



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: November 7, 2023
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Meeting Date: December 5, 2023
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: 2024 Annual Review of Sewer Rates – Sewer and Watercourse By-law

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, the proposed amendments to rates and fees in the Sewer and Watercourse By-law, generally as set out in this report and in Appendix A, including the establishment of the 2024 rates and fees.
- B. THAT Council approve, in principle, proposed amendments to simplify and update the new public sewer connection requirements.
- C. THAT Council approve, in principle, proposed amendments to broaden the applicability of when the City can require an existing sewer connection to be relocated.
- D. THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to bring forward for enactment the necessary Sewer and Watercourse By-law amendments, generally, as set out in Appendix B.

Purpose and Executive Summary

This report seeks Council approval of the recommended 2024 Sewer Utility customer rates, which incorporates a 14.0% increase over 2023. This increase enables the City to continue to provide functional and reliable sewer and drainage services that protect public health, the environment and property.

Costs to the Sewer Utility include a regional levy paid to Metro Vancouver for sewage conveyance and treatment, as well as the City's capital and operating costs to plan, renew, and maintain the sewer system. Levies paid to Metro Vancouver account for 54% of the Sewer Utility budget, and these levies are increasing by 26.6% in 2024. The Metro Vancouver levy increase is a primary driver of the proposed annual sewer rate increase, and

includes funding for Phase 1 of the Iona Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades (estimated at \$9.9 billion as of March 2022¹). As well, the annual sewer rate increase is driven by the City's capital costs aimed at accelerating the pace of investment in renewal of the aging sewer system, combined sewer overflow mitigation, and flood prevention, per the 2023-2026 Capital Plan.

The Sewer and Watercourse By-law annual rate changes, amendments related to the requirement for a new sewer connection, and amendments related to relocation of existing sewer connections are contained in Appendix B. The report also recommends that Sewer flat rate connections and inspection fees be increased by 20.0% over 2023 rates to reflect actual cost increases associated with labour and materials faced by the connections program.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

Sewer user and public sewer connection fees are reviewed annually by Council to establish the following year's rates.

On April 4, 2000, Council approved the implementation of user fees for sewer services to fund the operating portion of the sewer costs, based on volume.

In December 2008, Council approved shifting the remainder of the sanitary sewer costs (the infrastructure costs) from general taxes to payment through user fees. This shift was implemented over two (2) years and was complete in 2010. Currently, only the allocated costs for the storm system costs are funded by property taxes.

In May 2020, Council directed staff to develop a comprehensive sewage and rainwater management plan (now called the "Healthy Waters Plan") to guide the long-range infrastructure investments, policies, programs and partner collaboration.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

The City of Vancouver's sewer system provides essential and reliable sewer and drainage services that protect public health, the environment, and property through the collection, conveyance, and management of sanitary water and rainwater.

The City's sewer system has a replacement value of approximately \$6.1 billion and consists of 2,149 km of sewer mains, 93,000 service connections, 41,932 catch basins and 24 pump stations, which work together to convey sanitary flow (wastewater from homes and businesses) and storm water (surface run-off from private and public property and groundwater) to regional treatment facilities operated by Metro Vancouver and to the receiving environment respectively.

The main costs of running the system include the capital costs for renewing and upgrading the

¹ Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, March 25, 2022 - http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/GVSDD/SDD_2022-Mar-25_MIN.pdf

system and separating combined sewers, the costs to operate and maintain the system, and the cost of conveyance and treatment of liquid waste by Metro Vancouver. The rates cover the costs associated with the sanitary sewer system, while the drainage system is funded through property taxes.

Discussion

The City's sewer infrastructure was built over a period of 100+ years and is deteriorating at a more rapid rate than sewer renewal investments can keep up with, resulting in a growing inventory of sewer assets in poor and very poor condition. The increasing gap between deterioration and renewal rates increases sewer back-up and flooding risk, financial, environmental regulatory compliance, and public health risks to the City and the community. Specifically, over the coming 30 years, a larger portion of the City's sewer system will be reaching end of useful life requiring increased investments in renewal. Additionally, population growth and climate change are resulting in more sewer flows which may necessitate sewer upgrades prior to the end of an asset's useful life.

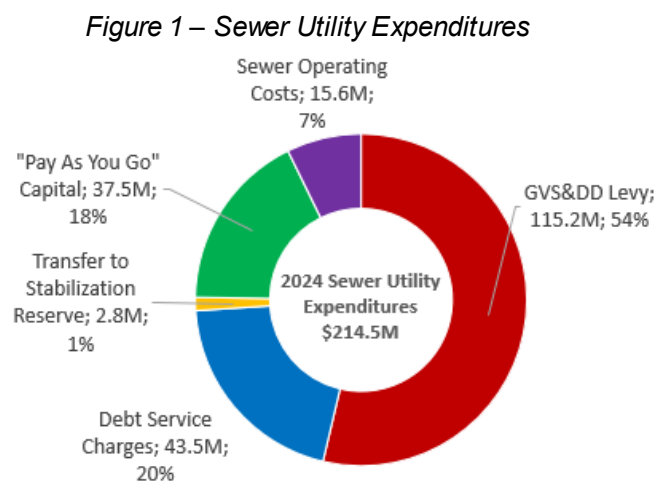
These increased demands result in significant costs to the City, and require integrated planning, data-driven analysis, and structured decision-making frameworks that balance risk and levels of service. Several longer-term strategy direction documents including the ongoing Healthy Waters Plan, the Rain City Strategy, the Vancouver Plan, and departmental Asset Management Plans assist the City in strategically optimizing investments and interventions to balance affordability, sustainability, and optimal service levels.

Financial Implications

Key Cost Drivers

Sewer Utility expenditures consist of four key cost drivers, shown in Figure 1:

- The Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) levy - 54%
- Capital expenditures and debt - 38%
- City of Vancouver operating and maintenance costs - 7%
- Transfers to or from the stabilization reserve - 1%



• Amounts may not sum due to rounding.

Metro Vancouver's "Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District" (GVS&DD) Levy

The Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD), part of Metro Vancouver, imposes an annual levy on each of its member municipalities to cover the cost of implementing and operating regional collection systems and sewage treatment facilities. The levy is a fixed amount based on operating and capital budgets in each of the sewerage areas in the region.

The current year levy, which also covers the operating and capital costs of the regional collection system, will increase by 26.6% in 2024, with slightly lower increases anticipated in the following four years. This levy constitutes 54% of the City's total anticipated expenditures in 2024.

Sewer Capital Program

The sewer capital program comprises the City's pipe system renewal and upgrades, pump station program renewal and upgrades, and the service connections program. The sewer capital program has historically been funded through debentures. In 2015, the City instituted a small 'pay-as-you-go' contribution towards capital expenditures on the sanitary sewer system. 'Pay-as-you-go' uses current year revenues to fund current year and ongoing capital investments, ensuring the City's borrowing capacity is preserved for important one-time capital investments that are not appropriate for or too costly to be funded on a 'pay-as-you-go' basis.

This 'pay-as-you-go' contribution was \$36.6 million in 2023, and the plan for 2024 is to increase this contribution by a further \$0.9 million to \$37.5 million. This is needed in order to help fund the system renewal capital work associated with the 2023-2026 Capital Plan.

Operating and Maintenance

Sewer operating and maintenance costs are associated with cleaning, repairing, inspecting, and managing the infrastructure, as well as emergency response for sewer backups and flooding.

2024 Proposed Budget and Rates

Sewer utility rates are proposed to increase by 14.0% or \$105 per year for a single-family residence. This increase is necessary due to:

- A 26.6% increase in the Metro Vancouver levy, which includes costs for the planned upgrades to secondary treatment at Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Iona Island plant must be upgraded to secondary treatment by no later than 2030 to meet regulatory requirements. Per Metro Vancouver, the upgrade is anticipated to be completed by 2034 at a cost of approximately \$9.9 billion, including contingency and risk reserve. Preparatory work has already begun.
- Funding required to deliver the sewer capital projects related to the approved 2023-2026 Capital Plan, and to increase the sewer renewal and separation rate toward a targeted rate of 0.8%. The objective is to progressively increase investments into the future to achieve an asset renewal rate of >1%, to allow the City to keep up with the rate of deterioration of aging infrastructure and meet regulatory obligations.
- An increased transfer to the Sewer Stabilization Reserve to help mitigate future rate increases as a result of higher future Metro Levy due to upgrades at the Iona Island wastewater treatment plant.

The Draft 2024 budget is summarized in Table 1 with the restated 2023 budget for comparison.

Table 1 – Draft 2024 Budget

Sewer Utility (\$ millions)	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed	\$ Change from 2023 Budget	% Change
Water Consumption Volume	111,500,000	110,000,000		
Revenues				
General Tax Levy	\$ 49.3	\$ 57.4	\$ 8.1	16.5%
Metered Rate Revenues	77.5	93.8	16.3	21.0%
Flat Rate Revenues	54.6	60.2	5.6	10.2%
Industrial Waste Water Fees	1.1	1.1	0.0	2.0%
Other Revenues	1.8	2.0	0.2	13.0%
Total Revenues	\$ 184.5	\$ 214.5	\$ 30.1	16.3%
Expenditures & Transfers				
GVS&DD Levy	\$ 91.0	\$ 115.2	\$ 24.2	26.6%
Sewers Operating Costs	14.6	15.6	1.0	7.0%
Debt Service Charges	43.2	43.5	0.3	0.7%
Transfer to/(from) Stabilization Reserve	(0.9)	2.8	3.7	406.7%
"Pay as you Go" Capital	36.6	37.5	0.9	2.5%
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 184.5	\$ 214.5	\$ 30.1	16.3%
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%

**Tables may not sum due to rounding.*

2024 Revenues & Proposed Rates

The proposed rate increase for both flat and metered sewer utility customers is 14.0% in 2024, which results in a net increase of \$30.1 million to revenues.

Prior to 2012, all single-family dwellings and duplexes paid a flat annual rate for sanitary services. Since January 1, 2012, all new single-family homes and duplexes are metered (for their potable water usage) and no longer pay a flat rate. Although the rates are increasing by 14.0%, the total flat revenue is increasing by 10.2% due to a decrease in the number of flat rate accounts.

The \$8.1 million increase in the General Tax Levy allocated to the Sewer utility is result of the increased cost of the storm water component of the sewer system, which is funded from property taxation and not from utility fees. The storm water component of the sewer system constitutes about 37% of the total cost of the Sewer utility, and cost increases are driven by the same factors as the overall utility, primarily increased levies from Metro Vancouver. This increase results in an additional 0.8% property tax increase, in addition to the utility fee increases recommended in this report, which has been built into the draft 2024 budget.

2024 Expenditures & Transfers

The 2024 budget for Metro Vancouver charges will increase by 26.6% over the 2023 budget. While this levy includes Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) capital costs, the 2024 increase is primarily driven by increased Metro Vancouver costs at the Iona

Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, including expense of site preparation for the upcoming upgrade. The increase in City operations costs results from fixed cost increases, including collective agreement-related compensation.

In 2024, City staff recommends a \$0.9 million increase in the ‘pay-as-you-go’ contribution from \$36.0 million to \$37.5 million, which is required as part of the multi-year funding strategy to deliver the 2023-2026 Capital Plan. Debt charges (interest and principal combined) will increase by \$0.3 million (0.7%). Staff proposes to transfer \$2.3 million to the Sewer Stabilization Reserve in 2024 to provide rate stabilization to mitigate what would otherwise be a higher year-over-year rate increase in future years based on the projected Metro Vancouver rate increases over the next five years.

Five Year Outlook

Table 2 summarizes the five-year outlook for the Sewer Utility. Only the 2024 rate increase is to be approved by Council; future year increases are provided for information only. The primary driver of Sewer Utility rate increases will be Metro Vancouver decisions on levy increases; the information below is based on the most recent Metro Vancouver rate forecasts. Future rates will also depend on future capital plan decisions and cost inflation which is uncertain. As noted in previously in this report, renewal of aging infrastructure regionally, as well as other factors such as population growth and climate change, will put upward pressure on long term Sewer Utility rates. Future rate projections are considered when assessing the use of the rate stabilization reserve, as the City seeks to achieve more consistent and predictable rate increases over time for ratepayers as part of the fee setting process.

Table 2 – Sewer Utility Rate Outlook 2024-2028

Sewer Utility Rate Forecasts	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Metro Rate Increase	26.6%	18.6%	9.2%	13.8%	14.5%
Proposed City Rate Increase	14.0%	14.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%

Related Fees

These include discharge of contaminated groundwater, ship wastewater and discharges by third-party utilities. Staff recommends a 14.0% increase in rates for these specific types of disposal to recovery program cost increases.

Connection Fees

All new development and major renovation projects in the City are required to install separated sewer connections on private property and pay connection fees for the corresponding connections on City property. These fees are updated regularly to ensure cost recovery.

To compensate for the significant increases in construction costs incurred, staff recommends a 20% increase for Council approval for the Sewer flat rate connections and for inspections.

New Public Sewer Connection Requirements

As part of efforts to advance towards the 3-3-3-1 Permit Improvement Framework, the renovation triggers for new sewer connections were reassessed. The current renovation threshold that triggers the need for a new connection is \$95,000 and has not increased in over

20 years. Meanwhile, construction costs have significantly increased as have the costs the City charges applicants for these upgrades.

Staff recommend the bylaw be amended to increase the trigger value to \$250,000 and that this value be increased with inflation over time, and that the remaining triggers be simplified. It is estimated that this will reduce financial burden on ~75 residential and less than 10 commercial applications per year on average.

Provisions to Expand the City's ability to Require the Reconfiguration of Existing Sewer Connections

On occasion, the performance of the sewer system can be improved by modifying existing sewer connections. Currently, the City can only require relocation of a sewer connection, and only in circumstances where the City can save costs through abandoning of a sewer. In such cases, the cost of the private-side works may be reimbursed to the resident upon Council approval.

Staff recommends that this clause be amended to include the option to require the relocation of a sewer connection in order to achieve a broader range of outcomes including improved system performance beyond the simple abandonment of a sewer.

Legal Implications/Risks

The Sewer and Watercourse By-law annual rate changes and amendments related to new public sewer connection requirements and relocation of existing public sewer connections, are contained in Appendix B.

Conclusion

Rates for sewer services are adjusted annually to offset cost increases in the sewer utility, including operating and debt costs and the Metro Vancouver (GVS&DD) levy.

Based on a review of the proposed sewer costs for 2024, staff recommends that flat unmetered, metered sewer fees and all other service and connection fees be increased by 14.0%, and that sewer connection fees be increased by 20.0%.

Further, staff recommends amendments to simplify and update the new public sewer connection requirements and broaden the applicability of when the City can require an existing sewer connection to be relocated.

* * * * *

Appendix A
Sewer & Watercourse By-law No. 8093
2024 Rate Changes

Schedule A**Part I: Sewer Connection Flat Rates**

	2023	2024	% Increase
1. Public Sewer Connection, for One-Family or Two-Family Dwellings (including 3 inch/75 mm diameter and greater pressure connections)	\$13,891	\$16,669	20.0%
2. Public Sewer Connection, other than One-Family or Two-Family Dwellings			
a) 4 inch/100 mm diameter	\$20,340	\$24,408	20.0%
b) 6 inch/150 mm diameter	\$24,550	\$29,460	20.0%
c) 8 inch/200 mm diameter	\$27,773	\$33,328	20.0%
d) 10 inch/250 mm diameter	\$32,038	\$38,446	20.0%
e) 12 inch/300 mm diameter	\$36,403	\$43,684	20.0%
f) 15 inch/375 mm diameter	\$40,710	\$48,852	20.0%
g) Connection to building sewer where installation cost is greater than 1.5 times the applicable flat rate connection fee set out in this Schedule	At Cost pursuant to Section 2.7 (2)		
h) Maintenance hole installation in conjunction with a public sewer connection pursuant to Section 2.7 (3) of Sewer and Watercourse By-law	At Cost pursuant to Section 2.7 (3)		
3. Where a public sewer connection will be placed more than 5 feet below the ground elevation, taken to the nearest foot and measured at the centre line of the street or lane as determined by the City Engineer, the fees payable shall be an amount equivalent to an increase of 10%, for each additional foot below 5 feet, of the fee otherwise payable by section 1 or 2 above.			
4. New fitting on a twin sewer pursuant to Section 2.7 (4)	\$6,215	\$7,458	20.0%
5. New fitting on a single sewer pursuant to Section 2.7 (4)	\$2,740	\$3,288	20.0%
6. Inspection of a plumbing system, subsoil drainage pipes and a building sewer	\$376	\$451	20.0%

Part III: Flat Rates for Unmetered Property

	2023	2024	% Increase
Single Family Dwelling	\$751	\$856	14.0%
Single Family Dwelling with Suite	\$1,014	\$1,156	14.0%
Single Family Dwelling with Laneway House	\$1,014	\$1,156	14.0%
Single Family Dwelling with Suite and Laneway House	\$1,277	\$1,456	14.0%
Strata Duplex (per dwelling unit)	\$508	\$579	14.0%
2 Services, 1 Lot	\$1,501	\$1,711	14.0%
3 Services, 1 Lot	\$2,249	\$2,564	14.0%
4 Services, 1 Lot	\$3,002	\$3,422	14.0%
Parking Lot/Garden	\$429	\$489	14.0%

Part IV: Flat Rates for Other Property or Shut Off Water Service

	2023	2024	% Increase
Other Property	\$339	\$386	14.0%
Turned Off, 1 Service	\$339	\$386	14.0%
Turned Off, 2 Services	\$339	\$386	14.0%
Turned Off, 3 Services	\$339	\$386	14.0%

Part V: Unit-Based Rates for Metered Property

	2023	2024	% Increase
Metered Property Rate	\$4,831	\$5,507	14.0%
Waste Discharge Permit User Rate	\$1,591	\$1,814	14.0%

Part VI: Flat Rate for Specific Types of Discharges/Disposals

	2023	2024	% Increase
For the discharge of contaminated groundwater pursuant to Section 7.11 (per cubic metre)	\$1.74	\$1.98	14.0%
For the disposal of ship wastewater pursuant to Section 7.12 (per cubic metre)	\$1.74	\$1.98	14.0%
For discharges by Utilities pursuant to Section 7.13 (per maintenance hole connected)	\$458	\$522	14.0%

APPENDIX B**BY-LAW NO. _____****A By-law to amend Sewer and Watercourse By-law No. 8093
regarding 2024 fee increases and other miscellaneous amendments**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, in public meeting, enacts as follows:

1. This by-law amends the indicated provisions of Sewer and Watercourse By-law No. 8093.
2. Council strikes out section 2.2. and substitutes the following:
“2.2 NEW PUBLIC SEWER CONNECTION FOR CONSTRUCTION
Subject to Section 2.9, a new public sewer connection is required whenever:
 - (a) a new house or building is constructed; or
 - (b) an existing house or building is renovated and the estimated construction value is more than \$250,000, and the work involves:
 - (i) the addition of a dwelling unit, or
 - (ii) the enlargement of, or a change of use within, an existing commercial space that is expected to increase demand upon the existing sewer system.”.
3. In section 2.16, Council:
 - (a) strikes out “by abandoning a sewer and providing a public sewer at an alternate or higher location” and substituting “or improve the system performance or operation by providing a public sewer connection at an alternate or higher location or by separating the sewers”; and
 - (b) strikes out “new service” and substitutes “new service or services”.
4. Council repeals Parts I, III, IV, V, and VI of Schedule A to the Sewer and Watercourse By-law, and substitutes:

“PART I**SEWER CONNECTION RATES**

Every applicant for a public sewer connection must pay to the City the applicable sewer connection rates set out below, payable as follows:

- (a) an application fee of 10% of the applicable rates set out below in sections 1, 2(a) through (f), and 6, at the time of application, and
- (b) the remaining amount when invoiced by the City, prior to permit issuance.

1.	Public sewer connection, for Single Detached House with or without Laneway House, or Duplex (including 3 inch/75mm and greater pressure connections)	\$16,669.00
2.	Public sewer connection, other than Single Detached House or Duplex	
	a) 4 inch/100 mm diameter	\$24,408.00
	b) 6 inch/150 mm diameter	\$29,460.00
	c) 8 inch/200 mm diameter	\$33,328.00
	d) 10 inch/250 mm diameter	\$38,446.00
	e) 12 inch/300 mm diameter	\$43,684.00
	f) 15 inch/375 mm diameter or greater	\$48,852.00
	g) connection to building sewer where installation cost is greater than 1.5 times the applicable flat rate connection fee set out in this Schedule	At cost, pursuant to Section 2.7(2)
	h) maintenance hole installation in conjunction with a public sewer connection pursuant to Section 2.7(3) of Sewer and Watercourse By-law	At cost, pursuant to Section 2.7(3)
3.	Where a public sewer connection will be placed more than 5 feet below the ground elevation, taken to the nearest foot and measured at the centre line of the street or lane, as determined by the City Engineer, the fees payable shall be an amount equivalent to an increase of 10% for each additional foot below 5 feet, of the fee otherwise payable by section 1 or 2 above	
4.	New fitting on a twin sewer pursuant to Section 2.7(4)	\$7,458.00
5.	New fitting on a single sewer pursuant to Section 2.7(4)	\$3,288.00
6.	Inspection of a plumbing system, subsoil drainage pipes, and a building sewer	\$451.00

PART III
FLAT RATES
FOR UNMETERED PROPERTY

Single Detached House	\$856.00
Single Detached House with Secondary Suite	\$1,156.00
Single Detached House with either Laneway House or Infill Single Detached House	\$1,156.00
Single Detached House with Secondary Suite and either Laneway House or Infill Single Detached House	\$1,456.00
Strata Duplex (per dwelling unit)	\$579.00
2 Services, 1 Lot	\$1,711.00
3 Services, 1 Lot	\$2,564.00
4 Services, 1 Lot	\$3,422.00
Parking Lot/Garden	\$489.00

PART IV
FLAT RATES FOR OTHER PROPERTY
OR SHUT OFF WATER SERVICE

Other Property	\$386.00
Turned Off, 1 Service	\$386.00
Turned Off, 2 Services	\$386.00
Turned Off, 3 Services	\$386.00

PART V
UNIT-BASED RATES FOR METERED PROPERTY

Metered Property Rate	\$5.507
Waste Discharge Permit User Rate	\$1.814

PART VI

**FLAT RATE FOR SPECIFIC TYPES
OF DISCHARGES/DISPOSALS**

For the discharge of contaminated groundwater, pursuant to Section 7.11 (per cubic metre)	\$1.98
For the disposal of ship wastewater, pursuant to Section 7.12 (per cubic metre)	\$1.98
For discharges by Utilities, pursuant to Section 7.13 (per maintenance hole connected)	\$522.00

”.

5. A decision by a court that any part of this By-law is illegal, void, or unenforceable severs that part from this By-law, and is not to affect the balance of this By-law.

6. This By-law is to come into force and take effect on January 1, 2024.

ENACTED by Council this _____ day of _____, 2023

Mayor

City Clerk

APPENDIX C

City of Vancouver's Sewer System and Long-Term Strategy

The City of Vancouver's sewer system was originally built to convey both sanitary water and storm water through a single pipe (a "combined system"). In a combined system, during periods of rainfall the system can become overwhelmed and Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) can occur in which untreated flows discharge into receiving waters. The City has been separating its combined sewers since the 1970s by replacing pipes at the end of their service life with storm and sanitary sewers. Through the incremental renewal of aging combined pipes, this sewer separation program seeks to fully eliminate CSOs by 2050 (as set out in the region's 2011 Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan ("LWMP")). As of 2023, 57.4% of all mainline sewers and 60% ($\pm 4\%$) of service connections are separated. An update to the LWMP is currently underway, which includes a review of the CSO elimination timeline as well as actions to reduce storm water runoff pollution.

In some areas of the city, separation has progressed enough to allow the storm water to be discharged directly to a receiving water body (i.e., there is no sanitary sewage remaining in the storm system). Over recent decades, sewer separation work has resulted in significant improvements to water quality for west side swimming beaches and False Creek. Additionally, some storm flows are diverted away from the sewer system by green rainwater infrastructure which captures and/or treats the flow. The City's Rain City Strategy approved by City Council in 2019 guides the City's vision, goals, and actions associated with implementation of green rainwater infrastructure, as well as key transformative directions associated with holistic water management.

Building on the Rain City Strategy, Council directed staff in 2020 to develop the Healthy Waters Plan, a comprehensive city-wide plan to address pollution from CSOs and runoff while addressing impacts of climate change, population growth and aging infrastructure. A key driver for this work is to ensure sustained and affordable service delivery into the future.

Examples of current work underway and in parallel to the Healthy Waters Plan development include:

- Increasing the rate of sewer main renewal to keep up with deterioration of aging assets and support the separation of combined sewer system, prioritizing critical assets with a high consequence of failure;
- Strategically separating combined sewer systems and diverting storm water and groundwater away from combined and sanitary systems in support of the elimination of Combined Sewer Overflows by 2050, including the installation of green rainwater infrastructure;
- Establishing watershed planning as a foundation to city planning and advancing the City's understanding of utility/servicing and climate risk, in order to right-size the service levels and investments to match acceptable risk levels;
- Implementing a One Water approach to water resources management (potable, groundwater, storm water, wastewater, flood protection); and
- Seeking to embed equity and reconciliation with Indigenous communities into planning, decision-making, and implementation.