



Environment & Natural Community

Pitt Meadows is known for its scenic topography, which include many sloughs, rivers, wetlands, bogs, and surrounding mountains and forests. The City remains committed to conserving and strengthening its natural environment. This includes managing the floodplain, improving air quality, providing recreation areas and protecting natural habitat for fish and wildlife. The City believes this will drastically improve the quality of life for years to come.

Current Trends

Environment

- Climate:** Climate action has become a provincial priority. Pitt Meadows is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program is a grant program that provides funding to Climate Action Charter signatories.
- Shoreline Habitat:** The City of Pitt Meadows and Metro Vancouver have worked together to acquire land on the riversides of the dikes. Predominantly along the Pitt and Fraser Rivers for recreation and environmental conservation.
- Floodplain:** Majority of the municipality is within the defined 200-year flood zone. The lowlands make Pitt Meadows suitable for farming but difficult to develop.
- Water and Energy Conservation:** Management of water and energy are valuable resources that are constantly overseen. Management of these resources through Smart Growth principles strive to limit resources such as gas consumption to slow the effects of climate change.



Natural Community

- **Going Green Initiatives:** Year-round, eco-friendly programs are offered by the City in order to mitigate the effects of pollution and climate change. These include: Earth Day, Climate Action Community, Natural Assets Inventory & Management Strategy, Zero Waste, Adopt-A-Program, Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, and more.
- **Riparian Protection:** Protection of natural areas in order to protect the economic and ecological benefits it may have. Protection of these areas include improved water quality, decreased flood hazard, lower storm water management costs, better air quality, etc.
- **Invasive & Noxious Species Control:** The Province of British Columbia has developed their own "Pest Management Plan" to remove any plant, insect, or animal species where they have a serious impact on the natural ecosystem.

What does the current OCP say?

Environment

- Continue participation in national, provincial, and regional programs aimed at reducing air emissions.
- Maintenance of shoreline habitats should be consistent with the Ministry of Environment's Dike Maintenance Act.
- Adopting a floodplain bylaw that regulates the type of development and the type of construction that may occur within the floodplain.
- Work with Metro Vancouver and utility companies to encourage all sectors to practice energy and water conservation.

Natural Community

- Continue to support initiatives that promote environmental sustainability and mitigate climate change.
- Implement greenhouse gas and energy reduction policies.
- Partner with government and non-government agencies to continue the protection of the natural environment.
- Ensure future development is accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner.

Challenges

- Sea level rise may impact future and existing development.
- High cost of green infrastructure and building technology.
- Adapting to climate change.
- Management of soil health techniques.



Opportunities

- Joining the Community Action and Energy and Emissions (CAEE), to promote guidelines in sustainable development.
- Public transportation agencies are cooperatively working with the City to limit vehicle use.
- Current community is knowledgeable and willing to work with the City in achieving long-term environmental goals.
- Increasing population presents an opportunity to implement eco-friendly policies and guidelines to all future infrastructures, residential, agricultural and commercial developments.

Current & Upcoming Projects

- Natural Assets Inventory and Management Strategy.
- Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program.
- Incorporation of the provincial Riparian Areas Regulation.

To provide input, visit haveyoursaypittmeadows.ca