



metrovancover UPDATE

Metro Vancouver extends from Lions Bay to Langley, with 21 municipalities, one Electoral Area, and one Treaty First Nation.

Metro Vancouver connects 23 members that work as a federation to provide the services and solutions that underlie a livable region.

metrovancover.org

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Fall 2017

REGIONAL PARKS

Grouse Grind centrepiece of newest regional park

Most people have likely hiked, biked or walked their dogs in one of Metro Vancouver's regional parks or greenways. But chances are, they didn't realize that forest, river, wetland or beach – stretching from Bowen Island and the North Shore to Maple Ridge and Langley – was part of a 14,500-hectare regional park system that Metro Vancouver has carefully preserved and protected since it was created 50 years ago.

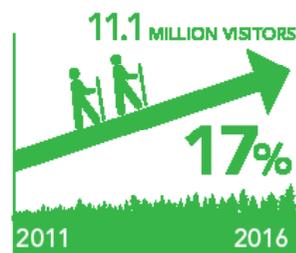
The regional parks system includes popular parks such as Pacific Spirit, Boundary Bay and Belcarra regional parks as well as its 24th and newest edition – Grouse Mountain Regional Park – on the southern slope of Grouse Mountain, which includes the Grouse Grind trail, BC Mountaineering

Club (BCMC) trail and portions of the Baden Powell trail within its boundaries.

In May 2017, Metro Vancouver made the decision to establish Grouse Mountain Regional Park on its Water District lands. It created a 75-hectare park, which also contains mature forests and mountain streams that are home to a variety of wildlife, including black bears, cougars, barred owls, black-tailed deer and northern red-legged frogs.

The regional parks system includes 24 regional parks, three park reserves, two ecological conservancy areas, and five greenways spread across 21 member municipalities, one Electoral Area and one Treaty First Nation.

More than 11 million visits are recorded at Metro Vancouver's Regional Parks each year.



Annual total regional park visits have increased by 17% over the past 5 years



AIR QUALITY

Unprecedented air quality advisories

Metro Vancouver faced one of its worst summers in terms of air quality in 2017, as heavy smoke from wildfires raging in B.C. and the northwest U.S. drifted across the region.

Prolonged hot and dry conditions led to extreme fire risk conditions, significant wildfire activity and deteriorating air quality.

Metro Vancouver, which is responsible for air quality and climate change across the region, played a key role in the early detection and ongoing surveillance of air quality, through monitoring stations from Hope to Horseshoe Bay. When and where necessary, Metro Vancouver issues air quality advisories for the entire region including the Fraser Valley.



Grouse Mountain Regional Park.

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Air quality advisories

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Five air quality advisories were issued this summer, with an unprecedented 19 days under advisory. The longest period under advisory was from August 1 to 12, with elevated levels of fine particulate matter and intermittent spikes of ground-level ozone.

Despite the prolonged “extreme” fire danger rating, however, there were few fire incidents in parks and green spaces throughout Metro Vancouver, thanks in part to the diligence of Regional Parks and Watershed Protection staff.

Metro Vancouver residents generally enjoy clean, clear air, but the summers of 2015 and 2017 may be an indication of how the changing climate, hotter summer and drier winters, will increase the severity and occurrence of out-of-region wildfires in the future. As a result, Metro Vancouver plans to adapt its approach to air quality management in response to wildfires in the future, not only to deal with smoke particles but also ground-level ozone.

For more information on air quality, check out Metro Vancouver’s AirMap: gis.metrovancover.org/maps/air/

HOUSING

Metro Vancouver pushes affordable housing, breaks ground on Heather Place redevelopment

Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation (MVHC) will break ground on the first phase of the redevelopment of its Vancouver-based Heather Place site in the next few weeks, bolstering a campaign to increase the affordable housing supply.

The Heather Place project will increase the number of affordable rental units from 86 to 230 units when all phases are complete.

In particular, it will provide one, two and three-bedroom affordable housing suites for families, seniors and people with disabilities.



Artist rendering of Heather Place.

The project reflects the goals and objectives in Metro Vancouver’s Strategic Plan as well as the Regional Affordable Housing Strategy, which was developed and adopted by Metro Vancouver in 2016 and outlines specific actions for different housing stakeholders to address affordable housing needs in our region.

Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation owns and operates 49 sites, housing 9,400

residents in affordable units throughout the Lower Mainland. Work is underway to increase Metro Vancouver’s affordable housing supply through expansions at Heather Place and other locations, while examining all land holdings and considering partnering opportunities to develop even more housing.

More information on this new redevelopment can be found at: www.metrovancover.org/housing

PLANNING

Metro Vancouver population continues to boom, while farms thrive amid the pressure



The largest municipal growth was in the City of Surrey.

Metro Vancouver welcomed another 150,000 residents between 2011 and 2016, with most of those newcomers settling south of the Fraser.

The number brought the region’s total population to 2.5 million – up from 2.3 million five years earlier, according to 2016 Census data released earlier this year.

The largest municipal growth was in the City of Surrey, which took 33 per cent of those newcomers, followed by 19 percent in Vancouver and 12 percent in the Tri-Cities.

Ridge Meadows saw a 5 percent boost over the period, while the North Shore accepted 4 percent of the increased population.

The growth was somewhat lower than *Metro 2040* projections, which suggest the region will grow by about 35,000 people annually, but is generally consistent with longer term trends. Surrey is expected to continue to

be the most rapidly growing municipality – potentially surpassing Vancouver’s population by the mid 2040s.

But while Metro Vancouver remains the third largest metro area in Canada, in terms of absolute population growth over the five-year period, it came in fourth – behind the City of Toronto (345,000), City of Calgary (178,000) and City of Edmonton (162,000).

The Census provides crucial benchmark data that is vital in analyzing policies and assessing services across the region. The information helps monitor progress toward *Metro 2040*, Metro Vancouver’s regional growth strategy, which targets growth within an urban containment boundary and directs it to a network of urban centres, and along frequent transit corridors.

The data also helps decision-makers address issues such as the need to protect the agricultural and industrial land base across the region. As Metro Vancouver accounts for 53 percent of the provincial population,

for instance, there is constant pressure for urban development. However, according to the latest Census, farms in the region continue to thrive due to protection from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

According to the data, the region had 2,412 farms and 3,525 farm operators, comprising a total farm area of 38,380 hectares (94,799 acres) in 2016. This is the lowest number in 20 years, according to the Census, yet Metro Vancouver generated more than \$954 million (26% of BC’s gross annual farm receipts) in 2015 on only 1.5% of the province’s agricultural land. This is likely credited to a combination of farmer ingenuity, protection from the Agricultural Land Reserve, a moderate climate, exports and proximity to urban markets.

Agriculture occurs mostly on ALR land in the Township of Langley, Delta, Surrey, Pitt Meadows, Richmond, Maple Ridge, and on Barnston Island in Electoral Area A.



Dr. Cady Coleman

Tristram Stuart

The conference, now in its seventh year, attracts hundreds of participants from around North America.

SOLID WASTE

Zero Waste Conference highlighted reusing waste through 'circular economy'

For the past seven years, Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Conference has been advancing conversations around waste prevention and the circular economy – and this year was no exception.

The conference, held on November 1 at the Vancouver Convention Centre, was dubbed 'A Circular Economy within Reach' and covered everything from ocean plastics to food waste, with keynote speakers including retired NASA astronaut Dr. Cady Coleman – who has flown twice on the Space Shuttle

– and food waste pioneer Tristram Stuart, founder Toast Ale, a beer launched in the UK in 2016 that is made using fresh, surplus bread.

The conference focused on five key themes – Plastics, Food, Textiles, Business Innovation, and the Circular City. For each session, key players from around the world shared their experiences and advice for advancing the circular economy, in which manufacturers consciously design products and packaging with sustainable materials that can be disassembled, repaired, reused and recycled.

WATER

New water supply tunnel to bolster region's drinking water supply

Metro Vancouver plans to build a new water supply tunnel under Burrard Inlet to increase the system's resiliency and meet the growing demand for safe, reliable drinking water in communities south of the inlet.

The Second Narrows Water Supply Tunnel, slated for east of the Ironworkers Memorial

Bridge, will replace three existing water mains built in the 1940s, 1950s and 1970s and is one of five new water supply crossings being built to higher seismic standards to withstand a major earthquake.

Metro Vancouver is responsible for treating and distributing regional drinking water to local governments. The water comes from rain and snowmelt from three watersheds: Capilano and Seymour on the region's north shore, and Coquitlam to the east, and is distributed to 2.5 million people and associated businesses, institutions, and industries through a complex network of water mains crisscrossing the region.

Two tunnels beneath Grouse Mountain and Mount Fromme allow for water to be transported seven kilometres to the Seymour



plant's commissioning in late 2009, Metro Vancouver staff have found ways to optimize treatment processes to reduce the plant's electricity consumption by nearly 10 percent.

Capilano Filtration Plant, the largest drinking water filtration plant in Canada. The plant is capable of treating up to 1.8 billion litres per day of water originating from the Seymour and Capilano reservoirs, using filtration and ultra-violet disinfection. Since the

Meanwhile, the Coquitlam Water Treatment Plant treats about 380 million litres of drinking water each day, using ozonation and UV.

On average, about one billion litres of water is used daily in Metro Vancouver. This means operating the region's vast drinking water system requires constant upgrades, improvements, maintenance and expansion.

The detailed design phase of the new water supply tunnel is nearly complete. Construction of the project is expected to begin in 2018 and be completed in 2023.

SOLID WASTE

Costly clean-up: Metro Vancouver tackles issue of abandoned waste

It's an all-too-familiar sight: a mattress abandoned behind an apartment building, unwanted furniture ditched in laneways or old appliances offered for "free" on residential sidewalks across the region.

Illegal dumping comes in many forms, but the result is the same: it costs Metro Vancouver municipalities \$5 million annually to clean up the mess and sends a message that the region's neighbourhoods are a suitable place for waste.

In 2016, Metro Vancouver municipalities reported 37,257 incidents of illegal dumping, with residents the biggest culprits. Large household items, such as mattresses, furniture, tires and large amounts of garbage, are commonly found discarded across the region, likely in the hopes that municipalities will collect it.

Metro Vancouver aims to curb the rising instances of illegal dumping with its 'Put Waste in its Place' education and awareness campaign, which encourages residents to find a legal option – such as municipal programs that include large-item pickup services, pop-up junk days or spring cleaning events – to dispose of their unwanted furniture.

The campaign includes a webpage, wasteinitsplace.ca, which provides information on options for repurposing and recycling, as well as details on waste disposal at the region's transfer stations.

Member municipalities also share images of their own distinct landmarks and neighbourhoods, which are being used in advertising to show the absurdity of what their favourite locations would look like blighted by 'No Dumping' signs.

For more information of how to properly dispose of unwanted household items, visit wasteinitsplace.ca.



Metro Vancouver's illegal dumping campaign.

Metro Vancouver Regional District is a federation with 21 local municipalities, one Electoral Area and one Treaty First Nation.

We provide core utility services to more than 2.5 million people. Our services – drinking water, sewage treatment, and solid waste – along with related services like regional parks, housing, and air quality management – help keep our region one of the most livable in the world.

The Metro Vancouver Board of Directors has 40 members appointed from the councils of our 23 member communities. All Board meetings are held at Metro Vancouver's Head Office located near Burnaby's Metrotown and are open to the public.

Anmore

Belcarra

Bowen Island

Burnaby

Coquitlam

Delta

Electoral Area A

Langley City

Langley Township

Lions Bay

Maple Ridge

New Westminster

North Vancouver City

North Vancouver District

Pitt Meadows

Port Coquitlam

Port Moody

Richmond

Surrey

Tsawwassen

Vancouver

West Vancouver

White Rock

Abbotsford* park purposes only

Until recently, Metro Vancouver Regional District was known as the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

WATER

Water conservation set to increase

Metro Vancouver will roll out a new Drinking Water Conservation Plan (DWCP) next spring, in a bid to manage heavy water demand across the region, especially during the hot and dry summer months.

The plan, approved earlier this year, has been under review since the 2015 summer drought.

The aim is to ensure the region has sufficient water throughout the drier periods in the future.

The new plan includes seven changes to water use restrictions across the region, mostly affecting the watering of lawns and landscapes, playing fields and golf courses, and the operation of commercial car washes and pools.



It also includes new sections on water conservation, year-round conservation measures, the different stages for the water restriction activation process and monitoring and enforcement. The plan will come into effect on May 1, 2018.

More information on the new DWCP can be found at www.metrovancover.org/water

LIQUID WASTE

Project recovers phosphorous from wastewater

A trial at the Annacis Island Wastewater Treatment Plant last year has demonstrated it's possible to recover high quality phosphorous fertilizer from Metro Vancouver's wastewater.

The trial, funded by Metro Vancouver's Sustainability Innovation Fund and using equipment supplied by Ostara Nutrient Recovery Technologies, Inc., demonstrated that a full-scale phosphorus recovery system at the Annacis Island Wastewater Treatment plant could recover an additional 20 percent of the phosphorus entering the plant. About 100 kilograms of high quality phosphorous fertilizer was recovered in the trial.

Phosphorus is an essential resource to society, as well as a key ingredient in fertilizer, which is crucial to agricultural production.

It is also a limited resource globally and in the future, wastewater treatment plants may be crucial sources of phosphorus. The findings will be used to inform Metro Vancouver's decisions regarding potential installation of phosphorus recovery equipment at all five wastewater treatment plants, which include Annacis, Lulu Island, Iona, North Shore (formerly Lion's Gate) and Northwest Langley. Metro Vancouver is responsible for providing sewage services across the region.

Extra phosphorus that our bodies do not need passes through us, enters the sewerage system and is transported to Metro Vancouver's wastewater treatment plants. Some of the phosphorus, along with other nutrients that arrive at the region's wastewater treatment plants, is captured in the biosolids removed during treatment and is recycled.

At the Annacis Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, 40 percent of the phosphorus that enters the plant is recycled in this way. Additional phosphorus recovery can be achieved by advanced recovery technologies. This form of recycled phosphorus can be sold as a fertilizer.

Shape a place where people want to be. Check out current job postings at metrovancover.org/careers



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Find and post arts and culture events



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Metro Arts Xperience
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This Christmas, create memories, not garbage.

Give Experiences

Make Meals into Memories

Wrap with Recycled Materials



This season, celebrate with less waste.

Find ideas at
creatememoriesnotgarbage.ca
#CreateMemoriesNotGarbage