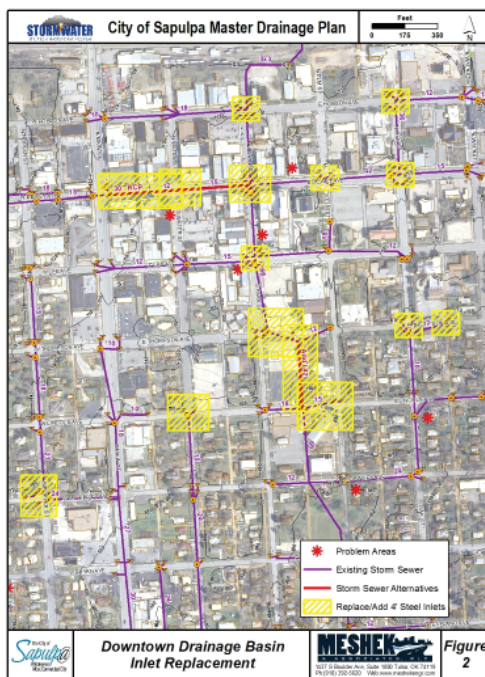


# Sapulpa, Oklahoma: A Building Block Approach to Flood and Stormwater Management

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In 2007, the City of Sapulpa set out to implement a long-range, comprehensive Flood and Stormwater Management Program. Its “building block” strategy included the establishment of a funding mechanism, the preparation of a Citywide Master Drainage Plan, the implementation of its stormwater quality program and the development of a capital improvements program. One block at a time, Sapulpa successfully planned, funded and implemented its long-range, comprehensive Flood and Stormwater Management Program. Sapulpa’s success is due to its solid foundation built upon a dedicated funding source to finance other program elements. Its story is significant for other small to medium-sized “urbanized areas” facing flooding and stormwater issues including unfunded federal mandates such as Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).



Phase I of Sapulpa’s comprehensive plan began with the establishment of a stormwater utility fee to finance its remaining program. A rate study was performed to develop a fair, defensible fee based upon the square footage of impervious area contributing runoff to the stormwater drainage system. The rate study also laid the foundation for projecting the amount of annual revenue available for funding other program components.

In the next phase, Sapulpa developed a comprehensive Citywide Master Drainage Plan by dividing the City into three distinct regions and funding each region individually over a 24-month period.

In 2009, Sapulpa used its stormwater fee to finance a fully equipped truck with staff for its Phase II NPDES stormwater quality program. A review and update of Sapulpa’s Floodplain Ordinance and its Stormwater Drainage Criteria are also underway.

Future components will include an operation and maintenance plan, a citywide prioritization methodology for all projects, and the construction of recommended projects.

Community education and involvement also played a vital role. Meetings were well attended and citizens were actively involved. Approximately 100 citizen comment sheets provided valuable information regarding flooding problems.

This presentation will focus on the importance of laying a solid foundation using a funding source, such as a stormwater utility fee, to finance the building of a long-range, comprehensive Flood and Stormwater Management Program one block at a time. It will present the process to establish a stormwater fee, its effectiveness in funding other program components and the importance of those components in developing a comprehensive approach. Public involvement will be addressed as a significant contributor to the overall planning success. Sapulpa’s example demonstrates that even small communities can implement a “No Adverse Impact” approach by a “building block” view of stormwater management.

*Sapulpa Downtown Drainage Basin:  
Inlet Replacement Study.  
The illustration above shows 1 of  
12 alternatives studied to address  
flooding problems. The study involved  
in-depth analysis of inlet capacity of  
Downtown system to maximize the  
City’s return on its investment.*

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