

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Seeks Input on Urban Forest Management Strategy

Maple Ridge, B.C. - The City of Maple Ridge is inviting the community to have their say on the development of the City's first Urban Forest Management Strategy, which will guide policy and decision-making for the management, health and growth of the urban forest in Maple Ridge.

"Trees are such an important part of our urban environment and integral to keeping our community happy, resilient and healthy," said Mayor Dan Ruimy. "As we build out new neighbourhoods, it is critical that we integrate new trees into our planning while protecting significant trees as they provide shade and habitat for birds and wildlife, help manage storm water, control noise, and have a positive impact on our mental health."

The development of the strategy includes two rounds of public engagement, with the first round starting in September 2023. Residents can have their say via:

- An online survey on the [City's Engage Maple Ridge platform](#). The survey takes 10-15 minutes to complete and will be open until October 10, 2023.
- An online mapping tool on the Engage Maple Ridge platform, which enables residents to share their favourite places in our urban forest as well as places that need attention.
- Three open house events:
 - Saturday, Sept. 23, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Haney Farmers Market at Memorial Peace Park (11930 224 St.).
 - Wednesday, Sept. 27, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Maple Ridge Park (13180 232 St.) as part of the National Tree Planting Day event.
 - Thursday, Oct. 5, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Albion Community Centre (24165 104 Ave.)

"We're looking for the community's input and ideas on how we should plan for the future to ensure that we continue to have a sustainable plan and approach to protect and enhance our

urban forest as our city grows and changes,” noted Mayor Ruimy. “I encourage residents to take the time to share their feedback.”

The Urban Forest Management Strategy will:

- Assess the current urban forest conditions in Maple Ridge.
- Establish a community-supported 20-year vision and goals for Maple Ridge’s urban forest.
- Provide policies and strategic actions to protect, maintain and expand the urban forest.

Next Steps

Following the first round of public engagement, a draft Urban Forest Management Strategy will be developed and presented to Council for feedback. After Council has completed their review, there will be a second round of community engagement and feedback in early 2024.

For more information, visit engage.mapleridge.ca/ufms.