



Protecting London's Wastewater Treatment Plants from Flooding



Kirby Oudekerk, MPA, P.Eng.

November 14, 2025



Protecting London's Wastewater Treatment Plants from Flooding

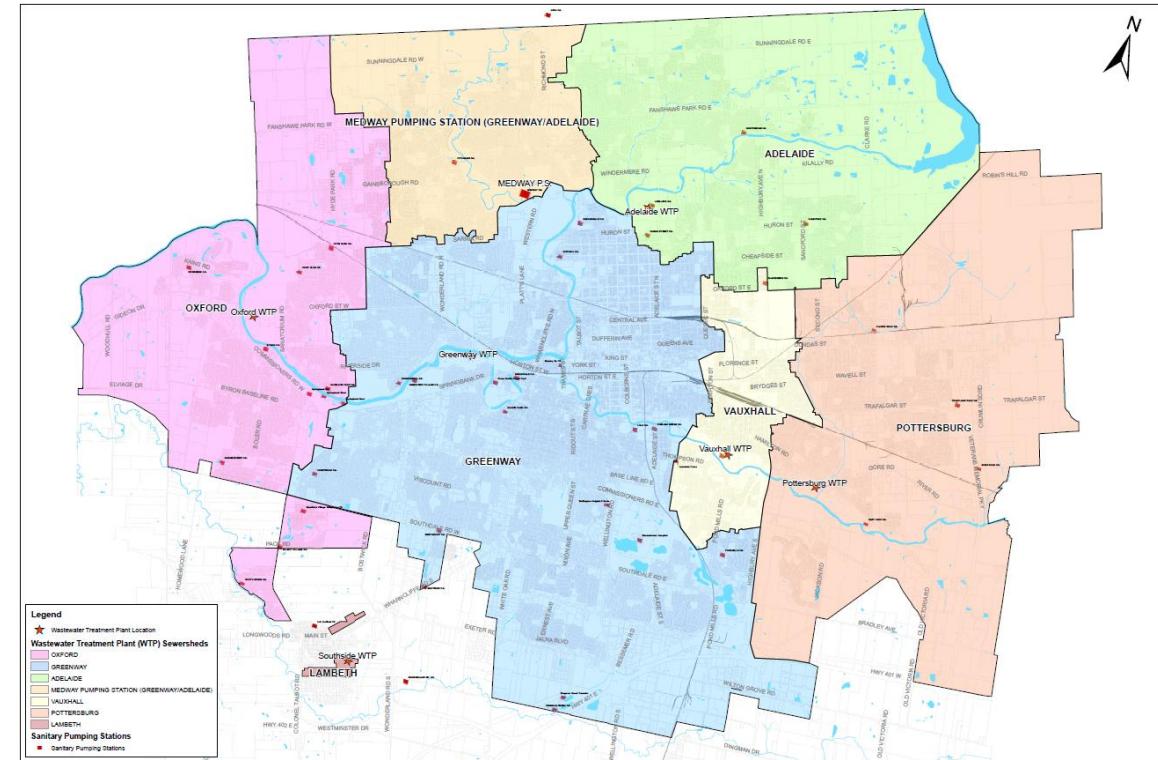


- Project Overview
- Federal Funding
- Public Consultation
- Design Features
- Construction Challenges

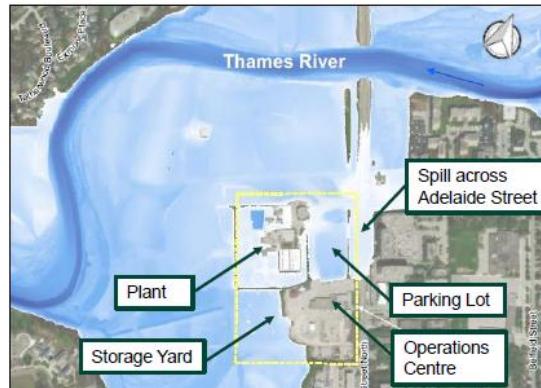


London's Wastewater System

- 5 Treatment Plants
- 36 Pumping Stations
- 1,500 km gravity sewers
- 73 billion litres treated annually
- Solids incineration at Greenway



Why Protect our Plants?

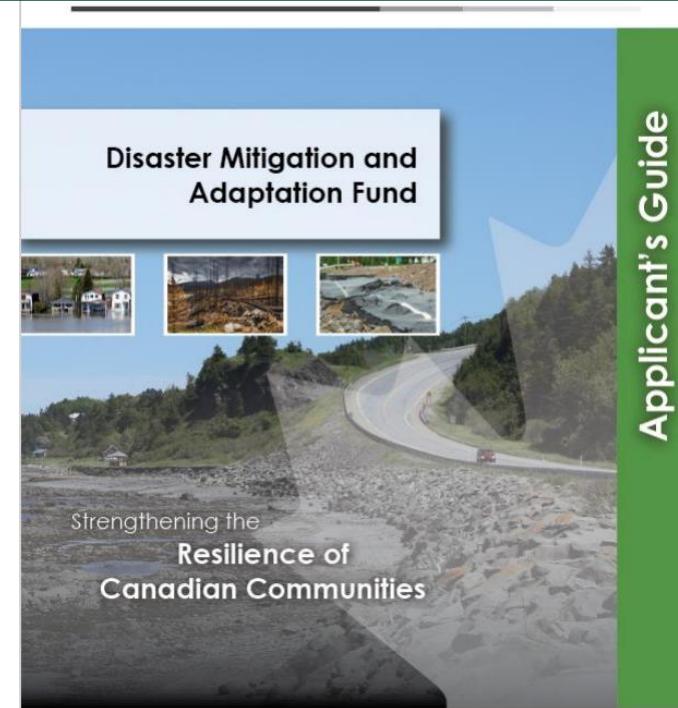


- High value assets (\$100M's-\$1B's)
- Interruptions have public health and environmental consequences
- Gravity collection systems put them in harm's way
- They're all tough to move



Federal Funding - DMAF

- Federal funding program
- Objective: Strengthen resilience of infrastructure against failure resulting from climate change
- Over \$3B total funding
- 40% funding on minimum spend of \$1M
- Relatively simple 2-stage application (2018-2022)
- London received approval on a total of \$49.5M to protect two wastewater treatment plants



Canada



DMAF – Consolidated Project



Two plants = opportunities and challenges



Consultation simpler: One Class EA to cover both sites



RFP to award both designs to same consultant



Separate tenders with the same pre-qualified contractors

Design Features - Functionality

- Keep flood waters out
 - Protect equipment
 - Protect process
 - Protect access
- Get other waters out
 - Treated plant effluent
 - Wet weather flows
 - Stormwater





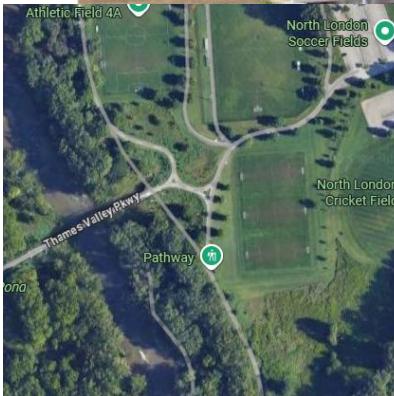
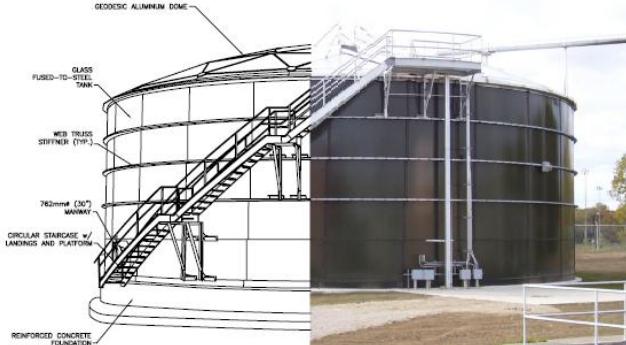
Design Features – Greenway WWTP

- Tighter space constraints
 - Sheet Pile = risk and cost
- Busier plant
 - 135 MLD average flows
 - Solids disposal for entire City
- Adjacent multi-use pathway
 - Recreation and Commuters
 - Incentive to minimize impact





Design Features – Adelaide WWTP



- Simpler flood protection
 - Earthen berm full perimeter
 - More room for effluent PS/UV Upgrades
 - Flow Equalization
- Includes upgrades to Section 1
 - Same tender, split costs
 - Efficiencies that benefit both sources of funding

Flood Protection 101 – Mid-terms



- SUE/Locates – Definitely worth it, but are they worth it?
- Never underestimate importance of berm material source
 - Synergies with excess soils
- Maintain Operations / Traffic flow
 - Only shut down when it's needed
- Overflow path
- Equipment pre-purchase
- It always takes longer



Will it ever be enough?

- Climate Change = Rules Change
- Floods expected to increase in frequency and intensity
- Government funding essential
- There is life after the rain!





Questions?

