News Release

July 13, 2015 City of Edmonton

Gauge the storm with rainfall data

Edmontonians can now find out how much it rained in different parts of the city, thanks to an open data site map of 30 different rain gauges in and around Edmonton measuring the amount and severity of rainfall in real time.

The map was released through the City of Edmonton's Open City Initiative and Drainage Services Branch.

Once 2mm of rain is collected, data will be sent from the rain gauges to the open data site. The map will update every 15 minutes, displaying icons that will change in colour and size depending on the rainfall amount and severity.

"Most storms in our large city that create challenges for the drainage system are localized thunderstorms, large amounts of rain in short periods of time," said Scott Vatcher, senior engineer with Drainage Services. "The rain gauge data is important because it is a way to visually inform Edmontonians about the location of storms and the impact it can have on our local drainage system."

Rainfall is measured to assess storms and their effects on flooding and sewer performance and design. Drainage Services has been collecting rain data from the 30 gauges since 2008 and began working with Open City for the site in January of 2015.

"This project fulfills an important City goal: enabling citizens to interact more fluidly with other citizens, and with their government," said Mark St. Martin, program manager for Open Data. "Open City is focusing on bringing public data to citizens and sharing information faster."

Visit data.edmonton.ca and click on the 24 Hour Rainfall Data box at the top of the page.

For more information:

Drainage Services
Open Data Catalogue

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