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## ISSUE 106, May 2022

Mayor Ross,  
Welcome to the May issue of Chair Update!

On the heels of last month's Earth Day, I am excited to share with you stories about several new initiatives that will help make our region more resilient to the impacts of climate change and improve overall climate literacy.

These initiatives include a new self-directed online climate literacy learning program that uses interactive content like videos and quizzes to teach residents about what is causing climate change and actions we can take to slow its impacts. We are also beginning a new project that tests how Biorock — a nature-based underwater building material that can protect coastal infrastructure and contribute to marine habitats — works in local waters.

Please don't forget that enhanced seasonal lawn watering regulations are in effect May 1 until October 15. More information is available in this issue and at [welovewater.ca](http://welovewater.ca).

Thank you for reading.

Together we make our region strong.

Sav Dhaliwal  
Chair, Metro Vancouver Board  
[chair@metrovancouver.org](mailto:chair@metrovancouver.org)

# Updated Lawn Watering Regulations in Effect May 1



Metro Vancouver is introducing enhanced [seasonal lawn watering regulations](#) for homes and businesses in order to better conserve the region's drinking water during the hot, dry summer months.

Lawn watering regulations will be in place May 1 until October 15.

## What you need to know:

- Lawn watering is now only permitted one morning per week during [Stage 1](#) for residents and businesses, with designated days determined by property address and type
- Trees, shrubs, and flowers may be watered in the morning when using a sprinkler, or any time when hand watered or using drip irrigation
- Edible plants are exempt from the regulations
- If we need to go to Stage 2, no lawn watering will be permitted for residential and non-residential properties

Find your designated days and times to water using our [When Can I Water](#) tool.

Lawn watering regulations reduce outdoor water use during the summer and ensure it is saved for where it is needed most: for cooking, cleaning, and drinking.

Learn tips and tricks for indoor and outdoor water conservation at [welovewater.ca](http://welovewater.ca).

# Metro Vancouver Completes Port Mann Drinking Water Supply Corridor Upgrades



*South shaft and valve chamber under construction in Surrey for the Port Mann Water Supply Tunnel, one of the projects located within the Port Mann corridor. Photo taken pre-COVID.*

Metro Vancouver has completed four large water infrastructure projects: Port Mann Water Supply Tunnel, Port Mann Main No. 2 (North), Port Mann Main No. 2 (South), and Whalley Main.

These projects are designed to withstand significant seismic events and increase the reliability of the supply of safe, clean drinking water to the growing communities south of the Fraser River. The total cost was approximately \$320 million and all projects were completed within their approved budgets.

Metro Vancouver staff worked closely with Coquitlam and Surrey city staff to mitigate construction impacts from these large projects, and the Port Mann Water Supply Tunnel Project received the “2016 Canadian Innovation Project of the Year Award” from the Tunnelling Association of Canada.

This 10-year, multi-phase upgrade aligns with key strategic directions set out in Metro Vancouver’s [Board Strategic Plan - 2019 to 2022](#).

## Metro Vancouver Launches Recycling and Disposal Cost Estimator



The new [Recycling and Disposal Cost Estimator](#) allows residents to estimate their recycling or disposal costs using smaller weights and different units of measure, whereas for most materials rates are specified by the metric tonne in the [Tipping Fee Bylaw](#). Actual costs are based on the weight of materials as determined by weighing vehicles entering and exiting facilities.

The estimator can be used for Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres, the Vancouver South Transfer Station, and Vancouver Landfill.

Some materials, like scrap metal for recycling, are received at no cost, and other materials — including yard trimmings, clean wood, and garbage — are priced depending on the material type.

The estimator was used almost 2,300 times during its first month in operation, and the top three searched items were mattress/box spring, furniture, and garbage. The Recycling and Disposal Cost Estimator is available on the [Metro Vancouver website](#).

# Metro Vancouver Launches Climate Literacy Learning Program



Metro Vancouver has created a free, self-directed online learning program to help residents learn more about what is causing climate change and actions we can take in this region to slow its impacts.

Climate Literacy in Metro Vancouver introduces science and ideas related to climate action and includes interactive content, videos, and quizzes. It is designed to increase our understanding of how we affect the climate, how the changing climate is affecting us, and what we are doing about it.

[Start or Share the Online Course Today!](#)

Climate change is challenging our economy, environment, and health, but through increasing climate literacy we are better prepared to find solutions.

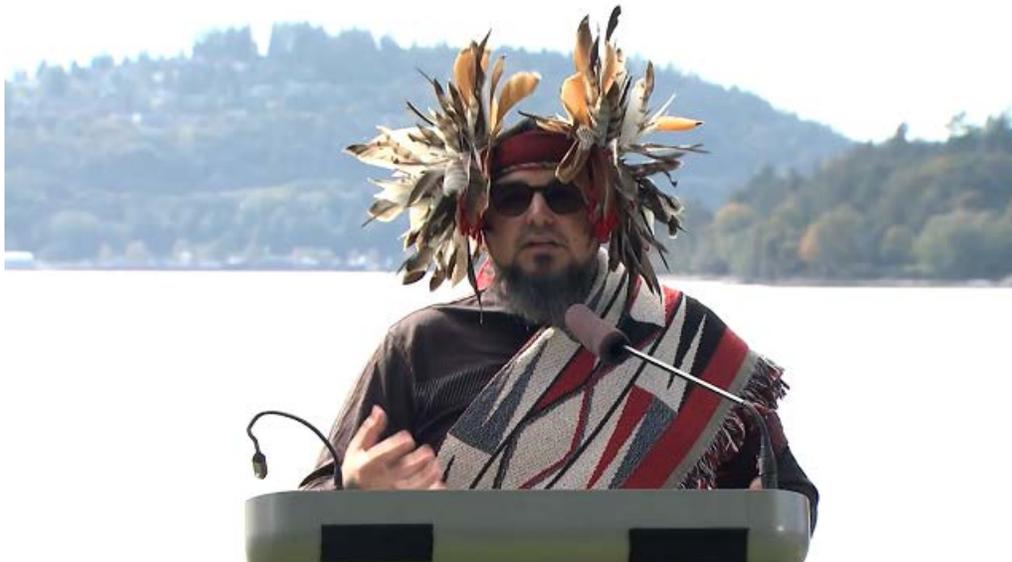
# Metro Vancouver Videos

## The Coquitlam Glacier



The Coquitlam Glacier is the last remaining glacier in the region. In this video, follow a Metro Vancouver geoscientist to the Coquitlam Water Supply Area to see how changes in the glacier are an indicator of climate change.

## təmtə́míxʷtən/Belcarra Regional Park Pronunciation Guide



At the təmtə́míxʷtən/Belcarra Regional Park renaming ceremony, Gabriel George of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation demonstrated how to pronounce təmtə́míxʷtən, which translates to "the biggest place for all the people" in the hə́nq̓əmiḥə́n language.

## Chat with the Chair - Mike Hurley, Housing Committee Chair



Affordable housing is one of the biggest challenges in our region. Metro Vancouver has committed \$190 million over the next 10 years to add a minimum of 1,350 new and redeveloped units, with several significant housing redevelopments set to begin this year. Learn more about Metro Vancouver's housing plans in this episode of Chat with the Chair, featuring Mike Hurley, chair of the Metro Vancouver Housing Committee.

# Events

## Forest Fairy Gathering



On Saturday, May 21, meet fairies who live unseen in [Burnaby Lake Regional Park](#) and help build new homes for them with supplies from Gnome Depot. This is a drop-in, all ages event between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm — no registration is required. Fairy attire welcomed!

## Wilderness at Your Doorstep



Nature and history are woven into the landscape of [Lynn Valley Regional Park](#). On Sunday, May 22 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, park staff and BC Mills House volunteers will help you enhance your knowledge of plants, animals, and geology, giving you the knowledge you need to wow your friends on your next hike. In addition, learn some practical tips for staying safe in the backcountry. This is an all ages, free event — no registration is required.

## Picnic with Pollinators



On Saturday, May 28 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, have a picnic at [Surrey Bend Regional Park](#) with the bees and bugs who pollinate 30 per cent of our food! Bring your own picnic, use nets to look for bugs, and play games with bees, butterflies, and beetles. This is a drop-in, all ages event between 11:00 am to 2:00 pm — no registration is required.

## 2022 Zero Waste Conference



*Re-imagine our future – regenerative and waste-free by design*

Be inspired by the entrepreneurs and innovators that are making the circular economy a reality, engage with policy and business leaders from across the country, and hear from global pioneers leading the way.

**Register Now and Save!**

September 28 and 29, 2022 – Vancouver Convention Centre

**Join us in person:** Early Bird (until May 31, 2022): \$350.00

**Virtual Participation:** \$350.00

Learn more at [zwc.ca](https://zwc.ca).

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.



**SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION**

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