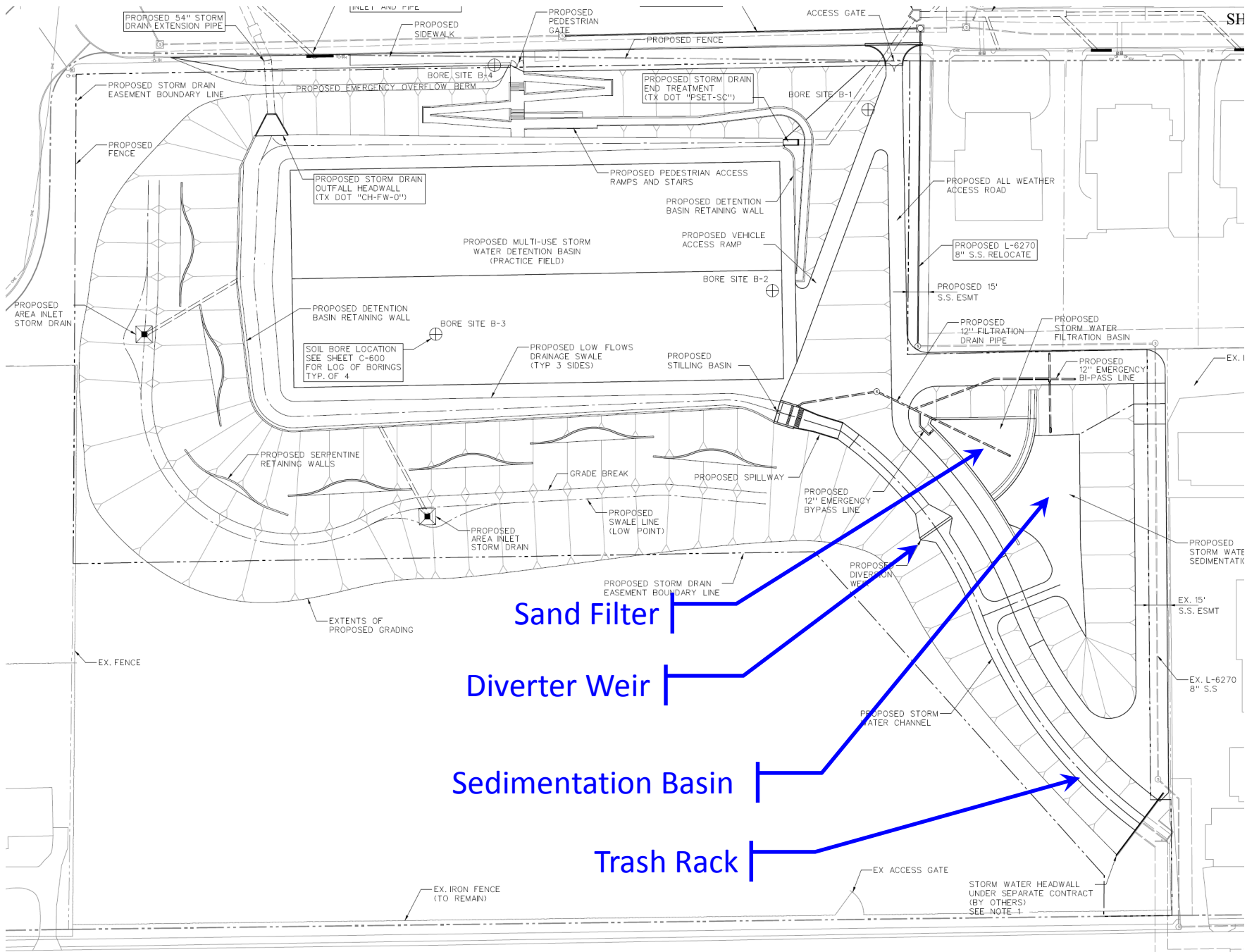
PLAN



SECTION I-A

CFW-FWISD Master Agreement

- FWISD grants easement at no cost
- City installs basin and some amenities: lighting, planting, irrigation, access, etc.
- City installs water quality features to keep trash from washing into basin
- Routine maintenance by FWISD
- WQ maintenance & major repairs by City

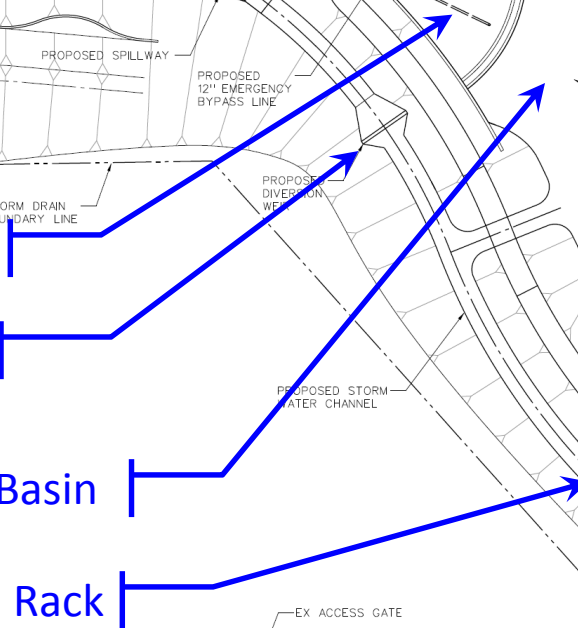


Sand Filter

Diverter Weir

Sedimentation Basin

Trash Rack



STORM WATER HEADWALL UNDER SEPARATE CONTRACT (BY OTHERS) SEE NOTE 1













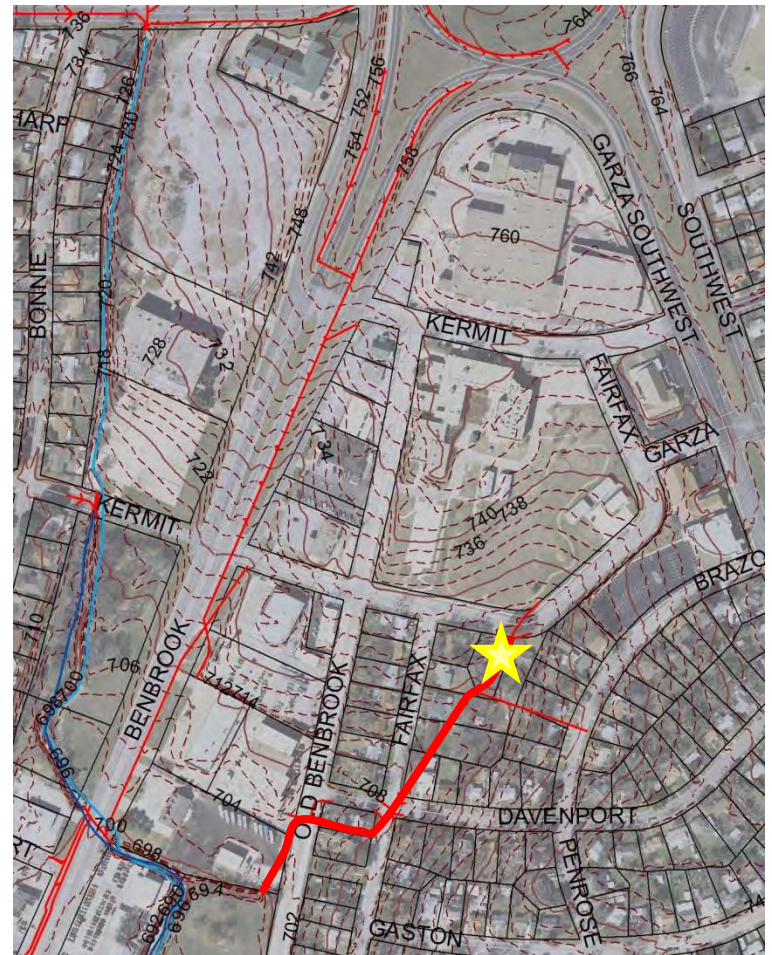


Major Projects

1. Central Arlington Heights
2. Eastern Hills
- 3. Luella Merrett**

Luella Merrett Detention Basin

- Flooding due to small pipe at mid-block sump
- Lots of impervious area in watershed
- Pipe capacity improvements \$2 million +



Luella Merrett Detention Basin

- Sloping play field at school suitable for detention
- Principal liked idea because of success of Eastern Hills











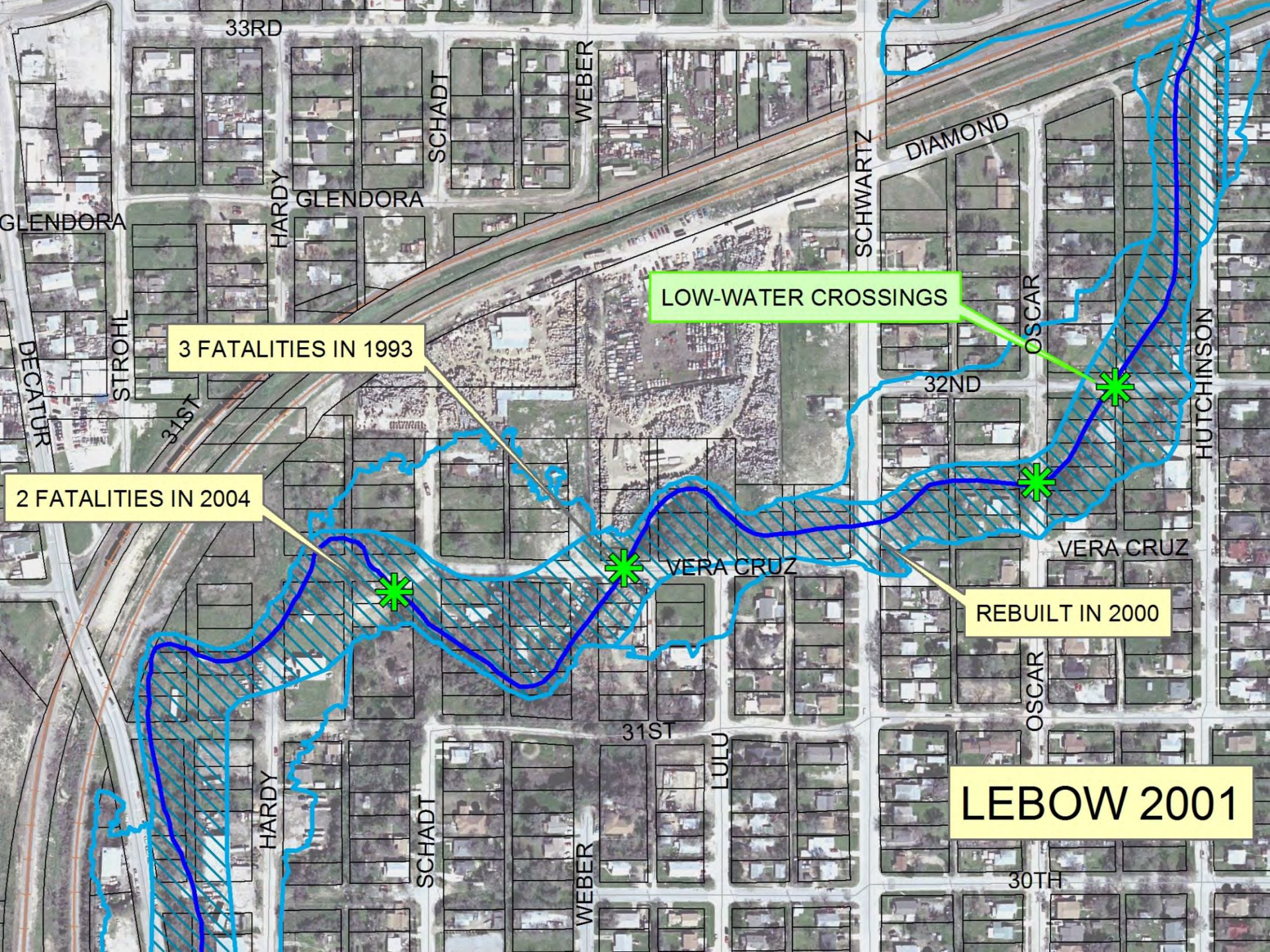


Major Projects

1. Central Arlington Heights
2. Eastern Hills
3. Luella Merrett
4. **Lebow Channel**



Lebow Low-Water Crossings



3 FATALITIES IN 1993

2 FATALITIES IN 2004

LOW-WATER CROSSINGS

REBUILT IN 2000

LEBOW 2001

33RD

SCHADT

WEBER

SCHWARTZ

DIAMOND

GLENDORA

HARDY

OSCAR

32ND

HUTCHINSON

DECATUR

STROHL

31ST

VERA CRUZ

VERA CRUZ

VERA CRUZ

VERA CRUZ

31ST

LULU

OSCAR

HARDY

SCHADT

WEBER

30TH

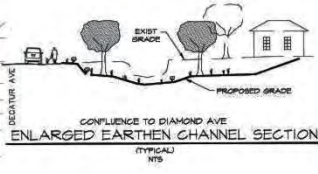
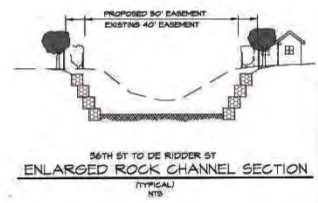
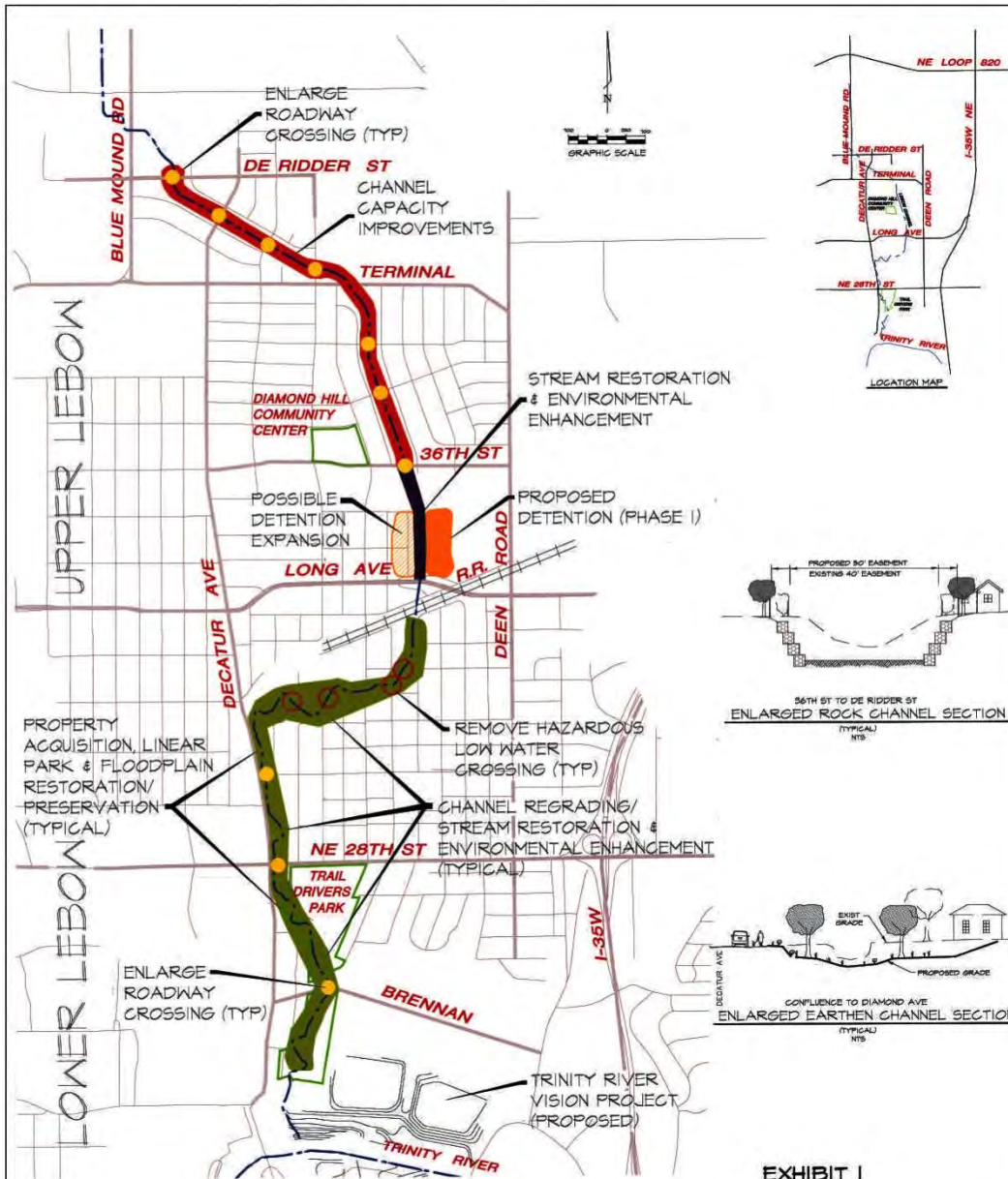


EXHIBIT I

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENT PLAN
FOR THE LEBOW WATERSHED

CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS

DECEMBER 8, 2006





BLUE MOUND RD

ENLARGE ROADWAY CROSSING (TYP)

DE RIDDER ST

CHANNEL CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS

TERMINAL

DIAMOND HILL COMMUNITY CENTER

36TH ST

POSSIBLE DETENTION EXPANSION

STREAM RESTORATION & ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT

PROPOSED DETENTION (PHASE I)

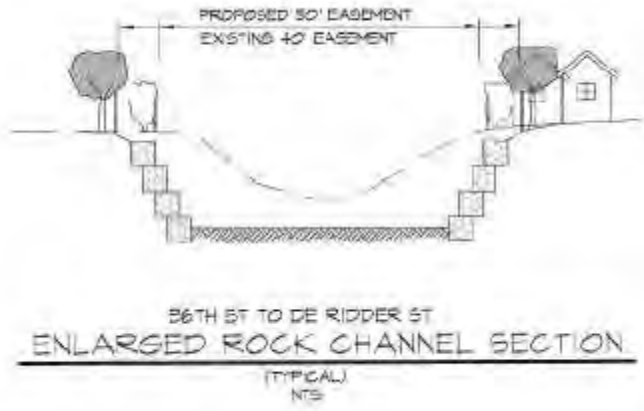
LONG AVE

RR ROAD

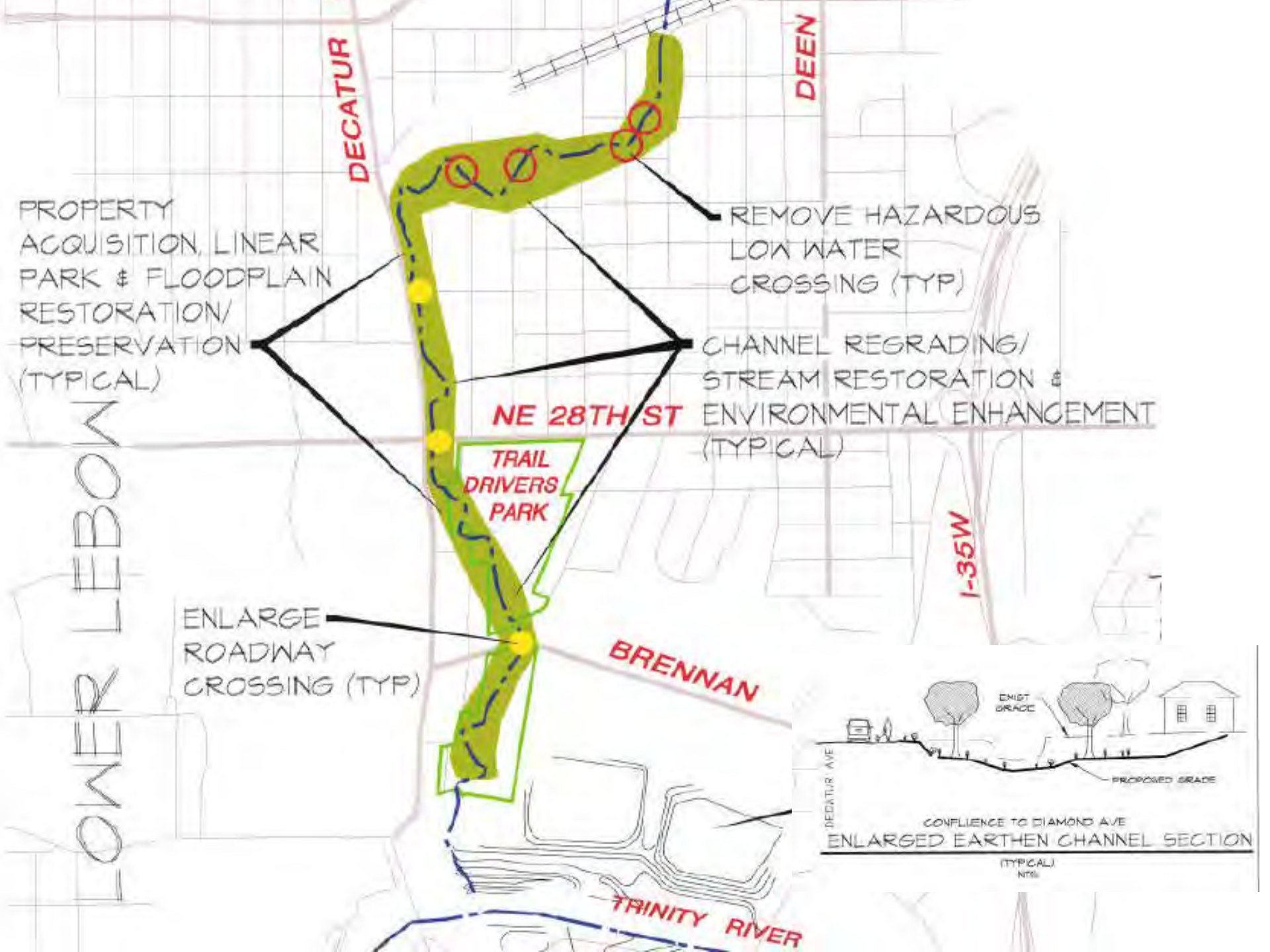
UPPER LEBOW

R AVE

EN



56TH ST TO DE RIDDER ST ENLARGED ROCK CHANNEL SECTION (TYPICAL) NTS



DECATUR

DEEN

PROPERTY ACQUISITION, LINEAR PARK & FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION/PRESERVATION (TYPICAL)

REMOVE HAZARDOUS LOW WATER CROSSING (TYP)

CHANNEL REGRADING/ STREAM RESTORATION & ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT (TYPICAL)

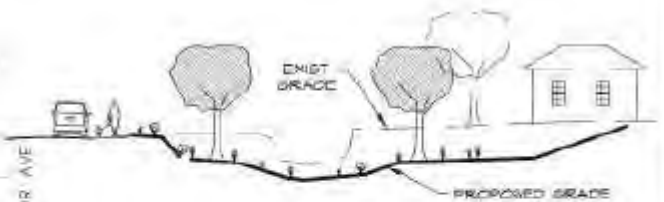
NE 28TH ST

TRAIL DRIVERS PARK

I-35W

ENLARGE ROADWAY CROSSING (TYP)

BRENNAN

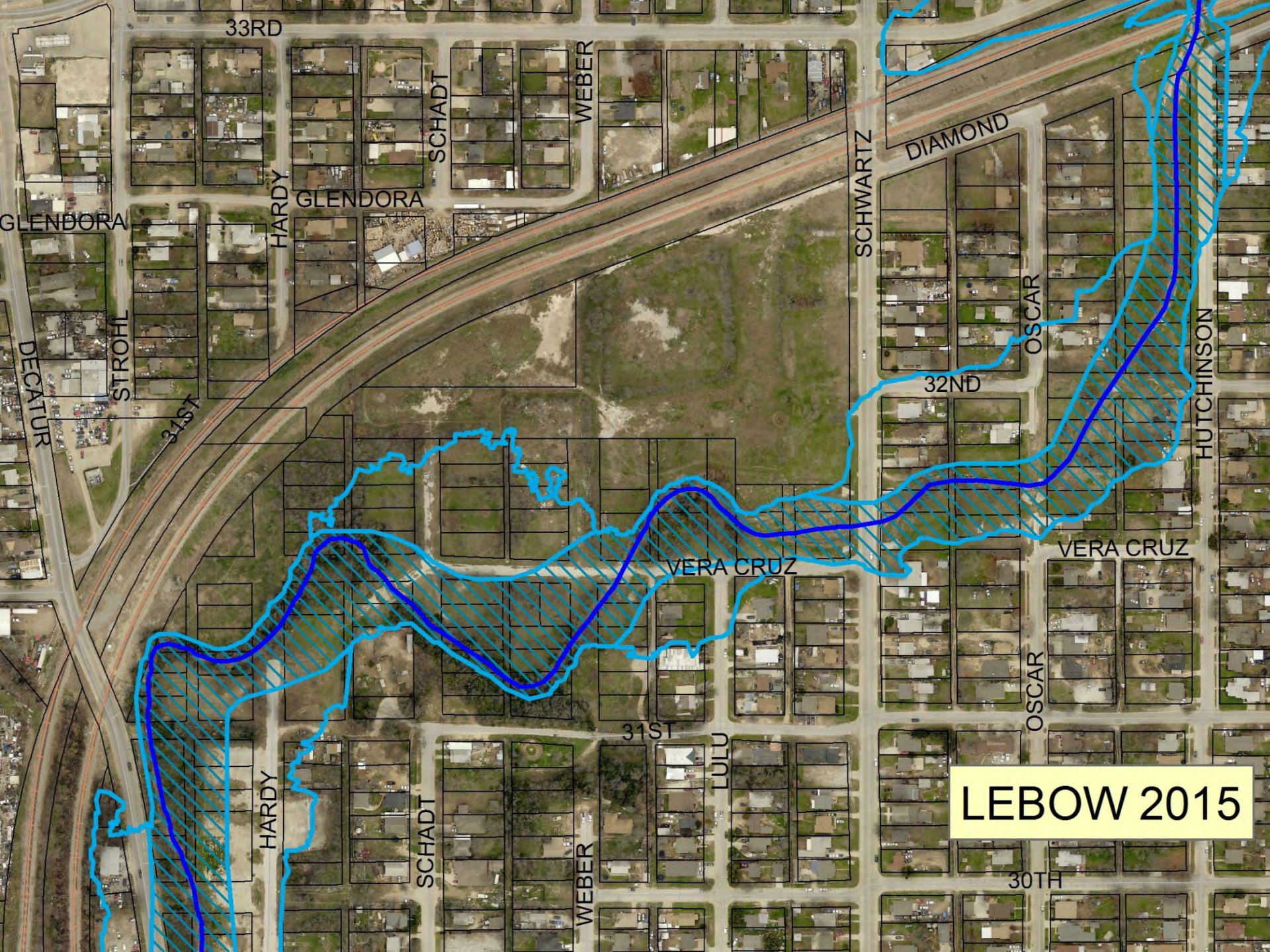


CONFLUENCE TO DIAMOND AVE ENLARGED EARTHEN CHANNEL SECTION

(TYPICAL) (NTS)

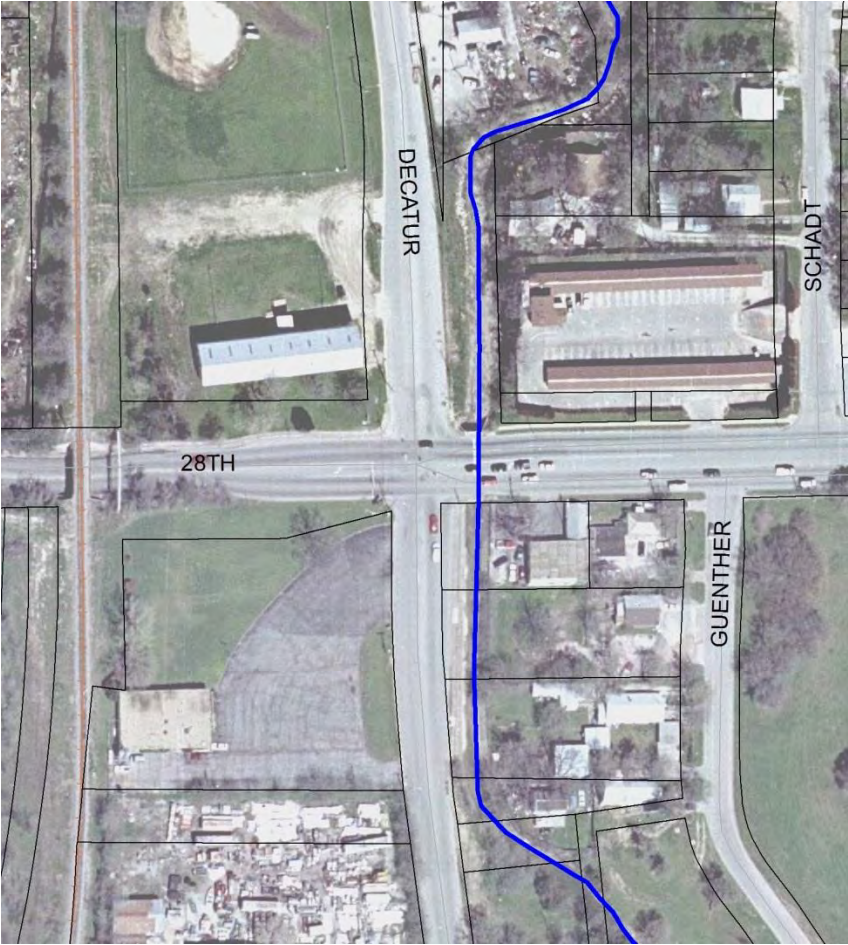
TRINITY RIVER

LOWER LEBOW



LEBOW 2015

NE Twenty-Eighth Street Crossing





NE 28th St. Crossing



Major Projects

1. Central Arlington Heights
2. Eastern Hills
3. Luella Merrett
4. Lebow Channel
5. **Westcliff**



Home flooding
on Boyd

Westcliff Manor
Apts., 6/28/04
(31 units flooded)







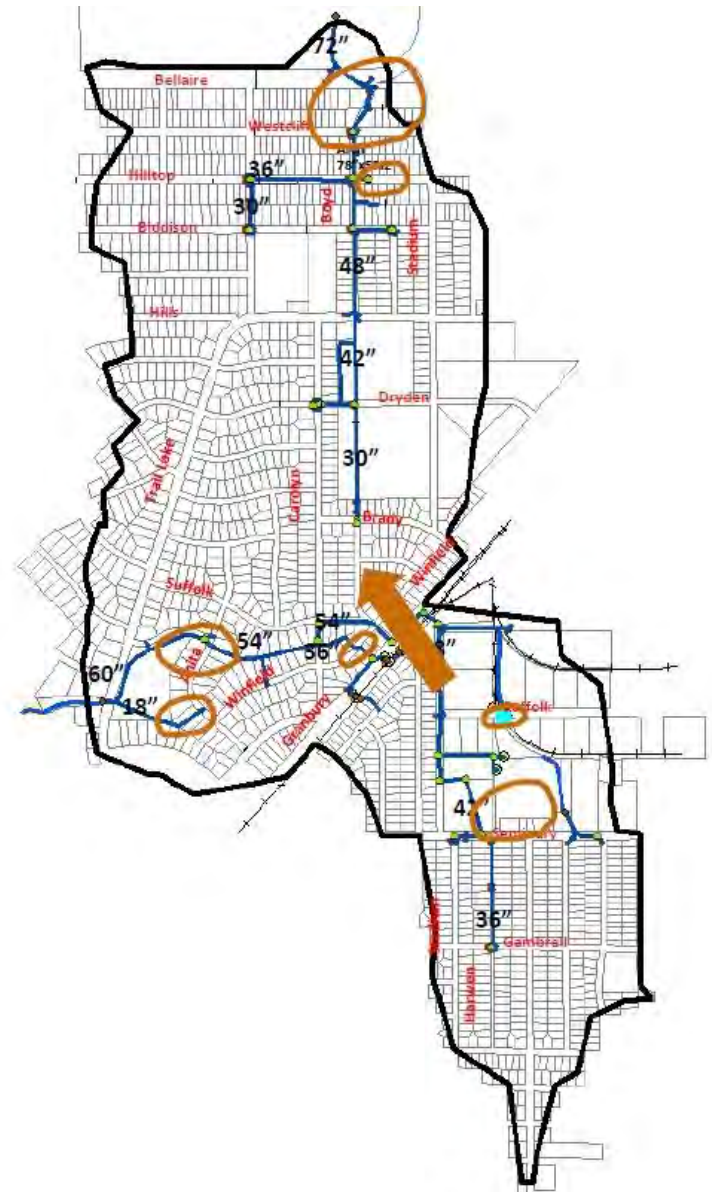
Surface Flooding

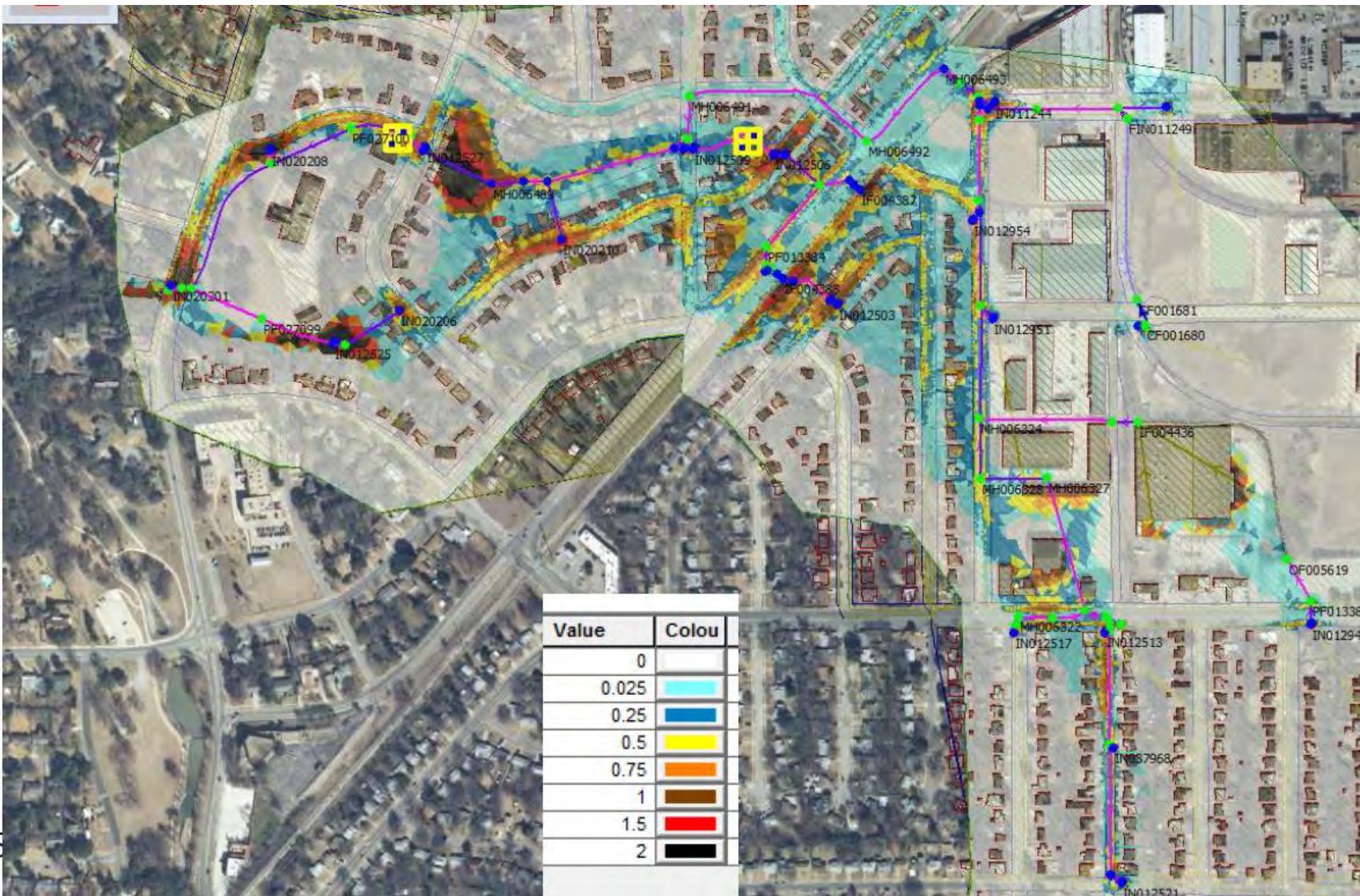


Transfer of Flow

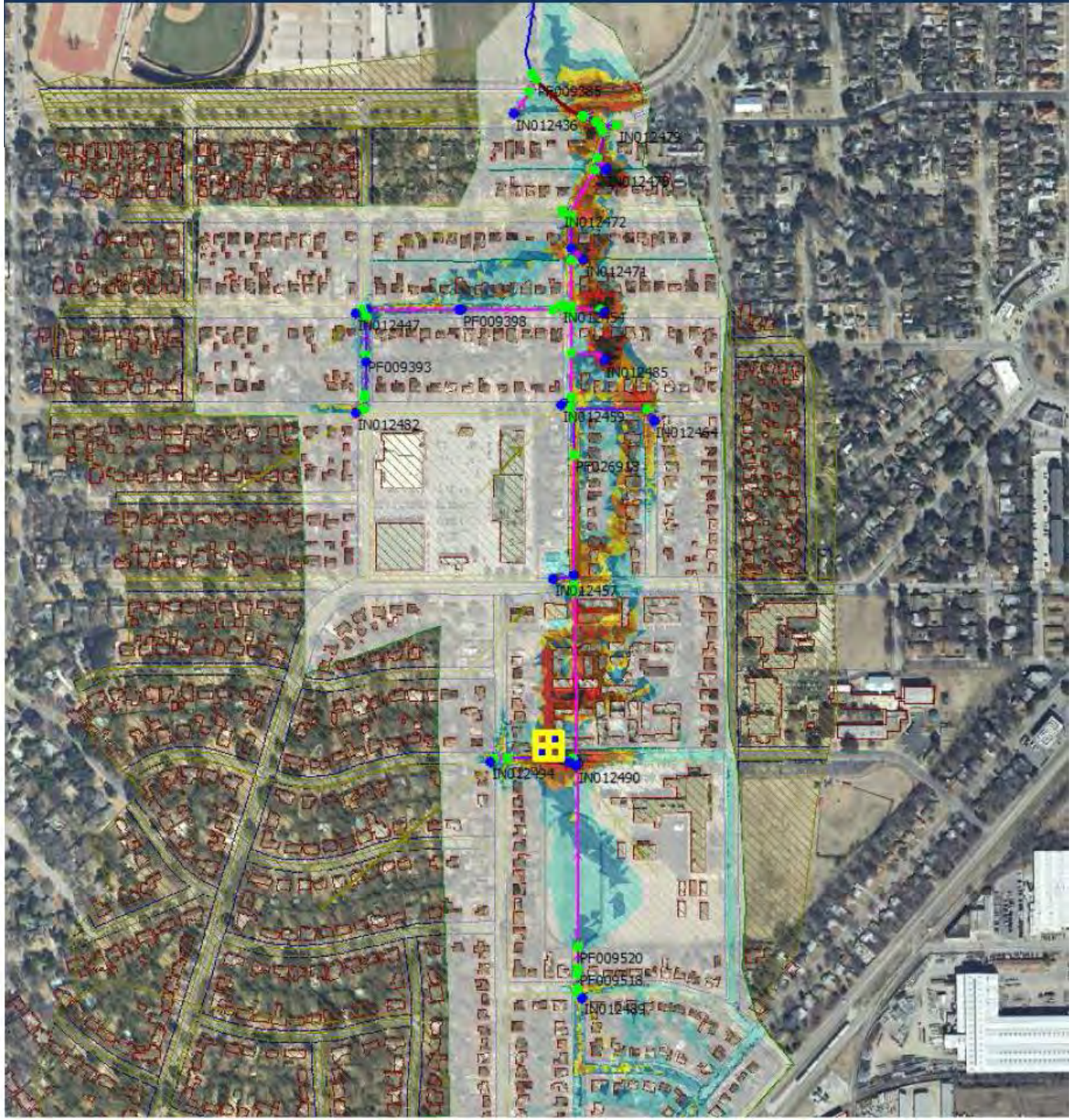


Storm Sewer System Capacity



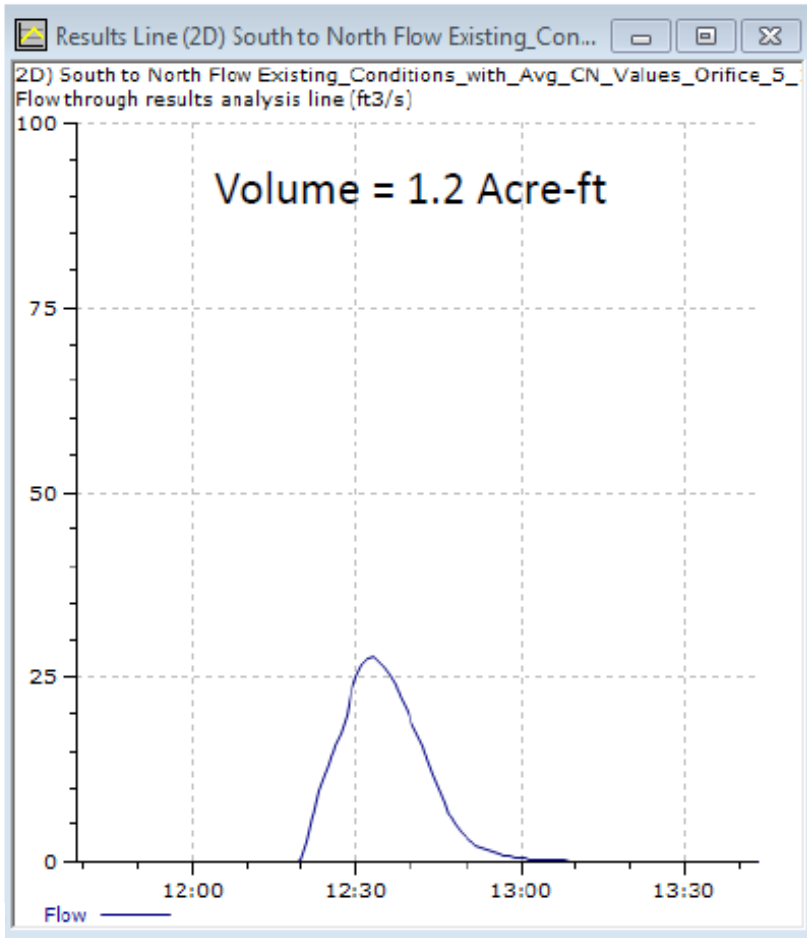


Value	Colou
0	White
0.025	Light Cyan
0.25	Blue
0.5	Yellow
0.75	Orange
1	Brown
1.5	Red
2	Black

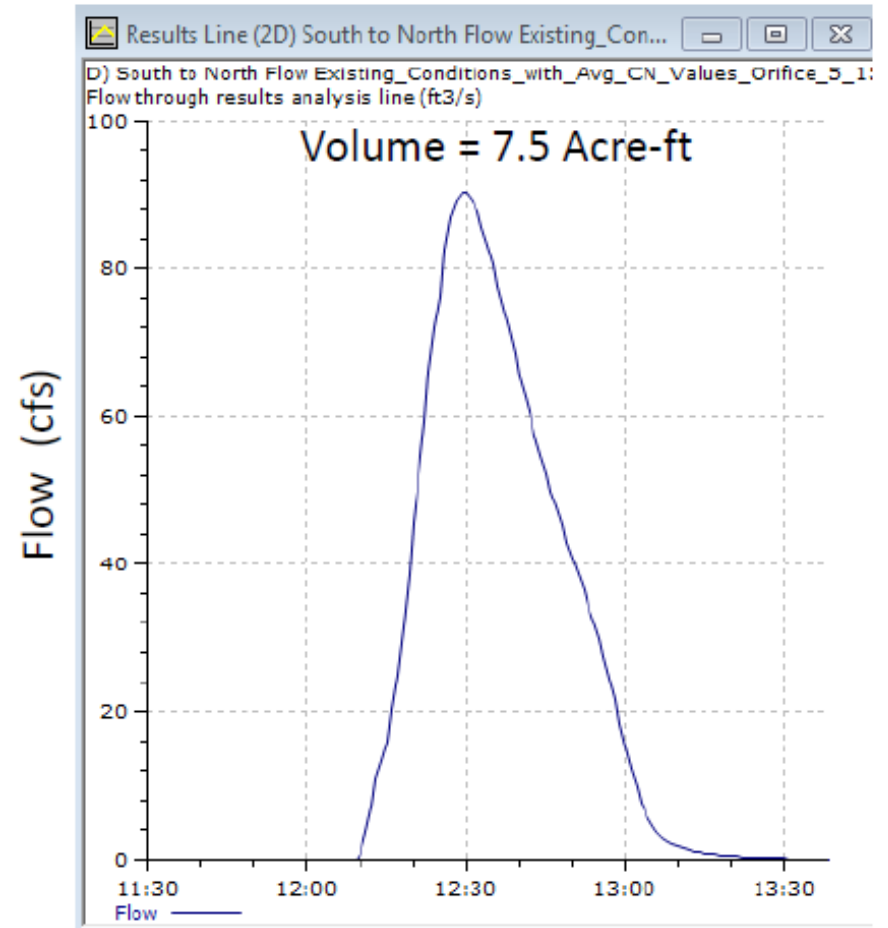


Hydrograph of Spillover Flow

5 Year 24 Hour



100 Year 24 Hour



Flooded Structures

Summary of Flooded Structures and Estimated Depth of Flood for the 100 Year and 5 Year 3 Hour Design Events
Based on InfoWorks SD Model Design Storm Simulations

Address	District	Approx. Ground Elevation (IW SD Model)	Assumed FFE Above Ground Elev. (ft)	Approx. FFE	100 Year 3 Hour Design Storm		5 Year 3 Hour Design Storm	
					Simulated Max Water Elev. (IW SD Model)	Water Depth Above FFE (ft)	Simulated Max Water Elev. (IW SD Model)	Water Depth Above FFE (ft)
3737 CAROLYN RD	WC North	668.0	1	669.0	669.3	0.3		
3425 SOUTH HILLS AVE-1	WC North	667.0	0.5	667.5	668.6	1.1		
3425 SOUTH HILLS AVE-2	WC North	666.7	0.5	667.2	668.3	1.1		
3425 SOUTH HILLS AVE-3	WC North	667.6	0.5	668.1	668.2	0.1		
3425 SOUTH HILLS AVE-4	WC North	666.4	0.5	666.9	666.9	1.0		
3425 SOUTH HILLS AVE-5	WC North	664.9	0.5	665.4	666.7	1.2	665.5	0.2
3425 SOUTH HILLS AVE-6	WC North	664.9	0.5	665.4	666.7	1.3	665.4	0.0
3425 SOUTH HILLS AVE-7	WC North	665.3	0.5	665.8	666.7	0.8		
3425 SOUTH HILLS AVE-8	WC North	665.9	0.5	666.4	666.7	0.3		

Summary of Flooded Structures and Estimated Depth of Flood for the 100 Year and 5 Year 3 Hour Design Events
Based on InfoWorks SD Model Design Storm Simulations

Address	District	Approx. Ground Elevation (IW SD Model)	Assumed FFE Above Ground Elev. (ft)	Approx. FFE	100 Year 3 Hour Design Storm		5 Year 3 Hour Design Storm	
					Simulated Max Water Elev. (IW SD Model)	Water Depth Above FFE (ft)	Simulated Max Water Elev. (IW SD Model)	Water Depth Above FFE (ft)
3328 W SEMINARY DR	WC South	713.4	0.5	713.9	714.0	0.1		
3328 W SEMINARY DR	WC South	712.0	0.5	712.5	713.0	0.5		
3328 W SEMINARY DR	WC South	711.8	0.5	712.3	712.9	0.6	712.3	0.0
3328 W SEMINARY DR	WC South	710.4	0.5	710.9	711.7	0.8	711.2	0.3
3328 W SEMINARY DR	WC South	707.5	0.5	708.0	708.5	0.5		
3250 W SEMINARY DR	WC South	708.0	0.5	708.5	709.9	1.3		
4100 SURREY ST	WC South	688.9	1	689.9	690.0	0.1		
4205 SURREY ST	WC South	698.1	1	699.1	699.1	0.0		
4124 CHEROKEE TR	WC South	689.8	1	690.8	691.1	0.2		
4141 WINFIELD AVE	WC South	684.6	1	685.6	685.7	0.1		
4201 WINFIELD AVE	WC South	681.6	1	682.6	682.7	0.1		
4159 CAROLYN RD	WC South	684.3	1	685.3	685.7	0.4		
4121 ANITA AVE	WC South	669.6	1	670.6	672.8	2.3	671.1	0.5
4121 ANITA AVE	WC South	670.1	1	671.1	672.6	1.5		
4125 ANITA AVE	WC South	669.7	1	670.7	672.9	2.2	671.1	0.5

Impacted Structures

15

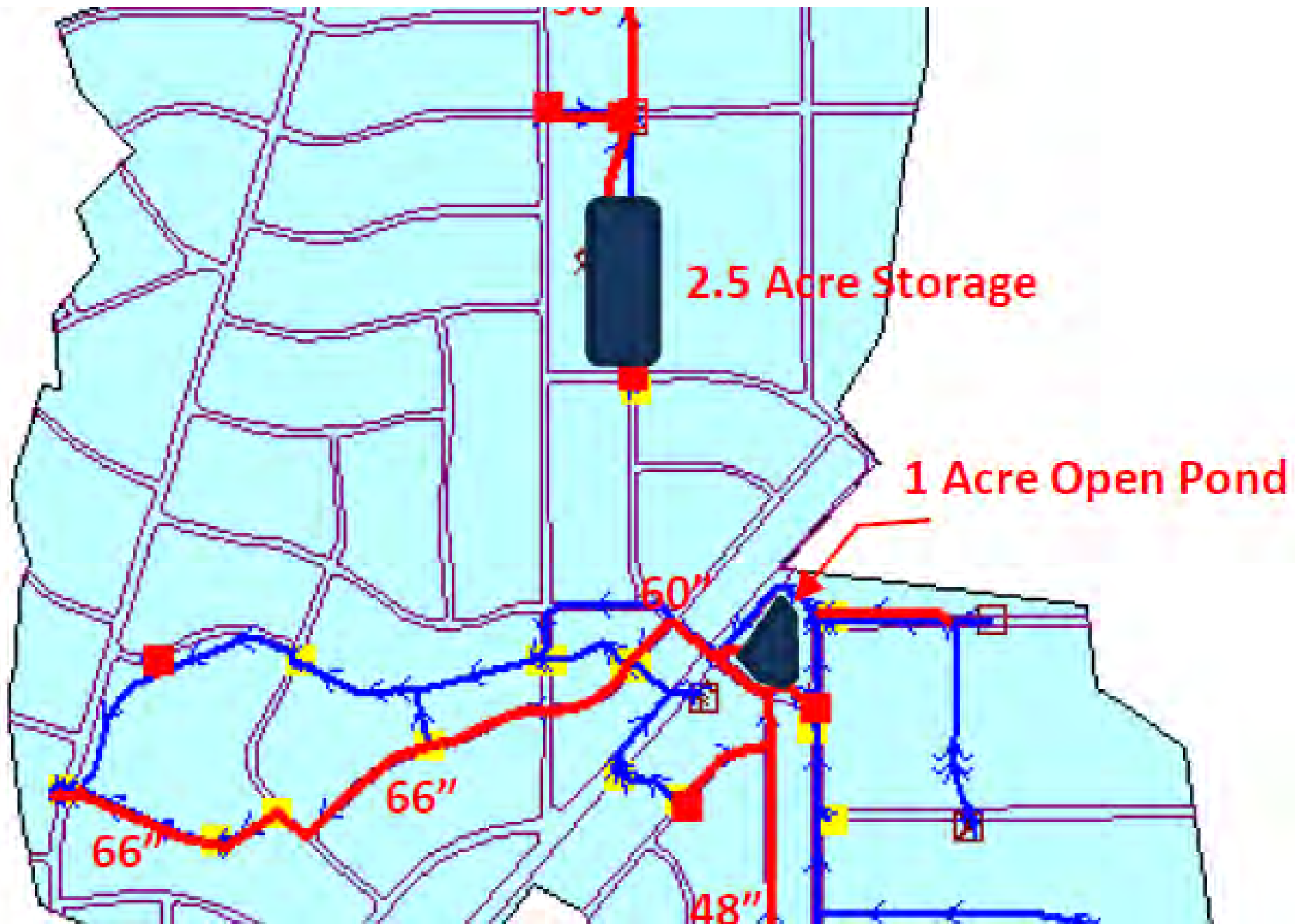
4

3429 HELLTOP RD	WC North	646.9	1	647.9	648.0	1.1		
3432 HELLTOP RD	WC North	646.7	1	647.7	648.2	0.7		
3426 WESTCLIFF RD S	WC North	634.9	1	635.9	637.6	1.7	636.3	0.4
3426 WESTCLIFF RD S	WC North	634.9	1	635.9	637.6	1.7	636.3	0.4
3429 WESTCLIFF RD S	WC North	640.1	1	641.1	641.8	0.7		
3433 WESTCLIFF RD S	WC North	639.5	1	640.5	641.9	1.4		
3501 BELLAIRE DR S	WC North	634.9	1	635.9	636.2	0.3		

Impacted Structures

45

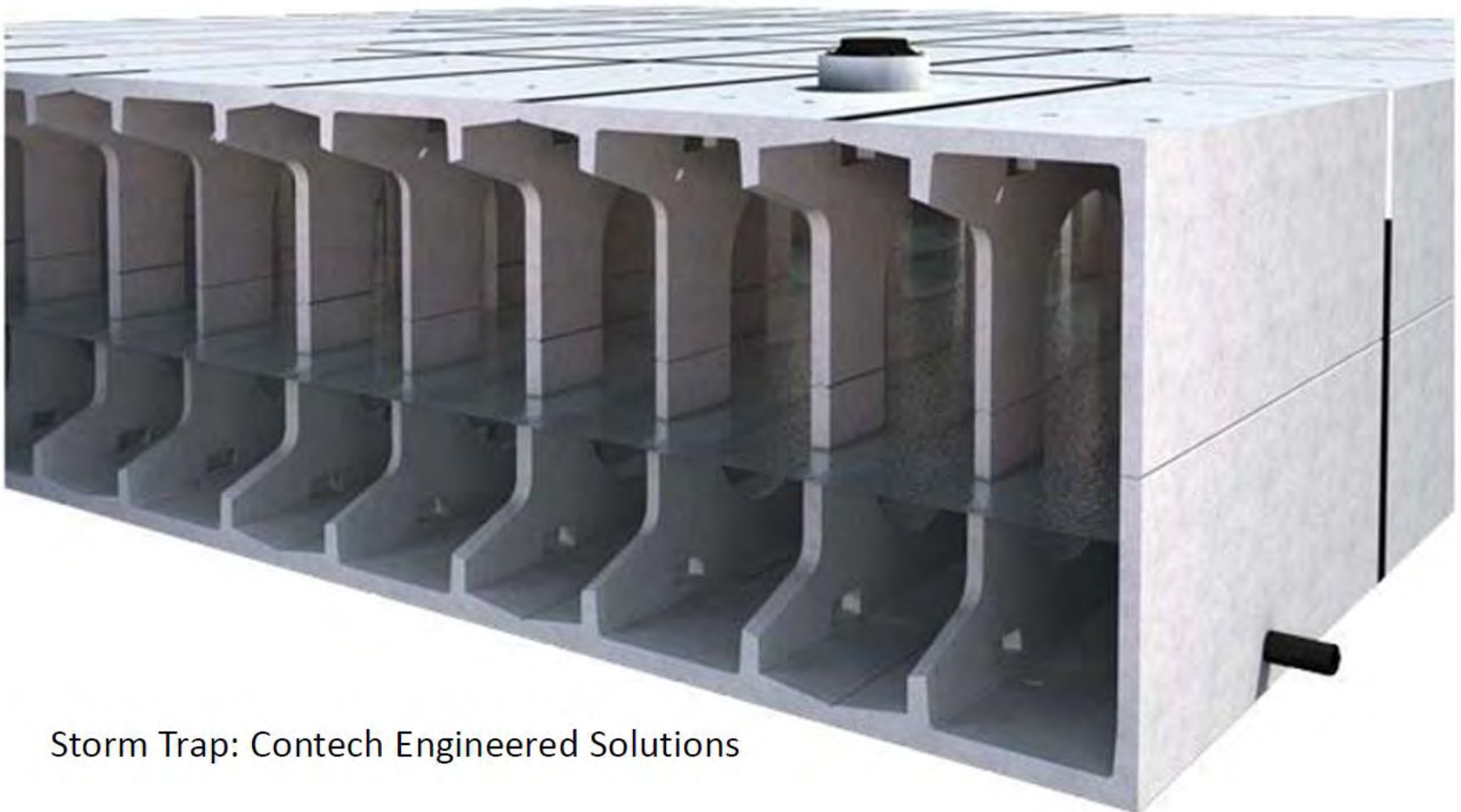
10



North Storage Structure Conceptual Layout

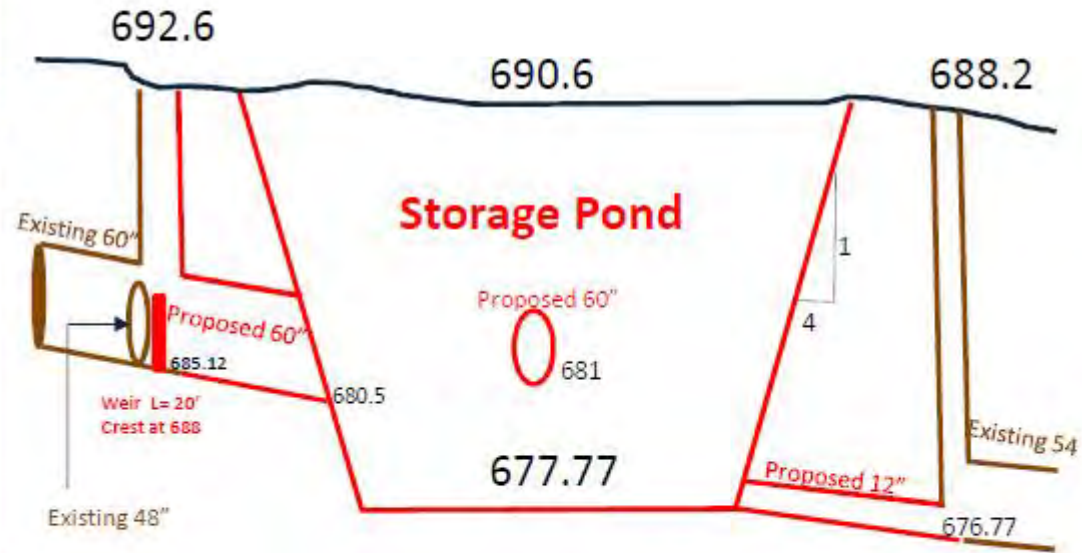


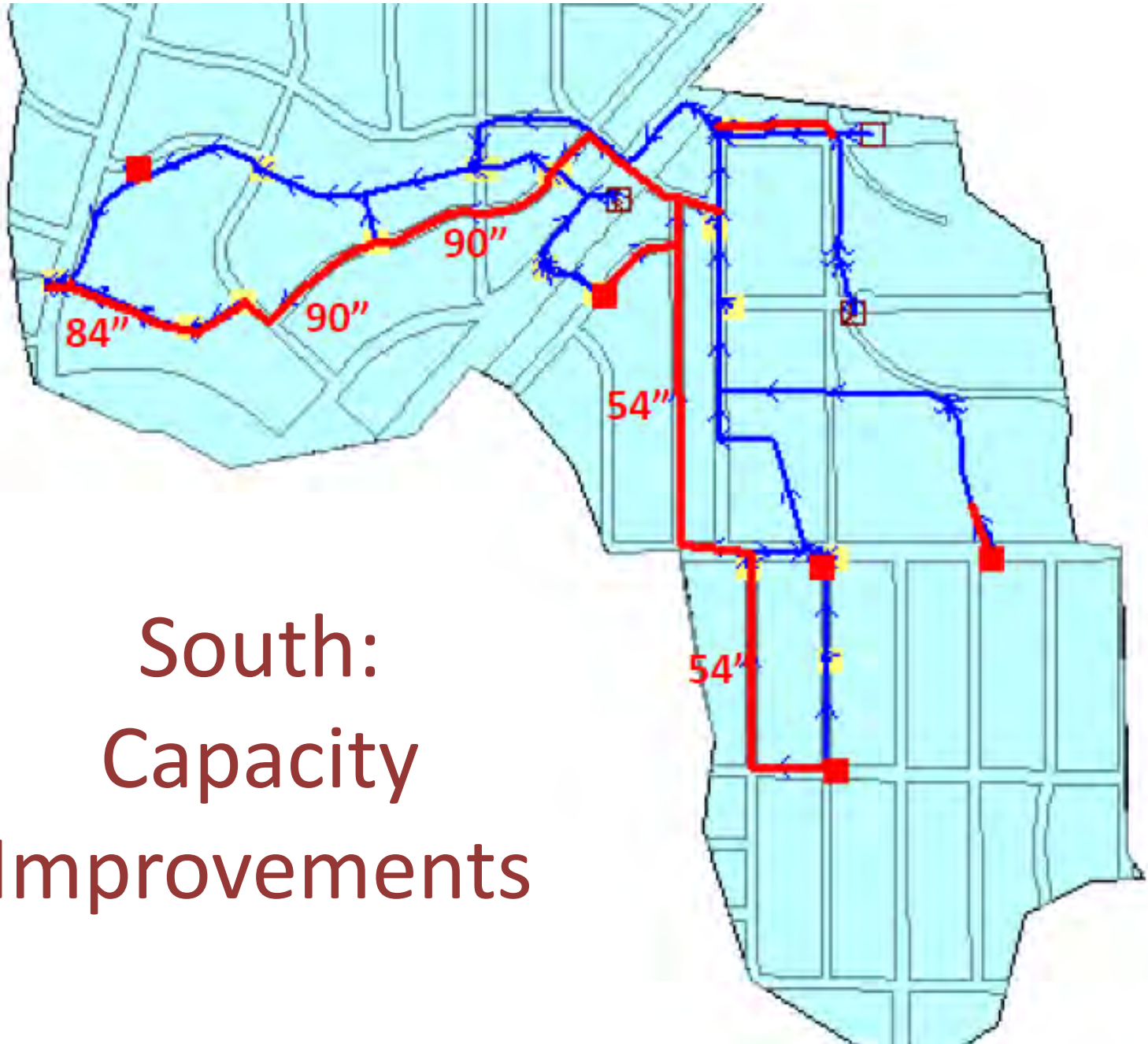
North Storage Structure – Potential Construction Method 1



Storm Trap: Contech Engineered Solutions

South 1 Storage Pond Conceptual Layout





South:
Capacity
Improvements

Fort Worth Stormwater Capital Projects

QUESTIONS?