



Following are highlights of some of Fraser Basin Council's current work in the Fraser Valley.

**Covid-19 pandemic response** – Fraser Basin Council managers and employees continue to work from home to protect our health and safety and that of the community. We want to stay touch with our program partners, advisors and stakeholders – so please continue to reach out to us any time by email, social media, phone or web conferencing. In this 'new normal,' we have adopted more virtual meetings, more electronic tools, and are increasing our online content. For FBC directors, the annual summer FBC board meeting will be held online – a first! – on June 10 and 11, featuring online sessions and guest speakers, including a discussion on forest renewal. FBC is grateful to our fellow citizens who work the front lines of healthcare and other vital services during this pandemic, and we recognize their extraordinary efforts. We sincerely hope everyone at FVRD and your families, friends and community are safe, in good health and good spirits as we move through this experience together.

#### Fraser Valley Illegal Dumping Alliance (FVIDA)

- In April, RBC's new Tech for Nature fund approved FBC for a \$10,000 grant. With these funds, on behalf of FVIDA, FBC will collaborate with Swim, Drink, Fish Canada to expand the SDFC's Swim Guide interactive online platform to Fraser Valley communities. The Swim Guide beach monitor app currently provides its users with real time water quality information about recreational beaches and swimming spots. Working with SDFC, Fraser Basin staff in the Fraser Valley and FVIDA will adopt this platform to record and report illegal waste sites in the region to the SDFC database, to increase public awareness about illegal waste, and to reduce pollution and polluting behaviour in rural and remote waterways and watersheds. This work will also help FBC and FVIDA reach to new groups about the negative impacts of illegal waste, and to inspire more community participation. Prior to FBC taking on FVIDA's administration last year with SDFC funding, SDFC supported FVIDA for several years directly through its Fraser Riverkeeper program.
- While in-person meetings are on hold for the time being, FBC and FVIDA continue active work in the community. In April, FBC and FVIDA sent out a public service announcement reminding the public to be extra cautious during the Fraser River freshet, to not leave behind any waste, and to not camp in low-lying flood-prone areas.
- FVIDA members continue to monitor popular riverfront destinations including Gill and Jespersen Roads for pallet burning and camping, and report their information to local authorities to respond accordingly.
- FVIDA continues to raise public awareness about the negative repercussions of burning pallets along waterfront and remote areas. The wood materials may be toxic if they are treated or painted. The ashes contact nails that can puncture tires, which is particularly troublesome when this happens in a remote location. Fires are sometimes abandoned, while some bring plastics and other trash to add to the fires. Volunteers are cleaning the many sites multiple times. The issue was discussed recently in an opinion piece in a local paper, at [bit.ly/2X1FTow](https://bit.ly/2X1FTow)

#### Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy – LMFMS highlights

- **Lower Mainland Flood Risk Assessment** – The flood management team has been working hard to complete the Flood Risk Assessment. This is now near completion and final results will be shared with partner organizations after project completion reporting to funders in May.
- **Seismic Vulnerability of Dikes** – FBC is prepared a contract with Engineers and. Geoscientists BC to develop professional practice guidelines for the implementation of the provincial seismic guidelines for flood protection dikes.
- **Communications** – The new FloodWise website is getting its finishing touches and is expected to ready for launch to the public in late May.
- **Ecosystems inventory** – The work to classify and map ecosystem areas in the Fraser Valley floodplain is now complete.
- **Phase 2 Flood Strategy** – For Phase 2 programs, please see [www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/Phase\\_2\\_Projects.html](http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/Phase_2_Projects.html)

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