



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.

[Learn more about the projects](#)

January 13, 2023

Project Updates

Lagoon Clean Out

In November 2022, Metro Vancouver completed the cleanout process for the southeast treated sludge lagoon. The remaining water will be removed from the southeast lagoon throughout winter and early spring to prepare the site for decommissioning. The remaining lagoons will be cleaned out by the end of 2027. As part of the ecological restoration projects, the sludge lagoons will eventually be transitioned into freshwater and terrestrial habitat and integrated into Iona Beach Regional Park.

Land Surveys

In May 2022, Metro Vancouver began conducting various land and ground penetrating radar surveys of Iona Island. The field work has concluded and the surveyor is expected to complete the plans and report this month.

Environmental Studies for Ecological Restoration Projects

Most foreshore field programs and hydrodynamic model calibration are now complete; winter fish surveys and sediment sampling are still ongoing.

In 2023, reports will be prepared on existing foreshore biophysical conditions and will include a hydrodynamic model. The reports will be used in conjunction with feedback from Musqueam and stakeholders to determine design criteria for three potential designs for the causeway breach area south of the outfall jetty. A new field program will be launched in 2023 to collect biophysical data across the remainder of Iona Island.



Field biologists sampling sediment at Iona Beach Regional Park.

Geotechnical Investigations

In early January 2023, Metro Vancouver began conducting on-land geotechnical investigation in the biosolids stockpile area (located to the east of the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant). This work includes core sampling for four boreholes and is expected to be completed by the end of January.

Barge Berth Design

A Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a consultant to complete barge berth design has closed and the contract award is expected in early 2023. The barge berth design process will include further study of potential facility locations. This study will also include an assessment of the noise, dust, light, and related health impacts at each of the potential locations.

In spring 2023, Metro Vancouver will provide an engagement opportunity for community members to share their feedback on this project.

Community Engagement

The following online engagement meetings were held since the early works and preliminary design phase began in April 2022:

- Ecological Technical Advisory Panel – June 1, 2022
- Hub Cycling – June 15, 2022
- North Arm Fraser River Marine Users Group – June 20, 2022
- Vancouver Airport Authority – August 24, 2022
- North Arm Fraser River Marine Users Group – November 14, 2022
- Vancouver Airport Authority – December 7, 2022
- Ecological Technical Advisory Panel – December 8, 2022

Please visit the [project webpages](#) to see a list of engagement events and meeting summaries from the Project Definition Phase (June 2018 to February 2022).

Early Works

Metro Vancouver is continuing to deliver on priority activities that are needed to prepare for treatment plant and ecological project construction, including:

- Removal of biosolids stockpiles at the existing treatment plant
- Work to obtain permits and approvals
- Improvements to roads
- Upgraded electrical servicing on Sea Island and Iona Island

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

About the 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.

Reducing Overflows from Inflow and Infiltration

Did you know? Extra groundwater and rainwater in the sewer system – known as “inflow and infiltration” — can lead to sewer overflows into homes, businesses, and the environment. This extra water is a particular challenge in the wet fall and winter months, especially as we start to see more atmospheric rivers due to climate change.

Property owners play a key role in reducing inflow and infiltration. They have a responsibility to maintain the sewer lines on their property and make sure that nothing is improperly connected to those lines.

To stop large amounts of extra water from getting into your pipes:

- Have your pipes inspected with a camera by a drainage specialist at least once a decade
- Fix or replace old or damaged pipes, especially if they are “combined” sewer lines that carry both sanitary wastewater and stormwater
- Ensure downspouts and foundation drains are not connected to your sanitary sewer pipe
- Avoid planting water-loving trees or shrubs on top of your sewer line or drain pipes, as their roots can pry open joints between pipes

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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 newsletter by visiting the [project webpage](#) and clicking on the "Sign Up" button under "Stay Connected".

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Metro Vancouver is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation that collaboratively plans for and delivers regional-scale services. Its core services are drinking water, wastewater treatment and solid waste management. Metro Vancouver also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system and provides affordable housing. The regional district is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each local authority.

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