



CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE
NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2023 #23-14

For further information, contact:
Pardeep Purewal at 604-466-4319
ppurewal@mapleridge.ca

Share Your Thoughts on City's 2023 Budget Until April 14

Maple Ridge, B.C: Over the next two weeks, residents are encouraged to comment on Maple Ridge's draft 2023 budget while also helping shape the City's budget communications.

Following this week's business plan presentations, City Council kicked off public input on a draft 2023 budget that provides for important services and infrastructure improvements to deliver on the key priorities identified in Council's draft strategic plan.

The draft budget includes a general tax increase of 5.65 per cent. Residents can have their say until April 14 on the Engage Maple Ridge platform at engage.mapleridge.ca.

"As a Council, we're committed to delivering on what matters to our residents and this budget reflects that with a key focus on improving our services and infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing community," Mayor Dan Ruimy said. "The budget balances affordability with the impact of inflation, third-party cost increases and the need to establish a strong foundation for our future. We've taken a responsible approach by finding savings and efficiencies, maximizing grants and other revenues. I encourage everyone to review what's planned for 2023 and share your thoughts with us."

Budget Highlights

The budget will fund existing services, over \$51M in capital works and the following proposed enhancements to infrastructure through one-time costs and the proposed tax increase.

- Site assessment and preliminary design for a fifth ice sheet.
- A feasibility study for a new aquatics facility for the community.
- A new City website, improved digital outreach and technology enhancements.
- Two additional RCMP constables and civilian RCMP training coordination.
- Two new bylaw officers conducting year-round park patrols and other duties.
- Increased maintenance of City parks and green spaces including in the town centre.
- Leadership summits on climate action, affordable housing and economic development.
- Advancing the City's reconciliation work with Indigenous partners,
- Strategic communications, marketing and public engagement service enhancements.

- A market analysis to enhance the City's retail sector.
- New community safety initiatives.
- A sponsorship program to generate revenue for City events and activities.

Over \$51M in capital improvements planned for 2023 include:

- Planning for transportation improvements including the Abernethy Way extension and the 240 Street bridge crossing of Alouette River.
- Investments in the active transportation network including multi-use paths, such as design of a new pathway from 216 to 220 St.
- A new water park and other improvements to Maple Ridge Park.
- A new neighbourhood park at Pazarena Place.
- Planning for Port Haney waterfront improvements including a new multi-use path.
- Repaving 15 kilometres of roads around the city.

Tax Impact Details

The 2023 budget is part of a Five-Year Financial Plan the City is required by law to adopt each year. The plan includes specific details for the current year and a guideline for upcoming years.

For 2023, the proposed 5.65 per cent property tax increase includes a 0.60 per cent investment in infrastructure, such as roads, water and sewer maintenance and rehabilitation. For the average residence valued at \$985,700, the proposed tax rate represents a \$134.37 increase for 2023 over 2022.

Utility User Fees

In addition, each year's property tax bill includes utility charges – flat user fees for recycling, water and sewer services that vary based on property type and service received. In 2023, utility charges rose a total of 5.03 per cent (\$73.97).

Comment on the budget by April 14

Residents can head to [Engage Maple Ridge](#) to read more about the budget and to provide feedback. As part of Maple Ridge's commitment to improving its public communications, the survey includes questions about the types of information people want to receive and through what channels. Comments may also be provided to budget@mapleridge.ca or 604-467-7484.

A summary of all public feedback will be provided to Council on April 25, when the Financial Plan Bylaw will be presented to Council for the first three of four readings.

For more information on the City's 2023 budget and financial planning process, visit mapleridge.ca/budget2023.