

From: [Metro Vancouver](#)
To:
Subject: Iona Projects Updates – July 2024 Community Newsletter
Date: July 3, 2024
Attachments:

metrovancouver | LIQUID WASTE



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.

July 3, 2024

Community Engagement Updates

Barge Berth

At this time, no final decision has been made on the location of the barge berth and the third-party site selection study remains underway. Metro Vancouver will provide an update on the site selection study once the study concludes.

To see the engagement materials from the barge berth engagement sessions this year, visit the project website and click on "Community Engagement" near the bottom of the page. The latest [engagement summary report from the May 15, 2024 session](#) is now available on the web page.

Causeway Improvements

Metro Vancouver is improving the Iona Island Causeway to prepare for construction of the Iona Projects. A pop-up engagement session took place on Sunday, June 23, 2024 in Iona Beach Regional Park and a virtual information session took place on Thursday, June 27, 2024. Materials from these sessions have been posted to the project website.

Metro Vancouver residents still have an opportunity to provide input by completing an [online feedback form](#) by July 12, 2024.

Liquid Waste Management Plan - Have Your Say on the Future of Wastewater Management in the Region

Share your feedback on the direction of the [update to the Liquid Waste Management Plan](#) and learn about ways you can support the health of our rivers and ocean. The plan will set the course for how we manage wastewater and stormwater in the region for the next 10 years, and includes actions for Metro Vancouver and its members.

Provide your input by July 4 via an online feedback form.

[Online feedback form](#)

Project Activities on Iona Island - Current and Upcoming

Outfall Rehabilitation – Now Complete

Treated wastewater is carried from the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Salish Sea through two outfall pipes. Inspections of the pipes that began in May were completed in late June on schedule. Public access to the Iona Jetty will no longer be restricted on weekdays.

Park visitors may still see small crews around Iona Beach Regional Park conducting low-impact investigation work. For more information about impacts and closures related to this work, please visit the [Iona Beach Regional Park web page](#).

Biosolids Stockpile Removal – Now Complete

Over 500,000 tonnes of land-dried biosolids have successfully been removed from Iona Island to make way for construction of the new Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. Historically, biosolids were dried on the eastern portion of the the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant site, resulting in a stockpile. The effort to remove the biosolids spanned over a decade and was completed in June this year.

Biosolids are recovered from wastewater treatment and are rich in the nutrients and organic matter that plants love. Biosolids can be used as an ingredient to build healthy soils and restore disturbed and degraded land. The majority of the Iona Island land-dried biosolids were able to be put to good use to reclaim gravel pits and landfills. To learn more about the beneficial use of Metro Vancouver biosolids, please visit [Nutrifor \(Biosolids\)](#).

Biophysical Studies for Park and Ecological Restoration Projects

The terrestrial biophysical surveys of xʷəyeyət/Iona Island are underway and will continue through 2025. Starting in late 2023 with water quality monitoring and freshwater fish sampling, this year's efforts now include studying a diverse range of terrestrial species: small mammals, bats, amphibians, reptiles, and various invertebrates.

Throughout spring and early summer 2024, Metro Vancouver conducted terrestrial ecosystem mapping, rare plant surveys, and wetland classification. These activities are crucial for filling data gaps and gaining a comprehensive understanding of xʷəyeyət/Iona Island's rich biological and physical conditions. The insights gained will guide the xʷəyeyət/Iona Island Park and Ecological Restoration Projects and help establish a long-term monitoring program.



Worley consultant collecting water quality data in the northwest sludge lagoon at Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Hatfield consultant collecting vegetation data for Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping.

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 web page](#).

Interested in working on this project? Please reach out to the Iona Projects team anytime during pre-procurement with your questions and feedback via email at ionawwtpteam@metrovancover.org.

About the Iona Projects

The Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant in Richmond, BC was built 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 [project web page](#) 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.

[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](#).



Keeping You Informed

Thank you for your interest in the Iona Projects. If you know others who are interested in the project, please forward this email and encourage them to sign up for future newsletter by visiting the [project web page](#) and clicking on the "[Sign Up](#)" button under "Stay Connected".

Contact Us

A Community Liaison is available to address questions and concerns:

Community Liaison: 604-432-6200

Email: lonaWWTP@metrovancover.org

Website: metrovancover.org

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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.