

Thriving With Nature

What living here has shown you. Help us see it too.

Maple Ridge is home to some of the richest natural systems in British Columbia.

Our wellbeing and continuity is woven throughout this place.

We have heard from you that the natural environment and our relationships to nature matters. We're sharing our response to this call today.

What we're asking of you

Share your stories of life in Maple Ridge.

Who and where do you value, where you've noticed changes, and how do you think we should grow and take care of our lands, water, and kin together.

You don't need to be a scientist, your experience *is* the expertise, and piece we are missing.

Three projects. One story.



Biodiversity Framework

Weaving a long-term record of the health of our natural environment, including people.

Your experiences help shape what we measure, protect, and value, and how we ensure access for generations to come.



McKenney Creek Revitalization

Bringing an urban creek and its neighbourhoods back into relationship.

See the proposed plan, the findings so far, and help imagine what's next.



Proposed Floodplain Bylaw

Living well with water.

How we grow in ways that don't make risks worse and foster safety and wellbeing.

Learn what it means and try the flood-response game.

Thriving With Nature

a biodiversity framework

We are part of this place.

We engage with nature every day, often without realizing.

Being a part of nature isn't a special activity for environmentalists. It's woven through ordinary life here, and you're already doing it.

Our water, food, shade, flood protection, and wellbeing come from the living systems around us. We are not visitors to nature, we live inside it and are active participants.

We want to **hear about your connections** with the land, water, plants, animals, and people in Maple Ridge, including memories and cultural ties that matter to you.

Our connections, influence, and access to nature is not equal.

Let's change this together.



Some people fish and forage, some don't have opportunity or access.

Some neighbourhoods have shade, some bake in the heat.



And when we build, we can deepen the connection with the land and reduce land use hazards, or we can sever our relationships with the land and make risks worse.



What we're growing, and how you can be part of it.

It will be a living record of the health of our natural environment and our relationships.

The Biodiversity Framework isn't a one time study. It's a long-term record the City builds, maintains, and reports on.

Tracking not just what species and ecosystems exist, but whether people who live here have access to relationships with these places and relations in ways that create **mutual benefits - clean air, water, shade, flood protection, food, places to belong.**

We are weaving together ecological data, mapping, and the experiences and values of people who live here.

It is important to remember that ecosystem benefits are not simply the result of 'untouched' nature.

For thousands of years, these lands were shaped through relationships between Indigenous peoples and nature, who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial, including ɥícəy̓ (Katzie) First Nation and q'wə:nθ'əñ (Kwantlen) First Nation.

While these relationships continue to this day, it is important to recognize the toll that settler colonialism has taken on both these people and these lands, and our role in giving space for these relationships to heal.

How what you share tonight matters

It's a loop, not a line. What you share comes back to you.



Western Red-backed Salamander, food for birds and small mammals, and depends on the land of moss



Chinook salmon, a keystone species (many depend on salmon)



Beaver, the engineer of the waterways, the thoughtfully designed floods increase groundwater, helpful in a drought for farm lands, and provides fish habitat

Who needs who?

A web of relationships keeps these critters alive - including us.

Salal, a hearty fall berry, often mashed into flat cakes




We can care for the soil, a limited resource, essential for food security that takes 300-1000 years to build by removing invasive plants, leaving the leaves that decompose, and supporting the soil web.




What living here has shown you, over time.


Add a card. Share what you remember, what you've noticed, and what you hope for.




1 -
Find a photo or place that matters to you.




2 -
Choose a colour card that fits your thoughts.




3 -
Write or draw your thoughts!



a place I value



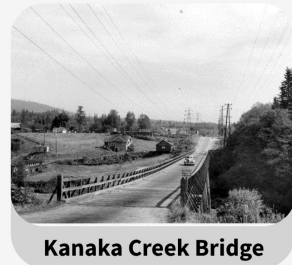
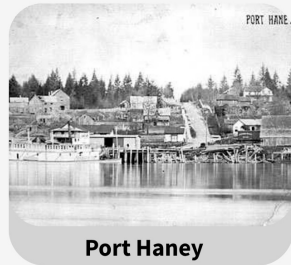
a place that needs care



a place I've noticed changing

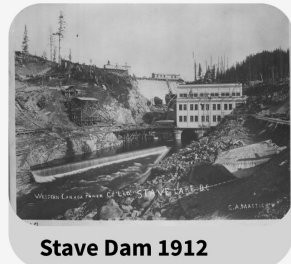
THEN - what this place was.

Who and what was here?
What did this place offer, to people, water, and wildlife?



Share a memory

Sketch your ideas



This is a glimpse of what the survey captures in depth.

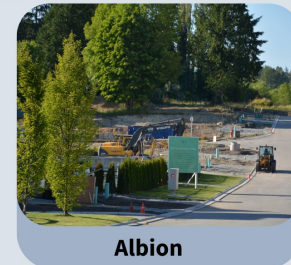
Share what matters online, or use the staffed tablets tonight.



Tell a story

NOW - what it's like today.

Who and what matters here now?
What feels different than before?



Add a note



Sketch your ideas

WHAT COULD BE - the future.

Who and what would help this place thrive for the next generations?



Add an idea



Reflections



Draw your vision

Has a living being here ever taught you something?

A crow, a dragonfly, salmon returning, the smell of soil after rain; those thoughts belong here too.



Thank you for sharing this place with us.

What happens next

Everything shared tonight and online is brought together with ecological and place-based data and mapping, to help us understand what matters most to our community. We'll publish a summary of what we heard by Q4 2026, and we'll keep reporting back as work continues.

You told us. We'll show you what changes because of it.

Hokusai says look carefully.
He says pay attention, notice.
He says keep looking, stay curious.
He says there is no end to seeing.

He says look forward to getting old.
He says keep changing,
you just get more who you really are.
He says get stuck, accept it, repeat
yourself as long as it is interesting.

He says keep doing what you love.

He says keep praying.

He says everyone of us is a child,
everyone of us is ancient,
everyone of us has a body.
He says everyone of us is frightened.
He says everyone of us has to find
a way to live with fear.

He says everything is alive—
shells, buildings, people, fish,
mountains, trees, wood is alive.
Water is alive.

Everything has its own life.

Everything lives inside us.

He says live with the world inside you.

He says it doesn't matter if you draw,
or write books. It doesn't matter
if you saw wood, or catch fish.
It doesn't matter if you sit at home
and stare at the ants on your veranda
or the shadows of the trees
and grasses in your garden.
It matters that you care.

It matters that you feel.

It matters that you notice.

It matters that life lives through you.

Contentment is life living through you.
Joy is life living through you.
Satisfaction and strength
is life living through you.

Peace is life living through you.

He says don't be afraid.
Don't be afraid.

Look, feel, let life take you by the hand.

Let life live through you.

Hokusai Says
- Roger Keyes, Poet

What you've shared tonight becomes part of our collective story here in Maple Ridge, growing our knowledge of how we steward and care for the lands, water, and each other.

Follow the Work



Engage.mapleridge.ca/BiodiversityFramework