

# 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](https://map.meshcore.io) - live worldwide MeshCore nodes
- [meshmap.net](https://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](https://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](https://meshcore.gg) - ask in a general channel if anyone covers your area. For RegionMesh-specific coverage questions, use [RegionMesh's](https://regionmesh.com) own community channels ([regionmesh.com/community](https://regionmesh.com)).

## Existing Networks by Region

Region	Network	Website
Nationwide US	RegionMesh	<a href="https://regionmesh.com">regionmesh.com</a>
North Dakota & surrounds	<a href="https://nodakmesh.org">NoDakMesh</a>	<a href="https://nodakmesh.org">nodakmesh.org</a>
West Coast	WCMesh	<a href="https://wcmesh.com">wcmesh.com</a>
Pacific Northwest	<a href="https://cascadiamesh.org">CascadiaMesh</a>	<a href="https://cascadiamesh.org">cascadiamesh.org</a>

## 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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