

# Electoral Area A

July 2017

BULLETIN

Bi-annual publication sharing Metro Vancouver information with Electoral Area A residents.

NEWS & ISSUES

## Electoral Area A Official Community Plan

The Electoral Area A Official Community Plan (OCP) sets out the long term vision for communities in many parts of Electoral Area A. Once the OCP is adopted by the Metro Vancouver Board, it will provide guidance to the public, developers, Metro Vancouver staff, other government agencies, and elected representatives when considering land use changes, such as proposals for new development.

The OCP will apply to all parts of Electoral Area A except UBC (where the UBC Board of Governors is responsible for planning), the University Endowment Lands (where the provincial government is responsible) and Bowyer Island and Passage Island (where the Islands Trust is responsible for the OCP). The OCP will also not apply to First Nations reserves.

The Electoral Area Committee, chaired by Electoral Area A Director Maria Harris, discussed the latest draft OCP at its July 5, 2017 meeting. The draft includes revisions made based on comments received from residents in June 2017. At the meeting, the Committee asked staff to introduce language prohibiting short-term rentals like Airbnb in remote areas, given those communities' firefighting and policing challenges. Once it is amended to reflect the Committee's direction, an updated draft OCP will be posted on the Metro Vancouver website and will be presented as a bylaw to the Metro Vancouver Board, likely in September 2017. If granted first reading, the bylaw will be referred to external agencies for comment.

Residents will have another formal opportunity to provide feedback on the OCP at a public hearing later this year. Additionally, residents are welcome to review the latest draft of the OCP and to submit their comments any time up to the end of the public hearing. To view the latest draft, go to [metrovancover.org](http://metrovancover.org) and search "official community plan."

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Marcin Pachcinski, Division Manager, Electoral Area, Planning Analytics and Environment, directly at 604.451.6562 or via email at [marcin.pachcinski@metrovancover.org](mailto:marcin.pachcinski@metrovancover.org)

## Electoral Area A Potable Water Policy Review

Metro Vancouver is reviewing its current potable water policy, which requires many building permit applicants to submit a water test and place a covenant on title as part of the building

permit process. In addition to updating outdated references in the policy, staff are exploring revisions that would require water quality testing and covenants only in limited circumstances, such as for new home construction, substantial reconstruction or for certain water sources. To review the information report discussed at the July 5, 2017 Electoral Area Committee meeting, see the report on page 6 of the agenda package, available at [www.metrovancover.org/boards](http://www.metrovancover.org/boards)

## Fire Safety Training on Passage Island August 13 Bowyer Island Residents Also Welcome

On Sunday, August 13, Metro Vancouver Safety, Security & Emergency Management staff will host a fire safety training session for Passage Island and Bowyer Island residents. The session will cover a variety of topics, including:

- Orientation and hands-on practice with the two most common types of wildfire suppression pumps
- Use of portable hand-held fire extinguishers, backpack type manual water pumps and sprinklers
- Ways to contact emergency services
- Metro Vancouver's role in assisting residents in the event of an evacuation
- Personal preparedness
- Fire behaviour

No matter where you are located, you are encouraged to review the FireSmart Homeowner's Manual to help reduce the risk of fire in your community: [www.bcwildfire.ca/prevention/docs/homeowner-firesmart.pdf](http://www.bcwildfire.ca/prevention/docs/homeowner-firesmart.pdf)

**Date & time:** Sunday, August 13, 2017, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** South Bay, Passage Island

## Howe Sound Community Forum Update

On May 5, 2017, Metro Vancouver and the Village of Lions Bay co-hosted the spring 2017 Howe Sound Community Forum in Lions Bay. The forum brings together representatives from government, First Nations and various stakeholder groups to discuss issues and projects of interest to Howe Sound communities.

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Highlights from the latest Howe Sound Community Forum:

- Electoral Area A Director Maria Harris gave a presentation on Metro Vancouver's work related to environmental protection, including the Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory, coordination of invasive species management and recent clean-up events.
- Lions Bay Mayor Karl Buhr provided an overview of the Village of Lions Bay, highlighting its geography, history, demographics, and important projects.
- There was an update on a resident-led initiative to designate Howe Sound as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Biosphere Region. Biosphere Regions are areas comprising terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems. Each region promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. For more information, visit: [www.howesoundbri.org](http://www.howesoundbri.org)
- A representative from the Coastal Ocean Research Institute presented a report on the status of coastal ocean health in Howe Sound. For more information visit: [www.oceanwatch.ca](http://www.oceanwatch.ca)

For a full summary of the spring 2017 Forum, visit: [www.futureofhowesound.org/campaigns/spring-2017-howe-sound-community-forum-review/](http://www.futureofhowesound.org/campaigns/spring-2017-howe-sound-community-forum-review/)

## Flood Preparation and Mapping Initiatives

Two flood-related initiatives may be of particular interest to Barnston Island residents.

### 1. Flood Ready

The Government of Canada has launched Flood Ready, a public awareness campaign that seeks to encourage Canadians to better understand flood risks and to adopt measures to mitigate flooding. To learn about overland flooding and practical tips on how to build flood-readiness into your property, visit [www.canada.ca/en/campaign/flood-ready.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/flood-ready.html)

### 2. Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy

Metro Vancouver is participating in a Fraser Basin Council-led initiative to develop a Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy to better protect communities along the lower Fraser River and coast, from Hope to Richmond and from Squamish to White Rock.

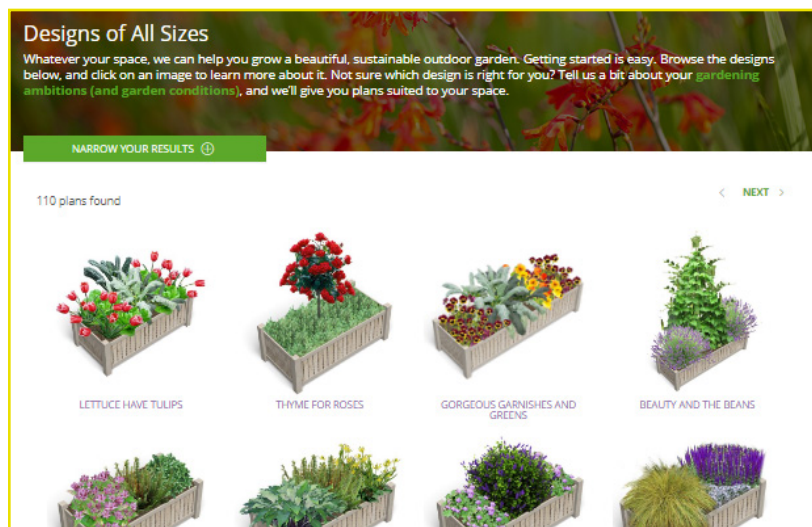
The Flood Management Strategy will identify opportunities to strengthen flood management policies and practices as well as flood protection works across the Lower Mainland. For more information, visit [www.floodstrategy.ca](http://www.floodstrategy.ca)

## Grow Green Update: 70+ New Designs

Grow Green was developed in 2016 by Metro Vancouver in collaboration with UBC Botanical Garden as a free resource for residents to assist with growing eco-friendly lawns and gardens, regardless of gardening skill or space constraints.

The site was recently updated with more than 70 new designs, including smaller containers, more native plants, plants that attract pollinators, and herb and vegetable designs.

All designs are waterwise, non-invasive, wildlife-friendly (birds, bees, butterflies, etc.), and use plants that are locally available. The website now boasts more than 350+ plants, 100+ garden designs and six lawn alternatives. Find the design that's right for your space at [www.growgreenguide.ca](http://www.growgreenguide.ca)



## Metro Vancouver Regional Parks 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Metro Vancouver's Regional Parks system is celebrating 50 years in 2017 with a year-long celebration program in place throughout the region.

A special Regional Parks Passport is aimed at encouraging residents to discover new beaches, forests, rivers, trails and wetlands. The soft-cover booklet, included with this bulletin, lists public events, and includes fun facts about the history, wildlife and notable features of each Metro Vancouver Regional Park. A virtual passport app is also available by downloading the "MVPassport" app on iTunes or Google Play.

Visitors can use their passport to collect stamps at Regional Parks' events to earn commemorative stickers, crests or pins and to win prizes.

For more about events, videos, stories and merchandise, search "Celebrate Parks" on [www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.org)

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In related news, in April 2017, Metro Vancouver announced the creation of Grouse Mountain Regional Park, a 75-hectare (185-acre) regional park on the slopes of Grouse Mountain. This park includes the popular Grouse Grind Trail, the BC Mountaineering Club Trail and a portion of the Baden-Powell Trail.

The ecologically sensitive area 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.

### Zero Waste Conference - November 1

Registration is open for Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Conference on November 1. The conference brings together innovative leaders and thinkers who are working towards a future without waste. Eliminating waste and creating value are essential pillars in a new way of doing business and developing policy – a new norm of addressing waste in every facet of our lives. And no approach offers greater promise for realizing those goals than the principles of the circular economy. The Zero Waste Conference has been at the forefront of this discussion in Canada by pushing boundaries and advancing action.

The 2017 event will highlight how we can:

- re-imagine linear systems of production and consumption with waste prevention and the circular economy in mind
- advance organizational change and collaborate across sectors to develop new solutions and approaches
- embrace new ways of thinking, innovation, and disruption to address barriers and intractable problems
- benefit from this emerging opportunity – whether you are a business, government, or community sector leader

Register now and join us on November 1, 2017: [www.zwc.ca](http://www.zwc.ca)

### Caring for the Air

According to Metro Vancouver's 2017 "Caring for the Air" report, residents and visitors across the region continue to enjoy good air quality despite the growing population, thanks in part to a series of region-wide emission-reduction actions.

The annual report, published by Metro Vancouver since 2012, describes the key air quality and climate change issues affecting the region and highlights efforts that are being made by Metro Vancouver to improve conditions in the Lower Fraser Valley airshed, which stretches from West Vancouver to Hope.

Metro Vancouver's plans and policies aim to reduce air pollutants such as fine particles, sulphur dioxide and ground-level ozone, as well as greenhouse gases. The plans and policies are supported by a comprehensive outdoor air quality monitoring network and by tracking emissions in the shared airshed, which includes Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley Regional District, as well as Whatcom County in Washington.

Here are some highlights from this year's report:

- Actions to curb greenhouse gases in the region are helping us make progress towards reduction targets.
- New monitoring techniques and measurements demonstrate the considerable impacts of traffic on air quality on and near our roads.
- Sulphur dioxide levels continue to decline, partly due to stricter requirements for lower sulphur content in marine fuel.
- Increased uptake of electric vehicles in the region is expected to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants.
- Tips are given to help save gas and reduce emissions when driving.

Metro Vancouver is also developing a new integrated regional climate action strategy designed to build on the climate action activities that are underway and to identify opportunities to accelerate progress towards reducing GHGs.

Search "Caring for the Air" on [www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.org)



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### Building Inspection Services

Metro Vancouver provides Building Inspection Services to all areas of Electoral Area A, with the exception of UBC, UEL and First Nations reserves. Metro Vancouver staff encourage you to please get in touch with our office well in advance of any land clearing, building, renovating, or demolition. Metro Vancouver staff can assist you in the building permit process, in obtaining and understanding the required documentation, and with any questions you may have.

### Wood Stove Exchange Program – \$250 Rebate

Metro Vancouver residents are eligible to receive a \$250 rebate for trading in their old, uncertified wood burning appliance for a new, low-emission appliance. Exchanging old wood stoves for low-emission replacements can make a difference in air quality within neighbourhoods.

For details on how to take advantage of this program, search “wood stove exchange” on [www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.org)

### Buying/Selling Property in the Electoral Area?

If you or someone you know is buying or selling property in Electoral Area A (except for UBC/UEL), we encourage you to get in touch with Metro Vancouver staff to request any records on file before purchasing or listing a property. The types of records commonly available are building plans, occupancy permit records and geotechnical reports. In addition, we often have copies of water tests, septic approvals, gas inspections and electrical inspections on file.

Please contact Tom Pearce, Regional Planner, at 604.432.6383. For legal plans and documents registered on title, please contact the BC Land Title Office at 604.630.9630 or [www.ltsa.ca](http://www.ltsa.ca)

### Provincial Well Database

If you have a well, there may be information on it in the provincial well database. If a well record does not exist for your well, the province recommends that you register it. This will create a record of your water use, which helps to ensure that your use is considered in decisions for new provincial authorizations and during times of water scarcity. More information can be found at:

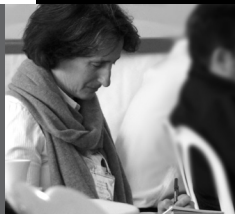
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/groundwater-wells/information-for-property-owners/well-records-registration>

### Sewage Disposal System Information

Onsite sewage disposal in Electoral Area A is regulated by either Fraser Health Authority or Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, depending on where your property is located. The Fraser Health Authority has a number of resources that are applicable to all residents with onsite sewage disposal systems. These resources provide maintenance tips and answers to frequently asked questions: <http://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-info/health-topics/onsite-sewage/onsite-sewage-resources/>

To find a Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner who can help plan, install and maintain your onsite sewage disposal system, visit: <http://owrp.asttbc.org/rowp-finder/>

### CONTACT



#### Maria Harris

Director, Electoral Area A, Metro Vancouver  
604-225-2254  
[mariaharris@telus.net](mailto:mariaharris@telus.net)  
[www.mariaharris.ca](http://www.mariaharris.ca)

#### Marcin Pachcinski

Division Manager, Electoral Area, Planning Analytics and Environment, Metro Vancouver  
604.451.6562  
[marcin.pachcinski@metrovancouver.org](mailto:marcin.pachcinski@metrovancouver.org)

### Subscribe To Electoral Area Email List

Email is one of the fastest ways Metro Vancouver can send information related to events and issues of interest to you and your community.

To subscribe, visit: <http://goo.gl/gR3Amn>. For an archive of past bulletins, please visit: <http://goo.gl/aabPtU>

For UBC/UEL residents, Maria Harris, the Metro Vancouver Director for Electoral Area A, also submits regular reports to the UNA Board and the UEL Community Advisory Council.