

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Acquires Final Property on Whonnock Lake Shoreline

Maple Ridge, BC: The City of Maple Ridge has reached an agreement with the last private property owner on the shores of Whonnock Lake. The term of the purchase will see the City take full control of the property in 2023, as part of the purchase agreement.

Whonnock Lake continues to be one of the most popular destination parks in Maple Ridge. Over the last 20 years the City has prioritized the purchase of properties around the Lake as they became available. With this final purchase agreement in place, the City will prepare to embark on the development of an updated park masterplan for Whonnock Lake that will guide investments in recreation infrastructure and prioritize protection of sensitive natural features.

The City of Maple Ridge is currently developing a new Parks, Recreation & Culture (PRC) Master Plan (Plan) to serve as a road map for services, programs, capital funding and infrastructure while providing Council and staff a point of reference to inform data-driven and transparent decisions. The Plan, intended to establish future priority projects and focus areas for the next 10+ years, will replace the 2010 Plan created under the joint recreation model between the City of Maple Ridge and City of Pitt Meadows.

The intent is that the planning for the future of Whonnock Lake will begin after the adoption of the new PRC Master Plan and be prioritized based on the outcome of the current public consultation.

With this final land acquisition, the City can explore a significant opportunity for natural environment preservation, eco-education and tourism and recreational opportunities that are sensitive to the ecosystem around Whonnock Lake.