

August 26, 2026

Wastewater Enterprise Overview

South Platte River Committee

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure



Agenda

- Enterprise Fund Overview
- Major On-Going Investment Areas:
 - Maintenance and Operations
 - Metro Water Recovery
 - Capital Projects
- 2026 Budget Review
- Opportunities



Montbello Channels Uvalda Tributary

Wastewater Enterprise Fund

- Established in 1966
- Fund uses are defined in the DRMC:
 - Stormwater management including Waterways
 - Sanitary management and treatment
 - Green infrastructure

DRMC Sec. 56-91. – Purpose.

This division is enacted to **protect, preserve and promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the city and prevent water and stream pollution by the control of sewage wastes and other wastewater**; to enhance sanitary and storm sewerage quality, implement green stormwater infrastructure strategies, preserve and restore affected ecosystems directly connected to the city's waterways, tributaries and watersheds, and preserve and restore natural habitats directly connected to the city's waterways, tributaries and watersheds; to provide funds necessary for the payment of the cost of the administration, management, operation and maintenance, planning and engineering of sanitary and storm sewerage facilities and for payment of the cost of construction, reconstruction, enlargement and replacement of sanitary and storm sewerage system facilities;

Wastewater Enterprise Mission & Vision

Mission: Delivering Denver's needs for storm, sanitary, and green infrastructure equitably.

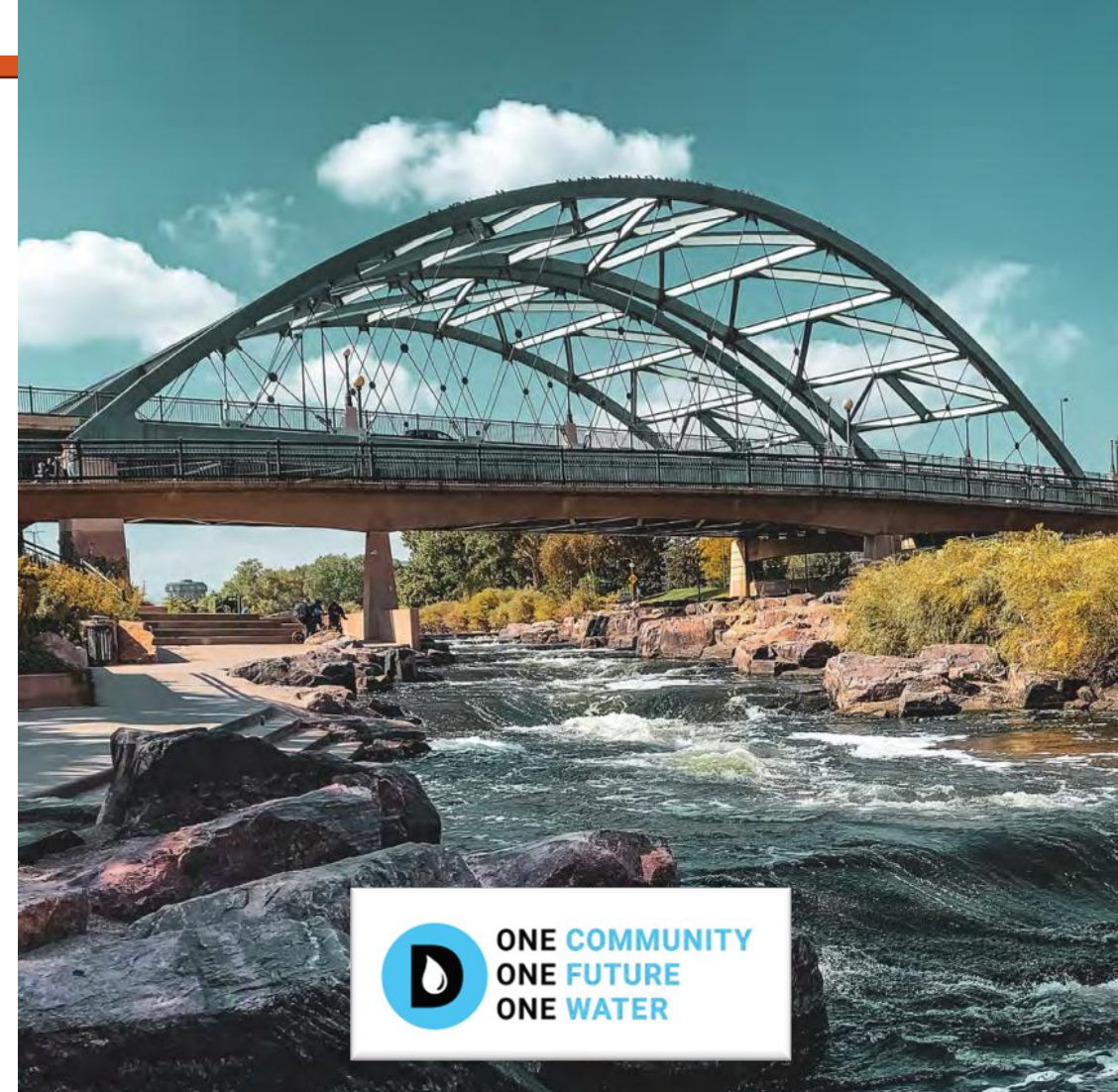
Vision: Denver thrives with storm, sanitary, and green infrastructure that protects every resident and visitor – creating a resilient, reliable, and sustainable city for generations to come.



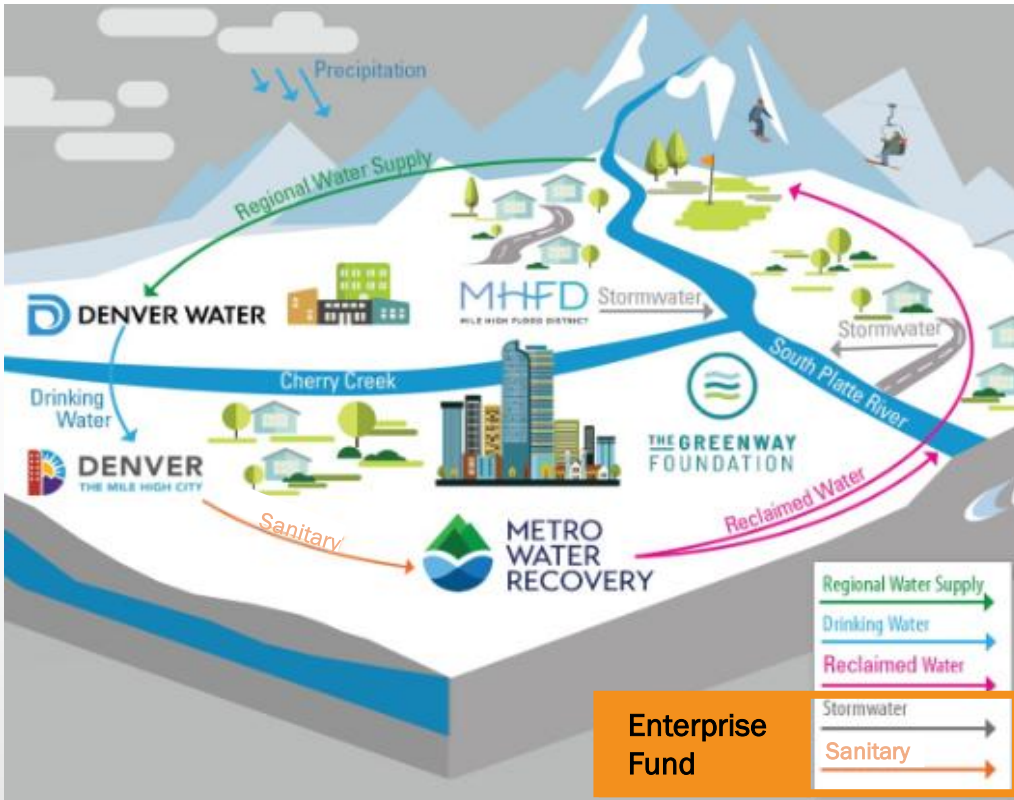
Denver's Comprehensive Water Plan: One Water

- Multi-agency plan that holistically considers the urban water cycle.
- The Plan developed overarching goals that guide the vision of the enterprise fund
- Originally completed in 2021
- Meets the new state requirement (HB 20-1095)
- Anticipated to be formally adopted in conjunction with the Blueprint Denver update in Fall 2026

Plan Goals:



Enterprise Fund Functions & Assets



Stormwater system: Series of inlets and pipes that collect urban runoff and transport it to local waterways.

Sanitary system: Series of pipes, manholes, lift stations that collect grey water from showers, sinks, toilets, businesses and transports it to a wastewater treatment facility for resource recovery prior to release into a local waterway.

Core Functions

CAPITAL

- Plan
- Design
- Build

O&M

- System Maintenance
- Television
- Quality Control
- Laboratory
- Construction Operations
- Water Quality
- Green Infrastructure

SUPPORT SERVICES

- Customer Service
- Accounting
- Safety

ROWS

- Survey
- Inspection
- Development Services
- Engineering & Regulatory

Wastewater Assets

STORM & WATERWAYS

- 1000+ miles pipe, 15k manholes, 23k inlets
- 50+ miles of waterways
- 8 Lift Stations

SANITARY

- 1500+ miles pipe, 35k manholes
- 7 Lift Stations

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- 325 streetside stormwater planters
- 16 regional facilities



DeBoer Park Gulch Improvements

Operations and Maintenance

Frontline staff ensuring continued storm and sanitary operations, and protecting the public and environment

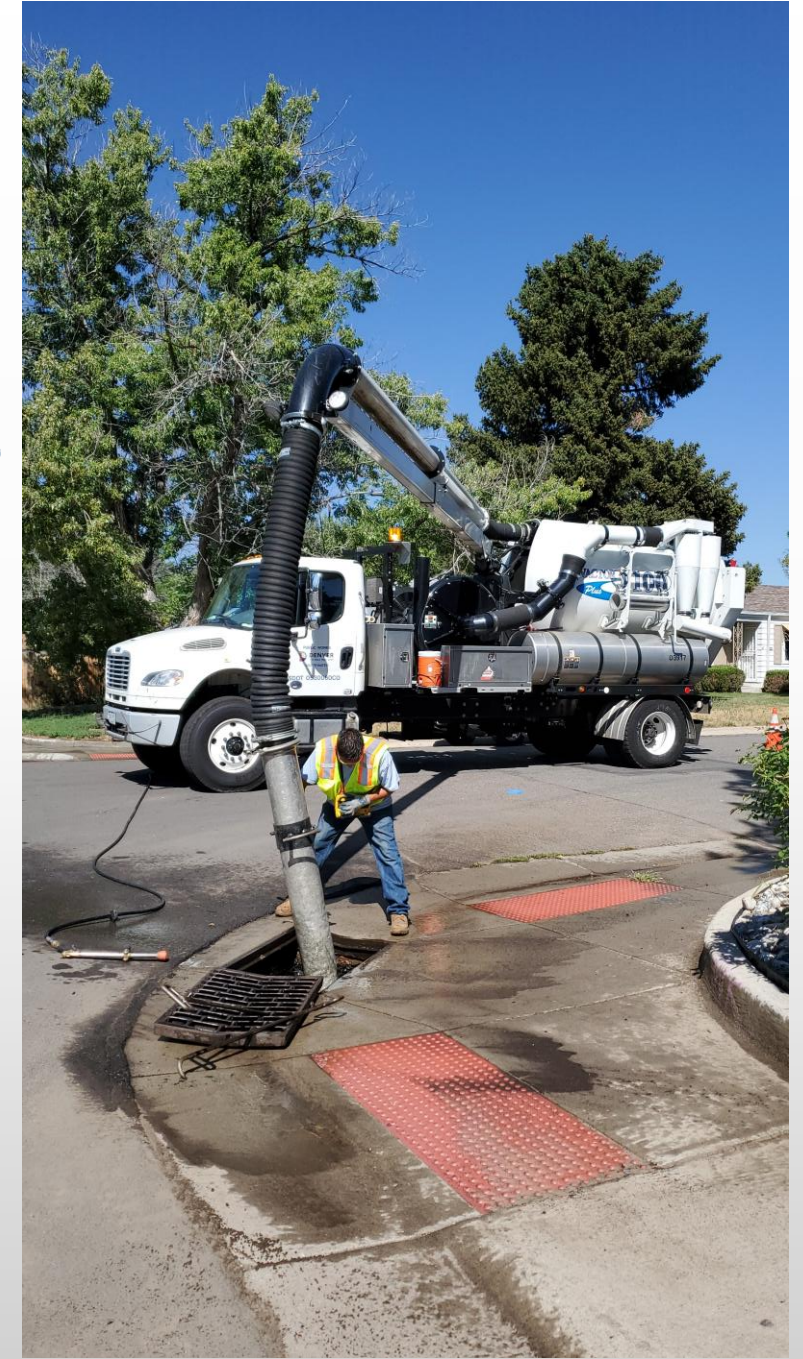
Protect from Flooding

- Keep storm inlets free of debris
- Clean pipes to ensure they are free-flowing during rain events
- Emergency response and maintenance



Protect the Environment and Residents

- Storm system work:
 - Street sweeping and system maintenance prevent pollutants from entering waterways
 - Program components, including street sweeping, illicit discharge investigation, environmental education allow us to be federally compliant
- Protects waterways from sanitary:
 - Program keeps us in good standing with the federal government
 - Cleaning and maintenance prevents sewer backups in homes, and businesses.

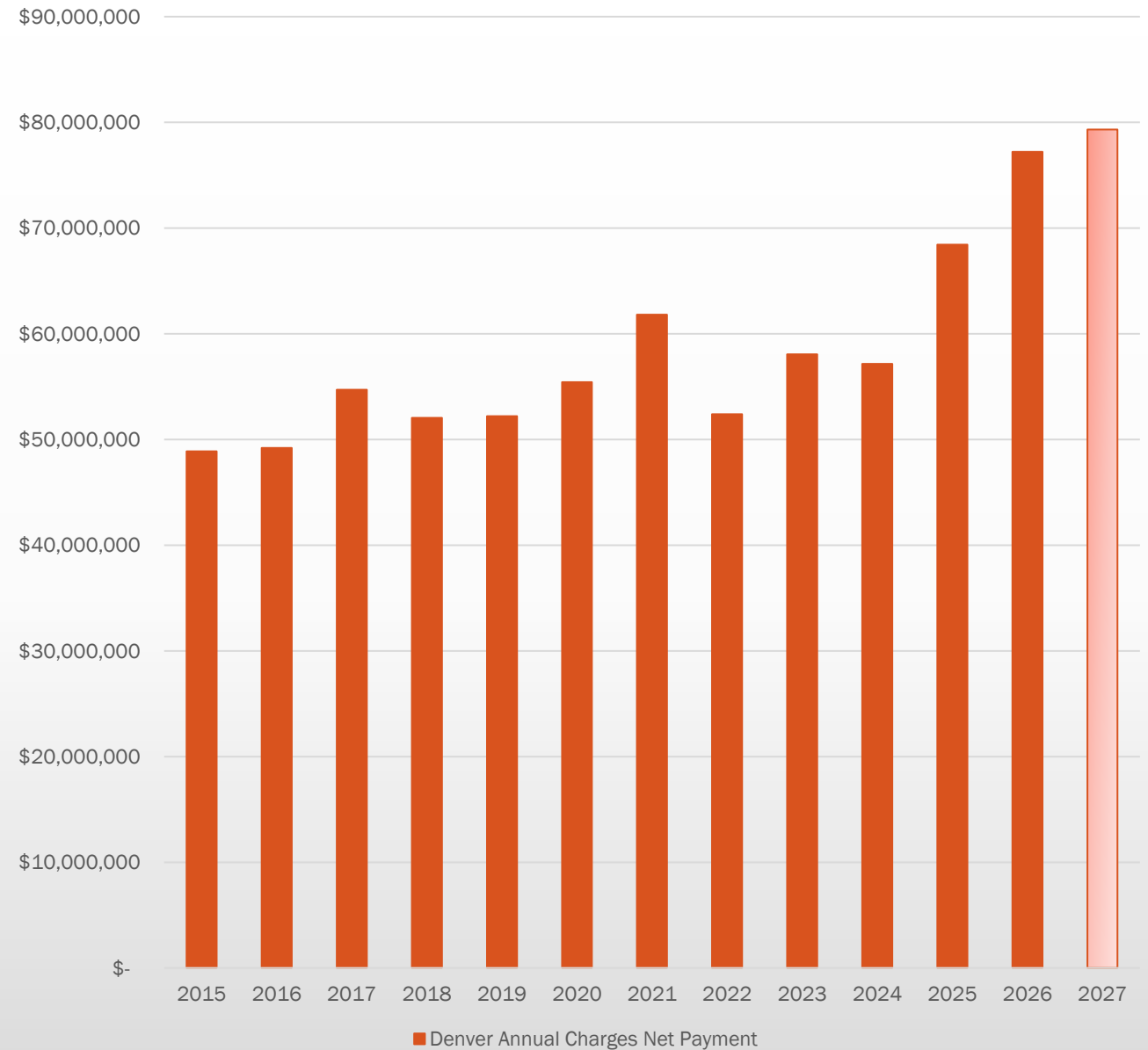


Roles and Responsibilities

- DOTI is responsible for local infrastructure serving Denver residents
- Regional pipes (serving multiple jurisdictions) and the Wastewater Treatment Plants are the responsibility of Metro

Charges & Regulatory Impacts

- Charges based on Flow and Loadings
- Denver is a connector; residents do not pay Metro directly.
- Key regulatory issues: tertiary treatment, effluent temperature reduction, increased salinity, PFAS, etc.



Capital Investments

Storm & Waterway Capital

- Stormwater Master Planning
- Storm Nuisance Mitigation (i.e. siphons, drainage complaints)
- Storm Pipe Capacity Upsizing
- Open Channel & Gulch Improvements (with MHFD)

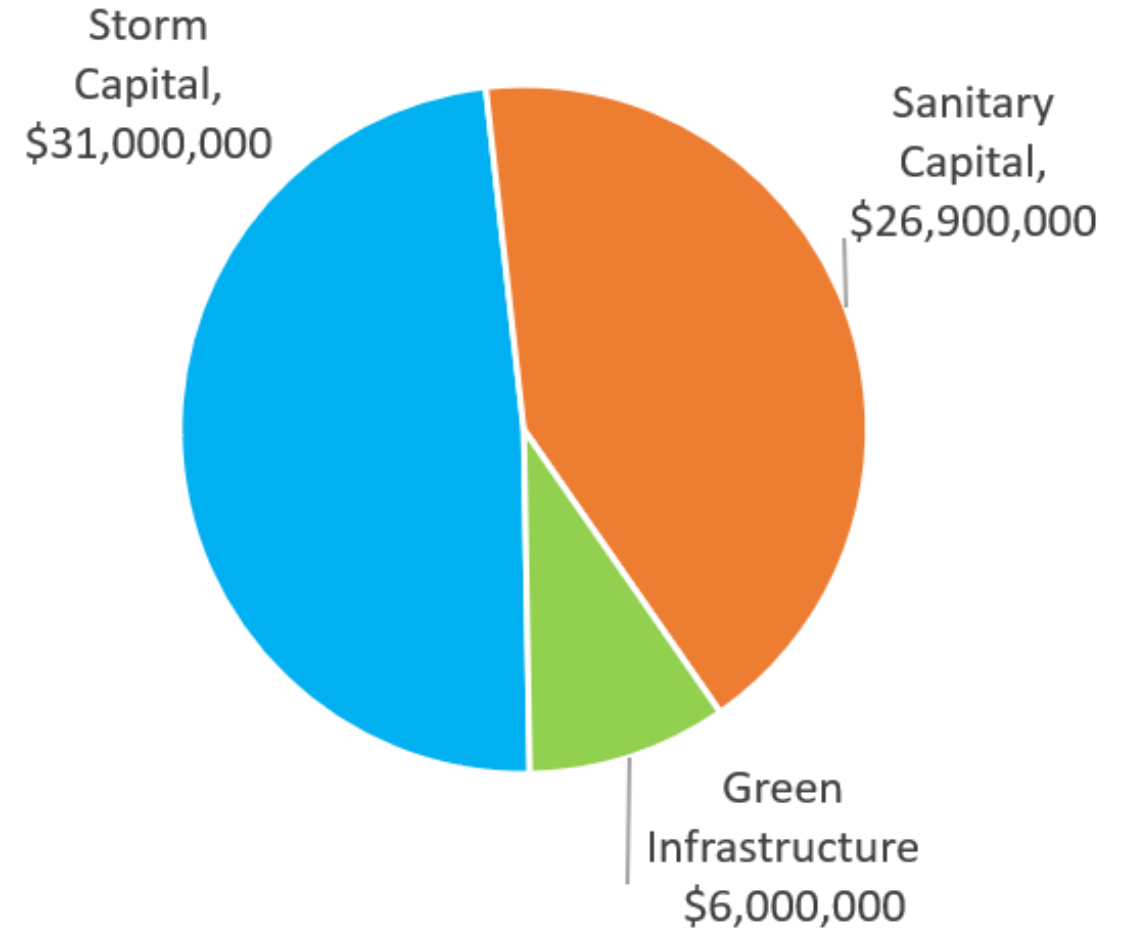
Sanitary Capital

- Sanitary Master Planning
- Lift Station Improvements
- Sanitary Lining & Rehabilitation
- Sanitary Pipe Capacity Upsizing

Green Infrastructure

- Green Infrastructure Planning & Partnering
- Swift Implementation Projects (aka SIGIs)
- Site-Scale and Regional Implementation

2026 Wastewater Capital Budget (\$63.9M)



2026 Capital Projects

Storm & Waterway

- Weir Gulch Reach 1
- Globeville Levee & 48th Avenue Greenway
- Tennessee & Oneida Storm Phase 3
- Skeel Reservoir

Sanitary

- Tower Road Rehabilitation
- Citywide Sanitary Lining

Green Infrastructure

- Heron Pond
- Lowell & Evans
- 51st & Steele
- SIGI Five Points Neighborhood



Globeville Levee & 48th Avenue Greenway

Multi-benefit project to reduce flood risk, improve stormwater conveyance, and enhance open space, connectivity, and community amenities in Globeville.

Photo: New 48th Ave culvert under sanitary main adjacent to new levee system (Mar 2026)



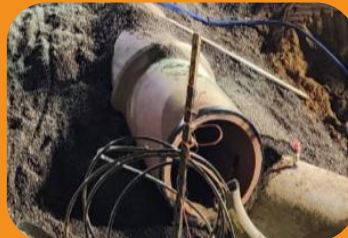
Wastewater Six-Year CIP (2022-2027)

- Roadmap for the capital investments
- Currently, in Year 5 of the Six-Year Plan (\$358M)
- Subsequent plan will focus on:
 - Continued investment in capital maintenance,
 - Regulatory compliance of sanitary lift stations,
 - Completing on-going storm drainage projects,
 - Leveraging partnership opportunities.

Storm & Waterway



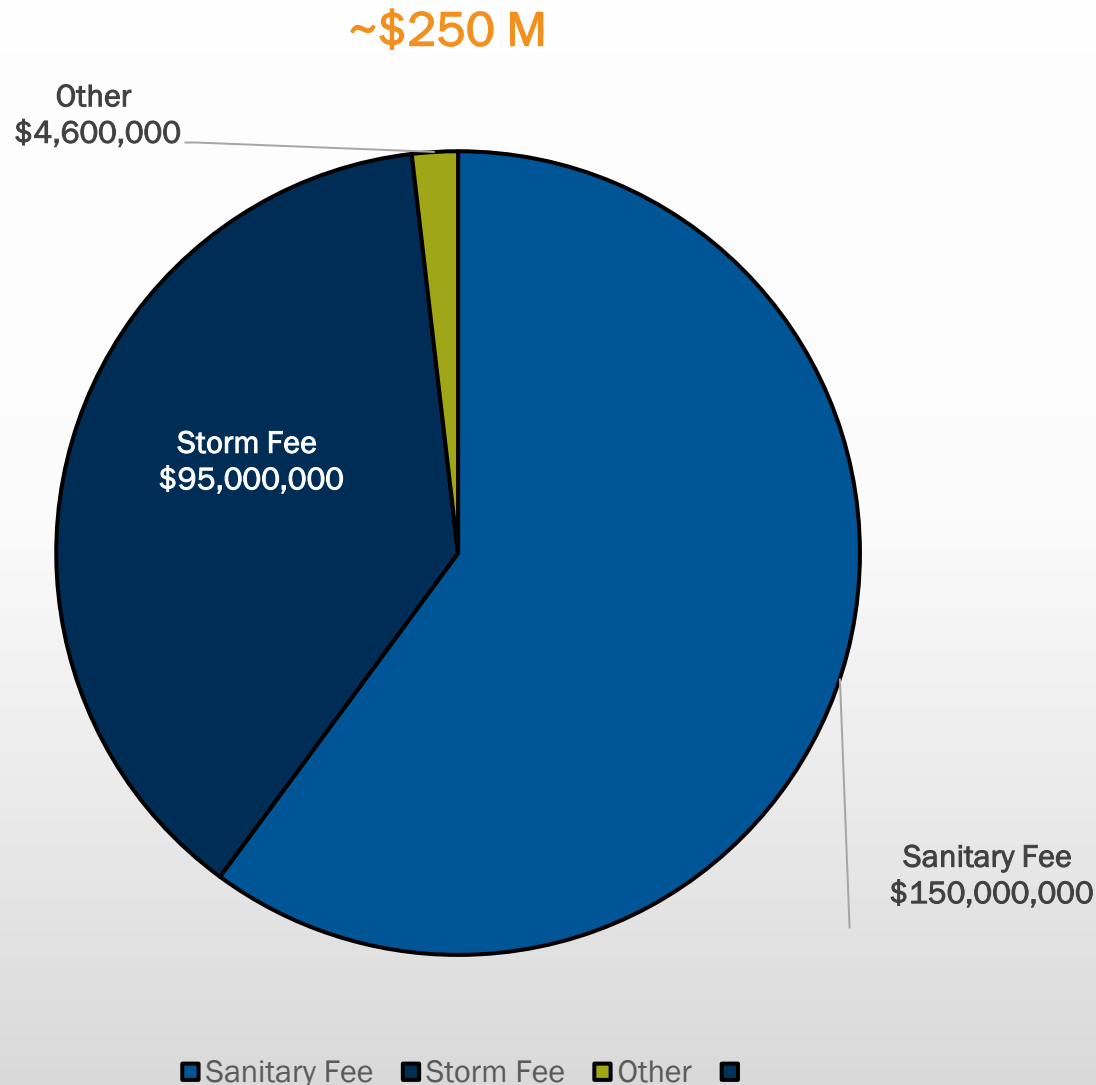
Sanitary



Green Infrastructure



Wastewater Enterprise 2026 Sources*



Storm Fee

- Biannual Fee
- Based on property's impervious area
- Increases annually based on Consumer Price Index (2.1% increase for 2026)
- Average User pays \$193.17 annually
(Based on 7,500 sq ft parcel that is 37% impervious)

Sanitary Fee

- Monthly fee included on Denver Water bill
- Based on winter water usage
- Increases annually based on Consumer Price Index (2.1% increase for 2026)
- Average User pays \$29.40 monthly
(Based on 5,000 gallons/month winter usage)

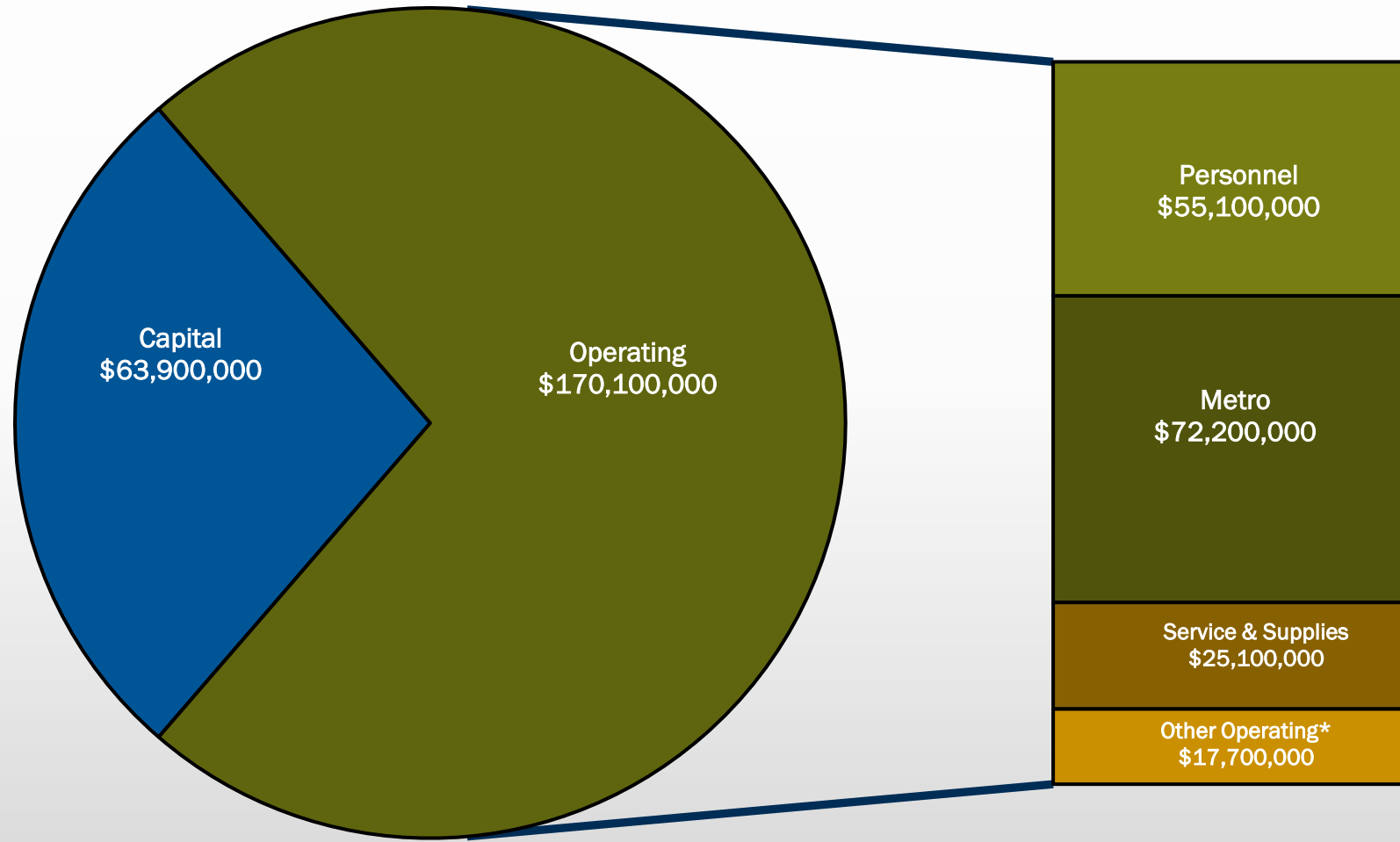
Sanitary Availability Fee (SAFE)

- One time fee for new system connections (access)

*Approximated

Wastewater Enterprise Fund Budget 2026

\$234.0M



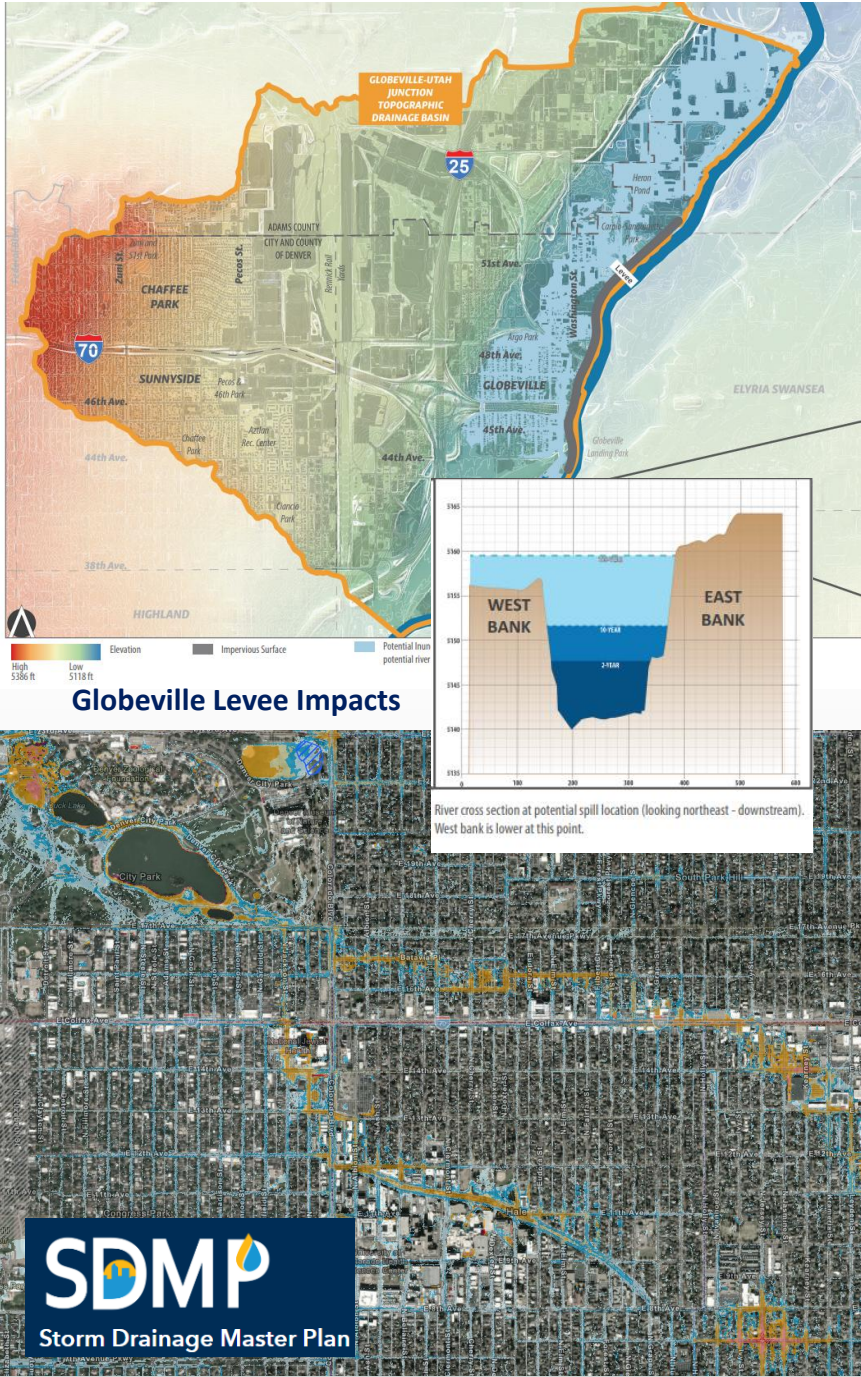
*Other Operating includes Capital Equipment and Billings for Services

Strategic Goals and Priorities

Goals	What Continued Investment Delivers
Protect System Performance	<i>Proactive maintenance keeps critical infrastructure reliable and extends the useful life of existing assets.</i>
Modernize Infrastructure	<i>Strategically renew sanitary pipes averaging 65 years old and storm pipes averaging 35 years old. Continue to invest in resilient green infrastructure strategies.</i>
Reduce Flood Risk	<i>Continue improvements that can reduce flood risk for 5,000+ structures across Denver.</i>
Build Resilience	<i>Upgrade storm systems—many currently designed for a 2-year storm or less—to better manage larger and more intense events. Design resilient systems that can withstand climate change.</i>
Improve Quality of Life	<i>Continue to improve water quality and mitigate heat island as impervious cover has grown from 43% to 48% over the past decade and could reach 60–67% by 2040.</i>

Flood Risk Reduction Priorities

Project	Benefit	Funding Allocated in 2022-2027 6-year CIP
Globeville Levee	Keeps approximately 700 structures out of the mapped floodplain	YES
Phase I of Carpio Sanguinette Park is complete, including water quality improvements and the first phase of the levee. Phase II is underway, with additional funding needed for future phases.		
Weir Gulch	Removes 300+ structures from the mapped floodplain	YES
A 2024 study identified increased flood risk to homes and businesses along Weir Gulch. Phase I is under construction, with additional unfunded phases planned to further reduce risk and remove more than 300 structures from the mapped floodplain.		
Upper Montclair	Reduces flood risk in one of Denver's highest-priority drainage basins	YES
Upper Montclair is Denver's largest basin without a natural waterway. Wastewater has been making improvements beginning in City Park and working upstream to address significant known flooding locations.		
Harvard Gulch	Reduces flood risk to homes and businesses along Harvard Gulch	YES
Recent studies identified increased flood risk to homes and businesses along Harvard Gulch. Initial improvements are underway, but additional investment is needed to continue reducing flood risk.		



Wastewater Quick Links



DENVERGOV.ORG

Storm Drainage Master Plan

[Denvergov.org/stormwater](https://denvergov.org/stormwater)

Flood Safety Info & Resources

[Denvergov.org/flood](https://denvergov.org/flood)

Email: floodplain@denvergov.org

Storm Drainage Issue and Storm/Sanitary Maintenance

Call 3-1-1

Storm & Sanitary Development Information

[Website Link](#)

Email: developmentservices@denvergov.org

Websites available for Sanitary, Green Infrastructure, One Water, and several projects.

Questions?



Weir Gulch Reach 1 Drop Structure