



**Public Works and Transportation Committee
Electronic Meeting**

**Anderson Room, City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road**

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Immediately following Planning Committee

Pg. # ITEM

MINUTES

PWT-4 *Motion to adopt the **minutes** of the meeting of the Public Works and Transportation Committee held on April 22, 2026.*



NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

June 17, 2026, (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room.

AGENDA ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

1. **MITCHELL ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE UPDATE**
(File Ref. No. 10-6125-01) (REDMS No. 8311168)

PWT-8

See Page PWT- 8 for full report

Designated Speaker: Nadia Chan

Pg. # ITEM

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the report titled “Mitchell Island Environmental Stewardship Initiative Update”, dated April 21, 2026, from the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be received for information.



2. **PROPOSED ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (GHG) REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR BUILDINGS - ENGAGEMENT RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS**

(File Ref. No. 10-6125-07-01) (REDMS No. 8355413)

PWT-21

[See Page PWT- 21 for full report](#)

Designated Speaker: Jovan Cheema

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed work plan, as described in the report titled “Proposed Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reporting Requirement for Buildings – Engagement Results and Next Steps”, dated April 17, 2026, from the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be approved.



3. **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TRAFFIC BYLAW 5870 AND TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY 7018 TO IMPLEMENT 30 KM/H POSTED SPEED LIMIT**

(File Ref. No. 10-6500-01) (REDMS No. 8365992)

PWT-36

[See Page PWT- 36 for full report](#)

Designated Speaker: Sonali Hingorani

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

(1) *That the Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 10750 be given first, second and third readings; and*

(2) *That the amendment to the Traffic Calming Related Measures – Policy 7018, as described in the report titled “Proposed Amendments to Traffic Bylaw 5870 and Traffic Calming Policy 7018 to Implement 30km/h Speed Limit”, be approved.*



ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

4. **INVASIVE SPECIES ACTION PLAN: PROGRAM SUMMARY (2024 – 2025)**

(File Ref. No. 10-6160-07-01) (REDMS No. 8382154)

PWT-43

See Page PWT- 43 for full report

Designated Speaker: Nadia Chan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- (1) *That the report titled “Invasive Species Action Plan: Program Summary (2024 - 2025)”, dated April 22, 2026, from the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be received for information; and*
- (2) *That the Invasive Species Action Plan (2016) be updated as described in the report titled “Invasive Species Action Plan Update and Program Summary (2024 - 2025)”, dated April 22, 2026, from the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, and a draft be brought to Council for consideration.*

5. **MANAGER’S REPORT**

ADJOURNMENT



Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Carol Day, Chair
Councillor Michael Wolfe
Councillor Kash Heed
Councillor Alexa Loo

Also Present: Councillor Andy Hobbs
Councillor Bill McNulty

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the meeting of the Public Works and Transportation Committee held on March 18, 2026, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

AGENDA ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The Chair advised that Automated Bike Rack Pilot Program will be considered as Item No. 2A, Issues Related to the Blundell Road and Gilbert Road Intersection will be considered as Item No. 2B, and Issues Related to the Granville Street Pedestrian Walkway Between No. 4 Road and No. 5 Road will be considered as Item No. 2C will be added.

Public Works & Transportation Committee
Wednesday, April 22, 2026

ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

1. **2026 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK - MAY 17 TO 23, 2026:
ROOTED IN SERVICE, POWERED BY COMMUNITY**
(File Ref. No. 10-6000-00) (REDMS No. 8292975)

In response to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) current construction between the two existing driveways will become new visitor parking at the Works Yard, and (ii) approximately three hundred staff volunteered for the Public Works Open House event.

It was moved and seconded

That the 2026 National Public Works Week campaign as outlined in the report titled “2026 National Public Works Week - May 17 to 23, 2026: Rooted in Service, Powered by Community”, dated March 18, 2026, from the Director, Public Works, be received for information.

CARRIED

2. **RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT – REPORT 2025:
WORKING TOGETHER TO REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE**
(File Ref. No. 10-6370-01) (REDMS No. 8332992)

In response to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) Contamination Remediation Plans (CRPs) program audit begins in July 2026, (ii) textile recycling initiative is well-utilized, (iii) the City is working with Metro Vancouver to establish a nitrous oxide cylinder recycling program, and (iv) to date, no organizations have contacted the City to access bikes through the Bike Reuse Program.

Discussion ensued regarding the reusable container initiative at the Cherry Blossom Festival noting (i) reusable container return rate was lower than expected, (ii) participating vendors feedback was generally positive including expanding the options of reusable containers available to vendors and increasing signage to identify where to return reusable containers, and (iii) the next opportunity to test the reusable container initiative will be Farm Fest in September 2026.

As a result of the discussion, staff will bring forward a memorandum with respect to the reusable container initiative at the Cherry Blossom Festival.

It was moved and seconded

That the report titled “Recycling and Solid Waste Management – Report 2025: Working Together to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle”, from the Director, Public Works, dated March 26, 2026, be approved and made available on the City's website, through various communication tools including social media channels and as part of community outreach initiatives.

CARRIED

2.

Public Works & Transportation Committee
Wednesday, April 22, 2026

2A. AUTOMATED BIKE RACK PILOT PROGRAM

(File Ref. No.) (REDMS No.)

Discussion ensued regarding the operational budget and ongoing costs associated with funding the program noting the City does not receive any external funding.

2B. ISSUES RELATED TO THE BLUNDELL ROAD AND GILBERT ROAD INTERSECTION

(File Ref. No.) (REDMS No.)

Committee referenced resident concerns about the road conditions of the intersection. Staff reported that Metro Vancouver will address the pavement issues and that both BC Hydro and Metro Vancouver have ongoing construction work that needs to be completed.

2C. ISSUES RELATED TO THE GRANVILLE STREET PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY BETWEEN NO. 4 ROAD AND NO. 5 ROAD

(File Ref. No.) (REDMS No.)

Discussion ensued regarding the safety issues with respect to the pedestrian walkway narrowing at the railroad tracks.

In response to queries from Committee, staff advised that the walkway to the west of the existing Shell Road multi-use pathway can be completed once the City receives the environmental approvals, however, the walkway that falls under CN jurisdiction requires a full signal upgrade which would be costly.

As a result of the discussion, staff will update the neighbourhood residents of the future sidewalk upgrades.

3. MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded
That the meeting adjourn 4:34 p.m.).

CARRIED

Public Works & Transportation Committee
Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Public Works and Transportation Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

Councillor Carol Day
Chair

Andrea Mizuguchi
Legislative Services Associate



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** April 21, 2026
From: Roeland Zwaag **File:** 10-6125-01/2025-Vol
General Manager, Engineering and Public 01
Works
Re: **Mitchell Island Environmental Stewardship Initiative Update**

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “Mitchell Island Environmental Stewardship Initiative Update”, dated April 21, 2026, from the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be received for information.

Executive Summary

This report provides Council with an update on the Mitchell Island Environmental Stewardship Initiative, including program development and implementation from 2019 to 2025. The Initiative was endorsed by Council in 2019 in response to ongoing environmental concerns such as hazardous spills originating from local business activities in the area.

Since then, the Initiative has evolved from a primarily outreach-focused program into an integrated framework that combines environmental monitoring, coordinated inspections, inter-agency collaboration, business engagement and future stormwater quality improvement measures.

Results from the City’s efforts demonstrate the value of an area-based, preventative and data-informed approach to environmental compliance in complex industrial areas with minimal impacts to existing staff and budgetary resources.

Staff Report

Origin

Mitchell Island (the Island) is a key industrial area within the City of Richmond that is connected to the ecologically sensitive Fraser River estuary through an extensive open and closed drainage network. In response to persistent environmental concerns on the Island including spills, sediment accumulation, contaminated stormwater runoff and localized drainage system blockages, Council endorsed the Mitchell Island Environmental Stewardship Initiative (the Initiative) in 2019.

The Initiative supports compliance with the City's *Pollution Prevention and Clean-up Bylaw No. 8475* as well as regional, provincial and federal regulations. Efforts also promote environmental stewardship among local businesses and landowners, while improving coordination between municipal and senior government agencies within this complex industrial setting.

This report provides an update on the Mitchell Island Environmental Stewardship Initiative, including program development and implementation from 2019 - 2025.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #5 A Leader in Environmental Sustainability:

Leadership in environmental sustainability through innovative, sustainable and proactive solutions that mitigate climate change and other environmental impacts.

Analysis

Mitchell Island is a human-made island located in the North Arm of the Fraser River that has been zoned for industrial use since 1949. The City's Official Community Plan recognizes the Island's ongoing industrial role and economic importance, due in part, to its location adjacent to the Fraser River. The Fraser River supports a number of regionally significant species, including salmon and sturgeon, that are sensitive to habitat impacts such as spills and excess sediment.

Mitchell Island supports a range of industrial uses including materials storage and handling, vehicle and equipment repair, recycling and waste processing, food processing and manufacturing operations. Industrial operations on the Island are subject to various regional, provincial and federal permitting and approvals. Locally, activities on Mitchell Island are also subject to municipal regulatory requirements including the City's *Pollution Prevention and Clean-up Bylaw No. 8475*, *Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw No. 8306* and *Building Regulation Bylaw No. 7230*. Staff work collaboratively to manage environmental risks and support regulatory compliance including inspections, enforcement and oversight. This coordinated approach strengthens regulatory oversight, reduces duplication and supports environmental protection.

Properties on Mitchell Island are serviced by an open and closed drainage network that collects and conveys surface runoff to the Fraser River via a pumpstation located at the end of Mitchell Road. This infrastructure requires more routine maintenance than other industrial areas in the City due to elevated sediment accumulation associated with industrial activities.

If not managed properly, excess sediment can reduce drainage capacity, contribute to blockages within the system and increase the risk of localized flooding and impacts to downstream receiving environments.

Stewardship Initiative Framework and Implementation

To address overlapping jurisdiction and better understand the cumulative risks associated with industrial activity on Mitchell Island, the City coordinated a multi-agency meeting in 2018 to help define the Initiative's framework and implementation approach. This engagement created a shared understanding of environmental risks, clarified regulatory roles and responsibilities and identified opportunities for stronger coordination and proactive risk management, marking a shift away from complaint-driven enforcement toward a more integrated and preventative approach.

The Initiative is delivered through a proactive, risk-based approach that includes targeted outreach, coordinated inspections and ongoing collaboration with regional, provincial, and federal regulators. Activities are prioritized based on environmental risk, complaint history, and monitoring and inspection data, with particular focus on industrial areas along Mitchell Road and Twigg Place where higher-risk activities such as material handling, equipment washing, outdoor processing and waste and recycling operations are concentrated. This approach enables staff to direct resources toward locations with the greatest potential to impact the Fraser River and City infrastructure including flood conveyance capacity.

Joint inspections are conducted with applicable regulatory agencies to provide consistent, cross-jurisdictional messaging to businesses. Information gathered through inspections, spill reports, and monitoring is used to identify recurring issues, inform compliance efforts and refine priorities over time.

Collectively, these efforts have established a coordinated, data-informed approach that supports improved environmental compliance, strengthened regulatory alignment, enhanced protection of City infrastructure and contributed to improved stormwater management and environmental stewardship on Mitchell Island.

Key Achievements

Staff have delivered a range of monitoring, inspection, infrastructure planning and stewardship activities supporting environmental protection and pollution prevention. Key achievements are summarized in Table 1, with additional details provided in Attachment 1.

Table 1: Key Achievements of the Mitchell Island Environmental Stewardship Initiative

Principle	Objective	Key Outcomes
Environmental Monitoring and Sampling	Improve understanding of stormwater conditions to inform inspections and infrastructure planning.	Implementation of a comprehensive stormwater and sediment monitoring program, including targeted sampling across the Island. Establishment of baseline data to identify contaminants and support targeted inspections and infrastructure planning.
Interagency Collaboration	Strengthen coordination among regulatory agencies and improve compliance outcomes.	Coordination of a multi-agency meeting to define the Initiative's framework and approach. Delivery of joint inspections with provincial and federal regulators, including 12 coordinated inspections (2018–2023) and 16 coordinated inspections (2024–2025).
Environmental Stewardship and Stormwater Management	Support pollution prevention and improve stormwater quality through business practices and infrastructure planning.	Delivery of environmental stewardship outreach and engagement activities, including a multi-agency information session with industry stakeholders. Delivery of site-based education and guidance to businesses during inspections and follow-up visits to support pollution prevention and regulatory compliance.
Stormwater Improvements	Improve stormwater quality and drainage system performance through infrastructure and source control measures.	Completion of a Green Stormwater Infrastructure Feasibility Study. Identification of a preferred treatment-train approach to improve stormwater quality and support drainage system performance.

Key Findings and Next Steps

Experience gained through delivery of the Initiative demonstrates that a targeted, area-based approach provides an effective framework for managing environmental risks in complex industrial areas. Program implementation has improved understanding of stormwater conditions and industrial operations through monitoring and data collection, enabling more strategic, risk-based inspections and earlier identification of potential issues. Coordinated inspections and ongoing collaboration with provincial and federal regulators have strengthened regulatory alignment, reduced duplication and supported more consistent expectations for businesses.

The Initiative has also demonstrated the value of proactive engagement in reducing reliance on complaint-driven enforcement, while supporting pollution prevention and improved environmental compliance.

Continued coordination with regulatory partners and the use of monitoring and inspection data will support ongoing refinement of program delivery. Staff will continue to monitor outcomes and identify opportunities to improve environmental protection, infrastructure resilience and drainage system performance on Mitchell Island.

Budgetary Implications

There are no new financial impacts associated with this report. The Initiative is delivered within existing operating budgets and staff resources.

Conclusion

The Mitchell Island Environmental Stewardship Initiative was originally endorsed by Council in 2019 as a proactive response to persistent environmental concerns in a sensitive industrial area directly connected to the Fraser River. Since its implementation, the Initiative has evolved into a coordinated and data-informed environmental risk management framework that integrates monitoring, inspections, regulatory collaboration and business engagement.

Program delivery demonstrates the value of targeted outreach, coordinated inspections, environmental monitoring and cross-jurisdiction collaboration in supporting pollution prevention and improving environmental compliance. The Initiative has strengthened regulatory alignment, improved early identification of environmental risks and reinforced environmental stewardship among businesses operating in a complex industrial setting. This approach also supports continued proactive engagement with businesses to guide improvements in site operations, as well as the design, construction and maintenance of facilities. Staff recommend that this report be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Paulin, Director, Climate & Environment

Report Contributors

This report was prepared by Nadia Chan, Manager, Environment and reviewed by Community Bylaws & Licencing, Richmond Fire-Rescue, Building Approvals and Engineering.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

Att. 1: Mitchell Island Stewardship Initiative 2019-2025

Mitchell Island Environmental Stewardship Initiative 2019–2025



A coordinated initiative to improve stormwater quality and strengthen environmental protection in a complex industrial area connected to the Fraser River.

MARCH 2026



BACKGROUND

Mitchell Island is a key industrial area within the City of Richmond located in the North Arm of the Fraser River. The Island supports a wide range of industrial businesses and is directly connected to the Fraser River through an extensive drainage network that conveys stormwater runoff to the river.

Over time, environmental concerns were observed on the Island, including spills, sediment accumulation, and contaminated stormwater runoff associated with industrial activities.

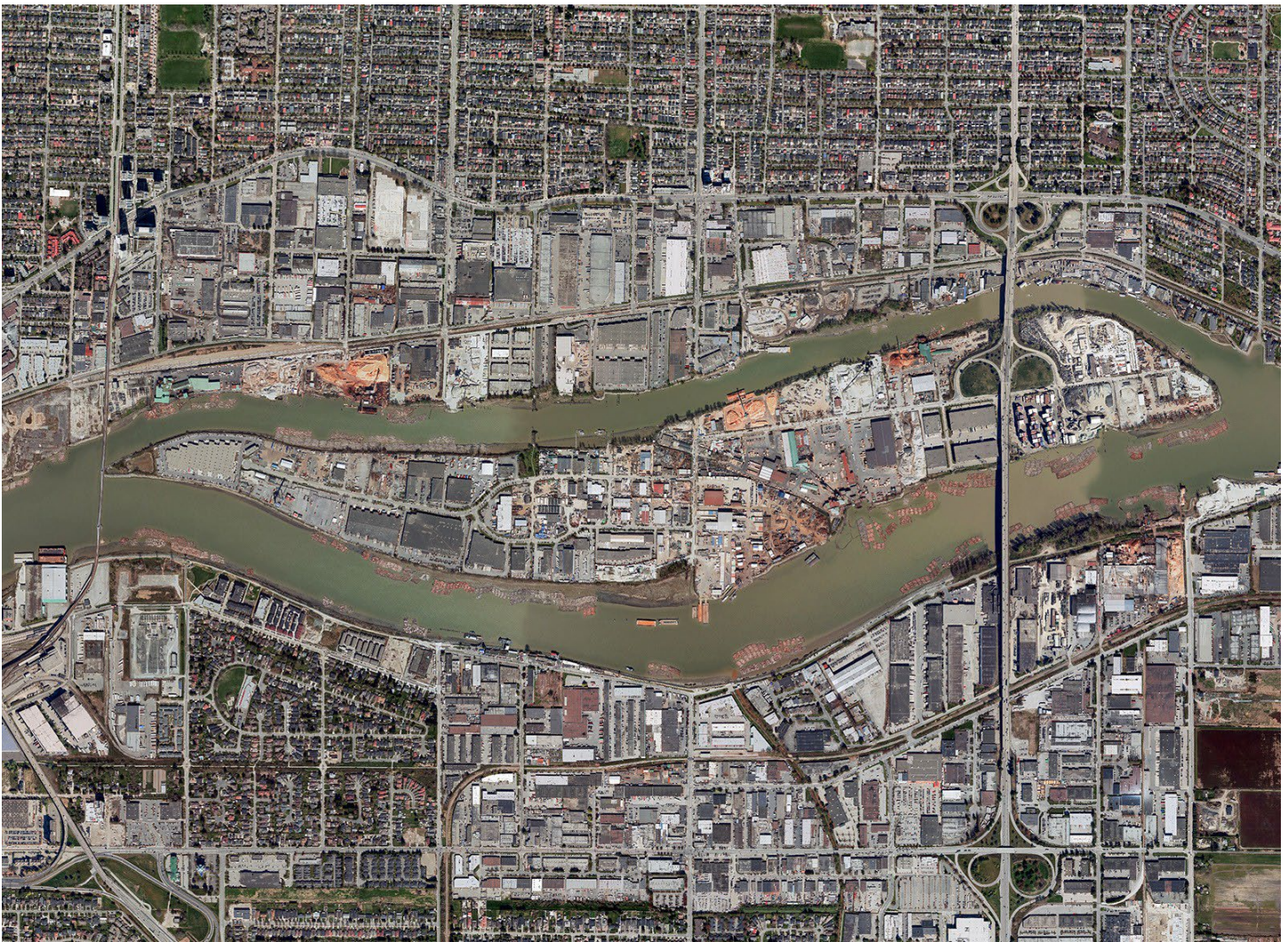
In response, the City of Richmond convened a multi-agency workshop in 2018 with municipal, provincial, and federal regulators to review environmental conditions on the Island and identify opportunities to

improve coordination and environmental outcomes.

The workshop used a structured “Now, Wow, How” approach to:

- Review existing conditions
- Identify improved environmental outcomes
- Develop practical actions to achieve those outcomes

The outcomes of this engagement informed Council endorsement of the Mitchell Island Stewardship Initiative in 2019, which included three stewardship principles. A fourth principle was added in 2021 as monitoring results identified ongoing stormwater quality challenges.



Mitchell Island in the Fraser River is occupied by many heavy industrial businesses such as auto wreckers, materials salvage and metal recyclers, repair shops, metal fabrication shops, food processing plants, concrete plants, and timber mills.

MITCHELL ISLAND STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

The Mitchell Island Stewardship Initiative uses a coordinated and preventative approach to manage environmental risks associated with industrial activities in a sensitive area connected to the Fraser River.

The initiative focuses on four principles that support improved monitoring, regulatory coordination, business engagement, and stormwater quality improvements.

Principle 1

Environmental Monitoring and Sampling
Monitoring programs provide data on stormwater conditions and help identify potential sources of contamination.

Principle 2

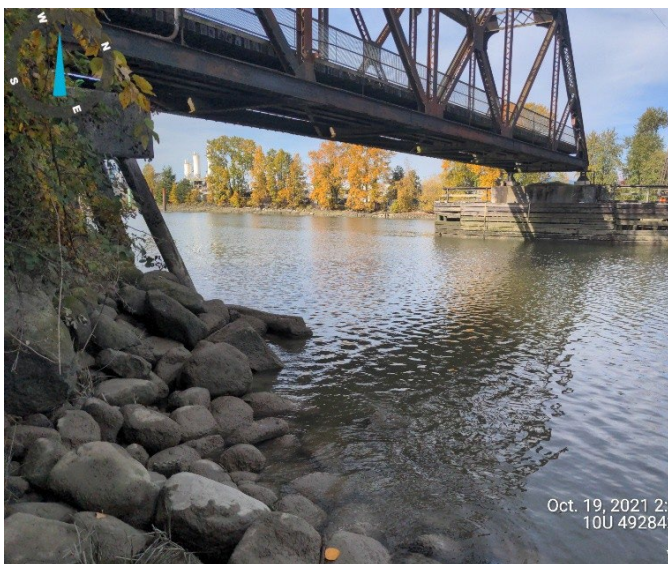
Collaboration Among Environmental Regulators
Joint inspections and information sharing strengthen regulatory oversight and improve coordination among agencies.

Principle 3

Environmental Stewardship with Businesses
Outreach and engagement encourage businesses to adopt best management practices that reduce environmental risks.

Principle 4

Stormwater Quality Improvements
Infrastructure planning and source control measures support long-term improvements to stormwater quality before discharge to the Fraser River



Sediment sampling from the north shore riverbank of Mitchell Island (October 2021).

Initiative Timeline

- 2018** **Now–Wow–How Workshop**
The City convenes municipal, provincial, and federal regulators to review environmental conditions on Mitchell Island and identify opportunities for coordinated action.
- 2019** **Council Endorsement**
Council endorses the Mitchell Island Stewardship Initiative and its three initial stewardship initiatives.
- 2019** **Joint Regulatory Inspections**
Federal, provincial, and municipal regulators conduct 12 coordinated site inspections on Mitchell Island to improve oversight, share information, and address environmental risks (2019 – 2022).
- 2020** **Environmental Monitoring Program**
A comprehensive stormwater monitoring program is implemented, including continuous water quality monitoring and sampling across the Island.
- 2021** **Stormwater Infrastructure Planning**
A Green Stormwater Infrastructure feasibility study is completed to identify options to improve stormwater quality before discharge to the Fraser River.
- 2024– Expanded Initiative Delivery 2025**
Inspection activity increases, with 31 inspections, and 16 joint inspections completed in 2025. A formal engagement tracking system is introduced to improve data tracking and coordination.



Now, Wow, How Regulator Collaboration at Richmond City Hall (November 2018).

PRINCIPLE 1

Create an environmental monitoring and sampling program

The City implemented a comprehensive monitoring program to better understand stormwater conditions on Mitchell Island and identify potential sources of contamination entering the storm drainage system.

Monitoring activities include continuous water-quality monitoring, grab sampling during wet and dry weather conditions, and sediment sampling at more than 25 sites within the storm system and adjacent areas of the Fraser River.

Monitoring results have identified contaminants associated with industrial runoff, including:

- Elevated pH levels
- Metals exceeding water quality guidelines
- High concentrations of suspended solids
- Petroleum hydrocarbons and PAHs
- PCBs detected in storm sewer sediments
- Detection of the compound 6PPD-quinone

This monitoring data supports targeted inspections, improved operational practices, and planning for future stormwater treatment infrastructure.



Sampling of Fraser River water near Mitchell Island (October 2019).



Oil sheen on water discharging from a stormwater outfall on Mitchell Island.

PRINCIPLE 2

Increase collaboration among environmental regulators

The initiative strengthened collaboration among municipal, provincial, and federal regulators responsible for environmental protection on Mitchell Island. Early activities focused on establishing coordination among regulatory agencies and improving understanding of environmental conditions on the Island. In 2019, a water-side foreshore inspection was conducted in collaboration with federal and provincial partners to support inter-agency coordination and improve understanding of shoreline conditions.

Historically, inspections and enforcement activities were conducted independently by multiple agencies. The initiative introduced coordinated inspections, improved information sharing, and consistent messaging to businesses regarding environmental requirements. Between 2018 and 2023, twelve joint federal–provincial–municipal inspections were conducted on Mitchell Island. These coordinated site visits strengthened regulatory alignment, reduced duplicated efforts, and established consistent messaging to businesses regarding spill prevention, drainage management, and hazardous materials handling.

Initiative delivery has expanded in recent years, supported by improved tracking and a more structured, risk-based approach. In 2024, staff conducted 15 inspections. In 2025, inspection activity increased to 31 inspections, including 16 joint inspections with regulatory partners.



Water-based inspection of Mitchell Island Foreshore with local environmental regulators (October 2019).

PRINCIPLE 3

Work with businesses to nurture environmental stewardship

The stewardship program also emphasizes engagement with businesses to support pollution prevention and improved environmental management practices.

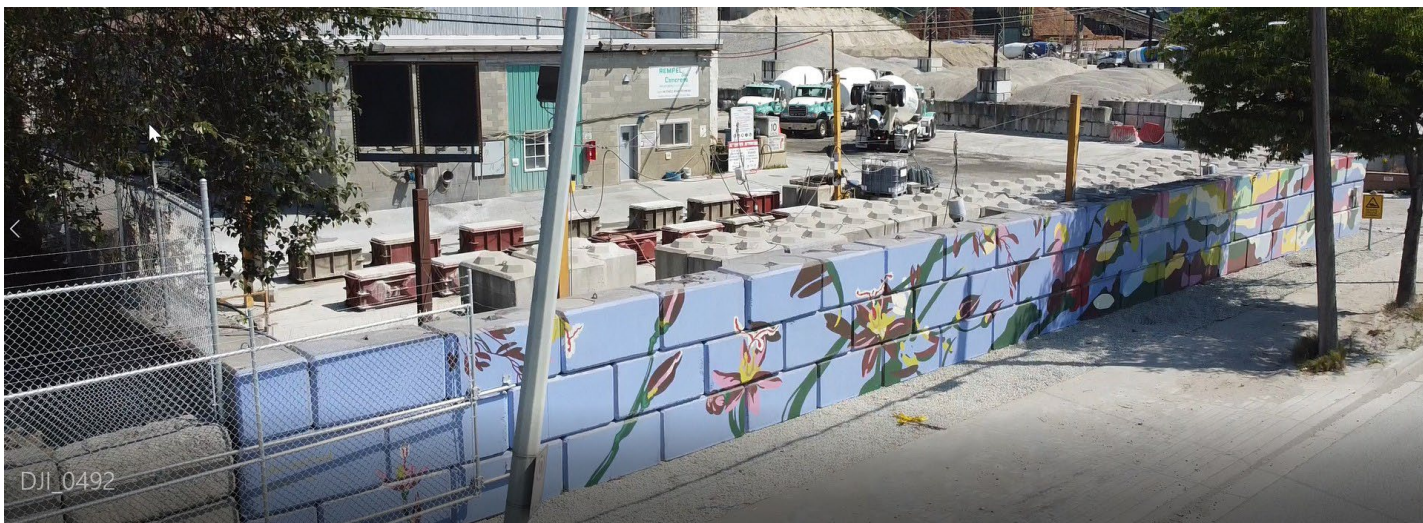
In 2019, the City hosted an Environmental Stewardship Information Session on Mitchell Island that brought together business operators, government regulators, and City staff to discuss stormwater best management practices and environmental challenges.

In 2021, the City partnered with local artists and a Mitchell Island business to install an environmental stewardship mural highlighting the connection between industrial activities and the Fraser River ecosystem.

Mural by artists Karen Yurkovich and Tristesse Seeliger is titled “Metamorphosis” and celebrates the cycles of nature and, metaphorically, the transformations of industry back to nature (June 2021).



Mitchell Island Environmental Stewardship Info Session (May 2019).



Mural by artists Karen Yurkovich and Tristesse Seeliger is titled *Metamorphosis* and celebrates the cycles of nature and, metaphorically, the transformations of industry back to nature (June 2021).

PRINCIPLE 4

Improve stormwater management on the Island

The City completed a feasibility study exploring options to improve stormwater quality on Mitchell Island through both source control measures and green stormwater infrastructure. The study, supported through a \$75,000 grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, evaluated potential locations, treatment volumes, and infrastructure options to reduce suspended solids, maintain appropriate pH levels, and reduce contaminant discharges to the Fraser River.

The preferred approach is a treatment-train system combining:

- Source control measures
- Oil-grit separation
- Bio-infiltration features

Together, these components improve stormwater filtration prior to discharge to the Fraser River while supporting long-term environmental protection.

To support ongoing monitoring and spill response, the City also installed a continuous water-quality monitoring sensor at the Mitchell Road Pump Station. This system collects data for pH, conductivity and temperature prior to discharge and will support baseline trend analysis and future integration with the City’s Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition network.



Solids and litter clogging a catch basin on Mitchell Island.



Example of bio-infiltration.

INITIATIVE OUTCOMES

The Mitchell Island Stewardship Initiative demonstrates the value of a coordinated and preventative approach to managing environmental risks in complex industrial areas.

Through monitoring, regulatory collaboration, business engagement, and infrastructure planning, the initiative has strengthened environmental oversight and supported pollution prevention efforts that protect the Fraser River and surrounding ecosystems.

The Mitchell Island Stewardship Initiative demonstrates the value of a coordinated and preventative approach to managing environmental risks in complex industrial areas. Through environmental monitoring, regulatory collaboration, business engagement, and stormwater infrastructure planning, the initiative has strengthened environmental oversight and supported pollution prevention efforts that protect the Fraser River and surrounding ecosystems.

INITIATIVE RECOGNITION

- Finalist – UBCM Community Excellence Award
- Environmental Managers Association of BC – Discharge Control Award
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund grant recipient



Working with businesses to improve environmental stewardship.



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** April 17, 2026
From: Roeland Zwaag **File:** 10-6125-07-01/2025-
General Manager, Engineering and Public Vol 01
Works
Re: **Proposed Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) Reporting
Requirement for Buildings - Engagement Results and Next Steps**

Staff Recommendation

That the proposed work plan, as described in the report titled “Proposed Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reporting Requirement for Buildings – Engagement Results and Next Steps”, dated April 17, 2026, from the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be approved.

Executive Summary

The City of Richmond is advancing efforts to improve Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) data for large existing buildings. The work is intended to better understand energy use, help reduce operating costs, improve building performance and comfort, and support future policies and programs. Following Council direction on April 15, 2024, staff engaged owners and managers of large industrial, retail and office buildings over 100,000 square feet to understand their readiness for annual energy and emissions reporting, including data sharing, privacy, timing, and support needs.

Participants showed broad support for energy and emissions reporting. They preferred using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (ESPM) — a widely used, standardized tool for tracking building energy use, supported by Natural Resources Canada, and wanted public data disclosure to remain voluntary where possible. Identified challenges include limited access to gas data, administrative issues in multi-tenant buildings, varying technical capacity among building operators, and limitations in how the ESPM tool reflects low-carbon district energy.

At this stage, staff are not recommending an annual energy and emissions reporting regulation, and are focused on improving consistency, addressing barriers, and building readiness across the sector.

This report summarizes the engagement results and proposes a workplan to address key barriers, including an additional engagement for large building types, such as residential, hospitals, care homes, hotels, schools, and assembly uses that were not included in the previous engagement phase.

Staff Report

Origin

On April 15, 2024, Council directed staff to engage owners and managers of large industrial, warehouse, retail and office buildings in Richmond with a floor area of 100,000 square feet or larger on a proposed annual energy and GHG emissions reporting criteria. The engagement aimed to understand data-sharing considerations and identify the support building owners may need to report their data. This work will help the City better understand energy use in buildings, identify savings opportunities, and guide future policies and programs.

This report presents the results of industry engagement, identifies key implementation challenges, and outlines a recommended approach to advance voluntary benchmarking and inform future policy development.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #5: A Leader in Environmental Sustainability:

Leadership in environmental sustainability through innovative, sustainable and proactive solutions that mitigate climate change and other environmental impacts.

Analysis

Buildings account for about 40 per cent of Richmond's community emissions and a significant share of energy costs. Improving how buildings use energy can support better capital planning, reduce waste, and strengthen long-term reliability. Benchmarking is an industry best practice that allows building owners and operators to establish baseline emission data, monitor performance over time and compare against peers, helping identify opportunities to improve efficiency. Many major local businesses are already using this approach to inform retrofit and investment decisions. This work helps expand awareness of these practices and provides support for building owners who are not yet benchmarking.

The City has consistently advanced benchmarking initiatives for large existing buildings. In 2014, Council launched the Richmond Building Benchmarking Challenge, followed by a 2017 directive to explore options for a building energy and emissions benchmarking policy. In 2020, Council endorsed participation in Building Benchmark BC, a voluntary benchmarking and disclosure program through which many publicly- and privately-owned buildings across Richmond and western Canada are benchmarked. Collectively, these initiatives have supported industry readiness and familiarity with benchmarking practices and reduced emissions by 10-16 per cent on average in the Built Environment sector.

Other jurisdictions across British Columbia are also advancing annual energy and GHG emissions reporting requirements for large existing buildings. The City of Vancouver requires commercial buildings larger than 50,000 square feet and apartment buildings and hotels above 100,000 square feet to report their annual energy use and GHG emissions. This program has a 95 per cent compliance rate, according to the City of Vancouver, in large part due to industry readiness with existing best practices. Many of the participating buildings in Vancouver

are part of the same organizations that are active in Richmond, such as the Building Owners and Managers Association. The City of Victoria, the District of Saanich, and the Capital Regional District collaborated on a regional engagement on energy and emissions reporting. Victoria and Saanich will require all buildings over 10,000 square feet to report energy and emissions data by 2027, starting with buildings over 30,000 square feet in 2026.

The City of Richmond currently does not require building energy and emissions reporting but encourages voluntary participation through programs such as Building Benchmark BC and continues to work with local building owners to better understand opportunities for future action.

Engagement Results

Between September 2024 and January 2025, the City conducted a public engagement campaign to understand interest and readiness for a proposed reporting requirement. The campaign resulted in over 3,800 engagement interactions with businesses, associations, organizations and other interested participants in Richmond through surveys, virtual and in-person sessions, StoryMaps, video content, newsletters, mail, and one-on-one meetings. This helped build broad awareness of the initiative and gather more detailed input from building owners and industry representatives who would be directly affected.

Prior to engagement, staff were aware that many building owners are already tracking their energy use, and engagement results indicated the significant extent and details of that practice in Richmond. However, practices vary widely and data is not consistently shared. Participants noted that a common approach would help create a level playing field and make it easier to compare performance across buildings, including:

- Broad support for ESPM as the preferred benchmarking software platform (supported by Natural Resources Canada), however with varying degrees of familiarity and technical readiness;
- Strong desire for alignment with other BC municipalities to ensure consistent reporting practices and minimize confusion;
- Support for voluntary data disclosure; and
- Requests for recognition programs to acknowledge high-performing buildings and support for technical and educational resources to facilitate compliance.

In addition to the key points highlighted above, Table 1 below outlines additional challenges that were identified during engagement.

Table 1: Key Challenges

Challenge	Details
Gas Data Gaps from Utility Transfers	Gas data transfers to ESPM may have gaps, requiring building owners to verify data monthly and resolve issues directly with their utility provider, creating an administrative burden.
Gas Meter Aggregation	Automatic meter aggregation for gas data in ESPM is not currently available—a feature that helps simplify reporting and protect tenant privacy. In many cases, tenants must register in ESPM and individually grant access to their meter data, which can be impractical. Staff estimate that approximately 40 per cent of non-residential properties may face this

	challenge, with a lower impact expected in the residential sector.
Technical Capacity	Some building owners expressed limited resources and experience with ESPM.
District Energy Emissions Factors	ESPM currently lacks the functionality to reflect low-carbon district energy sources, such as Lulu Island Energy Company. NRCan customization features are expected to be available in 2026.

While engagement participants were broadly supportive of a benchmarking requirement, staff are not recommending a bylaw at this time. Engagement confirmed that benchmarking helps building owners identify energy savings, reduce operating costs, and make informed upgrades, while also giving the City better data to plan programs and track progress.

At the same time, feedback showed that practices are not consistent across buildings, and many participants highlighted the need for alignment with other municipalities and more support before a requirement is introduced. Based on this, staff are proposing to focus on a workplan to support future readiness that includes expanded engagement and practical supports to improve consistency and readiness across the sector. Detailed engagement results are included in Attachments 1 and 2.

Next Steps

To respond to the findings from engagement and address identified gaps, staff have developed the following proposed work plan (Table 2) for the upcoming months.

Table 2: Proposed Work Plan

#	Action	Details	Goal
1.	Expand Engagement to a Second Cohort of Large Buildings	Engage residential, hospitals, care homes, hotels, schools, and assembly-use buildings over 100,000 square feet from Q2 2026 to Q1 2027 using in-person and virtual sessions, webpages, surveys, and targeted outreach.	Better understand the needs and challenges of these building types to inform a potential reporting approach and appropriate support measures.
2.	Advocate with Other Municipalities and Partners for a Solution to Gas Related Data Issues	Collaborate with other jurisdictions and organizations to advocate for a solution to address gas data challenges and offer a meter aggregation feature.	Better data sharing and collection to building owners and managers.
3.	Assess Capacity and the Level of Support Required by Building Owners and Managers	Refine support for building owners and managers to facilitate their reporting processes, such as developing tools, training, and concierge support services.	Provide support to building operators to enhance compliance rates and data accuracy.
4.	Advocate for the Development of Emission Factors Customization in ESPM	Work in conjunction with district energy providers and NRCan to review the development of this tool in the near future.	Adjust emission factors for district energy systems and ensure accurate data for building managers.
5.	Develop a Consistent Standard for GHG Emissions, Energy, and Water Efficiency Reporting for Existing Buildings	Staff provided feedback on the development of a national benchmarking standard, which was released in March 2026.	Provide a consistent reporting framework for GHG emissions, energy, and water efficiency across existing buildings.

6.	Continue Promoting the Building Benchmark BC Program	Encourage participation in the existing voluntary energy reporting program through ongoing outreach, information sessions, and coordination.	Increase voluntary participation and build familiarity with benchmarking practices to support future program development.
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Subject to Council endorsement, staff will report back with the results of the proposed workplan and any recommended next steps, with implementation of identified actions anticipated between Q2 2026 and Q1 2027.

Budgetary Implications

Staff estimate the second phase of engagement will cost approximately \$15,000, covering resource development (website, FAQs, one-pagers, marketing, and outreach materials). These costs can be accommodated through existing budgets, funded by the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP).

Conclusion

The engagement results show that the majority of engagement participants support a proposed energy and GHG emissions reporting requirement in Richmond, with some building owners and managers already tracking their energy use and GHG emissions. For building owners and operators, reporting enhances transparency, identifies efficiency opportunities, and supports strategic investment in building upgrades. Staff recommend expanding engagement to a second group of buildings to better assess a potential future reporting requirement, following the original engagement rollout proposed in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Paulin, Director, Climate and Environment

Report Contributors

This report was prepared by Jovan Cheema, Manager, Climate Action and reviewed by Economic Development, Finance, Housing Office, Lulu Island Energy Company, Building Approvals, Policy Planning and Law.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

- Att. 1: Engagement Summary
- Att. 2: Engagement Feedback Summary
- Att. 3: Let’s Talk Richmond Survey Results

Engagement Summary

Channel	People Reached	Engagements (likes, shares, comments)	Clicks-through
LinkedIn	1,055	59	27
Facebook	1,020	11	1
Economic Development E-newsletter	279	N/A	7
Economic Development Twitter/X	573	23	2
Letters via Canada Post	108	N/A	N/A
Letters delivered by Staff	54	N/A	N/A
Phone Calls	15	N/A	N/A
Emails	18	N/A	N/A
Total	3,122	93	37

Websites	Viewers	Engagement	Surveys
City of Richmond Website	211	N/A	N/A
Let's Talk Richmond	93	13	10
StoryMaps	316	N/A	N/A
Vimeo	20	N/A	N/A
Total	640	13	10

Sessions	Attendees	Delivery Mode
CoR Economic Advisory Committee Session	17	In-person
Info Session (x1)	20	Online
Engagement Sessions (x4)	33	Online
Total	70	-
1-on-1 Sessions	5 (# of sessions)	Online

Engagement Feedback Summary

Themes	Subthemes	Feedback / Questions
Data Collection	Data Privacy	Inquiry whether the information collected about buildings would be made publicly available in the future.
		Stakeholder expressed interest in understanding more about privacy protection within the City related to data, specifically inquiring whether the information collected would be shared with other City entities.
	Stratified buildings	Inquiry about the approach for data collection in the case of stratified buildings.
	Industrial facilities	"For industrial space, consider owner-operator rather than tenant owner. It is easier with light industrial; hence it is office space. However, the industrial sector is usually a single-tenancy, and the tenant lease is basically a blank shell."
		"Industrial sector is really challenging. Collecting this data from this sector is difficult." "Tenants lease out the box and it is the one who installs the systems and is responsible for the utilities. Industrial lease terms are way longer than commercial - 20-year terms - Green lease is not a feasible thing"
	Resources capacity/technical knowledge	Concerns were raised about reporting, emphasizing that the process might introduce additional challenges for individuals and organizations
	FortisBC Data	Issues with FortisBC meter threshold and aggregation: "Recently, Fortis BC has required tenant permission to disclose aggregate data, and thresholds are somewhat irrelevant. This is a significant barrier in the market currently to reporting on gas consumption where tenants hold utility accounts. How is the City of Richmond planning on addressing that?" Concerns expressed related to the following: - Meters aggregation: Thresholds and aggregation levels with FortisBC are not being applied. "Requires tenant permission for every tenant to request an aggregation data, it is not a matter of unit threshold anymore" Some data gaps are observed in the data flowing from FortisBC to ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager
"FortisBC never implemented the aggregation tool for 11+ commercial meters. Timeline was early 2024. However, completion TBD."		

Opportunities	Operational Savings Quantification	It was suggested that emission reporting could be leveraged as a marketing opportunity. It was proposed that future 'savings' from reduced emissions could be quantified in dollar amounts and marketed to businesses, framing this approach as an economic opportunity.
	Results from Previous Program	Interest in the results of the Richmond benchmarking challenge was expressed.
	Reward Initiatives	It was mentioned that a potential recognition/award program could be explored by the City for buildings reporting to the City and with better performance.
Proposed Approach	GHG Emission Limits	Concern whether the City has plans to establish and publish its own Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission targets.
	Consistency Across Local Jurisdictions	Concerns whether the proposed energy and GHG emissions reporting requirement would integrate lessons learned from the City of Vancouver's initiative and how the proposed approach would mirror that of Vancouver, or not.
		Inquires whether the proposed requirements are similar to Vancouver reporting requirements.
		Questions on what is required to report in other BC municipalities.
	Concerns why the City has chosen to include the industrial as an asset in the initial batch, while Vancouver has not. "it is a very challenging asset class to obtain utility consumption information from"	
Data Disclosure	" mandatory disclosure is like shaming people; for example, <i>labeling properties with a D</i> characterizes an specific area. A voluntary disclosure approach is more equitable than labeling neighborhoods." "Will the data submitted to the City of Richmond be publicly reported (e.g., through https://buildingbenchmarkbc.ca/)?"	

Proposed Approach	Associated Fees	Stakeholders wanted to broaden their understanding of the City's approach to addressing non-compliant buildings in the future, specifically asking whether penalties, such as increased business license fees, would be implemented.
		"whether permit fees like the CoV will be applied or is it only reporting"
		"The City must have enough staff and charge service fees to ensure better compliance with the benchmarking bylaw. Collecting permit fees is one idea to service the program. "
		"What mechanism/tool will be used to get building owners to report their data? CoV has imposed monetary fines, but can the City of Richmond do anything other than asking us to comply?"
	Reporting Deadline	"Would suggest a June 2025 deadline for reporting might be a bit ambitious for properties that aren't currently on ESPM. It's a pretty steep learning curve and gathering consumption information, particularly from Fortis, as mentioned, can take many months."
	District Energy System	Questions whether a building supplied by District Energy will also be required to report.
	Requirements and Exclusions	Question whether it will be mandatory for all buildings to report energy consumption in Richmond, or if any exceptions will be in place.
		Will there be any exclusions from the reporting process? For example, process loads?

Let's Talk Richmond Survey Results

Closed

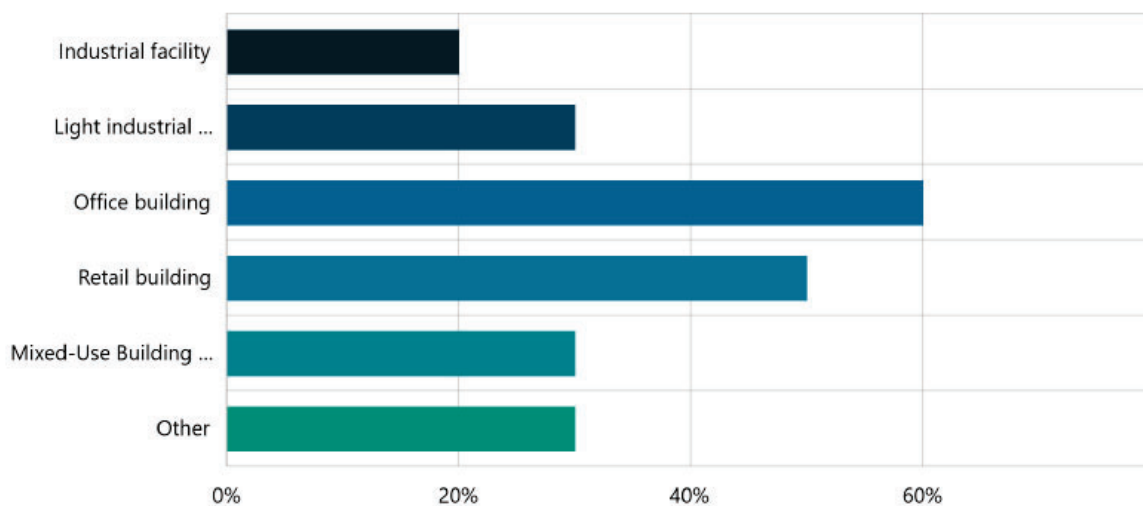
Energy and GHG Emissions Reporting Survey
[Proposed energy and greenhouse gas emissions reporting](#)

0 Contributors | 10 Contributions

Contribution Summary

1. I am a building owner, manager or representative of a/an: (select all that apply) Required

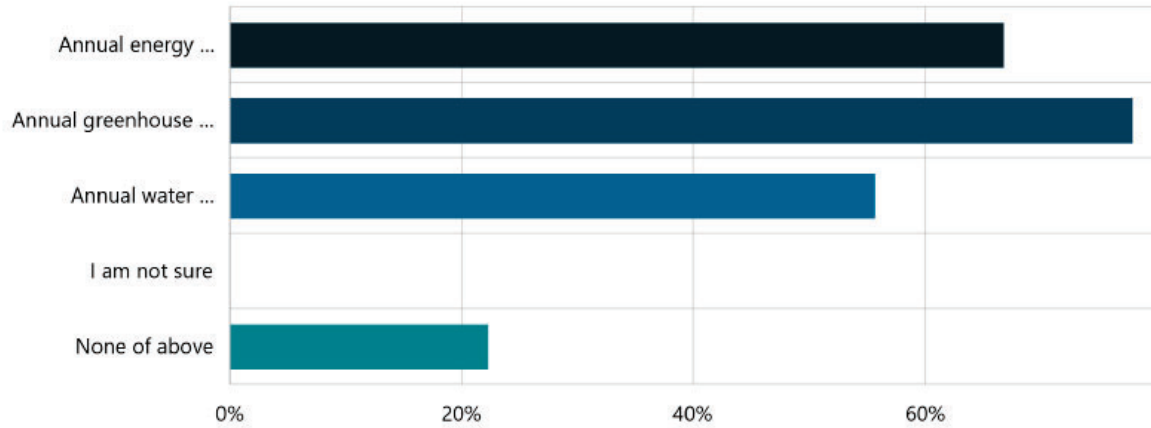
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 10 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Industrial facility	20.00%	2
Light industrial facility (e.g. warehouse)	30.00%	3
Office building	60.00%	6
Retail building	50.00%	5
Mixed-Use Building (more than one use - i.e. office retail)	30.00%	3
Other	30.00%	3

2. My organization currently tracks the following building information: (select all that apply)

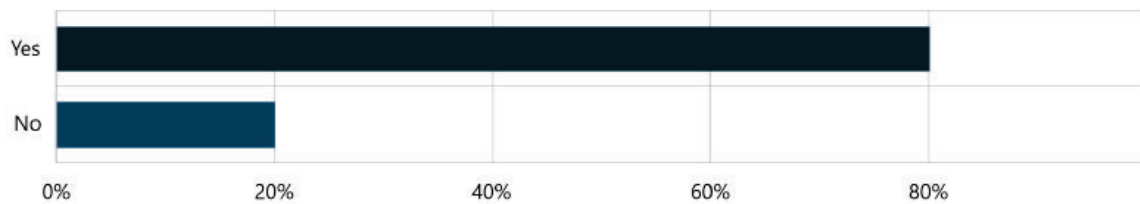
Multi Choice | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 9 (90%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Annual energy consumption	66.67%	6
Annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions	77.78%	7
Annual water consumption	55.56%	5
I am not sure	0%	0
None of above	22.22%	2

3. I have previous knowledge about tracking my building's/facility's energy consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions:

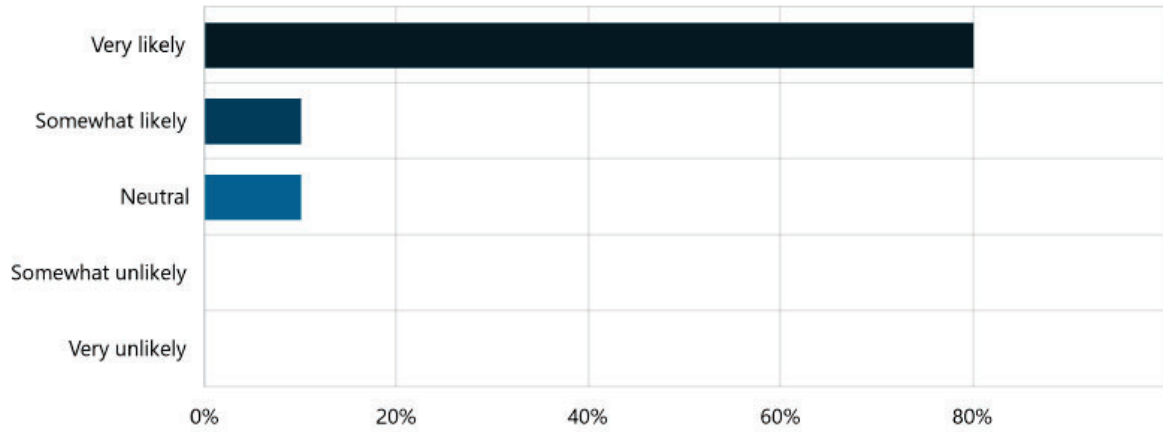
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 10 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	80.00%	8
No	20.00%	2
Total	100.00%	10

4. After reading the background information and learning more about energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) benchmarking, my level of support to implement a benchmarking program for my building(s) would be:

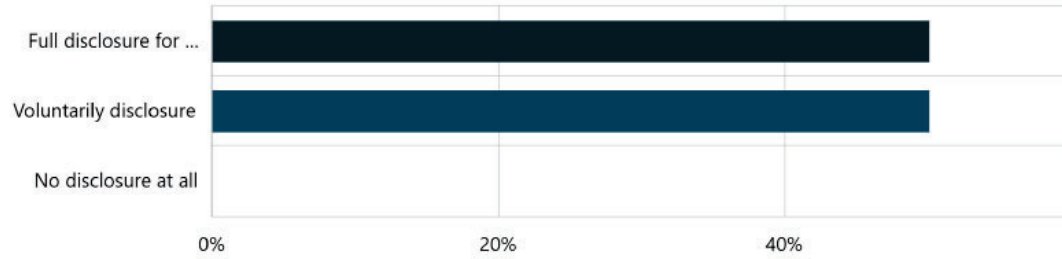
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 10 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Very likely	80.00%	8
Somewhat likely	10.00%	1
Neutral	10.00%	1
Somewhat unlikely	0%	0
Very unlikely	0%	0
Total	100.00%	10

5. The proposed requirement is to report buildings' energy use and GHG emissions to the City of Richmond. Regarding energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) public data disclosure, I support the following:

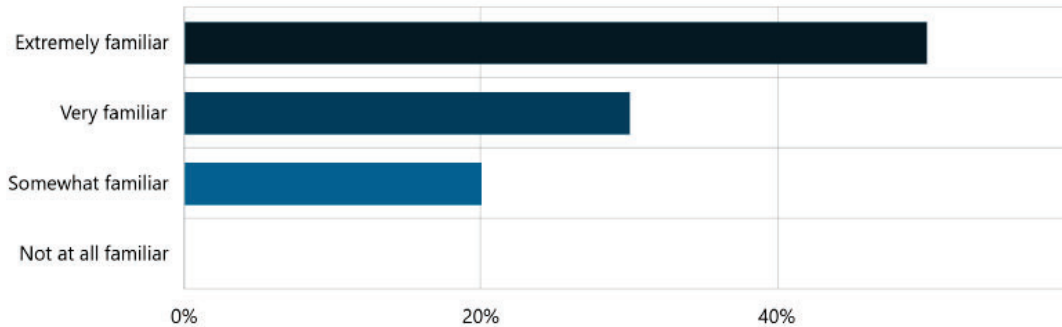
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 10 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Full disclosure for every building under this requirement	50.00%	5
Voluntarily disclosure	50.00%	5
No disclosure at all	0%	0
Total	100.00%	10

6. Before participating in this survey, I was _____ with energy and GHG emissions reporting tools: (fill in the blank)

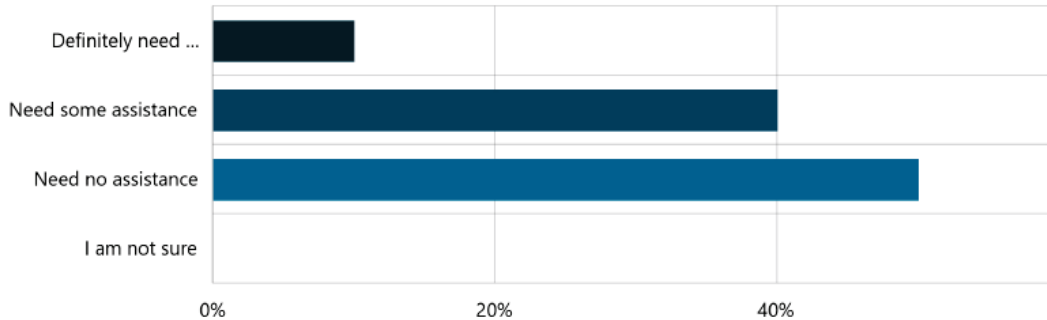
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 10 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Extremely familiar	50.00%	5
Very familiar	30.00%	3
Somewhat familiar	20.00%	2
Not at all familiar	0%	0
Total	100.00%	10

7. Energy Star Portfolio Manager (ESPM) is free reporting and benchmarking software widely used in North America to collect, store and report annual building energy and emissions data. To use ESPM to report annual energy usage and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, I would:

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 10 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Definitely need assistance	10.00%	1
Need some assistance	40.00%	4
Need no assistance	50.00%	5
I am not sure	0%	0
Total	100.00%	10

Additional Comments Provided on Let’s Talk Richmond Survey:

1. “City of Richmond has been a climate action leader when it comes to decarbonizing the building sector. This program related to disclosure requirement will build on the City’s climate action leadership work. It will not only reduce energy consumption in participating buildings, but can help inspire other municipalities to take similar steps in their jurisdictions. There is a CSA National Standard on Energy and GHG Emissions Reporting being developed as we speak and when published, the standard can help provide a consistent approach re: energy benchmarking across municipalities. Also, note that Engineers and Geoscientists BC is developing professional practice resources in relation to GHG emissions regulations for large existing buildings (related to City of Vancouver’s bylaw) and that would be of relevance to the work led by the City of Richmond as the scope of guidance covers energy benchmarking. We wish the City of Richmond best of luck in implementing this new initiative and commit to providing support through the development of professional practice resources.”
2. “My company is already developing a sustainability program to track key information such as energy consumption, renewables consumption (cardboard, paper, wood pallets). So this is a timely initiative for corporate responsibility.”



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** April 16, 2026
From: Roeland Zwaag **File:** 10-6500-01/2025-Vol
General Manager, Engineering and Public 01
Works
Re: **Proposed Amendments to Traffic Bylaw 5870 and Traffic Calming Policy 7018
to Implement 30 km/h Posted Speed Limit**

Staff Recommendations

1. That the Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 10750 be given first, second and third readings; and
2. That the amendment to the Traffic Calming Related Measures – Policy 7018, as described in the report titled “Proposed Amendments to Traffic Bylaw 5870 and Traffic Calming Policy 7018 to Implement 30km/h Speed Limits”, be approved.

Executive Summary

On March 23, 2026, Council directed staff to bring forward bylaw amendments to implement a 30 km/h speed limit on local residential neighbourhood roads and to update Traffic Calming Related Measures – Policy 7018. The proposed bylaw amendments will formalize the reduced speed limits using a neighbourhood entrance-based signage approach. The proposed changes to the Traffic Calming Policy will improve the ability to address resident speeding concerns in a timely manner by authorizing the Director, Transportation to implement traffic calming measures when a majority of support from residents immediately adjacent to the proposed traffic calming measures is received.

Staff Report

Origin

At the March 23, 2026, Council meeting, Council approved lowering the posted speed limit to 30 km/h as described in the report titled “Proposed Approach to Lowering Speed Limits”, dated February 17, 2026, from the Director, Transportation and the following motions were endorsed by Council.

- (1) That staff bring forward bylaw amendments to facilitate the speed limit reduction, as described in Option 3 in the report titled “Proposed Approach to Lowering Speed Limits”, dated February 17, 2026, from the Director, Transportation;*
- (2) That staff bring forward amendments to the Traffic Calming Related Measures - Policy 7018, as described in the report titled “Proposed Approach to Lowering Speed Limits”, dated February 17, 2026, from the Director, Transportation;*
- (3) That Council approve Option B for the public education plan as described in the report titled “Proposed Approach to Lowering Speed Limits”, dated February 17, 2026, from the Director, Transportation;*
- (4) That the Proposed 30 km/h Residential Neighbourhood Speed Zones map be adjusted to include the West Cambie block; and*
- (5) That staff conduct analysis for Arcadia Road, Eckersley Road, Spires Road, Bennett Road, and Jones Road in the City Centre area to determine suitability for a 30 km/h speed limit.*

This report responds to this direction, except for Item 5 which will be presented to Council in the future.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.

Analysis

At the March 23, 2026, City Council approved a City-wide 30 km/h speed limit approach on local residential roads as identified in Figure 1.

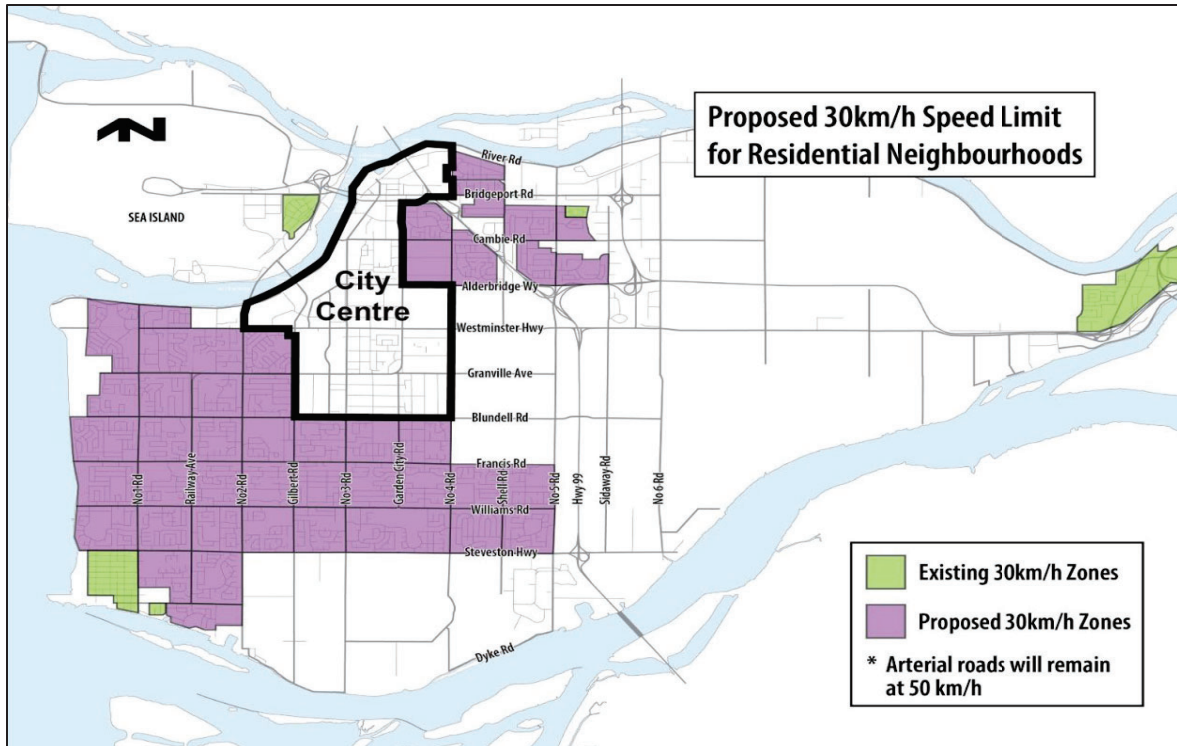


Figure 1: Roads within 30km/h Speed Limit Zones

Bylaw amendments are required to establish the reduced speed limits. The proposed Amendment Bylaw No. 10750 establishes 30 km/h speed limit to local roads within the residential neighbourhoods consistent with the endorsed recommendation. The 30 km/h speed zone map has been updated to include the West Cambie neighbourhood as directed by Council. Arterial roads and perimeter roads that carry a high through traffic will remain at 50 km/h. The referral related to analysis of additional roads in City Centre will be brought forward in a future report to Council.

Proposed Traffic Calming Process

In anticipation of increased requests for traffic calming to support the 30 km/h speed limit, staff recommend changes to Traffic Calming Related Measures – Policy 7018 (Attachment 1).

Current City Policy 7018 permits the Director, Transportation to implement traffic calming on local roads if a majority of affected residents support the project. Previous traffic calming surveys typically yield a response rate of 30 to 40 per cent, which makes achieving majority support of affected residents difficult. However, typically support by 50 per cent of respondents to a traffic calming survey is achieved. The proposed changes would authorize the Director, Transportation to implement traffic calming measures, if engagement with residents immediately adjacent to the proposed traffic calming measure results in at least 50 per cent support of survey respondents. This will improve staff’s ability to address resident speeding concerns in a timely manner, subject to budget availability.

Next Steps

Signage

Implementation of the 30 km/h speed limit signs will commence following bylaw adoption. As there are 500 kilometres of roadway included in the new 30 km/h speed zones, it will take approximately three months to implement the signage.

Public Awareness Campaign

A comprehensive public awareness campaign regarding the new speed limits will complement this initiative.

This includes a targeted paid digital advertising campaign to reach Richmond residents, most likely to be impacted by the changes. The campaign will use platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Google to promote key messages, direct residents to the project webpage, and encourage participation in the engagement process.

Review of Additional 30 km/h Roads

The Medical Health Officer, in a letter dated March 13, 2026, expressed support for reducing speed limits on residential roads in Richmond stating that the approach being undertaken makes significant strides to enhancing the safety and livability of residential streets. In addition, the Medical Health Officer requested further consideration of 30 km/h on select roads in City Centre. Staff will conduct analysis for Arcadia Road, Eckersley Road, Spires Road, Bennett Road, and Jones Road in the City Centre area to determine suitability for a 30 km/h speed limit. Staff will report back on the findings of this review in Q4 2026.

Budgetary Implications

The proposed speed reduction program to reduce the posted speed limit within residential neighbourhoods to 30 km/h is estimated to cost \$175,000 and can be funded through the Council approved 2026 Traffic Calming Program capital project. The comprehensive public awareness campaign can be funded through the existing operating budget.

Conclusion

The proposed approach to lowering speed limits on these roads includes gateway signage. This approach will inform drivers of the new speed limit at the entry points to each neighbourhood to balance the enforcement requirements with the cost for signage.

A lower speed limit will support making these roads more comfortable for pedestrians and cyclists. This initiative advances Vision Zero and road safety by moving from the City's current approach of targeted speed limit reduction interventions to a comprehensive and consistent speed limit for residential neighbourhoods in the City.

April 16, 2026

- 5 -

Respectfully submitted,

Lloyd Bie, Director, Transportation

Report Contributors

This report was prepared by Sonali Hingorani, Manager, Transportation Planning and New Mobility and reviewed by RCMP and Law.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

Att. 1: Existing Traffic Calming Related Measures – Policy 7018

Att. 2: Proposed Traffic Calming Related Measures – Policy 7018

Existing Traffic Calming Related Measures – Policy 7018



City of
Richmond

Policy Manual

Page 1 of 1	Traffic Calming Related Measures – Approval Process for the Implementation of	Policy 7018
Adopted by Council: October 15, 2002		

POLICY 7018:

It is Council policy that:

1. The Director, Transportation may implement traffic calming measures, without reference to Council, where the proposed project meets all of the following conditions:
 - a) has the support of the majority of residents affected by the project; and
 - b) will be implemented on a local street or laneway (regardless of whether or not the project involves physical changes to the lane).
2. Where all of the above conditions are not met, or where any of the following conditions apply, Council approval for the implementation of traffic calming measures must be obtained if such project:
 - a) is controversial within the neighborhood affected; or
 - b) requires additional funding beyond the program or project budget for the current year.

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Proposed Traffic Calming Related Measures – Policy 7018



City of
Richmond

Page 7 of 7

Traffic Calming Related Measures – Approval Process for
the Implementation of

Policy 7018

Adopted by Council: October 15, 2002

POLICY 7018:

It is Council policy that:

1. The Director, Transportation may implement traffic calming measures, without reference to Council, where the proposed project meets all of the following conditions:
 - a) **has the support of the majority of respondents immediately adjacent to the proposed traffic calming measures;** and
 - b) will be implemented on a local street or laneway.
2. Where all of the above conditions are not met, or where any of the following conditions apply, Council approval for the implementation of traffic calming measures must be obtained if such project:
 - a) **received opposition** within the neighborhood affected; or
 - b) requires additional funding beyond the program or project budget for the current year.



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** April 22, 2026
From: Roeland Zwaag
General Manager, Engineering and Public Works **File:** 10-6160-07-01/2025-Vol 01
Re: **Invasive Species Action Plan: Program Summary (2024 - 2025)**

Staff Recommendations

1. That the report titled “Invasive Species Action Plan: Program Summary (2024 - 2025)”, dated April 22, 2026, from the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be received for information; and
2. That the Invasive Species Action Plan (2016) be updated as described in the report titled “Invasive Species Action Plan Update and Program Summary (2024 - 2025)”, dated April 22, 2026, from the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, and a draft be brought to Council for consideration.

Executive Summary

Invasive species pose risks to local ecological health, public safety and infrastructure. Guided by the Enhanced Pesticide Management Program and the Invasive Species Action Plan, the City continues to implement a risk-based approach to manage invasive species that focuses on prevention through public education and early detection with regional collaboration.

Since the previous update in 2023, the City has advanced several key initiatives, including a City-wide Blackberry Management Program, continued knotweed treatment and monitoring, expanded support for treatment on private property, pollinator habitat enhancement and public outreach on pesticide reduction and ecosystem health. Continued success of these initiatives is attributed, in part, to the dedicated annual operating and capital funding the City prioritizes in the community. The funding provides stable financial resources and limits the risks attributed to some sources of provincial and federal funding.

The Enhanced Pesticide Management Program and *Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 8514*, adopted in 2009, continue to reduce reliance on pesticides for cosmetic purposes in Richmond effectively. The Invasive Species Action Plan was approved in 2016. Over the past ten years, the Program has evolved in response to existing and emerging risks posed by invasive species in the community, and advancements in best practices and management options. Staff are seeking direction to prepare an updated Invasive Species Action Plan to build on this progress and better reflect the continued evolution of the program.

Staff Report

Origin

Council adopted the Enhanced Pesticide Management Program (EPMP) and *Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 8514* in 2009 to reduce reliance on pesticides within the city for cosmetic purposes and to support alternative approaches to pest management. The EPMP established a framework for integrated pest management, emphasizing prevention, public education and the use of non-chemical methods where feasible, while allowing for pesticide use in specific circumstances to protect public health, infrastructure and ecological values.

Following implementation of the EPMP, Council endorsed the Invasive Species Action Plan (ISAP) in 2016 to guide the City's response to invasive plants and animals that pose risks to ecological function, public safety, and infrastructure. The ISAP identifies priority invasive species and supports a risk-based, integrated pest management approach to invasive species management on City-owned lands.

This report summarizes the actions and initiatives undertaken to implement the EPMP and ISAP since the last update in 2023. The report also includes an ISAP Progress Report for the previous ten years of the plan's implementation. Lastly, this report seeks approval for staff to prepare an update to the ISAP (2016) including internal and external engagement and future endorsement through additional reporting.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #5 A Leader in Environmental Sustainability:

Leadership in environmental sustainability through innovative, sustainable and proactive solutions that mitigate climate change and other environmental impacts.

Analysis

Invasive species occur outside their natural range and can cause environmental, economic and social harm by outcompeting native species and reducing habitat value. The City's approach to pest and invasive species management is guided by the EPMP and the ISAP, which are collectively referred to in this report as "the Program". Together, the Program provides a coordinated framework for prioritizing invasive species management based on the risks they pose to public safety, infrastructure, agricultural land and ecologically sensitive areas, while minimizing reliance on pesticides.

There are over two dozen invasive species known to occur in Richmond, all of which have the potential to cause varying degrees of ecological harm. Eight of these species have the added potential to pose significant risks to infrastructure and human health including giant hogweed and knotweed, which are identified in the ISAP as priority species for management. Several invasive species present in Richmond are also designated as 'noxious weeds' under the provincial *Weed Control Act*.

Richmond has developed a coordinated and increasingly sophisticated invasive species management framework, progressing from initial implementation to a mature, integrated model. This includes monitoring, early detection and rapid response, targeted treatment, restoration, public education and regional collaboration.

Program activities are organized across four core areas: Leadership and Innovation; Partnerships; Public Outreach and Engagement; and Invasive Species Treatment, and are supported through dedicated, annual operating and capital funding. This structure has contributed to measurable improvements in overall effectiveness, including reductions in priority infestations, improved inventory and data tracking, expanded partnerships and increased community participation. Several areas are now well established and continue to advance through ongoing refinement and integration into City operations. This progress reflects significant advancement since 2017 and demonstrates how the Program has evolved beyond the scope originally envisioned in 2016.

A 2026 summary includes the following key highlights from activities that were completed in 2024 and 2025:

- Council endorsement of a City-wide Blackberry Management Program, including approval of two new positions to support implementation, with planning underway for 2026;
- Continued progress in knotweed management, including approximately 2.7 ha treated and a transition toward monitoring and restoration (Attachment 1);
- Launched a private property knotweed and hogweed management program to support and coordinate effective treatment of high-risk noxious weeds;

- Growth in pollinator and biodiversity initiatives including expansion of the Richmond Nectar Trail and pollinator habitat on City lands;
- Continued leadership in regional collaboration including participation in provincial and federal invasive species initiatives; and
- Strong community engagement including volunteer stewardship, public education and increased participation in initiatives such as the City Nature Challenge.

Further details, including the 2026–2027 work plan, are provided in Attachment 2.

Staff have prepared a 10-year (2016-2025), invasive species Progress Report (Attachment 3) that provides an overview of the City’s long-term investment in managing invasive species. The report highlights the establishment of core initiatives and continued advancement toward a coordinated and integrated approach, including reductions in priority infestations, improved data tracking, expanded partnerships, and increased community participation.

Proposed Update to the Invasive Species Action Plan

The ISAP was developed to guide the implementation of invasive species management activities and provides a strong foundation for the City’s approach. As the Program has matured, staff recommend updating the ISAP to reflect current practices and set a forward-looking framework to address ongoing and emerging risks to ecological systems, infrastructure and flood protection.

If approved, staff will prepare an updated ISAP that will:

- Include a community-wide engagement process;
- Reflect the maturity and demonstrated success of the existing program;
- Establish a forward-looking framework to address emerging invasive species and climate-related pressures;
- Evaluate and incorporate additional management tools, including regulatory and policy options; and
- Strengthen alignment with infrastructure protection, flood management, and ecological resilience objectives.

Budgetary Implications

There are no budgetary implications associated with the initiatives outlined in this report. Staff continue to utilize stable, annual capital and operating funds to implement the Program. This reduces the City’s reliance on unpredictable funding models and remains a key contributing factor to the success of the Program in Richmond.

Conclusion

The City’s Invasive Species Management Program continues to provide a coordinated and effective approach to managing risks to ecological systems, infrastructure, and public safety. Through targeted management, community outreach and regional collaboration, the City is addressing priority invasive species while supporting ecological resilience and reducing reliance on pesticides.

The Invasive Species Action Plan & Enhanced Pesticide Management Program 2026 Update and Invasive Species Action Plan Progress Report (2016 - 2025) demonstrate the continued advancement and maturity of the program. As invasive species pressures evolve, staff recommend updating the Invasive Species Action Plan (2016) to ensure that the City is well-positioned to address emerging risks, incorporate new tools and approaches and align program delivery with long-term environmental and infrastructure objectives.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Paulin, Director, Climate & Environment

Report Contributors

This report was prepared by Nadia Chan, Manager, Environment, and reviewed by Park Services and Public Works.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

Att. 1: Knotweed Management Program Trends (2017 - 2025)

Att. 2: Invasive Species Action Plan & Enhanced Pesticide Management Program 2026 Update

Att. 3: Invasive Species Action Plan Progress Report (2016 - 2025)

Knotweed Management Program Trends (2017 – 2025)

Overview

The City has implemented a coordinated knotweed management program since 2017, focused on reducing infestation, limiting spread and transitioning toward long-term site restoration. Program delivery has evolved from broad-scale treatment to targeted management supported by monitoring and improved inventory data.

Table 1 summarizes knotweed management performance from 2017 to 2025. Overall, the data shows a reduction in infestation intensity over time, with decreases in stem counts and treatment area reflecting the effectiveness of sustained management efforts.

Table 1: Performance Data

Year	# of Sites	# of Stems	Area Treated (m2)	Herbicide Use (L)
2017	319	108,233	30,850	161
2018	288	34,430	26,830	133
2019	184	8,020		
2020	104	4,663	13,775	50
2021	134	6,310	16,235	35.1
2022	106	3,542		18.6
2023	103	2,122		14
2024	131	19,225		20
2025	186	15,900		11.55

Key Trends

- Significant reduction in infestation extent from 2017 to 2021, with continued targeted management in subsequent years.
- Substantial decrease in herbicide use, reflecting improved treatment efficiency and program maturity.
- Increased site counts in 2024–2025 reflect expanded inventory to include unopened road allowances.
- Program focus is shifting toward long-term monitoring, containment and ecological restoration.

Notes

- Data gaps reflect changes in tracking methods over time.
- Site counts may include both active infestations and locations under monitoring or follow-up treatment.



Invasive Species Action Plan & Enhanced Pesticide Management Program 2026 Update





Richmond City Council adopted the Enhanced Pesticide Management Program (EPMP) and the *Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 8514* in 2009 with the objective of reducing reliance on traditional pesticides through a risk-based, integrated management approach. The program emphasizes prevention, education and the use of alternative methods to manage pests while protecting human health and the environment. In 2016, the Invasive Species Action Plan (ISAP) was adopted under the EPMP to provide a coordinated, strategic framework for prioritizing and managing invasive species that pose risks to civil infrastructure, ecological integrity and public safety.

Richmond continues to experience increasing pressures from invasive species due to climate change, urban development and regional connectivity. The EPMP and ISAP enable the City to respond to these pressures through adaptive, science-based management approaches that integrate monitoring, treatment, public education and collaboration with partner agencies. Program delivery continues to reflect a preventative, integrated pest management approach, with an emphasis on early detection and rapid response, risk-based prioritization and continuous improvement.

The EPMP and ISAP are organized around four core program areas: Leadership and Innovation; Partnerships; Public Outreach and Engagement; and Invasive Species Treatment. These program areas support the City's broader environmental sustainability objectives and contribute to protecting natural areas, infrastructure and community well-being.

This document builds on previous updates and provides a summary of key achievements and program activities for 2024 and 2025, as well as an overview of future program directions. Highlights include expanded invasive species management across public and private lands, continued leadership in regional collaboration and best management practice development, growth in community engagement and stewardship initiatives and ongoing integration of pollinator habitat and biodiversity considerations into program delivery.

LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION

Leadership and innovation initiatives support the continued advancement of Richmond’s invasive species management program through the application of science-based approaches, technical expertise and adaptive management practices. These efforts focus on improving program delivery, enhancing transparency and integrating biodiversity and pollinator considerations into invasive species management and habitat restoration activities.

Key achievements

Technical Contributions and Partnerships: Staff continued to support Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) monitoring of Brazilian elodea in collaboration with the Province of British Columbia, helping to ensure early identification and rapid intervention to prevent establishment in Richmond’s waterways. Staff also contributed technical expertise to the development of three regional Best Management Practice (BMP) documents for priority invasive species including bamboo, periwinkle and cherry laurel. These contributions support the advancement of consistent, science-based management approaches across the region and strengthen coordinated invasive species management efforts.

Program Delivery and Continuous Improvement: Invasive species management activities were implemented across a range of ecosystems including bog restoration areas, meadows and intertidal environments. Staff applied adaptive management approaches to refine treatment methods and improve long-term effectiveness. In 2025, program delivery was expanded to include knotweed species treatment on private properties, supporting a more coordinated, landscape-level approach to invasive species management and helping to reduce re-infestation risks across property boundaries.

Public Notification and Transparency: The City continued to implement its public notification process to support invasive species management activities including knotweed treatment. Residents located near treatment sites were notified in advance through direct mail, with over 350 letters issued annually. This process supports transparency by providing residents with advance notice of treatment activities and information on the program’s purpose and approach. It remains an important component of program delivery and contributes to public awareness and understanding of invasive species management.

Pollinator Leadership: Ongoing pollinator habitat enhancement, education, and stewardship initiatives supported the City’s Bee City Canada certification, including continued expansion of the Richmond Nectar Trail program. Pollinator considerations were further integrated into invasive species management and habitat restoration activities, supporting biodiversity, improving ecosystem resilience and enhancing habitat connectivity across the city. These efforts build on the City’s established pollinator program and reflect a continued commitment to protecting and enhancing pollinator habitat through coordinated City-wide approaches.

3
additional technical
Best Management Practice
documents published

over **3,150**
public notifications
sent to support knotweed
management since 2017



PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with provincial and federal agencies, regional organizations and academic institutions support a coordinated and effective approach to invasive species management. These collaborations enable knowledge sharing, alignment of best practices and development of consistent management strategies across jurisdictions.

Key achievements

Province of British Columbia: The City continued to work closely with the Province of British Columbia on Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) initiatives including ongoing monitoring of Brazilian elodea to prevent re-establishment and spread in Richmond’s waterways. This collaboration supports a proactive, coordinated approach to managing emerging invasive species through monitoring, assessment and response, consistent with provincial priorities.

Federal collaboration: Staff worked with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to support regional awareness and coordinated response to priority invasive species. This included hosting a regional presentation on Emerald Ash Borer for approximately 60 participants from Richmond and Delta, as well as participating in Japanese beetle technical and communications committees. These efforts support information sharing, coordinated response planning, and consistent messaging for invasive species of federal concern.

Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver / British Columbia: The City works closely with the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver (ISCMV) and the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia (ISCBC) to support invasive species management through research, education and public engagement. Staff contribute to regional initiatives and serve on the Boards of Directors for both organizations, supporting coordinated action and knowledge sharing.

Ducks Unlimited Canada: Collaboration with Ducks Unlimited Canada continued to support the 2025 Pesticide Use Permit renewal for management of cordgrass (spartina) in intertidal areas such as Sturgeon Bank and Grauer Lands. This work supports the protection of sensitive estuarine habitats and aligns invasive species management with broader habitat conservation objectives.

Regional management groups: The City continued to participate in regional invasive species management groups, including the Regional Invasive Species Working Group, the BC Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group and the BC Soils and Invasive Species Working Group. These groups support the sharing of best practices, identification of knowledge gaps and advancement of research and management approaches across jurisdictions.

Academic and Education Partnerships: Ongoing collaboration with academic institutions and educational partners supported invasive species identification, applied research and knowledge development. Collaboration with School District No. 38 supported delivery of environmental education programming including an invasive species dike walk and talk with approximately 80 students. Staff also participated in Richmond Environmental Educators meetings and continued coordination with academic institutions, including Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) to support student learning opportunities and advance understanding of invasive species management.

4

years of no observed regrowth of a historic Brazilian elodea infestation site



Spartina management area

PUBLIC OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Public outreach and engagement initiatives focus on increasing awareness of invasive species, promoting environmentally responsible land management practices and supporting community participation in stewardship activities. Through education, communication and hands-on opportunities, these efforts help residents understand their role in preventing the spread of invasive species and protecting local ecosystems.

Key achievements

Community education and awareness: Community workshops and educational programming were delivered on invasive species, pollinators and sustainable land management practices. These initiatives support increased public awareness of invasive species impacts and provide residents with information on prevention, identification and environmentally responsible management approaches. Public-facing engagement materials were also developed to improve access to information and resources, including Let's Talk Richmond pages focused on invasive species and the Richmond Nectar Trail.

over **300**
volunteers and
students engaged

Richmond Nectar Trail: The Richmond Nectar Trail continued to expand across community and private lands, supporting the establishment of pollinator habitat and enhancing habitat connectivity for native pollinators. The program encourages residents, schools, and community organizations to participate in pollinator-friendly planting and stewardship practices, strengthening community involvement in biodiversity initiatives.

84
new pollinator
habitats recorded on
private property

Community Participation: Community participation remained strong with over 300 volunteers and students engaged in invasive species removal and habitat restoration activities. These efforts resulted in the removal of more than 50 cubic metres of invasive plants and contributed to over 500 volunteer hours. Restoration activities supported over 400 m² of habitat improvements in priority natural areas, enhancing ecological function and site resilience.

over **500**
volunteer hours
contributed



Education and outreach initiatives: Education and outreach efforts reached more than 4,500 participants through Nature Park school and public programs. Additional initiatives included an invasive species dike walk and talk with approximately 80 students from Steves Elementary, participation in three community events through outreach booths and continued involvement in provincially recognized Invasive Species Action Month to promote awareness and stewardship.

Over **4,500**
participants in school
and public programs

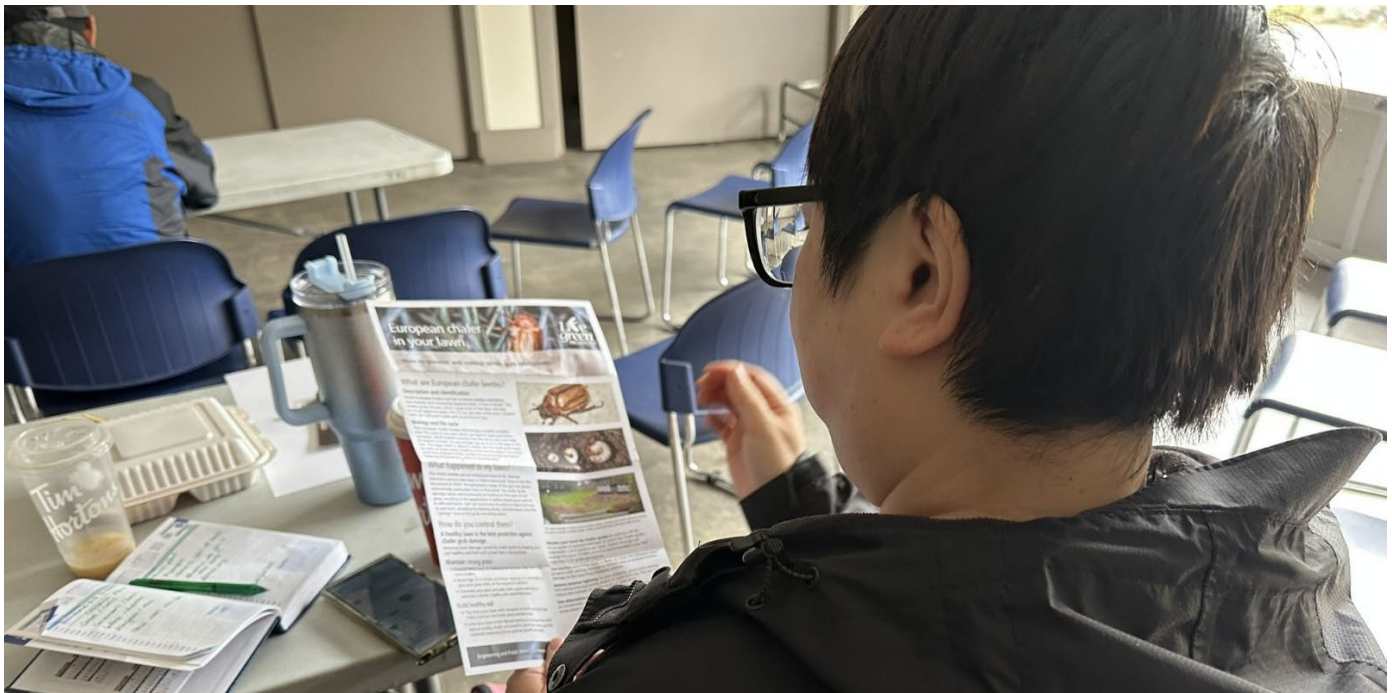
Public programs and campaigns: Public programs focused on promoting sustainable land management practices and increasing awareness of invasive species impacts. Demonstration lawns continued to showcase alternatives to traditional turf, helping residents adopt more resilient and environmentally sustainable landscaping approaches. The City Nature Challenge saw significant growth in 2025, with observations more than tripling, species identified nearly doubling, and participation increasing from 44 to 122 community members, reflecting growing public interest in biodiversity and citizen science.

122
participants in the
City Nature Challenge

Social media and digital engagement: Social media platforms continue to be used to communicate information related to invasive species, pollinators and City-led initiatives. Posts highlight seasonal activities, emerging invasive species and stewardship opportunities, helping to increase public awareness and engagement. In 2024–2025, 11 social media posts were published, supporting timely communication and broader reach of program messaging.



Public accessibility to information: Staff maintained public access to information through email and phone hotlines and responded to over 100 invasive species and pesticide-related inquiries in 2024–2025. Ongoing communication and notification efforts support public awareness, provide site-specific guidance and assist residents in managing invasive species concerns.



INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENT & MANAGEMENT

Invasive species management activities were implemented across terrestrial, aquatic, and high-risk species using an integrated pest management approach including mechanical, biological and targeted pesticide application methods. Treatment approaches are applied based on species, location and risk to balance effectiveness with environmental protection, infrastructure protection and long-term ecosystem health. Targeted treatment efforts included priority species such as knotweed, giant hogweed, scotch broom, reed canary grass and aquatic invasive plants.

Key achievements

Knotweed Management: Ongoing monitoring and targeted treatment of knotweed across City-owned lands continued to reduce spread and protect infrastructure. Long-term program data indicates a significant reduction in infestation extent and treatment intensity since 2017, with many previously treated sites now transitioning to monitoring phases and demonstrating limited regrowth. Current efforts are focused on targeted management, monitoring, and restoration of previously treated sites to support long-term control.

159

knotweed sites
actively managed
on City lands

Private Property Treatment Program: Introduced in 2025, the private property treatment program supports coordinated management beyond City-owned lands. In its first year, 13 private property sites, including school properties, were treated, helping to reduce the spread of invasive species to public infrastructure and natural areas while supporting a more comprehensive, landscape-level approach.

13

private properties
treated in 1st year

Himalayan Blackberry: Himalayan blackberry removal was carried out across priority sites through capital, operational, and stewardship programs. Management efforts focused on restoring natural areas, improving accessibility, and supporting ongoing maintenance to reduce re-establishment and improve long-term site conditions. This included targeted mowing of approximately 8.1 hectares of old field habitat at Terra Nova Rural Park to reduce Himalayan blackberry and reed canary grass, supporting habitat restoration.

over

25,900 m²
of parrot's feather
managed

Aquatic Invasive Species: Following the successful treatment of Brazilian elodea in 2021, the City has continued to monitor the historic infestation site near Garry Point Park in partnership with the Province of British Columbia. To date, no regrowth has been detected, demonstrating the effectiveness of early intervention and ongoing monitoring efforts. In addition, staff continued assessment and management of parrot's feather, an invasive aquatic species, with a focus on limiting its spread and reducing impacts to drainage infrastructure and aquatic systems.



Zero

detections of
Japanese beetle

Japanese beetle response: Japanese beetle response efforts were completed in 2024 with no treatment required in 2025 and no further detections identified through ongoing monitoring. This work was undertaken in coordination with federal and provincial partners to support a consistent, regionally aligned response to this high-risk invasive species.

European chafer beetle: Management of European chafer beetle continued through a biological control program, supporting reduced reliance on chemical treatments. Chafer beetle infestations can cause damage to turf and landscaped areas. In addition to treatment, alternative lawn approaches were promoted to support more resilient landscapes and reduce susceptibility to chafer impacts. Together, these measures support more sustainable, long-term management of this species in urban environments.

Rodent management: Rodent management activities included civic building assessments, response to community inquiries and integration with demolition permitting through a rodent abatement program introduced in mid-2024. In 2025, 137 demolition sites were reviewed, with most (~70%) requiring no control, while community inquiries decreased from 93 to 72.

137

demolition sites
reviewed in 2025



FUTURE OUTLOOK

Building on recent program achievements, the City will continue to advance implementation of the Enhanced Pesticide Management Program and Invasive Species Action Plan through targeted program delivery, policy development and strengthened partnerships. Future efforts will focus on enhancing early detection and response, expanding management across public and private lands, and advancing tools and approaches to address emerging risks to ecological systems and infrastructure.

Leadership & Innovation

- Update the City's invasive species inventory to support improved prioritization and program planning
- Explore additional management tools including the provincial Pesticide Use Permit process to address limitations in high-risk areas such as pesticide-free zones, watercourses, and areas where invasive species pose risks to infrastructure and flood protection
- Undertake a review and update of the Invasive Species Action Plan (ISAP) to reflect current program delivery, incorporate lessons learned and align with evolving priorities, emerging risks, and best management practices

Partnerships

- Expand partnerships with regional agencies, non-government organizations and academic institutions to support research, knowledge sharing, and development of best management practices

Public Outreach & Engagement

- Continue offering outreach and education initiatives including workshops, community events and programming related to invasive species, pollinator habitats, sustainable gardening practices and local food production
- Expand pollinator habitat on City-managed lands, including development of additional pollinator pastures at Bridgeport Industrial Park and McLean Park to support biodiversity and ecological resilience

Invasive Species Treatment and Management

- Continue early detection and rapid response efforts, including monitoring for emerging invasive species and coordination with regional partners to prevent establishment and spread
- Develop and implement a City-wide Blackberry Management Program to support inventory, prioritized treatment, and restoration of affected areas across City lands
- Expand the private property knotweed and hogweed program to reduce spread from private lands to public infrastructure and natural areas
- Restore previously treated knotweed sites with native vegetation to improve ecological function and reduce reinfestation
- Review a potential bog conservation program within Richmond Nature Park
- Explore options to reintroduce a chafer beetle treatment subsidy program including consideration of a cost-sharing voucher model to support private property treatment, with potential implementation beginning in the 2027 season





Invasive Species Action Plan Progress Report 2016 – 2025



Invasive Species Action Plan Progress Report

(2016 – 2025)

This report provides a high-level summary of progress made under the Invasive Species Action Plan (ISAP) from 2016 to 2025. It highlights the maturity of each strategy area, key accomplishments and opportunities to strengthen program delivery.

The ISAP is grounded in a risk-based and integrated pest management approach, with a focus on preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species, managing priority infestations and supporting long-term ecological restoration and resilience.

The status ratings reflect the evolution of the program over time, from early implementation through to established and advanced areas of work and are supported by examples of on-the-ground actions, partnerships and outcomes.



SPECIES MANAGED (2016 – 2025)

Since adoption of the ISAP, the City has implemented management actions across a range of terrestrial, aquatic, and high-risk invasive species, with efforts focused on protecting ecological function, public safety and critical infrastructure.

Table 1: Priority Species Managed

High Risk / Regulated Species	Aquatic Species	Terrestrial Species
Giant hogweed Knotweed species Japanese beetle	Parrot’s feather Brazilian elodea	Wild chervil Scotch broom Chafer beetle



STATUS DEFINITIONS

Status ratings may be combined (e.g., “Established – Advancing”) to reflect progression between stages.

- **Emerging** – Initial program elements are being developed, with early activities focused on baseline understanding, partnerships or pilot initiatives.
- **Established** – Program components are in place and operational, with consistent delivery of activities and integration into City practices.
- **Advancing** – Program is progressing beyond core delivery, with increased coordination, innovation or expansion across multiple service areas.
- **Advanced** – Mature, high-performing program demonstrating measurable outcomes, strong integration and leadership at the local or regional level

INVASIVE SPECIES ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

The table below summarizes progress across the Invasive Species Action Plan strategies, including status, key accomplishments and areas for continued advancement. Status ratings reflect the evolution of each strategy over time, from early implementation to more established and advanced program areas.

Table 2: ISAP Strategy Summary (2016 – 2025)

Strategy	Status	Highlights
Monitor and Map Invasive Species	Established Advancing –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established baseline inventory and expanded priority species mapping. Integrated GIS into workflows to support tracking and prioritization. Piloted innovative technologies (e.g., drone mapping). <i>Next step:</i> Expand baseline inventory and advance toward decision-support tools and strengthen integration with asset management.
Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR)	Established Advancing -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented EDRR program, including successful eradication of Brazilian elodea. Applied innovative response techniques (e.g., suction dredge). Established monitoring partnerships (e.g., CFIA). <i>Next step:</i> Formalize a City-wide EDRR framework with defined triggers and response protocols.
Manage and Control Knotweed Species	Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered long-term program reducing infestations and treatment intensity. Expanded management to private properties. Established annual treatment, monitoring, and notification processes. <i>Next step:</i> Transition toward site restoration and long-term resilience.
Manage and Control Aquatic Weeds	Established Advancing –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed priority species, including parrot’s feather and Brazilian elodea. Applied innovative treatment and monitoring approaches. Contributed to regional knowledge sharing and best practices. <i>Next step:</i> Strengthen integration with drainage, flood protection and water quality objectives.
Manage and Control Giant Hogweed	Established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing control across City lands. Integrated into education, awareness, and regional BMPs. <i>Next step:</i> Formalize program structure and strengthen risk-based prioritization.
Monitor and Control Fire Ants	Emerging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established baseline monitoring and identification capacity. Improved understanding of distribution within the City. <i>Next step:</i> Assess current presence and distribution to confirm whether fire ants remain a priority management issue.

Integrate Invasive Species Management into City Processes	Established Advancing	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered staff training and integrated practices into Operational Environmental Management Plans. Initiated integration into operations, maintenance and development review. <i>Next step:</i> Strengthen integration into capital planning, asset management and regulatory tools.
Research Control Methods	Established Advancing	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributed to regional Best Management Practices. Maintained strong academic partnerships and piloted innovative approaches. Applied IPM principles to guide treatment selection. <i>Next step:</i> Strengthen processes to evaluate and apply emerging control methods, ensuring research and innovation are consistently integrated into operational practice.
Promote Invasive Species Education and Awareness	Advanced		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 121 workshops and 41 recent events with strong engagement. Demonstrated leadership through campaigns and national recognition. Increased outreach on prevention and responsible practices. <i>Next step:</i> Enhance outcome-based evaluation and expand targeted outreach.
Support Community Stewardship	Established Advancing	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered initiatives such as the Richmond Nectar Trail and stewardship programs. Supported youth engagement and community partnerships. <i>Next step:</i> Develop a more formal stewardship framework and expand hands-on participation.
Collaboration and Partnerships	Advanced		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established strong partnerships with provincial, federal and regional organizations. Demonstrated leadership in regional collaboration and knowledge sharing. Supported development of 25 Best Management Practices. <i>Next step:</i> Build on partnerships to advance coordinated implementation of regional priorities and emerging invasive species risks.

The ISAP continues to evolve as a coordinated, City-wide program that integrates technical expertise, community stewardship, and regional collaboration to address invasive species risks and support long-term ecological resilience.

