



**WATER**  
Balance  
**MODEL**  
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

# The Water Balance Model for British Columbia:

A Web-Accessible Tool for "Green" Subdivision Design

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**The Missing Link  
in Watershed Planning has been...**

**A tool that quantifies the benefits –  
in terms of reducing **rainwater runoff volume**  
- of installing source controls under different  
land use, soil and climate conditions**



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## Inter-Governmental Partnership: Vision

To promote changes in land development practices so that:

- The built environment will preserve and/or restore the natural water balance over time
- Performance targets will be achieved for rainwater runoff volume and flow rate reduction at the source, *where rain falls*

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Vancouver, taken during the "golden hour" of sunset. The city is nestled in a valley, with a prominent clock tower (the City Hall tower) visible in the center. The background features a range of mountains, some with snow-capped peaks, under a sky with soft, orange and pink clouds. The foreground is dominated by a dense forest of evergreen trees.

# **The Mission is to Create a Legacy**

- 1. Influence choices by individuals and organizations**
- 2. Use the term "sustainability" as a lens for considering approaches that influence choices**

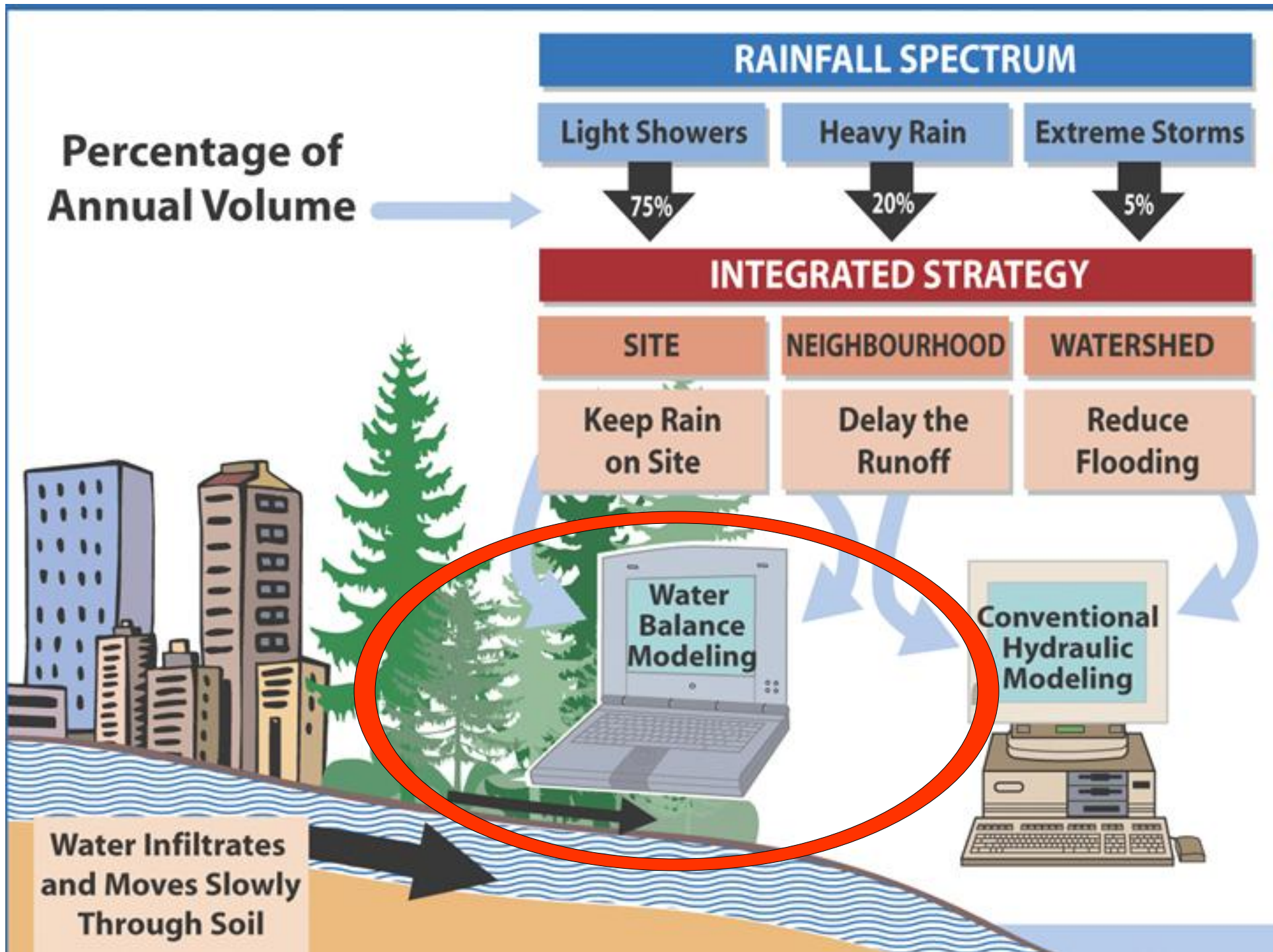
A scenic view of a residential neighborhood. In the foreground, a white house with a prominent brick chimney is partially visible, surrounded by lush green trees. The middle ground shows a cluster of houses with various roof colors, interspersed with more trees, some of which are in bloom with pink blossoms. The background features a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

[www.waterbalance.ca](http://www.waterbalance.ca)

The Water Balance Model  
is about a way of thinking

# Water Balance Model promotes Integration of Perspectives

- **Planners:** Tool for Better Use of Space
- **Engineers:** Tool for Pre-Design
- **Landscape Architects:** Tool for Green Solutions
- **Ecologists:** Tool for Watershed Function
- **Educators:** Tool for Social Marketing



# How the Water Balance Model can be used to make better decisions:

- **Local Governments** -  
when communicating with the public
- **Planners and Engineers** –  
when setting performance targets
- **Developers and their Consultants** -  
when testing scenarios
- **Environmental Agencies** -  
when monitoring watershed health



An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood, showing houses, streets, and green spaces. A green text box is overlaid on the top half of the image.

**The Water Balance Model  
can be applied at three scales:**

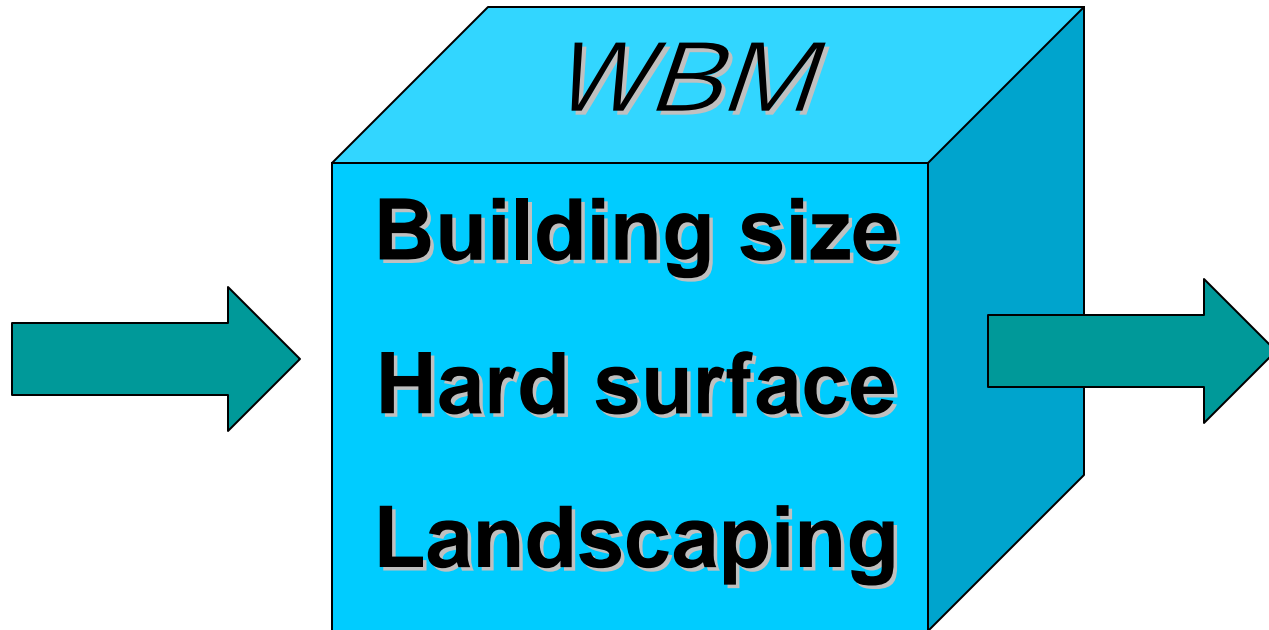
An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood, showing houses, streets, and green spaces. A green text box is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

**Site  
Subdivision  
Watershed**



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**Site Scale**



**Community**  
**Liveability**



What was a conversation...  
becomes interaction!

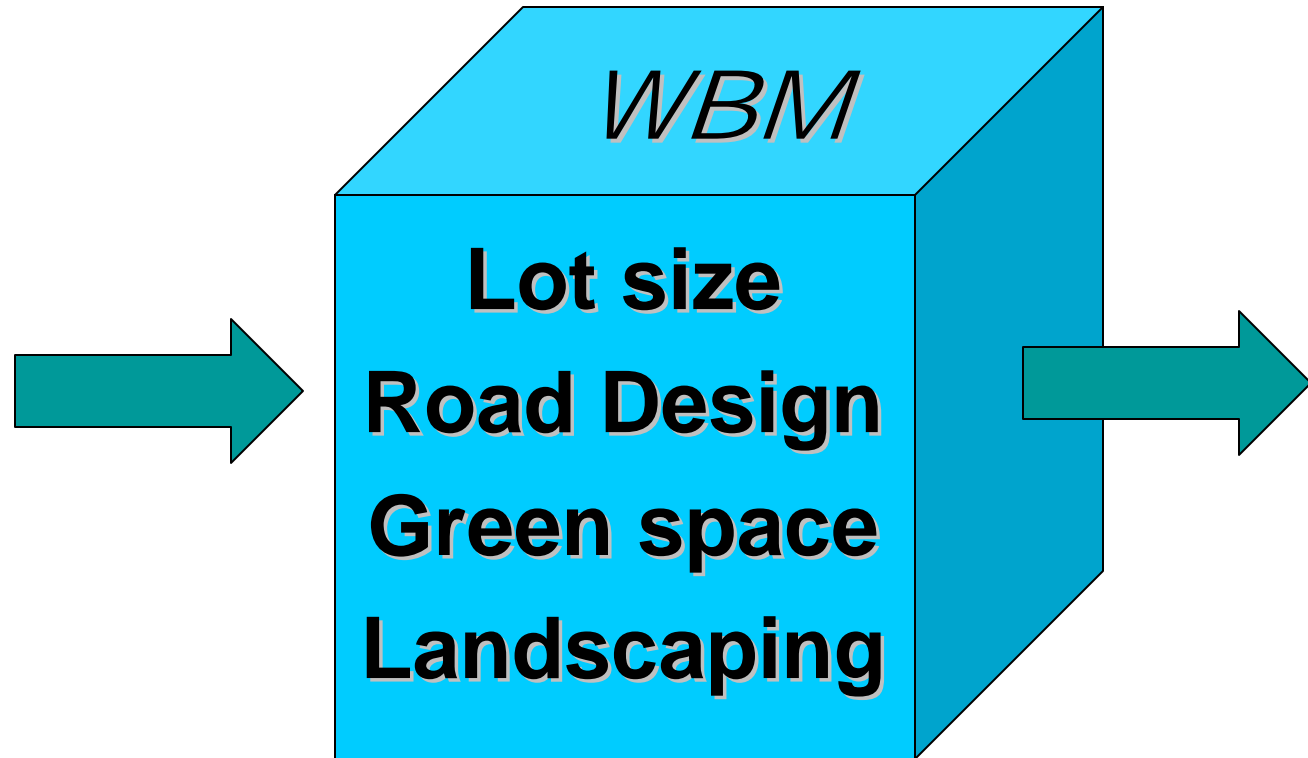


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## Subdivision Scale:



**Community**  
**Liveability**

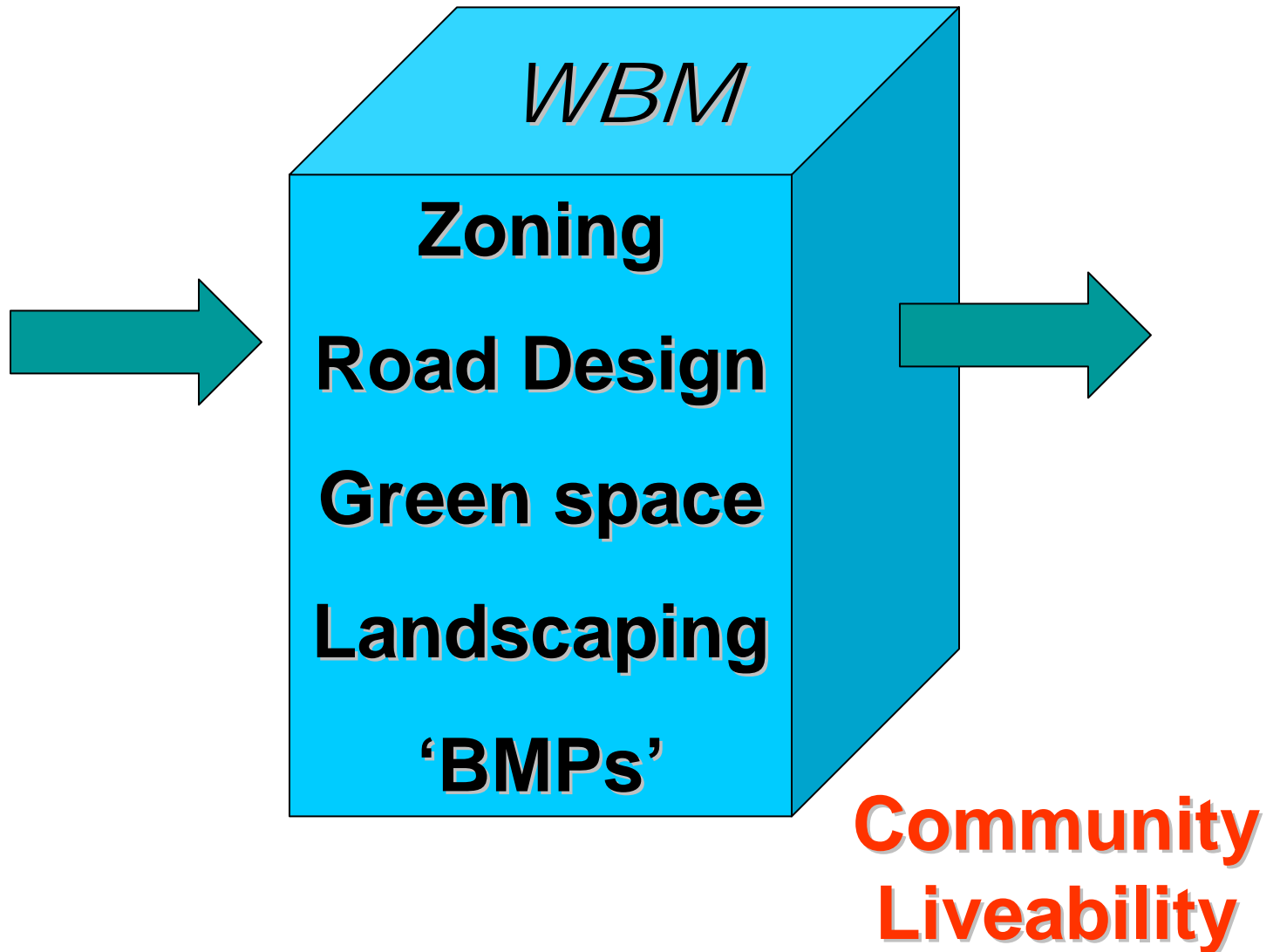


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## Watershed Scale:





Actions on the Ground...

...Will Result in Cumulative Benefits Over Time!