IISD
International Institute for Sustainable Development

Natural Infrastructure in Manitoba Communities:

Analysis of the survey results
August 2025

Snapshot of the Results

- 84% are concerned about how changing weather patterns and extreme events might impact the delivery of infrastructure services.
- 67% are familiar with the floating treatment wetland project, although many were not familiar with the concept of natural infrastructure.
- Most respondents see natural infrastructure as positive, and only 7% prefer traditional grey infrastructure.
- Most respondents feel positive that local governments are trying new approaches to ensure the delivery of infrastructure services in a changing climate, but some question how it benefits rural residents outside of the communities where it is installed.

Recommendations

- Leverage the visibility and success of the floating treatment wetland project to raise broader awareness of natural infrastructure, by:
    - Creating public signage and visual storytelling at the floating treatment wetland site, linking the project to the larger concept of natural infrastructure – *please note, IISD is currently working with a local artist on the design of an educational sign*.
    - Host community tours or videos showcasing floating treatment wetlands as part of a suite of nature-based solutions– *please note, IISD is finalizing a mini-documentary filmed during the 2025 planting and launch event, which will be available this fall.*
    - Consider working with trusted community organizations (e.g., Northeast Red Watershed District) to deliver workshops or short presentations on natural infrastructure and the multiple benefits.
- Position natural infrastructure as a climate adaptation strategy as the RM of Springfield begins planning and takes action towards increased resilience.
- Continue to explore where natural infrastructure can be implemented throughout the municipality to support service delivery.

Background

Climate change impacts are already being felt by communities across Canada, especially since Canada is warming at twice the global average rate (ECCC, 2019). Availability and quality of water are declining across the country, water-related risks from flooding and drought are increasing, and overall climate and water patterns are becoming much more unpredictable.

Intensifying this problem is a massive infrastructure gap that is widening across Canada. According to the Canadian Infrastructure Report Card, a third of our aging water infrastructure is in fair, poor, or very poor condition. On the Canadian Prairies, the depreciation of water-related grey infrastructure outpaced investments by nearly CAD 3 billion (21.9%) between 2017 and 2021 (Statistics Canada, 2023).

Investments in natural infrastructure[1], such as naturalized stormwater ponds, can provide needed capacity for our water infrastructure needs, often at less cost than traditional grey infrastructure, and with many added environmental and societal benefits. But to achieve the greatest benefits, these systems need better management. Scattered throughout our watersheds are aging stormwater ponds, that may be poorly designed and need upgrades. These outdated systems are often contributing to water and air quality issues, nuisance plants and wildlife, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Many community stormwater ponds for example - none of which are regulated for nutrient limits - can have nitrogen and phosphorus levels beyond Provincial limits, which can exacerbate downstream water quality issues in streams, rivers, and lakes. Nutrient-rich ponds can also be sources of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Chemical treatment is commonly used to treat community stormwater ponds, but repeated use disrupts the biological systems and can contaminate the water and sediment. Biological treatment can be a better option and could also reduce greenhouse gas emissions overall, in addition to water treatment.

Floating wetlands are a proven biological treatment with 1000s of installations globally including in municipalities across Canada. Floating wetland systems are artificial floating islands that provide a substrate to support plants in water depths and environments where plants normally cannot grow. The matrix and plant roots provide surface area for microbial biofilm development and for bioremediation processes. Only a few systems exist in Manitoba, and they are being evaluated for use in wastewater and stormwater treatment.

In collaboration with the RMs of Springfield and East St. Paul in Manitoba, 20 floating wetlands were deployed in three stormwater ponds to improve water quality and reduce potential carbon emissions. The need to manage such water retention systems by incorporating natural systems,

[1] Natural infrastructure are "Conserved, restored, or engineered ecosystems that provide specific infrastructure outcomes, such as flood protection, as well as a variety of co-benefits that support the environment, the economy, and community well-being" (Méthot & Rawluk, 2023).

was highlighted in the RM of East St. Paul's recent Climate Change Plan (2021), which emphasized a need to treat stormwater ponds with native plantings in adjacent riparian lands and on floating treatment wetlands. This project provides the needed evaluation and demonstration of the use of these nature-based infrastructure systems to reduce climate-related impacts and risks and improve overall community resilience. It also communicates the benefits of these systems locally and regionally to ultimately contribute to their replication and expanded use across Canada.

Floating treatment wetlands (July 2025)

Wetland #7 (August 2024)

Wetland #7 (July 2025)

Community Survey

As part of this project, the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) invited community members to take a survey to help municipalities and researchers understand communities' knowledge of natural solutions for our water infrastructure needs and their perception of projects such as floating treatment wetlands. The residents shared their concerns as well as their priorities for benefits associated with these natural infrastructure systems, which can inform natural infrastructure planning and municipalities' communication with residents around future projects.

The voluntary call for survey participation was posted in the RM of Springfield newsletter and The Clipper. Therefore, not every resident in the RM of Springfield or East St. Paul had an equal chance of participating in our survey. The survey was open for a total of 39 days from October 1, 2024 to November 8, 2024. To help encourage participation, there was an optional contest to win four $50 gift certificates to a local business. A total of 48 people responded to the survey. After data cleaning (e.g., removing incomplete survey submissions), the number of responses was reduced to 43.

The survey results are provided in Appendix A.

Installation (July 2024)

Source: IISD

Summary of Survey Findings

Who responded to the survey?

All respondents live in the RM of Springfield, except for two who are from the RM of Brokenhead. Most respondents are female (70%) and there is a tendency toward higher education, as 77% have either a college diploma, bachelor's degree, or graduate/professional degree. There was a diversity of age groups represented, with higher representation from age group 25-34 years old (23%), age group 35-44 years old (21%) and 45-54 years old (21%).

Are respondents concerned about the impact of changing weather and extreme events on municipal water infrastructure?

Almost all respondents (except 1) know about different types of municipal water infrastructure, such as drainage ditches, lagoons, and groundwater wells, and 84% of respondents think that the services from this water infrastructure are impacted by changing weather patterns and more frequent extreme weather events.

One respondent thinks that it is likely that infrastructure is impacted by climate change, but "*is unsure about the impacts locally*", while another commented that they feel that the way the RM has "*rerouted creeks and streams has a way worse impact*". One respondent described that municipal infrastructure design "*should take into account the water usage now and in the future as well as any climatic events we may experience due to climate change*".

"I'd like to see a wetland approach to our ditches. Instead of scraping them down to dirt, the cattails and grasses can help absorb water and provide a habitat for frogs and songbirds." – Survey respondent

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Are respondents familiar with natural infrastructure and do they know that the FTWs are a type of natural infrastructure?

The survey asked the respondents about their general knowledge of natural infrastructure and later about their familiarity with the floating treatment wetland project installed in two communities. In total, twenty-nine (29) (67%) respondents indicated that they knew about the floating treatment wetlands installed in the RM of Springfield or the RM of East St. Paul, with many reporting that they see them in stormwater pond when they drive by (73%) and/or that they have learnt about them in the local media and RM events or newsletters (73%). Of the 29, one respondent indicated in a previous question that they are not at all familiar with natural infrastructure, and 13 respondents indicated that they are only somewhat familiar and/or have not heard of a community using natural infrastructure. This points to conclusion that not

everyone is either familiar with the term 'natural infrastructure' or they did not initially consider floating treatment wetlands as a type of natural infrastructure.

The intention of the survey was in part to "connect the dots" between projects in the community and natural infrastructure solutions, serving as an educational opportunity for the people responding to it.

Why are some respondents "unsure" about the affordability of natural infrastructure?

Three questions examined whether respondents

1. were interested in seeing more natural infrastructure to help provide infrastructure services,
2. supported tax money towards natural infrastructure, and
3. felt that natural infrastructure was an affordable way to help deliver infrastructure services with a changing climate.

Most respondents have positive opinions of natural infrastructure, with more "unsure" responses as opposed to "no" responses. 7% (3) of responses indicated a preference for traditional infrastructure.

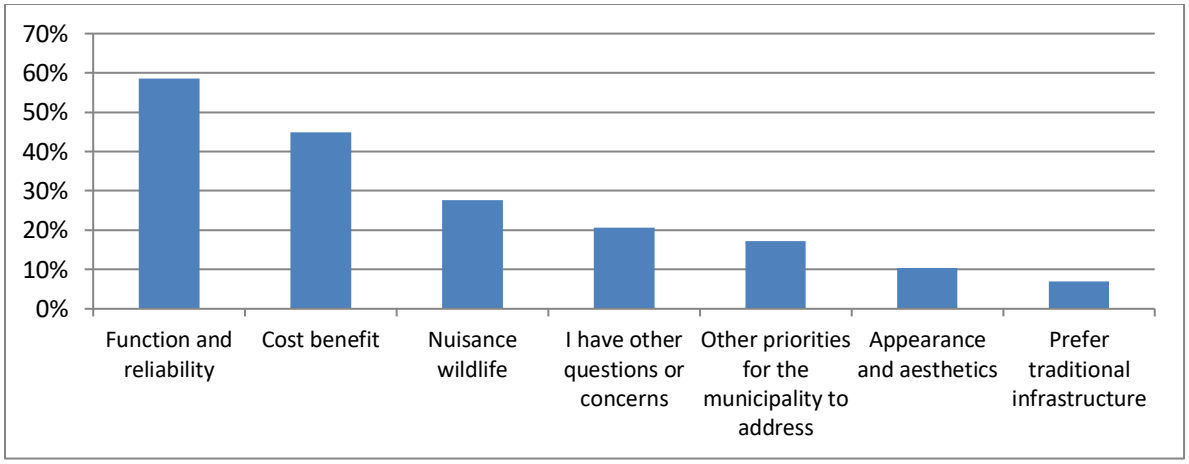
When asked specifically about concerns surrounding natural infrastructure, 'function and reliability' and 'cost benefit' are the two most common, with 59% and 45% of respondents pointing out these concerns, respectfully.

Respondents identified questions or concerns that they have about greater use of natural infrastructure (Figure 1). The most commonly selected question or concern is about the function and reliability (59%), the cost benefit (45%), and nuisance wildlife (28%). 7% of responses indicated a preference for traditional infrastructure.

This leads to the conclusion that ***while most residents support natural infrastructure, there is also a lack of available information for residents about natural infrastructure, rather than opposition, particularly on function, reliability, and cost benefit.***

For example, 12 respondents (or 29%) are unsure that natural infrastructure, like floating treatment wetlands, is an affordable way to help the community continue to deliver the services and adapt to changing weather conditions. Of those 12 that are unsure, 7 cited cost-benefit as a concern related to natural infrastructure. However, 10 of them supported the idea that natural infrastructure should be used more to help communities provide infrastructure services.

Figure 1. Questions and/or concerns that respondents identified about greater use of natural infrastructure



"It feels like the municipality is going in a good direction with this. It sounds like it's good for the environment and good for the community, and I like that there is investigation taking place to see if it's a fit". – Survey respondent

Using popular communication tools and publications, demonstration projects, and expert advice, the *function, reliability, and cost benefit* of natural infrastructure can further be communicated to the residents. Generally, people responded that they typically get their news about what is happening in the community from RM newsletters and social media (around 70% of the respondents). These channels could be used to communicate more information about natural infrastructure. 73% of the respondents indicated that they are interested in learning more about the types and potential benefits of natural infrastructure that can work in their community.

Through some comments, respondents expressed interest in learning more about natural infrastructure by "[*reading] any information… hopefully in our local newspaper and/or e-mail"* and asking about "*educational material or speakers/tours of the FTW for groups"*. Additionally, one respondent noted that they "*appreciated that the community was invited out to learn about them"* at the project launch event.

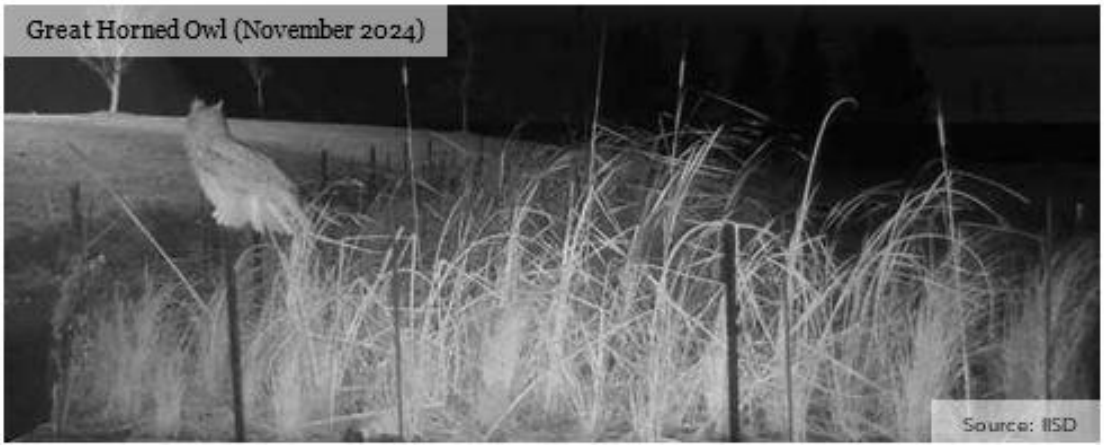
Are there benefits beyond the location installed?

While 79% (33) of respondents showed support for their tax dollars going towards natural infrastructure like floating treatment wetlands, some (6 or 14%) are unsure. Some respondents

do not support it (3), questioning the benefit of natural infrastructure beyond the location or neighborhood where it is installed. They asked about the "*benefits to people that are not serviced by the towns*" or suggesting they prefer tax dollars go to other needs, like road repairs, as they "*don't see any benefits from [floating treatment wetlands] as we, like many others, are on well water and septic fields*". Another respondent suggested that "*there is a balance that needs to happen between money being spent on services that only benefits the towns vs. the larger picture and benefits to people that don't have town services but are paying taxes towards items that only benefit said towns*".

This is an additional learning opportunity, as natural infrastructure can provide multiple benefits beyond the specific area that it is installed. When asked about the additional benefits from natural infrastructure, the benefits selected most frequently are to provide flood and drought protection (80%), increase wildlife habitat (63%), prevent erosion (59%), and provide shade and cooler temperatures (54%).

"I believe that natural and conventional infrastructure can work together to support water quality." – Survey respondent



Appendix A

The International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) invited community members to take a survey to help understand the benefits of natural infrastructure projects like the floating treatment wetlands in local stormwater ponds. **The survey results are intended to shape future use of natural infrastructure in these communities, helping to understand residents' support, concerns, and priorities.**

The questionnaire contained four parts:

- **Water related concerns**: designed to understand residents' familiarity with various types of traditional water infrastructure and their perceptions of more frequent extreme weather events caused by climate change potentially impacting this infrastructure.
- **Familiarity with natural infrastructure and its benefits:** designed to understand whether respondents are familiar with natural infrastructure for water solutions and how they prioritize its co-benefits.
- **The floating treatment wetland project and the future of natural infrastructure in the community:** designed to understand familiarity with local projects, potential concerns with the use of natural infrastructure, and whether it should be used more in their community.
- **Demographics:** designed to collect select demographic information about the respondents.

Survey Details

The following provides more information about the questionnaire design, sampling, and administration:

- The questionnaire was designed by IISD as part of the NIWS Initiative and funding from the Peter Gilgan Foundation.
- Target population of the survey were residents of the RM of Springfield, RM of East St. Paul, and surrounding communities.
- The residents were invited to provide their responses voluntarily in an online survey which was open for a total of 39 days from October 1, 2024 to November 8, 2024.
- The call for survey participation was posted in the RM of Springfield newsletter (October 2024) and in The Clipper (as an ad posted October 31 and October 17).

- Participation for the online survey was solicited through non-probability sampling methods. The call for survey participation was posted in the RM of Springfield newsletter (October 2024) and in The Clipper (as an ad posted October 31 and October 17). Therefore, not every resident in the RM of Springfield or East St. Paul had an equal chance of participating in our survey.
- To encourage participation, there was an optional draw to win four $50 gift certificates.
- All online responses were anonymous; however, if participants chose to enter the free-entry contest, they provided their name and/or email address and/or phone number. Contest entries were stored separately from participants' responses.
- The questionnaire took on average 10 minutes to complete.

A total of 48 people responded to the survey. After data cleaning, the number of responses was reduced to 43.

Given our survey design and implementation methods, the resulting data comes from a non-probabilistic sample, i.e., not every resident had an equal chance of being included. Only residents who receive the monthly RM of Springfield newsletter or read the weekly, free Clipper newspaper had a chance of being included in our survey. Since this is an exploratory survey to understand the range of answers, the data collected met initial objectives.

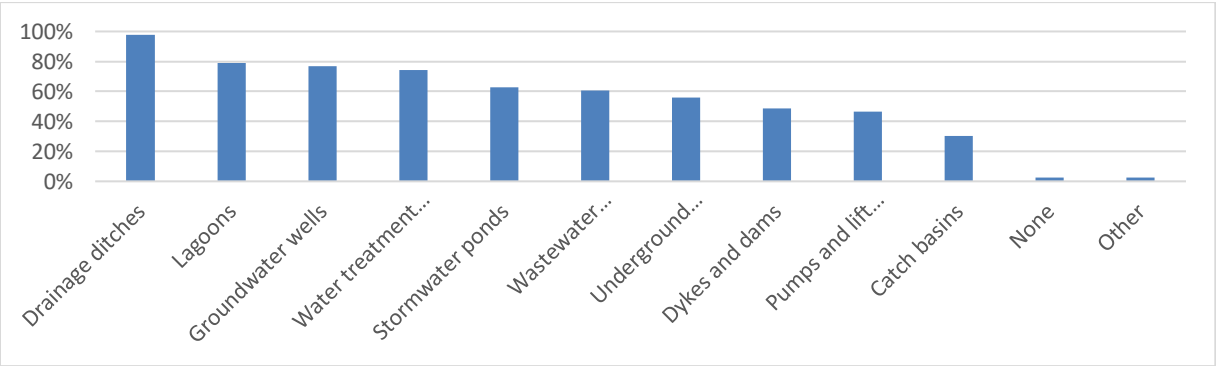
Survey Responses

The results of each survey question are listed below. The comments that respondents provided are listed, with the response to that specific question following the comment in parentheses.

Water related concerns

1. Are you familiar with some of the infrastructure that helps deliver these services in your municipality? Select all that apply.

Municipalities own and operate much of the infrastructure key to our daily lives. Respondents were asked to select the infrastructure that they are familiar with, with drainage ditches (98% of respondents), lagoons (79% of respondents), groundwater wells (77% of respondents), and water treatment facilities (74% of respondents) most frequently listed.



Comments:

- Septic system (other)

2. Think about the services you selected in Q1. Do you think these services and the related infrastructure are impacted by changing weather patterns and more frequent extreme events (e.g., heavy rainfall or snowfall, long periods of hot and dry weather, hailstorms, warmer winters, high winds, etc.)?

An increase in the severity and frequency of storms and weather events may challenge the infrastructure, listed in the previous question, that delivers these key services. Most respondents (36 or 84%) reported that they are concerned that this infrastructure and associated municipal service delivery are impacted by changing weather patterns and more frequent extreme events, while 3 indicated they are not concerned (7%), and 4 indicated that they are unsure (9%).

Comments:

- I think it's very probable they are, but I don't know that for a fact. I haven't seen or heard of whether these services have been overwhelmed by severe weather events, which are happening more frequently and with greater severity because of climate change, there's no question about that. I'm only unsure about the impacts locally. (Unsure)
- I think in my RM the way they have "rerouted" Creeks and streams has a way worse impact. (No)
- I feel design of all of these should take into account the water usage now and in the future as well as any climatic events we may experience due to climate change. (Yes)

Understanding of natural infrastructure and benefits

3. Are you familiar with natural infrastructure or have you heard of communities using natural infrastructure to help deliver the day-to-day water services that we all need?

Most respondents have some knowledge of natural infrastructure, with 21 indicating they are familiar and/or have heard of a community using natural infrastructure (49%) and 21 indicating that they are somewhat familiar and/or they have not heard of a community using natural infrastructure (49%). One respondent was not familiar and had not heard of natural infrastructure in use.

Comments:

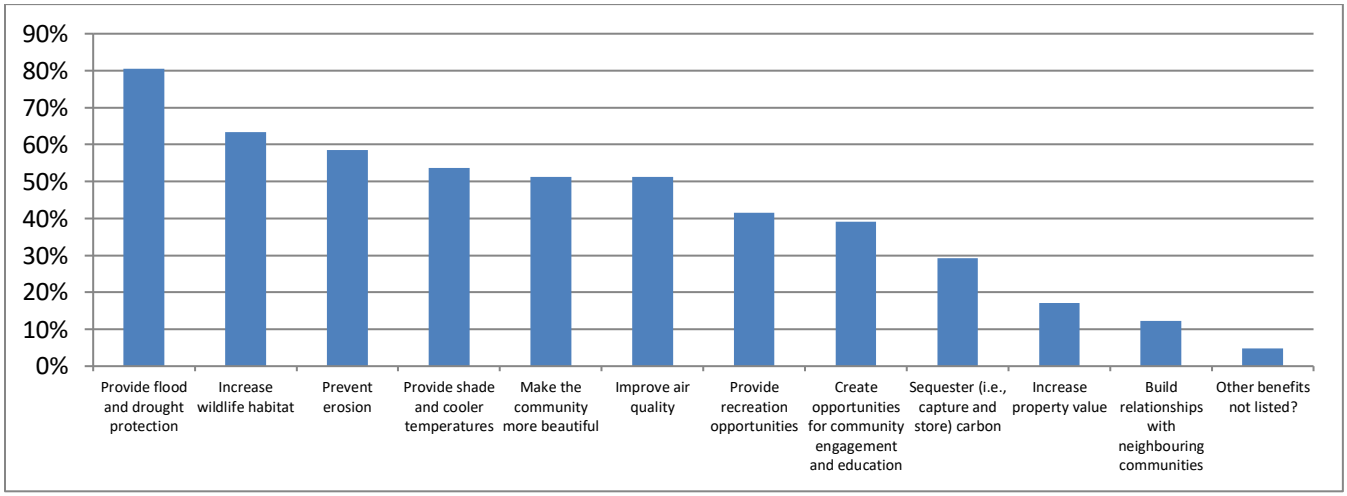
- As far as I am concerned, all communities use natural infrastructure, it's called nature. More and more are also using man made infrastructure, usually so they can increase population, and business. Thereby getting more tax dollars so they can continue the viscous circle. (Familiar)
- I've heard the northeast red watershed district is implementing water retention ponds and wetland restoration projects to mitigate flood risks and reduce nutrient loading,

shelterbelts to reduce erosion, rain gardens, and riparian area projects to assist wildlife and reduce erosion. Yay! (Familiar)

- As a science teacher in the community, we discuss and encourage these forms or infrastructure. We also explain the downfalls of storm drainage and massive ditches that speed up spring runoff instead of allowing absorption of moisture. (Familiar)
- I am concerned about and hope that there are studies continuing to employ some of these natural methods of protecting our water. (Somewhat familiar)

4. In addition to helping deliver water services (e.g., improving water quality or reducing runoff), natural infrastructure can provide other community benefits. What are some other benefits that are most important to you? Please select your top 4.

The benefits selected most frequently are to provide flood and drought protection (80%), increase wildlife habitat (63%), prevent erosion (59%), and provide shade and cooler temperatures (54%).



Comments:

- Save money not fighting Mother Nature.
- Cut taxes, stop growth, keep our RM small and simple

The floating treatment wetland project and natural infrastructure in the community

5. Do you know about the floating treatment wetlands in the RM of Springfield or the RM of East St. Paul?

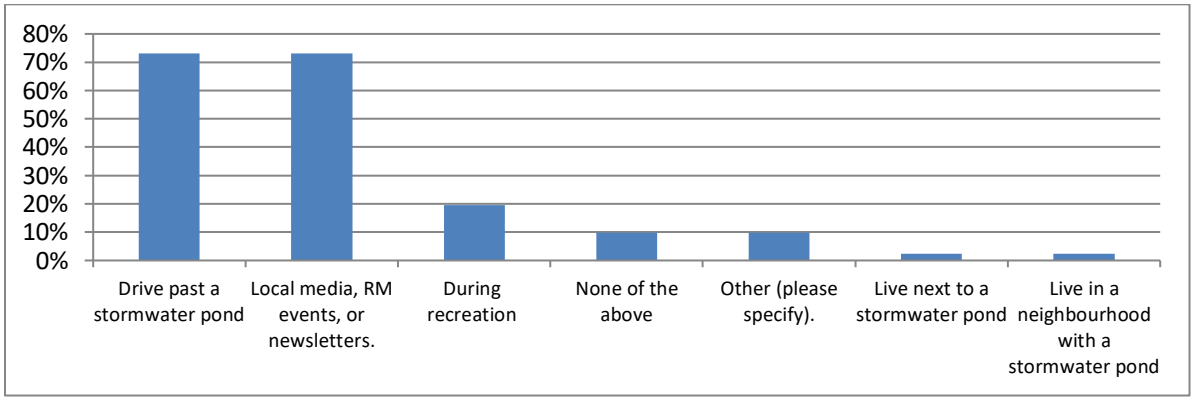
Most of the respondents (36 or 84%) are aware of the floating treatment wetlands, with 7 identifying that they are aware of the ones installed in the RM of Springfield. No respondents out of 7 noted the floating treatment wetlands installed in the RM of East St. Paul[2].

Comments:

- RM Springfield Municipal Office. Which I would have to say, still has a large seasonal Goose population. They are beautiful, and they were here long before we were. But, I must say it's much better than hired contractors with Argo's dumping chemical's into Oakbank's drainage slews.

6. If yes, I know about the floating treatment wetlands in the RM of Springfield or the RM of East St. Paul because (select all that apply):

Respondents who noted that they were aware of the floating treatment wetlands in the previous question were asked to identify how they know about them. The most popular answer was that they see them in stormwater pond when they drive by (73%) and they have learnt about them in the local media and RM events or newsletters (73%), followed by during recreation (20%).



Comments (other):

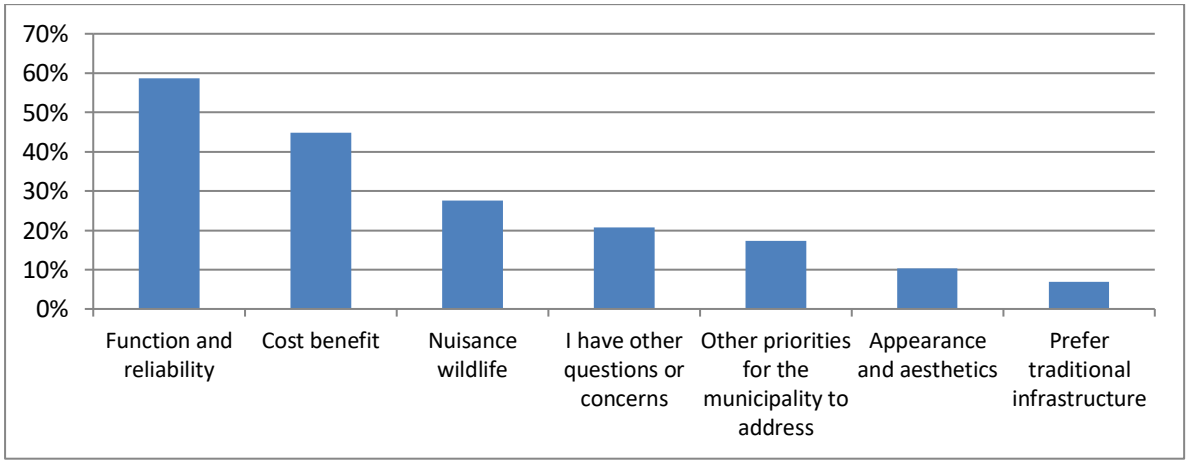
- I live on a drainage pond, which most years saw the RM hire contractors to poison the pond. But I believe the Province has outlawed the chemical this year.

[2] There were 0 respondents from the RM of East St. Paul. IISD assumes that this is because there is limited engagement from the RM of East St. Paul due to capacity limitations and staff turnover. Additionally, the RM of Springfield falls within the distribution footprint of The Clipper, where the survey was advertised along with the RM of Springfield newsletter.

- I helped install them!
- I'm glad that you have made us aware of these wetlands and will definitely pay more attention to them and observe them as we travel around the municipality.
- My daughter and I attended the launch of the floating treatment wetlands and helped put a few plants in.

7. Do you have any questions or concerns about natural infrastructure, like floating treatment wetlands, and their increased use? Select all that apply.

Respondents identified questions or concerns that they have about greater use of natural infrastructure. The most commonly selected question or concern is about the function and reliability (59%), the cost benefit (45%), and nuisance wildlife (28%). 7% of responses indicated a preference for traditional infrastructure.



Comments (I have other questions or concerns):

- Biggest concern would be education of the community to be open to natural infrastructure. It will take time to teach folks but it will be rewarding when residents are excited for natural infrastructure projects!
- Concerned that muskrats would be attracted to the natural infrastructure.
- I think they are great!
- No concerns. I hope it works well.
- No concerns
- No concerns. I like the natural approach

8. Natural infrastructure should be used more to help communities provide infrastructure services (e.g., drinking water, stormwater, wastewater, beauty, wildlife habitat, clean air, cooler temperatures, recreational opportunities).

Most of the respondents (38 or 88%) indicated that natural infrastructure should be used more to provide municipal services, while 9% indicated that they are unsure and 2% disagreed with increased usage.

Comments:

- I believe that nature has all the answers, don't mess with nature and all will take care of itself. (unsure)
- I leave that to the experts (yes)

9. Using natural infrastructure, like floating treatment wetlands, is an affordable way to help our community continue to deliver the services we all rely on and adapt to changing weather conditions.

Twenty-nine (69%) of respondents indicated that they consider natural infrastructure to be an affordable way to help the community continue to deliver the services and adapt to changing weather conditions, while 12 (29%) are unsure, 1 respondent said it is not an affordable approach, and 1 respondent skipped this question.

Comments:

- I don't know how much they cost! (unsure)
- Depending on the project I agree! (yes)
- These are not natural components from the local ecosystem (unsure)
- It may not be cheaper today, but the long term benefits are definitely more affordable (yes)
- Are they "affordable" cost vs benefit? Any benefits to people that are not serviced by the towns? (unsure)
- A good way but no idea of cost comparison (skipped)

10. I support my tax dollars going towards natural infrastructure projects like these floating treatment wetlands.

Thirty-three (79%) respondents indicated they support their tax dollars going towards natural infrastructure like floating treatment wetlands, while 6 (14%) are unsure, and 3 respondents do not support it. One respondent skipped this question.

Comments:

- Definitely! (yes)
- I would like to know if the project is working as planned (yes)
- With in reason (yes)
- Rather see it go to road repairs as we don't see any benefits from these as we like many others are on well water and septic fields (no)
- As opposed to what? (skipped)

11. Using natural infrastructure, like floating treatment wetlands, shows that our community is a leader in new and innovative solutions.

Thirty-three (79%) respondents indicated that the use of natural infrastructure, like floating treatment wetlands, shows that the community is a leader in new and innovative solutions, while 7 (17%) are unsure, and 2 respondents do not support it. One respondent skipped this question.

Comments:

- I guess someone who screwed it up, should help find a way to clean it up. (unsure)
- Not interested in competitions. Just what is best for the environment and community (skipped).

12. I am interested in learning more about the types and potential benefits of natural infrastructure that can work in my community.

Thirty-one (72%) respondents indicated that they are interested in learning more about different types and potential benefits of natural infrastructure in the community, 9 (21%) are not interested, and 3 are unsure.

Comments:

- I am interested, but I will read about it in the newspaper. I don't need you to email me more information (no)

13. The survey is almost done! Is there anything else you would like to share about natural infrastructure or the floating treatment wetland in your community?

Respondents also left a number of comments regarding natural infrastructure and floating treatment wetlands highlighting largely support for these types of community initiatives, but also some concerns.

Comments in support of natural infrastructure:

- Would like to see it occur on a broader scale! Wonderful concepts
- Nature is the best medicine. Don't mess with it, and it will help itself and wildlife and human life.
- Keep up the wonderful work!
- I would read any information that I see on this method of natural infrastructure, hopefully in our local newspaper and/or e-mail
- Love the idea!! Anything to look more natural, provide spots for wildlife as well.. we all choose to live out of the city for the more 'country' small town feel .. nature and wildlife should be a part of it!
- Natural infrastructure and floating treatments should become mandated in every retention, drainage pond in every city that develops new residential developments.

Aesthetically it would improve the area, add to the eco system, provide air quality improvements and reduce problem wildlife involvement.

- It feels like the municipality is going in a good direction with this. It sounds like it's good for the environment and good for the community, and I like that there is investigation taking place to see if it's a fit.
- Great work being done!
- Small positive step toward natural infrastructure!
- Do you offer educational material or speakers/tours of the FTW for groups.
- I greatly appreciate that our communities are investigating these and seeing the benefits for today and for the future.
- I'd like to see a wetland approach to our ditches. Instead of scraping them down to dirt, the cattails and grasses can help absorb water and provide a habitat for frogs and songbirds
- I believe that Natural and conventional infrastructure can work together to support water quality.
- I appreciated that the community was invited out to learn about them.
- Love that the RM is trying cost effective and money saving natural resources

Comments expressing concern or questions:

- Stop destroying wetlands to put floating wetlands in.
- Only concern is the ponds next to the splash pad. There are times the splash pad is covered in goose feces. It does eventually get cleaned up, but I worry about the safety of my children in how often it is cleaned.
- Obviously there is a balance that needs to happen. Between money being spent on services that only benefits the towns. Vs the larger picture and benefits to people that don't have town services but are paying taxes towards items that only benefit said towns.

Demographics

14. Where do you live?

While the floating treatment wetlands are installed in both the RM of Springfield and the RM of East St. Paul, the 41 of respondents (or 95%) live in the RM of Springfield. 2 respondents (or 5%) specified "other", commenting that they live in the RM of Brokenhead. There were 0 respondents from the RM of East St. Paul.

15. What is your gender?

Our sample included 30 female respondents (or 70%), 12 male respondents (or 28%), and 1 respondent indicated "Prefer not to answer".

16. Do you identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuk (Inuit)?

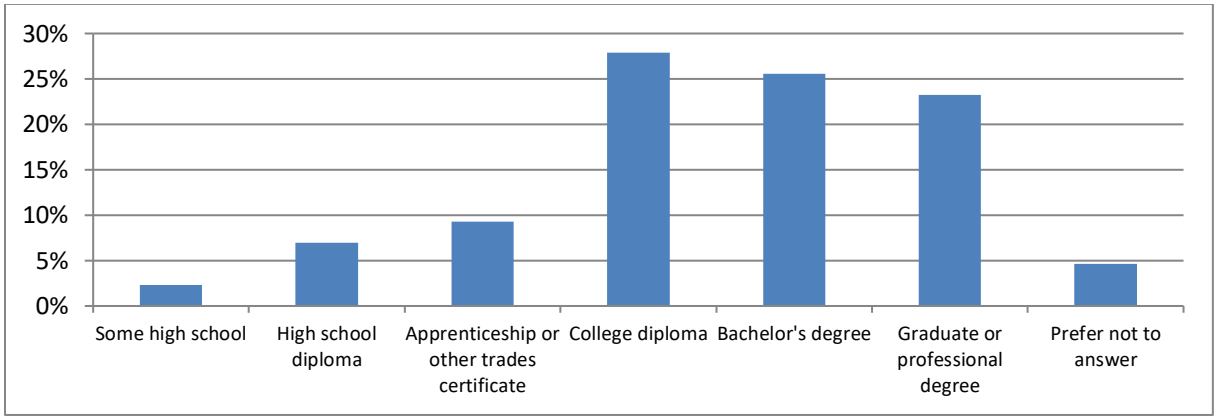
Our sample included 5 respondents (or 12%) that identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuk (Inuit), 35 respondents that do not (or 81%), and 3 respondents (7%) that indicated "Prefer not to answer".

17. What is your age group?

We see a diversity of age groups represented, with higher representation from age group 25-34 years old (23%), age group 35-44 years old (21%) and 45-54 years old (21%).

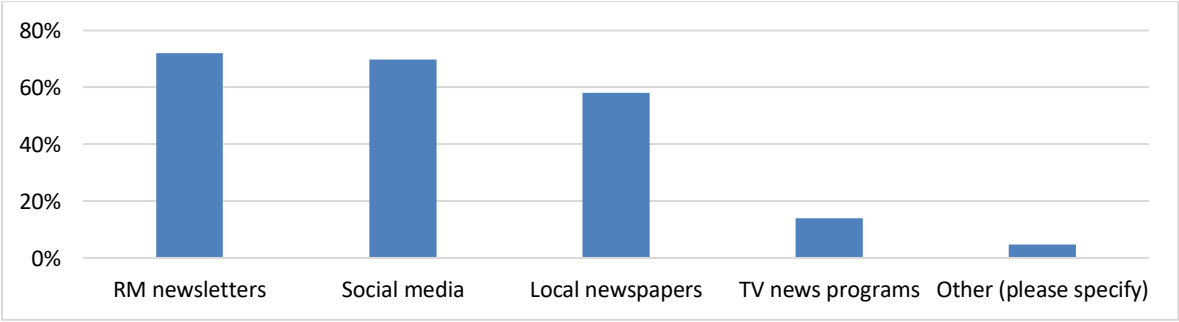
18. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

There is a tendency towards higher education as 77% of our respondents had either a college diploma, bachelor's degree, or graduate/professional degree.



19. Where do you learn about what is happening in your community and beyond? Please select all.

Most of the respondents typically learn about what is happening in their community and beyond by reading RM newsletters (74%) and through social media (70%), followed by local newspapers (58%).



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