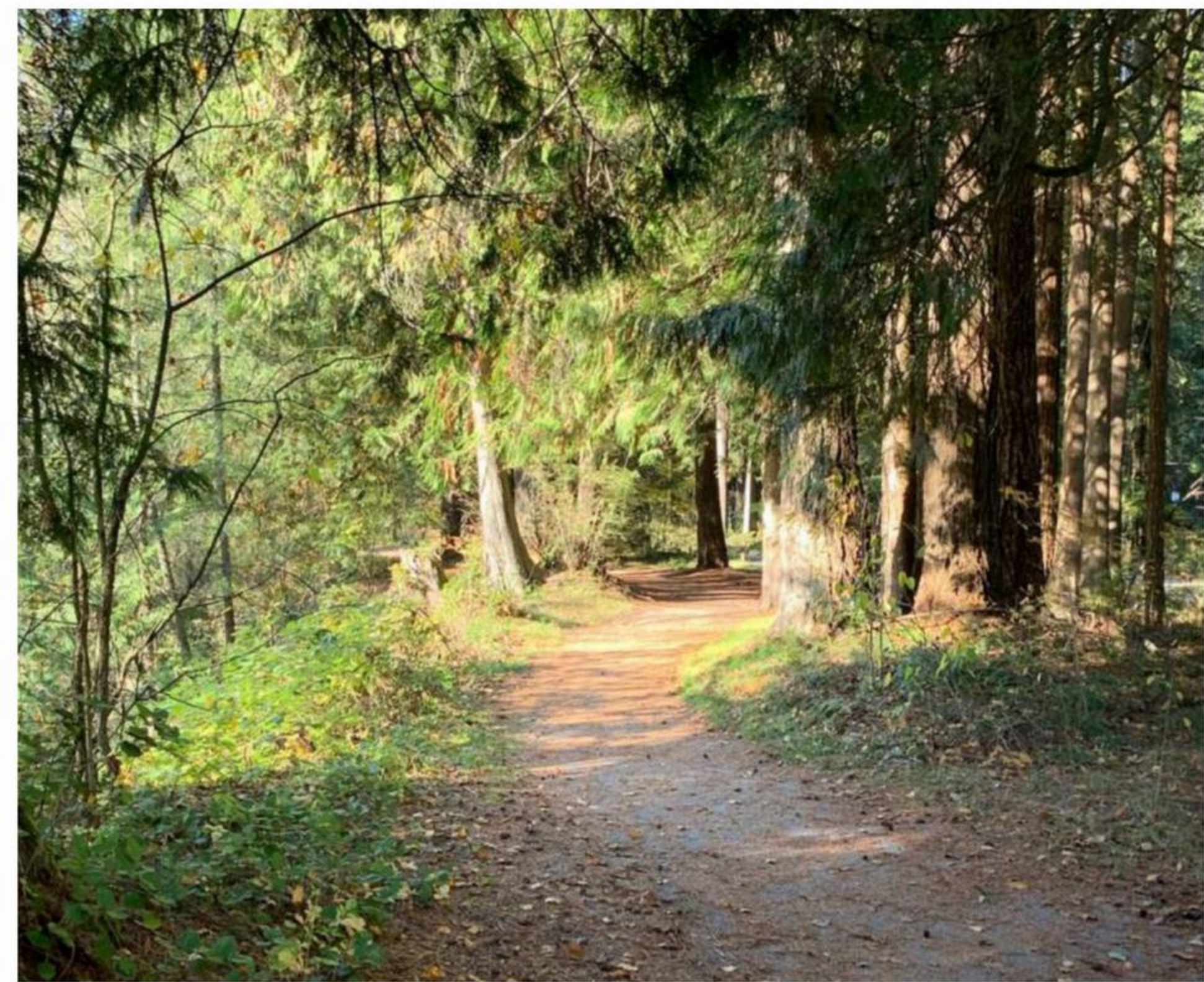


INTRODUCTION

Thornhill is popular destination for recreational hikers, horseback riding, and mountain biking enthusiasts. Over time the number of informal trails in the area have increased along with visitation, resulting in a disregard for trail etiquette and safety concerns from users. To better understand these challenges and the opportunities that exist to improve user experience, the city has undertaken a trails study and community consultation process for the Thornhill trails area.

BACKGROUND

- The hill is largely forested with second growth mature forest, and encompasses watercourses and steep slopes.
- The Provincial Government and the City own the majority of the land on Thornhill. There is also a small amount of land held by private land owners.
- Haney Horsemen constructed and maintained trails on Thornhill through a maintenance agreement with the City until 2010. Bear Ridge and Georges Way/Loop were some of those trails that now form the network of City-maintained trails on Thornhill.
- A network of informal trails has been developed over time and is enjoyed by many recreational enthusiasts.

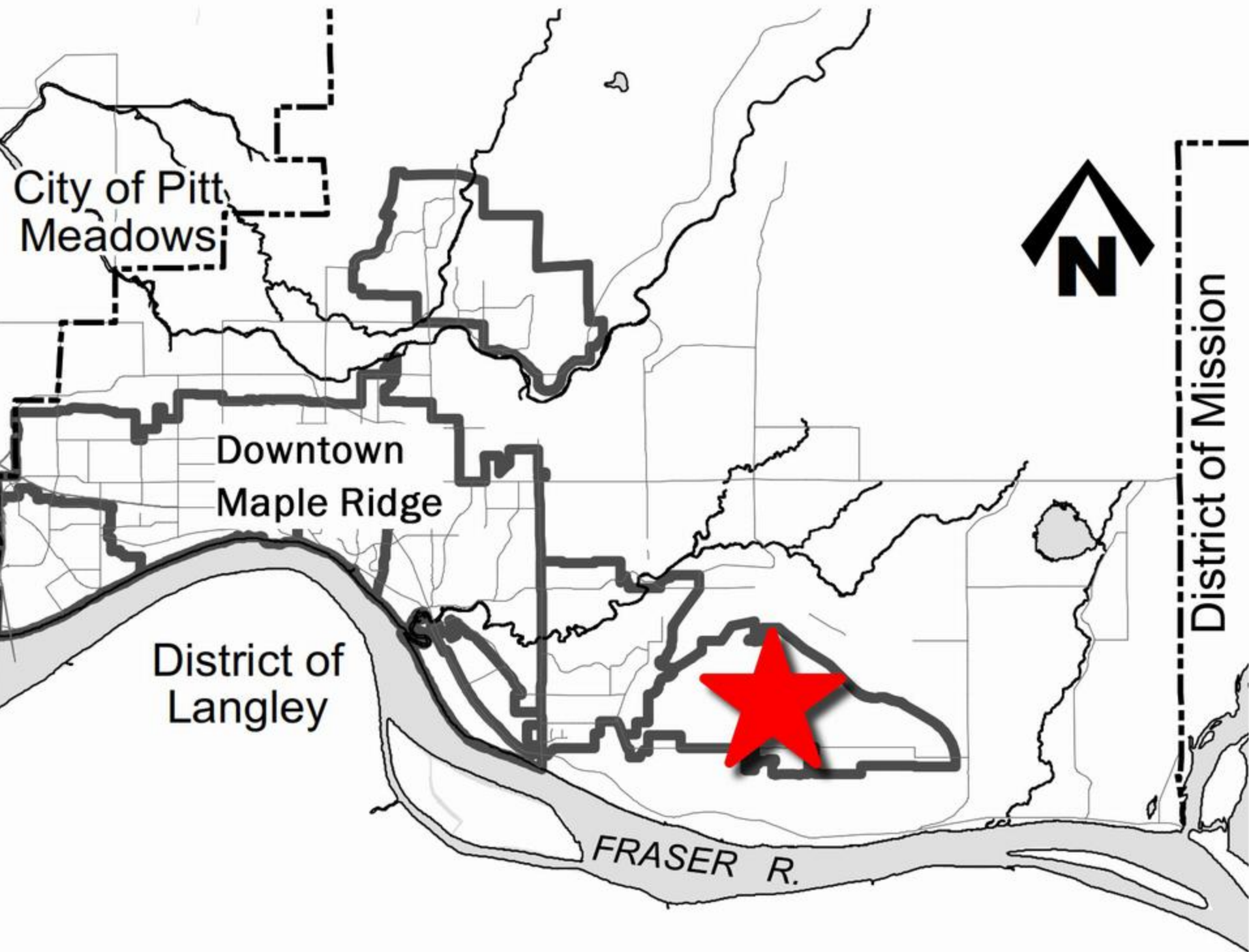


HISTORY

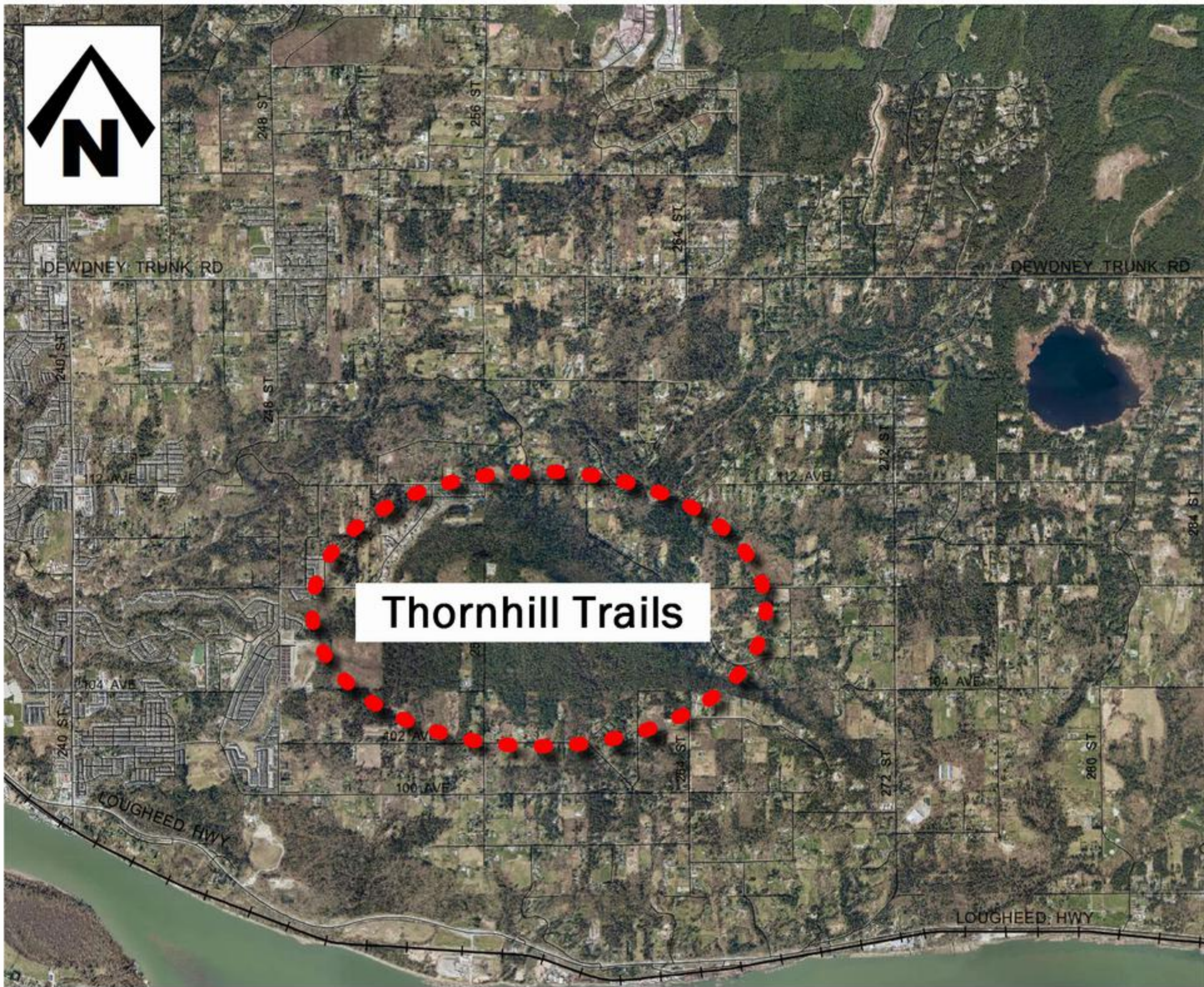
The south-facing slopes of Grant Hill are often referred to as Thornhill, reflecting the name of the community, derived from early farmer and area settler James Thorne.

Thornhill resides in Maple Ridge which is located on the traditional territory of the Katzie First Nation and Kwantlen First Nation. - (M.R. Museum)

Thornhill Locality Map



Context Map



PROCESS TO DATE

Fall 2020

1. Background information

2. Trails Study

3. What We Heard

2021

Review & mapping of the Thornhill Trails

Fall 2021

Trail by trail discussion with trail stakeholder associations

Fall 2021

Proposed trail plan, Community Consultation and Open House



WHAT'S NEXT?

1. Review of trail mapping with public

2. Complete installation of signage

3. Thornhill Trails Management Strategy



Share your thoughts!

Please take a moment to share your thoughts about the proposed trails plan with us by completing one of the comment form, accessed by scanning the QR Code with a smart phone or by visiting our Park Development webpage, at:

<https://mapleridge.ca/1441/Park-Development>.



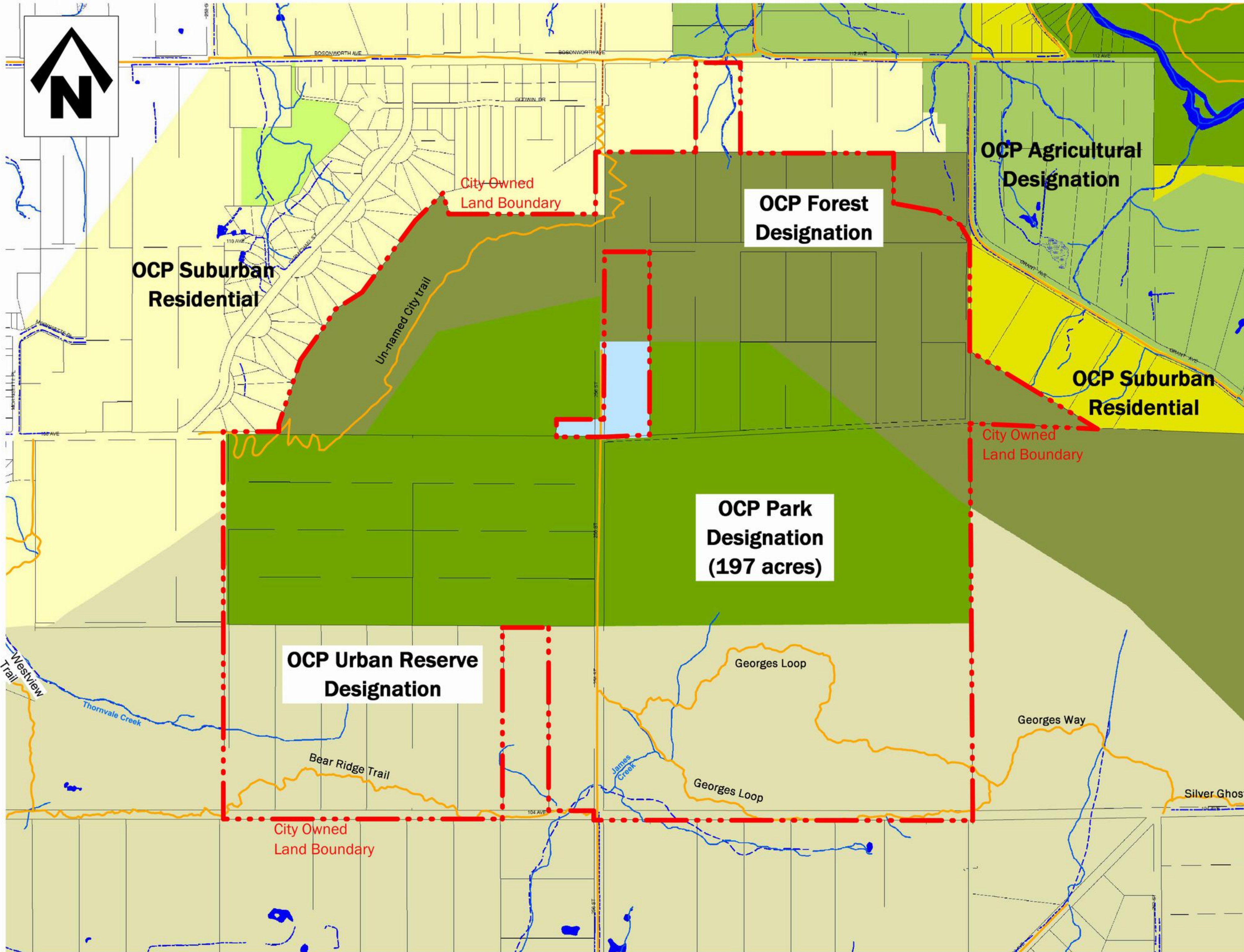
Please submit your comments by **December 12, 2021**

Thank you for your feedback!

THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

A portion of the Thornhill area is designated as “Urban Reserve” in the City's Official Community Plan (OCP), which means that these lands are identified for future urban development once certain policy conditions are realized. The criteria for future support of urban level densities in the Thornhill area are provided in policies 3-23 through 3-26 of section 3.1.5 in the OCP.

Trails in the Thornhill area will be reviewed in the future when this Urban Reserve area is being considered for urban development. As the development timeline advances, an area planning process would be undertaken to inform land use decisions.



- Conservation

City-Owned Land

City-Maintained Trails

Stream

Agricultural

Urban Reserve

Park in the ALR

Park

Forest

Rural Residential

Suburban Residential

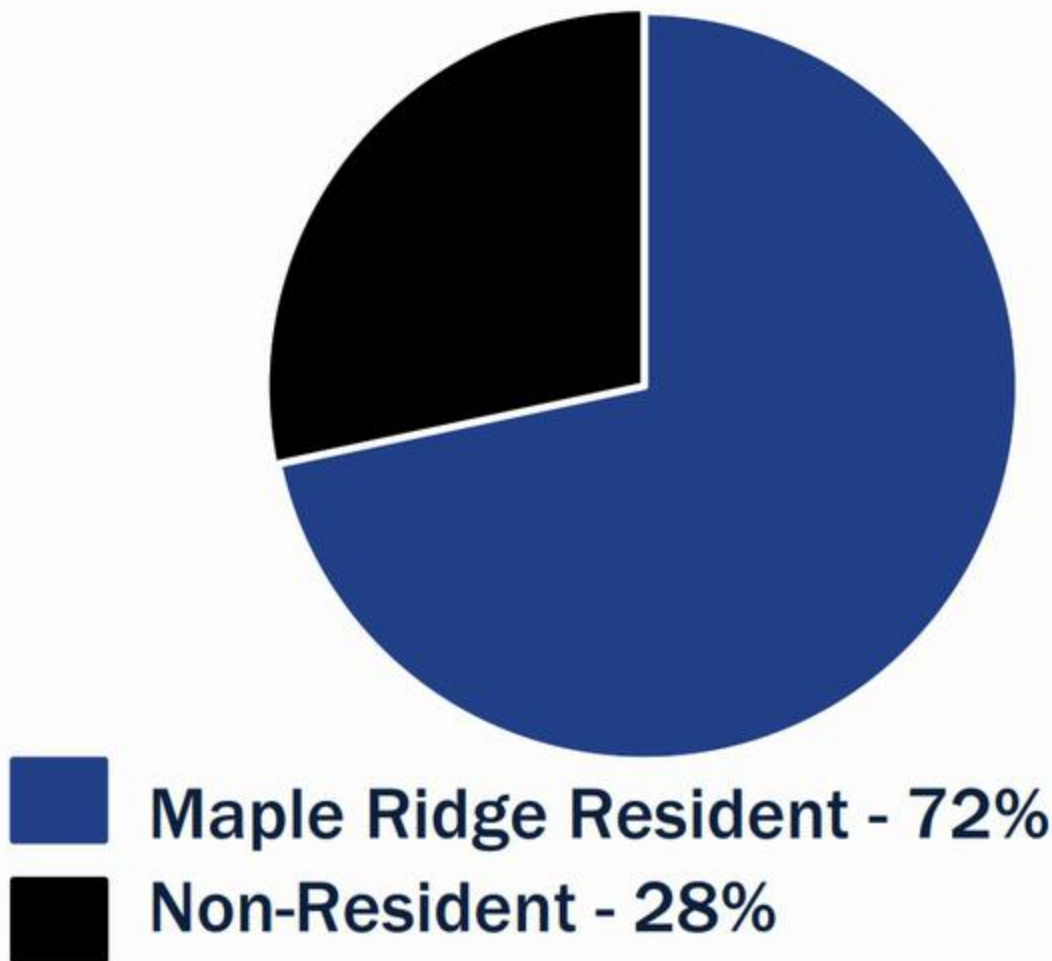
WHAT WE HEARD

Through the summer and fall of 2020, public feedback was gathered on the Thornhill trails located on municipal land. Through this public consultation, nearly 800 comment forms were received from trail users and local residents.

The trails study respondents provided feedback on trail user type, where they access the trails, how often and which trails they use, the reasons for using these trails, as well as improvements that would support them as a trail user. A summary of the findings of the trails study is shown in the graphic below.

Thank you to all those who participated in our consultation.

Respondent Representation



MOST POPULAR INFORMAL TRAILS

#1
O.S.R.

#2
Thornstar

#3
Trail Dweller



45%
of respondents
said they visit the
Thornhill Trails
multiple times
per week

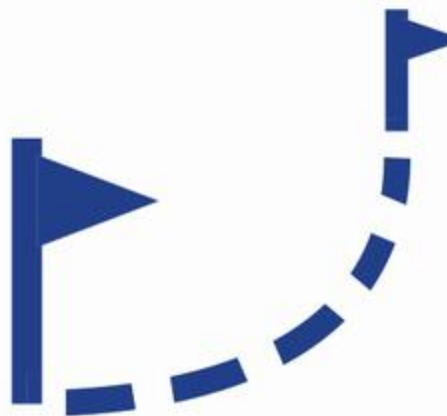
55%
of respondents
said they primarily
access the trails at
256 St. (from the
South)



WHY ARE THESE TRAILS IMPORTANT?



24%
meeting others/
community/
family



21%
easy to access/
local/close to
home



22%
health & exercise

MOST REQUESTED ITEMS

#1
Better
Signage

#2
Better
Parking @ 256 St.

#3
Increased
Maintenance

MOST REPORTED TRAIL USER CATEGORIES



Hikers

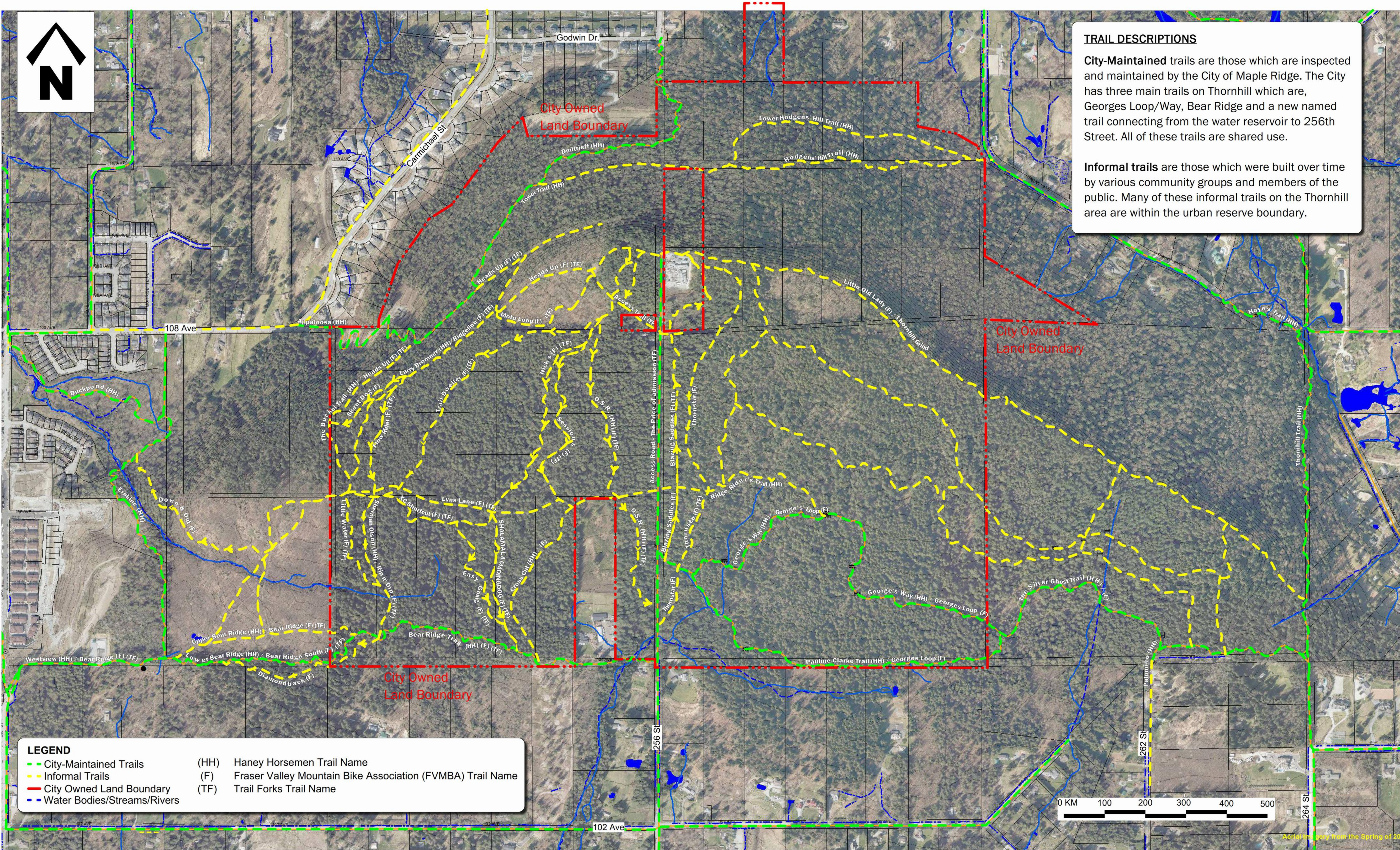


Mountain
Bikers



Equestrian
Users

This “Existing Trails” map shows the current network of trails on Thornhill as either “city-maintained” or “informal” trails. The map is primarily made from data collected by the City of Maple Ridge in the field, further confirmed by overlaying trail maps from Trails Forks, the Haney Horseman, and Fraser Valley Mountain Bike Association. The trail maps referenced represent only a small sample of those available for the Thornhill area.





THORNHILL TRAILS PROPOSED TRAIL PLAN



Please take a moment to let us know what you think of the proposed trail plan. Thank you for your feedback!

Through a series of engagement sessions, the City collaborated with the trail stakeholders to develop this proposed trail plan. For the safety and enjoyment of all users the trails are proposed to be designated by type of recreational use or a mix of recreational uses. Thank you to those who took the time to help us develop this plan.

