

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE REGION METRO VANCOUVER CONFERENCE DAY

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Burnaby, Raingarden

OVERVIEW

Purpose:

- Green Infrastructure (GI) overview
- Tools and approaches to overcome barriers to implementation

Outline:

- GI overview
- Challenges and benefits
- Feedback and ideas
- Discussion and next steps

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- GI: water management that protects, restores, or mimics the natural water cycle
- Complementary to grey infrastructure solutions





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Richmond Olympic Oval, Wetland Treatment Pond

1

https://www.letstalkrichmond.ca/rainwater2017/widgets/11953/photos/3776



Vancouver Convention Centre, Green Roof

https://www.flickr.com/photos/megz/5777003510





OVERVIEW

Stormwater Management

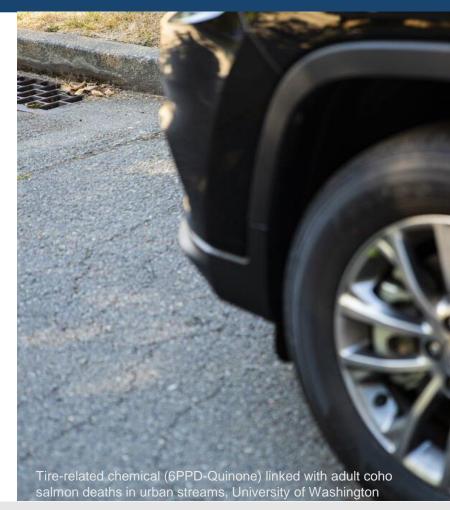
- Stormwater managed by members using Integrated Stormwater Management Plans (ISMPs)
- MV coordinates and supports through the Stormwater interagency Liaison Group (SILG)
- MV coordinates regional reporting to the Province



KEY CHALLENGES

Stormwater Management

- Facilitating development while protecting the region's waters
- Affordability and increasing demands for local gov't funding
- Alignment across multijurisdictional landscape
- Accelerating climate change
- Evolving understanding of emerging contaminants



BENEFITS OF GI

- Improves regional livability including community health
- Supports ecosystems by working with nature
- Downstream flood reduction
- Water retention during droughts
- Filters pollutants
- Groundwater recharge





GI WORKSHOPS

- GI Workshop (May 2022): Deltares, a world-leading GI expert developed a workshop for regional participants
- 2. Stormwater Workshop (November 2022): LWMP workshop to help develop stormwater goals, strategies, and actions for the next plan

GI WORKSHOPS

What we heard

- Inconsistent GI implementation
- Lack of common GI understanding, knowledge and performance metrics
- Need to demonstrate long-term life-cycle benefits
- Enhanced regional support and guidance for GI implementation
- Improved integration into ISMPs



FIRST NATIONS PRIORITIES

What we heard

- Improved water quality to support food security and shellfish harvesting
- Implement GI upstream to reduce contaminants
- Characterize and publish pollutant loadings downstream



TOOLS AND GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS - IDEAS

- Digital tools for members
 - When and where to use GI
 - Choosing your GI
- Technical guidelines / research:
 - CEC removal by GI type
 - GI maintenance best practices
- "Ask an Expert" digital platform
 - Technical support from international experts



ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS - IDEAS

- Regional prioritization for funding requests to Province / Feds
- Revisit GI vs potable water infrastructure offsets
- Integrate GI requirements / incentives into ISMPs
- GI pilot projects on MV lands
- Establish and implement ecological accounting to tackle riparian deficits



PLANNED NEXT STEPS

- Revisiting priority LWMP actions (including GI) through SILG May 11, 2023
- Revitalize SILG to support:
 - Regional development of priority tools and support, driven by municipal priorities
 - Regional team approach to champion riparian health, focusing on accountability for ISMP action
- Align resourcing with municipal needs





- 1. What tools and support would be most helpful?
- 2. Any other suggestions?



Questions?

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