Is There Already a Network in Your Area?

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Before starting a new mesh network, check whether an existing network already covers your area. Joining an established network is almost always better than starting from scratch - you immediately have more repeaters, a larger community, and tested infrastructure.

How to Check

Live Node Maps

- map.meshcore.io - live worldwide MeshCore nodes
- meshmap.net - worldwide Meshtastic nodes that uplink to the public MQTT server (community map; nodes with MQTT uplink off do not appear)
- map.wcmesh.com - West Coast Mesh node map

Community Search

- Search Discord for "[your city/state] mesh" or "[your city/state] meshtastic"
- Search Reddit for r/meshtastic or r/meshcore posts in your area
- The official MeshCore project Discord is at meshcore.gg - ask in a general channel if anyone covers your area. For RegionMesh-specific coverage questions, use RegionMesh's own community channels (regionmesh.com/community).

Existing Networks by Region

Region	Network	Website
Nationwide US	RegionMesh	regionmesh.com
North Dakota & surrounds	NoDakMesh	nodakmesh.org
West Coast	WCMesh	wcmesh.com
Pacific Northwest	CascadiaMesh	cascadiamesh.org

If No Network Exists

If you genuinely can't find an existing network in your area, you have the opportunity to start one. A few considerations:

- **Start with RegionMesh:** If in the US, consider deploying MeshCore repeaters that join RegionMesh rather than a proprietary local network. You get national infrastructure from day one.
- **Two nodes minimum:** A single repeater is not a "network." You need at least two nodes to demonstrate mesh functionality and attract more participants.
- **Elevation first:** Your first repeater should be your highest-elevation option. One hilltop repeater can enable dozens of low-elevation nodes to communicate.
- **Document your settings:** Publish your channel name, frequency, and preset on a simple webpage or in a Discord server so others can join.

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