

WELCOME

To the Agricultural Advisory Committee's conversation on backyard hens in Maple Ridge



At today's event you can:

- **Explore the material:** There are several boards here today and we encourage you to review them all to learn more about the conversation on backyard hens in Maple Ridge
- **Ask questions:** City staff and members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee are here to answer any questions you may have.
- **Fill out a survey!** Paper surveys are available today. They are also available online at www.mapleridge.ca/1884.
- **Sign-up** for the Agricultural E-Newsletter.

Talking about Backyard Hens

WHY ARE WE HERE?

We want to hear from you! The City of Maple Ridge's Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) is looking at options to accommodate backyard hens in residential areas in Maple Ridge and wants to hear what you think.

WHY NOW?

Over the past few years, enthusiasm for backyard chickens has grown across the country. This is in part due to increased community interest in sustainability, food security and consumption of locally grown food. During this time, many cities have enacted or updated by-laws to allow the keeping of chickens. The AAC is now looking at ways to accommodate backyard hens in residential areas in Maple Ridge.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

Over the summer, City staff and members of the AAC will be popping up at community events to talk about backyard hens in Maple Ridge. Feel free to join us or you can call the City at any time to share your thoughts on backyard hens in Maple Ridge:

- Country Fest, July 28 & 29, 2018
- Haney Farmers Market, August 2018
- Online until August 31, 2018

In the fall, City staff will summarize what was heard and report back to the AAC and to Council. Based on your comments, Maple Ridge Council will decide if bylaw updates should be prepared to accommodate backyard hens in residential areas in Maple Ridge.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "BACKYARD HENS"?

These are not your great-grandparent's chickens which were kept as livestock. Today, backyard chickens are kept primarily as pets and for eggs.

When we say 'backyard hen' we're talking about hens that are older than 4 months - no roosters - usually housed in coops placed in the back yard.



DON'T FORGET TO FILL OUT A SURVEY!

Surveys are available today in print or online at www.mapleridge.ca/1884

WE
ARE
HERE

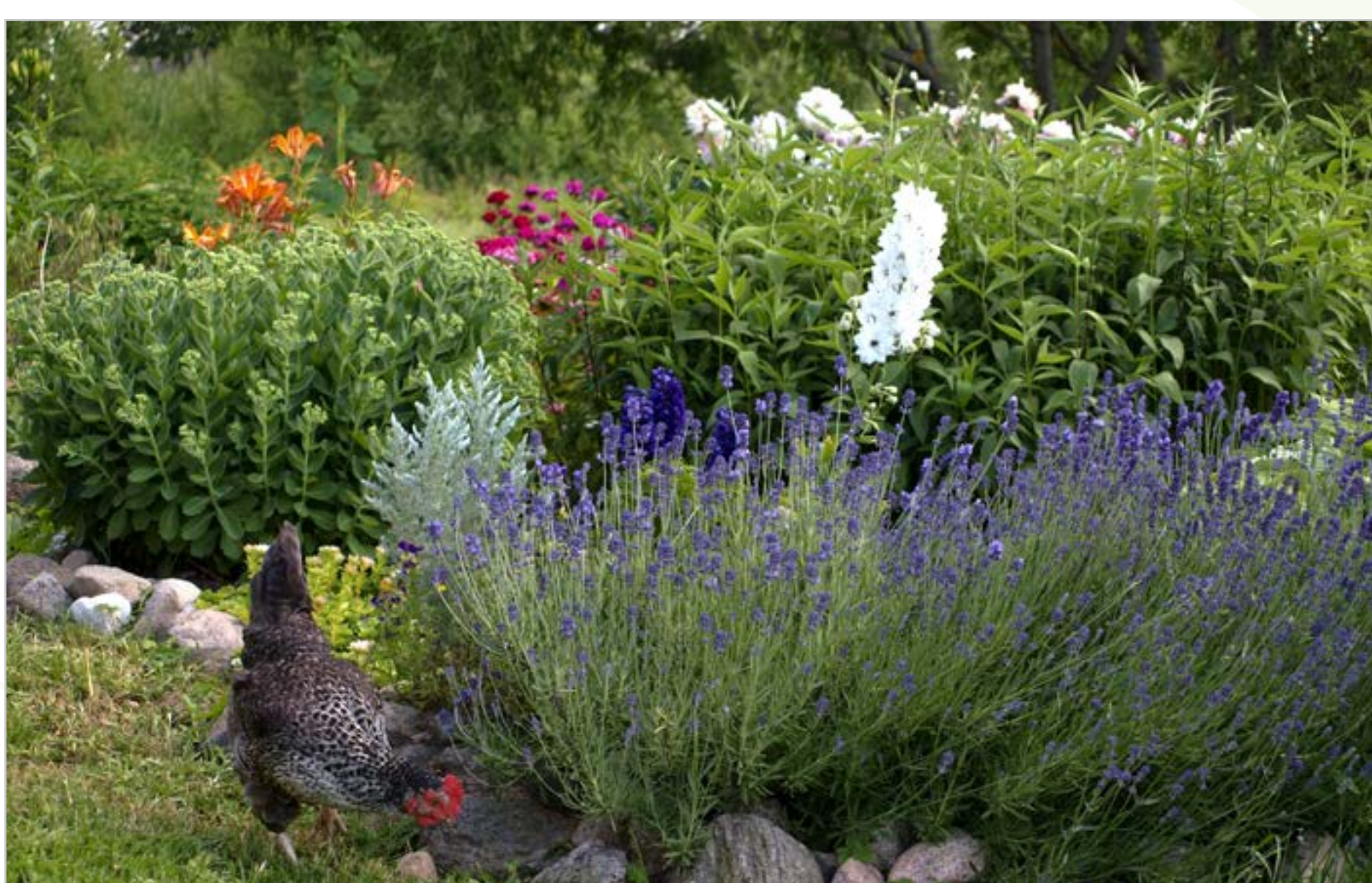
Discuss with Wider
Community

Report back to the
AAC

Report back to
Council

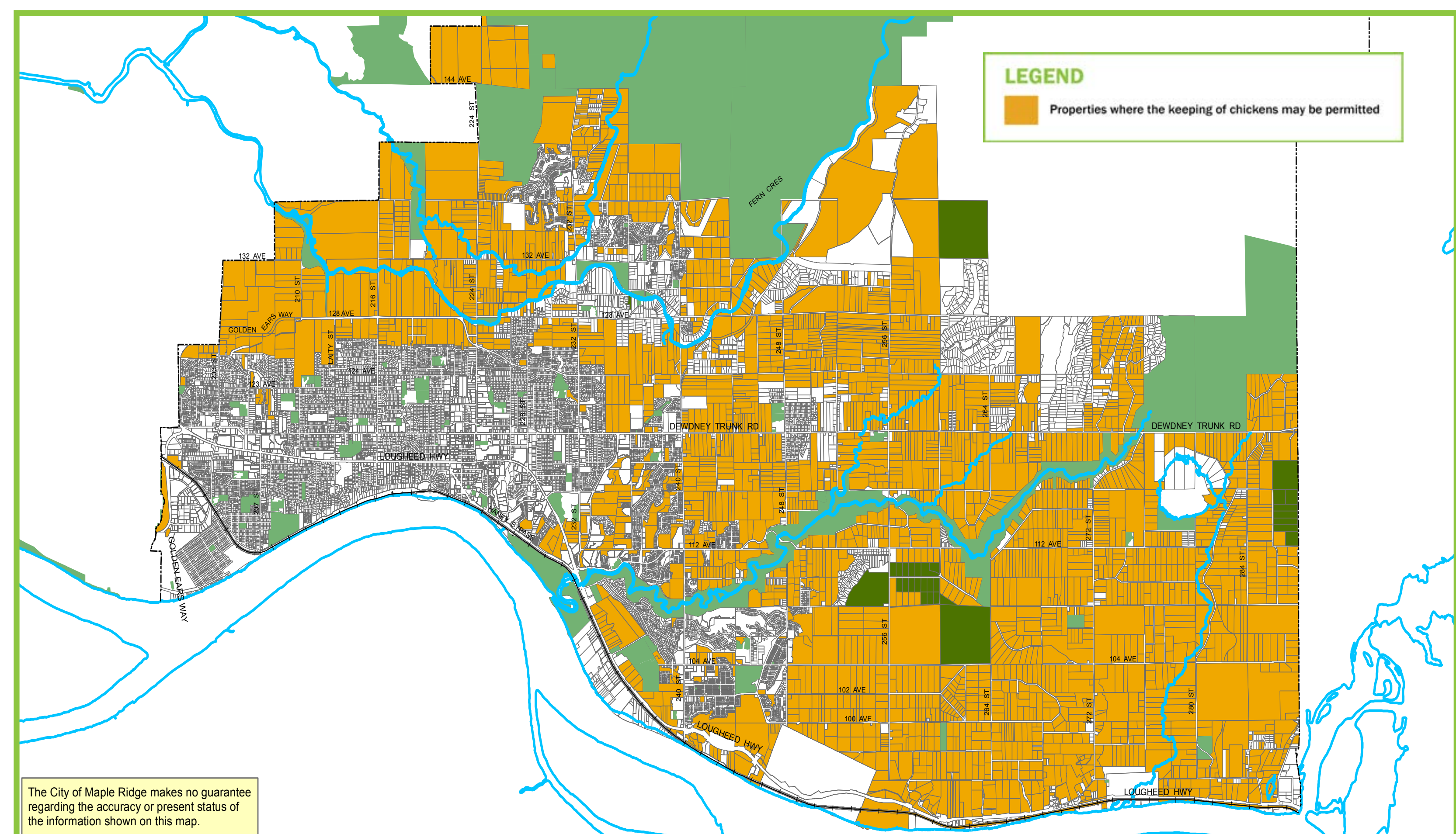
Update Bylaws
(if approved)

Backyard Hens in Maple Ridge



CHICKENS IN MAPLE RIDGE

Currently, the keeping of chickens is considered an agricultural use and is permitted only on agricultural zoned lots along with rural and suburban residential lots in the Agriculture Land Reserve that are larger than 0.4 hectares (1 acre). This means that today approximately 1,800 lots across Maple Ridge are permitted in the Zoning Bylaw to keep chickens of any age, gender, or breed, subject to the City's regulations (as illustrated in the map below).



Despite being widely allowed in many parts of the City, the City of Maple Ridge's Agricultural Advisory Committee is looking at options that may expand the keeping of backyard hens in residential areas.

THOUGHTS ABOUT BACKYARD HENS

Some common benefits and concerns heard from residents about the keeping of backyard hens in residential areas include:

BENEFITS	CONCERNS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces household food costs (e.g. fresh eggs) • Increases the availability and accessibility of food • Creates great compost for gardens • Educational opportunity (e.g. keeping and caring for hens) • Companionship (e.g. pets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise and odour • Potential to attract rodents and pests • Potential to attract wildlife • Coops may be unsightly • Concerns that a coop will be situated too close to your property

What are other municipalities doing?



The table below shows a selection of Lower Mainland and South Vancouver Island municipalities and their respective regulation on the keeping of chickens in urban areas.

MUNICIPALITY	PERMITTED	NUMBER OF CHICKENS	SIZE OF LOT
Abbotsford	No		
Burnaby	No		
Chilliwack	No		
North Vancouver (City)	Yes	Up to 8 hens, no roosters	557 m ² (6000 ft ²)
Coquitlam	No		
Delta	Yes	Up to 12 chickens	Minimum lot size 4000m ² (1 acre).
North Vancouver (District)	No		
New Westminster	Yes	Up to 8 hens	Minimum lot size 557m ² (6000ft ²)
Oak Bay	Yes	Up to 5 Up to 8 Up to 10	745 m ² - 1,858 m ² Up to 4,047 m ² Over 4,047 m ²
Pitt Meadows	No		Pilot Program minimum lot size was 409m ² (4400 ft ²)
Port Coquitlam	No		
Port Moody	No		
Richmond	Yes	No limit on number	2000 m ² (0.5 acres) or larger.
Township of Langley	No		
Vancouver	Yes	Up to 4 hens, no roosters	Minimum lot size 279 m ² (3000 ft ²)
Victoria	Yes	No maximum	No minimum lot size

As of July 2017

LESSONS LEARNED

A number of themes emerged from the seven municipalities that permit the keeping of chickens in residential areas:

- The number of permitted chickens range from a minimum of 4 to a maximum of 12, with an average of 6 to 8 chickens per household.
- No roosters allowed.
- Minimum average property size of 557 m² (6,000 sq. ft. or 0.13 acre).
- Selling of eggs is not permitted.
- Slaughtering is not permitted on the premises.
- Maintenance and care information is provided by the City to encourage proper care, cleanliness and to minimize conflicts

Help Inform the Conversation

HOW MANY CHICKENS IS BEST?

How many backyard hens do you feel would be appropriate to permit per household, if allowed?

None	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 6	6 +

Share your thoughts!
Place a sticky dot near
the ones you like!

WHAT SIZE OF PROPERTY FITS BEST?

What size of property do you feel would be appropriate for backyard hens, if allowed?

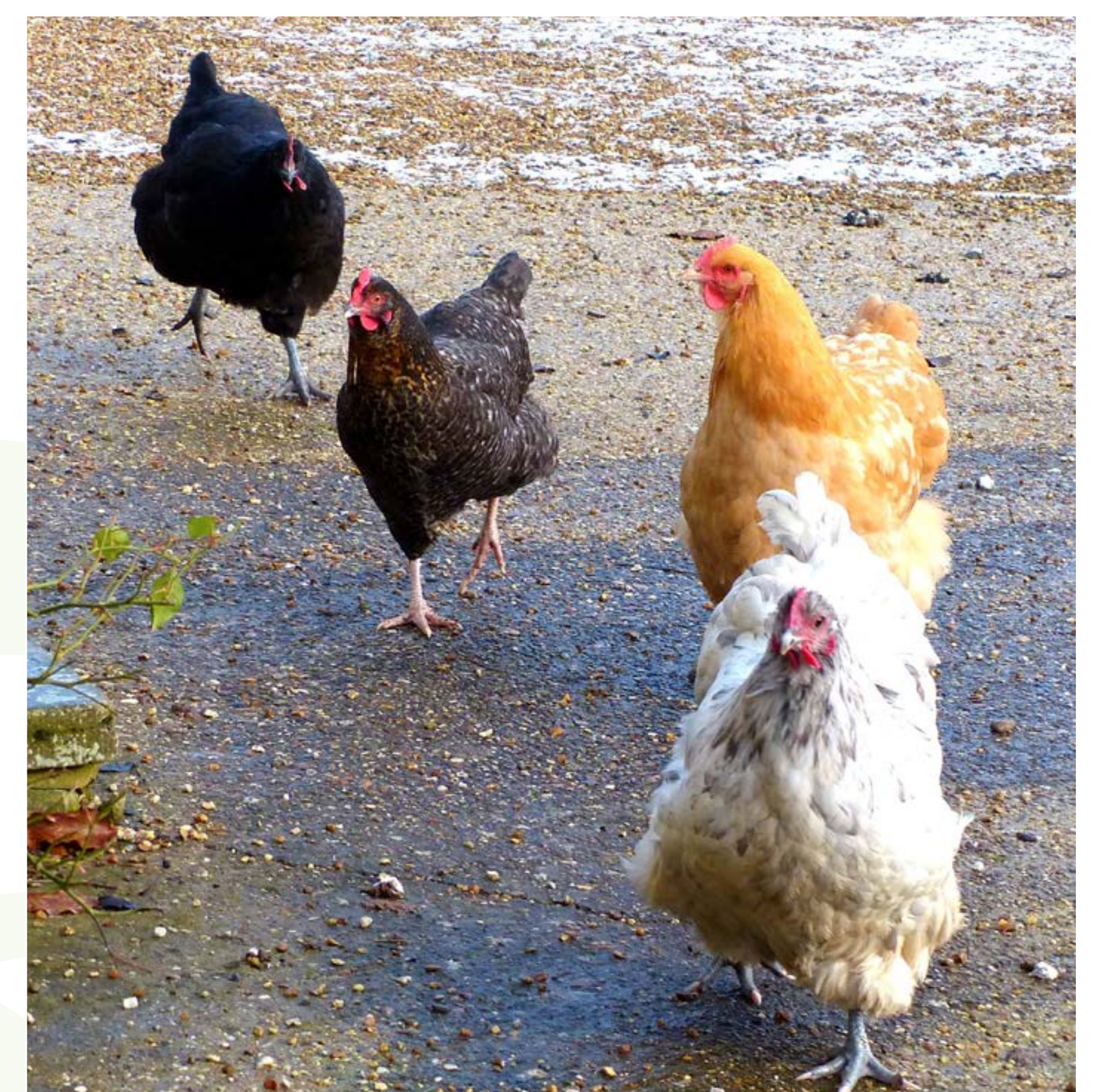
Small Urban Properties

- Typically 600 - 1,000 m² (6,500 ft² - 10,700 ft² / 0.15 - 0.25 acre)



Mid-sized Urban Properties

- Typically 1,200 - 2,000 m² (13,000 ft² - 21,500 ft² / 0.3 - 0.75 acre)



Suburban Residential Properties

- Typically 4,000 - 8,000 m² (43,000 ft² - 86,000 ft² / 1 - 2 acres)

Share your thoughts!
Place a sticky dot near
the ones you like!

THANK YOU

For participating in the conversation about backyard hens in
Maple Ridge.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please take the opportunity to provide your thoughts and comments
through our survey available today or online at:

WWW.MAPLERIDGE.CA/1884

Online survey closes August 31, 2018

STAY IN TOUCH

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W: www.mapleridge.ca/1884

E: agriculture@mapleridge.ca