

**From:** [Metro Vancouver](#)  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Iona Projects Updates – December 2024 Community Newsletter  
**Date:** Monday, December 23, 2024  
**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.

December 23, 2024

## Barge Berth - Fall 2024 Engagement Summary

From September 23 to October 15, Metro Vancouver engaged with local communities in Richmond and Vancouver on a fourth location for the proposed barge berth, which is an existing barge facility owned and operated by the Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR). An engagement summary from this phase of engagement is now available at [metrovancouver.org/iona](https://metrovancouver.org/iona) under "Community Engagement".

[View engagement summary report](#)

New information presented during this period focused on the introduction of site 4 to the site selection study. Metro Vancouver sought feedback specific to site 4, however participants were also welcome to share feedback or ask questions about other barge berth sites or topics related to the Iona Projects.

Site 4 is also being included in the site selection study, which remains underway. Once the study concludes, Metro Vancouver will share a summary of the site selection study.

### What We Heard

Key themes expressed through this phase of engagement included:

- **Community impacts** – concern for potential impacts to nearby residents during construction and/or operation of the barge berth, such as traffic and noise.
- **Safety concerns** – concern about the health and safety impacts of construction noise, light, air quality, and traffic, whether on the river or road.
- **Environmental protection** – desire to minimize environmental harm while transporting construction materials to site.
- **Cost savings** – support for cost savings by transporting materials the shortest distance by truck and/or

using an existing barge facility.

### Site Selection Criteria

A study is being completed to evaluate the four potential sites for the proposed barge berth, including the environmental and health impacts at each of the locations. The study will evaluate:

- Input from xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band)
- Input from community members
- Ecological impacts
- Functionality
- Costs
- Schedule

### Next Steps

This engagement will inform the site selection study as a consideration for selecting a barge berth site to support construction for the Iona Projects. The site selection study is ongoing. Metro Vancouver continues to engage with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), member jurisdictions, and other interested groups specific to the barge berth location selection.

## 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 underway to prepare the site. Visit [metrovancouver.org/iona](https://metrovancouver.org/iona) for a list of any engagement opportunities 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.

Learn more about the projects

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

# Low-waste gift ideas for smart cookies



## Keeping You Informed

Thank you for your interest in the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects. If you know others who are interested in learning about the projects, please forward this email and encourage them to sign up for future newsletter by visiting [metrovancover.org](https://metrovancover.org)

### Contact Us

A community liaison is available to address questions and concerns:

**Community liaison:** 604-432-6200

**Email:** [ionaWWTP@metrovancover.org](mailto:ionaWWTP@metrovancover.org)

**Website:** [metrovancover.org/iona](https://metrovancover.org/iona)

### 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.