

From: [Metro Vancouver](#)
To:
Subject: Iona Projects Updates – September 2024 Community Newsletter
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Attachments:

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You are receiving this newsletter because you have expressed an interest in, or a connection to, the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects, the adjacent Iona Beach Regional Park, resource recovery opportunities, or the area's ecology.

September 23, 2024

Community Engagement Updates

Barge Berth

Metro Vancouver continues to explore suitable locations for a barge berth to support construction of the Iona Projects. Transporting construction materials by barge would ensure safer, more efficient delivery of construction materials to the site over the projects' 15-year timeline, when compared to using trucks alone.

To date, three sites have been explored. Over the past two years, we have heard various points of feedback and concerns related to the proposed sites on Iona Island.

Through our previous engagement and conversations with stakeholders, Metro Vancouver has identified a fourth location on Sea Island for consideration. This site is an existing barge facility owned and operated by the Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR) and located on the eastern point of Sea Island, adjacent to the McArthurGlen Designer Outlet.

Public engagement on the fourth site will take place from September 23 – October 15, 2024. Your feedback on Site 4 is valued and can be provided in the following ways:

- In-person on September 24, 2024 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at BCIT Aerospace Technology Campus 3800 Cessna Drive, Richmond
- In-person on October 8, 2024 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Dunbar Community Centre 4747 Dunbar Street, Vancouver
- [Complete a questionnaire](#) between September 23 – October 15, 2024

Community engagement on Sites 1-3 took place between October 2023 and May 2024. Previous engagement reports are available on metrovancover.org/iona.



Map of Sites Being Considered for a Barge Berth

Project Activities on Iona Island - Current and Upcoming

Preliminary Design of Wastewater Treatment Plant

Metro Vancouver approved the recommendation to award the contract for preliminary design of the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade to the Fraser Delta Group on July 26, 2024. As part of this work, we will continue to keep top-of-mind two things: affordability and optimizing the way that we deliver the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects.

New federal regulations require us to upgrade the aging treatment plant to a minimum of secondary level of wastewater treatment. The Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects are essential to ensure regulatory compliance, continued protection of human health and the environment, and the ability to support increasing wastewater treatment demands from growing populations in Vancouver, Burnaby, and Richmond.

[Watch Metro Vancouver board meeting recordings](#)

Southeast Lagoon Dewatering

Desludging of the southeast lagoon is expected to be completed in fall 2024. Once complete, the lagoon will be filled in with sand and will then be used as laydown area for construction materials for the duration of the Iona Projects.

Clean out operations on the remaining sludge lagoons will begin in spring 2025. Operations will occur yearly until 2031 for approximately nine months per year. Metro Vancouver will continue to monitor and mitigate noise, odour, and wildlife impacts throughout operations.

Did You Know?

The lagoons on Iona Island were originally built to store the solids left after primary wastewater treatment. With the commissioning of a new Biosolids Dewatering Facility in 2024, the land that was previously used for biosolids drying and storage will be used for plant construction and ecological restoration projects.

The Biosolids Dewatering Facility will mechanically dry the solids left after primary wastewater treatment,

turning them into beneficial biosolids. The facility is fully enclosed and has stringent odour controls.

The lagoons where solids are currently stored after primary treatment will be transformed over the next several years. The existing treated sludge lagoons are being cleaned out to prepare the site and support construction of the plant. Each area will be repurposed for alternate uses during and after project construction.

Ferguson Road Realignment

The realigned section of Ferguson Road is nearing completion and is expected to be open in late 2024. The Vancouver Airport Authority, in partnership with Metro Vancouver, are upgrading the road to accommodate construction traffic, improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians, meet future service requirements for the upgraded plant, and support access to Iona Beach Regional Park. For more information, visit [Ferguson Road improvement work \(yvr.ca\)](#).

Biophysical Studies for Park and Ecological Restoration Projects

Metro Vancouver's consultants have been conducting terrestrial biophysical surveys of Iona Island since late 2023 to fill data gaps and gain a better understanding of the rich biological and physical conditions on Iona Island. These surveys have continued throughout spring and summer 2024, and encompass water quality, freshwater fish, terrestrial ecosystem mapping, rare plants, bats, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates. Small mammal surveys began in May 2024 to assess presence and absence across ecosystem types. The findings from the surveys will guide the Iona Island Park and Ecological Restoration Projects and support the development of a long-term monitoring program.



Hatfield consultant using sweep nets to collect and identify butterflies and dragonflies for the Terrestrial Invertebrates Meander survey.

Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

Metro Vancouver is a partnership of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation that collaboratively plans for and delivers regional-scale services. Board directors and committee members meet regularly to make decisions that impact the 2.8 million residents that live in our region.

You can learn more about [Boards and Committees](#), including viewing past meeting recordings and live webcasts.

Procurement Updates

Current Procurement Opportunities

Metro Vancouver continues to procure providers of various services and equipment. To learn more about current and upcoming procurement opportunities, please visit the project's [procurement webpage](#).

Interested in working on this project? Please reach out anytime during pre-procurement with your questions and feedback via email at ionawwpteam@metrovancouver.org.

About the Projects

The Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant in Richmond, BC was commissioned in 1963 and today serves approximately 750,000 residents in the Vancouver Sewerage Area (serving Vancouver, parts of Burnaby and

Richmond, the University Endowment Lands, and UBC). The facility provides primary treatment and processes about 200 billion litres of wastewater each year.

The plant is being upgraded to protect public health and the environment in our growing region. The design concepts for the projects include:

- **Tertiary wastewater treatment** to improve the treated wastewater quality being discharged to the Salish Sea
- **Ecological restoration projects** to restore Iona Beach Regional Park's diverse and sensitive ecosystems, build climate resilience, increase park visitor connection to nature, and create integration between the wastewater treatment plant and Park
- **Resource recovery opportunities** to help support the region's carbon neutrality objectives, by recovering important resources such as reclaimed water for non-potable uses, and biogas captured and used at the plant to generate heat for operations as well as supply for renewable natural gas to the Fortis BC natural gas distribution system
- **Extensive ground improvements** to protect the plant from earthquake events and account for future sea level rise this century

The projects are now in the Early Works and Preliminary Design phase, with early works to prepare the site underway. Please visit the metrovancover.org/iona to see a list of engagement events and meeting summaries from the Project Definition Phase (June 2018 to February 2022).

Visitors to xʷəyeyət (Iona Island) may see crews conducting work related to these activities.

For more information about the numerous projects that make up the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects, please see the [conceptual design background paper](#).

[Learn more about the projects](#)

Keeping You Informed

Thank you for your interest in the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects. If you know others who are interested in the project, please forward this email and encourage them to sign up for future newsletters by visiting metrovancover.org/iona.



Contact Us

A Community Liaison is available to address questions and concerns:

Community Liaison: 604-432-6200 (Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm)

After Hours Emergency: 604-451-6610

Email: IonaWWTP@metrovancover.org

Website: metrovancover.org

Follow Us



Metro Vancouver is a diverse organization that plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewers and wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. It also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable housing, and serves as a regional federation. The organization is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation located in the region of the same name. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each member jurisdiction.