



CARING FOR OUR NATURE: MAPLE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Council Workshop

A photograph of a dense forest with tall trees and green foliage, serving as a background for the title.

Outline

- 1. Official Community Plan (OCP): The Context**
- 2. Environmental Management Strategy: What Is It?**
- 3. Consultation with Stakeholders & Findings**
- 4. What's Next?**

OCP Context

Environmental Management Model – Goals

1. Protect significant ecosystems
2. Anticipate and respond to impacts of climate change
3. Determine appropriate DP guidelines and bylaws
4. Identify requirements for environmental studies or impact assessments
5. Maintain and improve ecosystem health and human safety



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OCP Environmental Principles

Principle 23

The community values the protection of environmentally sensitive areas including water, areas of natural beauty, forests, etc.

Principle 26

There is value in integrating natural features of the environment into development through planning and design

Principle 27

Overall environmental protection demands a comprehensive, 'smart growth' approach.

OCP Natural Features Objectives

OCP Natural Features objectives:

1. A **comprehensive approach** based on ecosystem principles incorporating land, water and air
2. A management perspective that **anticipates** and **mitigates** impacts from climate change and strives to reduce its causes
3. A **balanced evaluation process** incorporating economic, social, and environmental sustainability
4. The cultivation and strengthening of **community partnerships** to help enhance the success of policies and programs.

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OCP Natural Features Policies

OCP Policies in support of the Management Strategy...

Policy 5.1 Maple Ridge will **build upon existing information and practices** to inform land use planning and enable the assessment, monitoring, and management of ecosystems and natural features within the municipality.

Policy 5.2 Maple Ridge will assess the scope of **studies necessary to implement** the OCP environmental management model and will identify components as part of the annual business planning process

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OCP Natural Features Policies

Policy 5.6 Maple Ridge will work toward achieving the goal of a positive benefit for the District's natural features by **designating conservation areas** and by **mitigating** habitat impacts ...

Policy 5.7 Maple Ridge will **work in co-operation** with Regional, Provincial, and Federal authorities and plans that contribute to the management and protection of the District's natural features....

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Background

Phase One:

Council Resolution. “that staff proceed to develop a draft Environmental Management Plan for Council’s consideration.”

Request for Proposals.

Contract awarded to Catherine Berris & Assoc. along with Blackwell Associates and Quadra Planning

Initial Consultation Workshop with stakeholders.

Focus groups and general public invited to speak about issues, strengths and weaknesses of environmental programs, and possible next steps

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Background

Phase Two (current work)

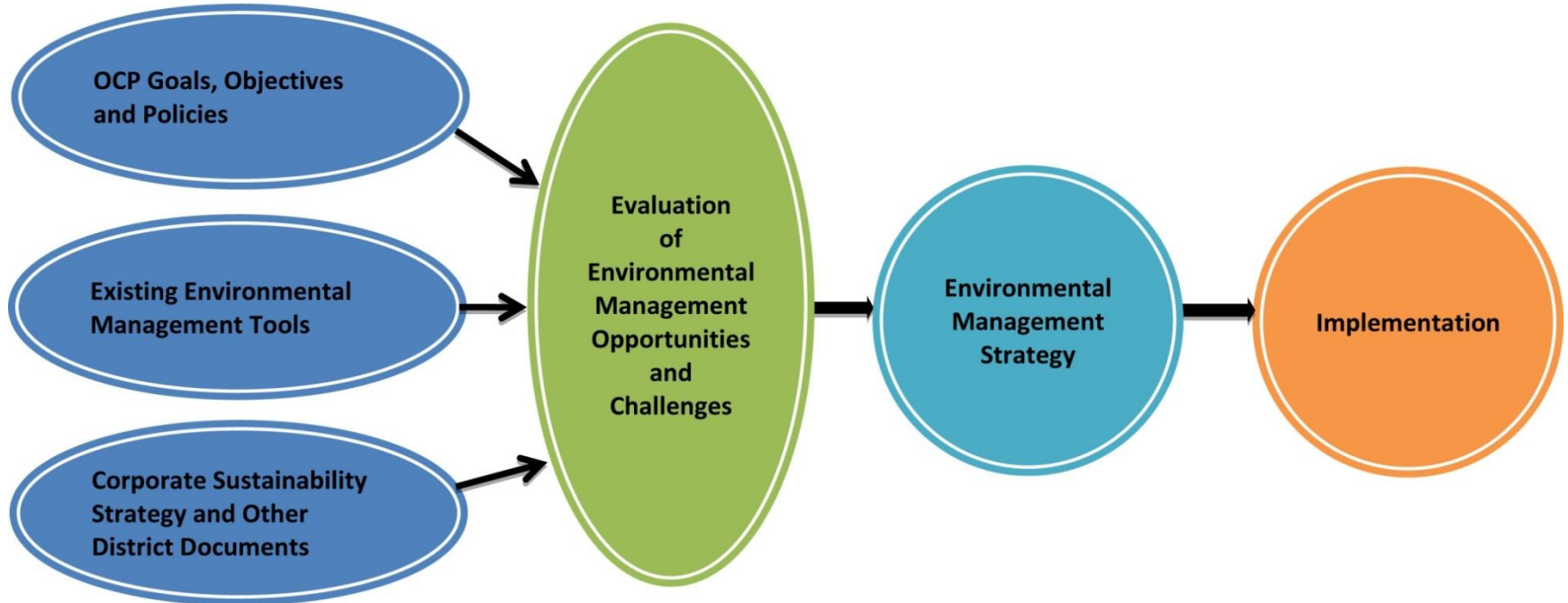
Council workshop presentation

Overview of Environ. Management Strategy & Consultation Process
What We Have Heard From Stakeholders to date

Second phase of consultation workshops

Summary of What We Have Heard – strengths and challenges
Evaluation of Existing Tools – issues, strengths/gaps, and opportunities
Determine Next Steps - where are we going & how can we get there?

What is an EMS?



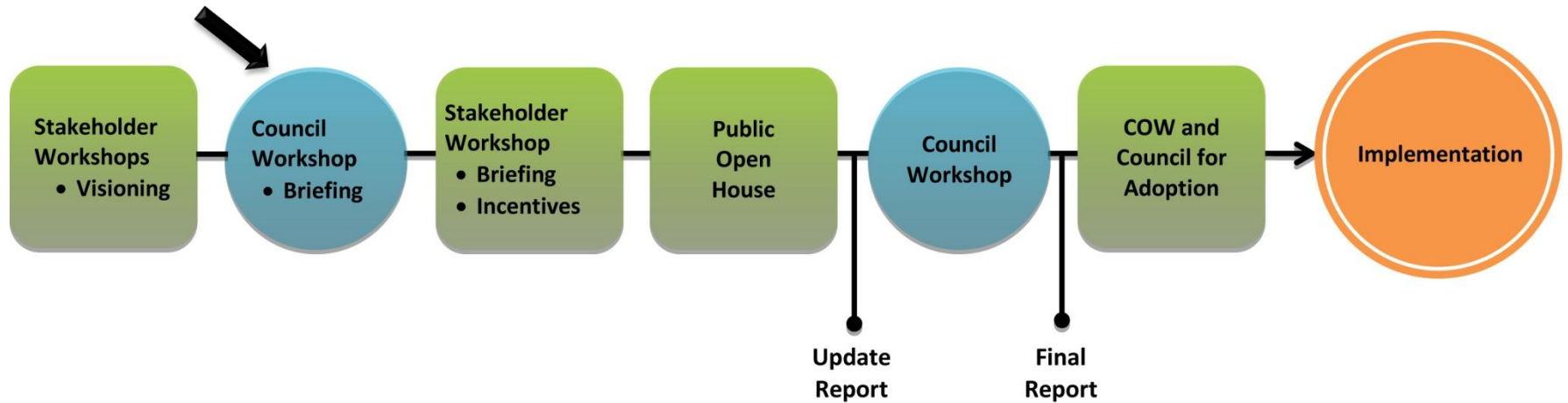
Primary Purpose

- The primary purpose is to consolidate and fine tune environmental policies and practices, incorporating the OCP principles and values that draw people to Maple Ridge.
- Evaluate progress to date and identify next steps.

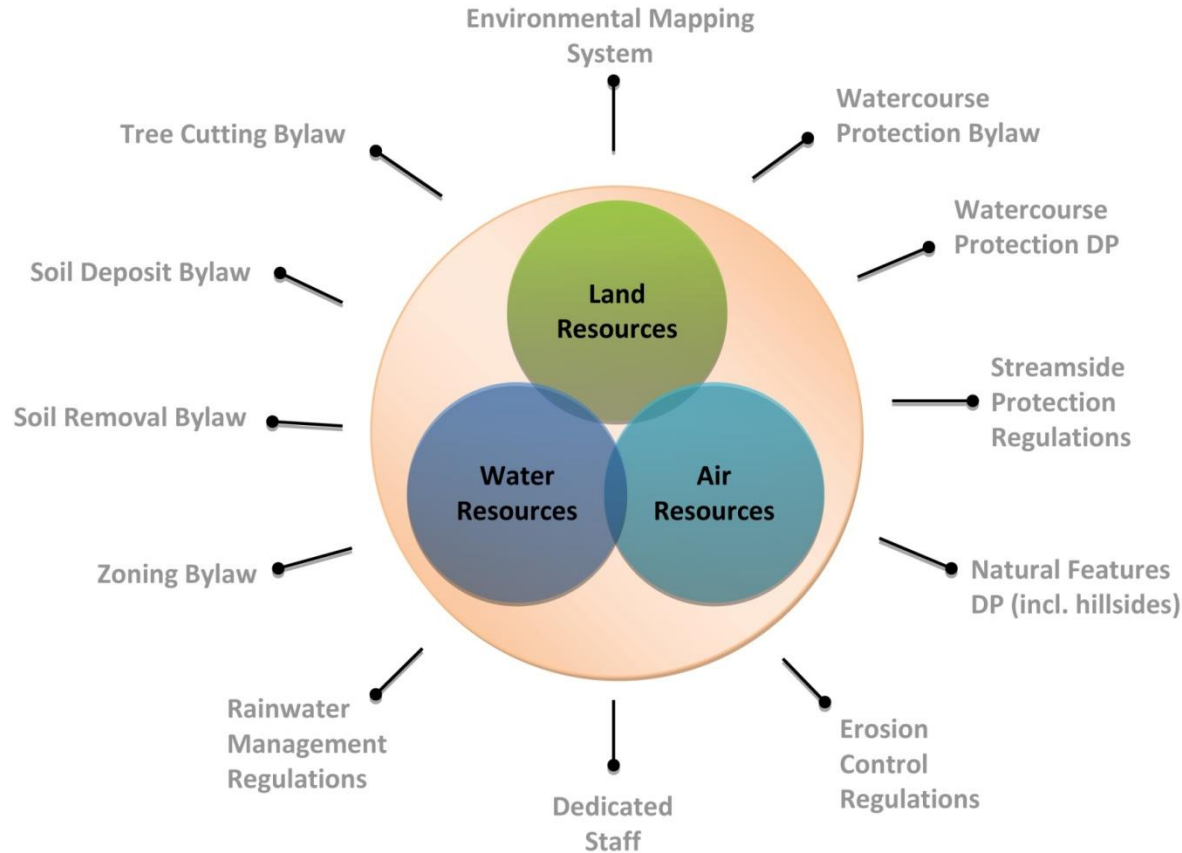
**Help District
to improve
their toolbox**



EMS Process



OCP and Other Existing Tools



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Top Reasons for the EMS

- Sustainable management of the natural resources that provide our community with social, economic, and ecological benefits
- Continue to attract and invest in sustainable growth
- Build a resilient community in the face of climate change
- Maximize efficiencies and cost savings associated with infrastructure services provided by the natural environment

➤ **Essentially it is for our long-term sustainability**

Public Support – 2012 Municipal Survey

- *“When planning for the future, the issues that are accorded the highest priority by residents, are*
 - Identifying and protecting environmental features and areas that require special recognition and management



What We Heard

Key Successes

✓ OCP Framework for Environmental Mgt

✓ Streamside Protection Regulations

✓ Environmental Mapping System

✓ Extensive Natural Areas Remaining

✓ Dedicated Knowledgeable Staff

What We Heard

Key Challenges

! Appropriate Scale, Long Term Planning

! Habitat Fragmentation

! Public Desire for Input, Information & Awareness

! Tree Removal and Increasing Negative Impacts

! Limited Municipal Environmental Resources

What We Observe

Key Opportunities

➡ Support and Motivation for a Strategy

➡ Extent of Natural Environment

➡ Passionate Public

➡ Opportunities for Partnerships

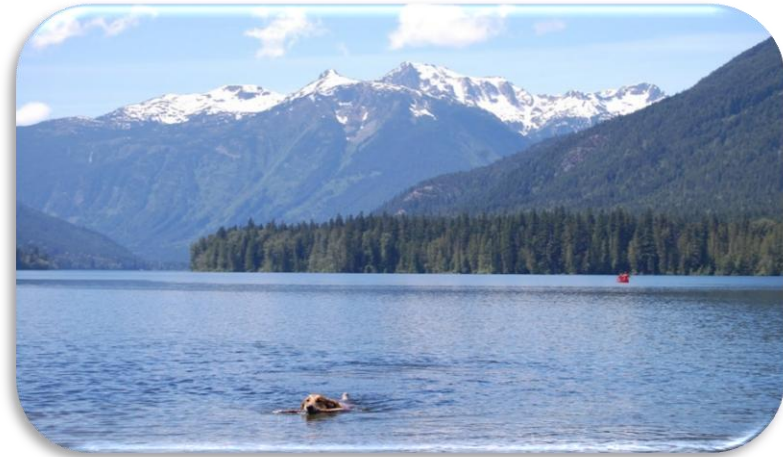
Proposed EMS Goals

- **Goal A:** Conserve and manage our natural assets
- **Goal B:** Design and build sustainable neighbourhoods
- **Goal C:** Improve communications and environmental awareness



Goal A: Conserve and manage our natural assets

- Potential Strategies
 - Identify and manage watershed areas in collaboration with other jurisdictions
 - Develop an ecological network management strategy to protect important ecological resources
 - Evaluate the socio-economic values and benefits of natural assets



Goal B: Design and build sustainable neighbourhoods

- Potential Strategies
 - Identify tools and incentives for comprehensive “smart growth” based on sustainable development practices
 - Review and update environmental development permits, Tree Cutting Bylaw, Watercourse Protection Bylaw, and Soils Bylaws

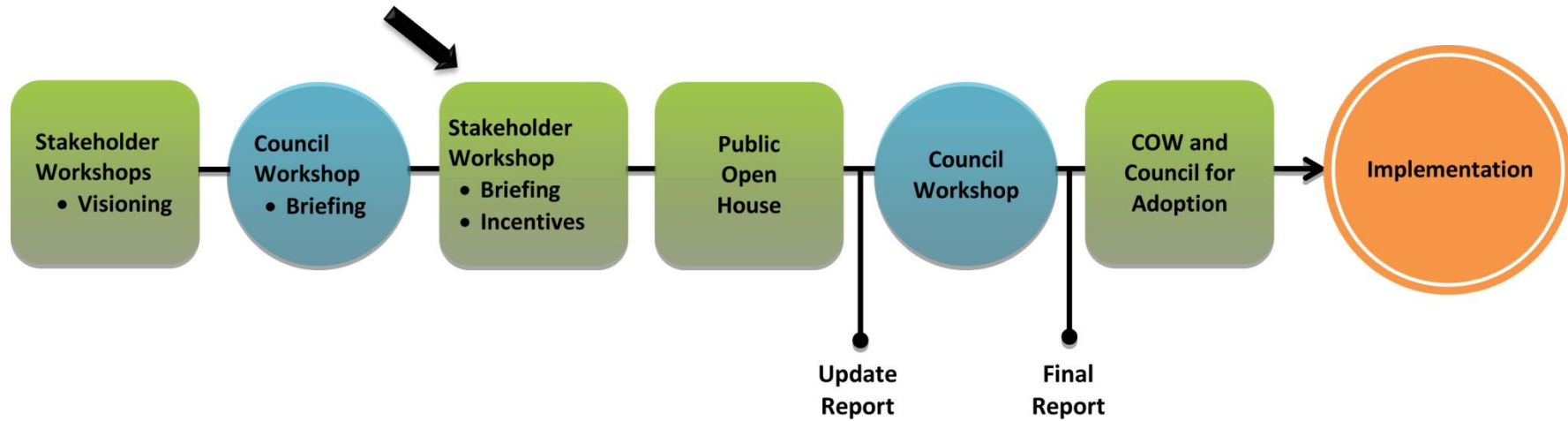


Goal C: Enhance communications opportunities and engagement

- Potential Strategies
 - Improve communications among District stakeholders in the community
 - Expand environmental education and awareness
 - Provide an information hub



Next Steps



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Proposed Process

- February 20 – Stakeholder Workshop
- April – Public Open House
- April/May – Public Questionnaire Online
- May/June – Council Workshop
- Fall 2013 – Final Report and Implementation

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Recommendation

- THAT the Environmental Management Strategy consultation program and timelines outlined in the Feb. 4, 2013 report entitled “Environmental Management Study and Review Update” be endorsed (see document for additional information)

A photograph of a dense forest with tall, slender trees. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating dappled light on the forest floor. The ground is covered with green ferns and other low-lying vegetation. The text "THANK YOU" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the lower center of the image.

THANK YOU