

From: [Metro Vancouver](#)
To:
Subject: IIWWTP Projects Updates – March 2024 Community Newsletter
Date: March 26, 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.

[Learn more about the projects](#)

March 26, 2024

Current and Upcoming Project Activities on Iona Island

Outfall Rehabilitation – Land Section

Treated wastewater is currently conveyed from the treatment plant to the Salish Sea through two outfall pipes that were built around 1987. The land section extends 4.5 kilometers, and the undersea section extends an additional 3.5 kilometers.

A condition assessment, topographic surveys, geotechnical investigations, and jetty slope inspections are expected to begin in May and will take several weeks to complete. The condition assessment needs to be completed during dry weather and may be delayed if there is wet weather.

To safely complete this work, public access to the Iona Jetty, parking along Ferguson Road, and the pathway along the lagoons may be temporarily closed. More information about impacts and closures related to this work will be available on the project website.

Biosolid Stockpiles

Removal of the biosolid stockpiles to accommodate future construction activities continues on site. The Iona biosolids stockpile is expected to be fully removed by the end of 2024. To learn more about the beneficial use of Metro Vancouver biosolids, please visit [Nutrifor \(Biosolids\)](#).

Lagoon Clean Out

Over the next several years, the existing treated sludge lagoons will be 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. The sludge lagoons will eventually be transitioned to wetlands, terrestrial habitat, and park amenities that will be integrated into Iona Beach Regional Park.

Sludge removal in the southeast lagoon is on-going. Clean out operations on the sludge lagoons will begin in spring 2024 for approximately nine months, and occur yearly until 2031. Metro Vancouver will continue to monitor and mitigate noise, odour, and wildlife impacts throughout operations.

Ferguson Road Realignment

YVR is currently upgrading Ferguson 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. Construction is underway and expected to be completed later this year. Please use caution when travelling in the area and follow the directions of traffic control personnel. To learn more about this project, please visit [YVR's web page](#).

Biophysical Studies for Park and Ecological Restoration Projects

Metro Vancouver has finished the Foreshore Existing Conditions Program, a suite of surveys that took place along the foreshore areas of Iona Island in 2022 and 2023. The program was completed to fill data gaps of the existing foreshore biological and physical conditions at Iona Island. The study programs collectively provide an understanding of foreshore existing conditions that will provide the basis for the Iona Island Park and Ecological Restoration Projects and a long-term monitoring program. Study programs included marine and terrestrial vegetation, fish, biofilm, benthic infauna, wildlife, oceanography, and sediment quality.

Terrestrial biophysical surveys of Iona Island are now underway and are expected to continue through 2025. The terrestrial surveys began in mid-November 2023 with water sampling that will continue bi-weekly. The fish sampling surveys kicked off with winter sampling in February 2024 in the park ponds. This sampling event was the first of four events planned for 2024, to be followed by the next surveys in the spring, summer, and fall.



Field technician collecting fish traps in the park ponds.



Field technicians emptying the fish traps into aerated buckets to count, weigh, and measure fish that were caught.



Cat food was placed in the traps to attract fish.



A stickleback being weighed and measured before being released back into the pond.

Wildlife survey programs are also underway, which include amphibians, birds, and small mammals. These programs involve setting up wildlife observation stations, amphibian auditory surveys (surveys involving listening for species specific sounds), time-constrained searches for amphibians (searching and tracking over a specified time period), encounter transects for birds (visual sightings along a specified area), wildlife camera checks, and surveys for bat roosting areas and structures.

Other programs that will take place in 2024 include terrestrial ecosystem mapping, rare plant surveys, terrestrial invertebrate surveys, and benthic invertebrate surveys.

This data will also be used to inform the designs of the Park and Ecological Restoration Projects and to develop a long-term monitoring plan for all restored areas (foreshore and terrestrial) on Iona Island.

Iona Beach Regional Park Update

Regional Parks Notice about the Iona Jetty

The viewing structure at the end of the Iona Jetty is currently closed due to damage from winter storms. Please stay off the structure for your safety. For more information, please visit [Iona Beach Regional Park's website](#).

Procurement Updates

Current Procurement Opportunities

Metro Vancouver continues to procure providers of various services and equipment. Information briefs on the following planned procurements have been added to the procurement webpage under the "Procurements Updates" section:

- [Early Contractor Involvement: Upcoming Construction Activities: Pre-procurement Market Sounding](#)
- [Ground Improvements: Upcoming Construction Activities](#)
- [Renewable Natural Gas Facility](#)

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.

Frequently Asked Questions

Has the barge berth site been selected?

At this time, the barge berth location has not been finalized. The barge berth is a vital component to transporting goods to build the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant in a safe and reliable manner.

The three barge berth locations that Metro Vancouver is considering are currently being reviewed by a third-party consultant who will provide their feedback and analysis. Selection criteria include xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) interests, community and stakeholder impacts, ecological impacts, functionality, cost, and schedule. Learn more about the [Barge Berth Project](#).

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.

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.

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