

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT LANDS: Water, Sewer & Garbage Services

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development



UEL Factsheet Series: #5

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University Endowment Lands: Water, Sewer and Garbage Services

Unlike some other services (such as police and fire and rescue) covered in other factsheets in this series, *water, sewer, storm drainage and garbage* are services generally **provided directly by the UEL Administration**, primarily using its own staff.



UEL's Ten-Year Capital Plan

The UEL Ten-year Capital Plan spans 2012 to 2021 and was updated in June 2015. The approximate value of the UEL's water, sanitary, combined, stormwater, street-lighting and road networks was estimated at \$51.3 million (2015), requiring an annual investment of just over \$1 million to maintain these assets.

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DID YOU KNOW...

Day-to-day operations and maintenance of water, sewer, storm drainage and garbage services represent a significant portion of the UEL Administration's activities, operating in general compliance with the requirements of the regional systems to which they are connected.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development is the ultimate law-maker for the University Endowment Lands. Under delegated authority from the Minister, the UEL Manager makes the decisions on service provision, and rates and charges for water, sewers, storm drainage and garbage.

DID YOU KNOW...

The UEL Administration pays the Greater Vancouver Water District (part of Metro Vancouver) a markup of 20 percent on the water rates the District charges its member municipalities.

DID YOU KNOW...

The UEL uses both preventative maintenance and effective asset renewal strategies to maintain the condition of the water system. Typically water infrastructure has a 50-year life span before replacement, though less critical parts may be older. The capital plan calls for an investment of \$260,000 per year to replace the network over its service life.

DID YOU KNOW...

UEL's water originates from the protected lakes on the north shore operated by the Greater Vancouver Water District and is supplied primarily through the Sasamat reservoir within the UEL and a secondary supply connection at the City of Vancouver's water system adjacent to Area C.



WATER SERVICES

The **UEL Administration** supplies water through metered connections to the area's residents and businesses from a connection to the regional supply system (at 16th Ave and Blanca St), with a minor feed from the City of Vancouver's water system on 6th Avenue.

- ◆ The UEL Administration also supplies **water to UBC** through trunk mains on 16th Avenue and University Boulevard. The Administration charges a 10 percent markup on the water it supplies to UBC to cover the cost of conveyance and longer-term maintenance and replacement of the infrastructure.
- ◆ For **water conservation** and **drought management**, UEL operates within the requirements of Metro Vancouver, which has in place a water shortage response plan setting various limits on water use by all its customers, depending on time of year and severity of drought.
- ◆ The UEL has a **drinking water quality monitoring program** similar to the rest of Metro Vancouver and reports its findings to the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. The UEL monitors water quality at four times the frequency required for systems of its size, with water quality consistently meeting the standards set in the *Drinking Water Protection Act*. Annual reports and weekly records are provided to the Health Authority and are available for viewing at the UEL's offices.

DID YOU KNOW...

Most **storm water** in the UEL area drains north under Northwest Marine Drive and two marine discharges through ravines in Pacific Spirit Regional Park (Salish Creek and Spanish Banks Creek), exiting into Burrard Inlet. A small amount of the University Golf Course and Block F drain southward.

DID YOU KNOW...

The **Iona Wastewater Treatment Plant**, which services the UEL and is operated by Metro Vancouver's Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District, will be undergoing a major upgrade by 2030, improving the level of treatment before discharge to the Strait of Georgia.

SANITARY SEWERS AND STORM DRAINAGE SERVICES

The UEL area's sanitary sewer collection system connects to the trunk sewer of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (part of Metro Vancouver), which is located on Northwest Marine Drive, and to the trunk sewer on Blanca Street (for neighbourhood area C — "Little Australia"). The UEL Administration pays the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District for sanitary sewer services based upon flow.





GARBAGE SERVICES

Waste collection for the single family areas (neighbourhood areas A, B and C) is provided by the UEL Administration using its own crews and equipment. Green waste and other organic material is collected weekly, while residual garbage is collected every second week. Multi-Material BC, through service-provider Emterra, collects recyclable materials weekly.

“Forecast population growth will have significant implications for [water, sewer, storm drainage and garbage] services in the UEL area”

LOOKING AHEAD...

Water, sewer and storm drainage and garbage services are an important aspect of current governance arrangements for the UEL area. UEL Administration’s role as the supplier of water to UBC is also an important responsibility.

Forecast population growth will have significant implications for these services in the UEL area. The UEL’s 2016 *Works and Services Bylaw* makes provision for additional infrastructure, but there are expected to be considerable resource requirements for administering the planning, construction, maintenance and financing of the area’s new infrastructure over the longer term.

DID YOU KNOW...

Private contractors provide garbage collection service to the commercial / multifamily neighbourhood (Area D).

DID YOU KNOW...

Organic waste and residual garbage collected by UEL staff is delivered to the Kent Street Transfer Station, operated by the City of Vancouver and part of the regional solid waste system.

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