

**CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

BRYAN K. BARNETT, MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 3, 2009

Media Contact: Tara Beatty
Phone: (248) 841-2545
beattyt@rochesterhills.org

Rochester Hills Awarded \$510,000 Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant
Sheldon-Mead Property Acquisition

Rochester Hills, MI- Mayor Bryan Barnett is extremely pleased to announce that the City of Rochester Hills has been awarded a \$510,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to be used toward the acquisition of the 39.31-acre property along Sheldon Road and Mead Road for green space preservation.

The grant will be used to purchase, protect and preserve a “priority one” natural area for the residents of Rochester Hills to enjoy. The 10-year Green Space Millage, which was approved by the residents in 2005, will be leveraged as the matching funds.

“This grant allows us to maximize the funds available from the Green Space Millage and purchase additional green space properties in the future,” states Tara Beatty, Chief Assistant and Grant Coordinator.

The property is located in the northeast section of the city and contains sensitive wetlands, woodlands and a pond that are vital for wildlife to flourish in an urban area surrounded by encroaching development. Once purchased, this property will be maintained in its natural state to protect the wildlife habitat and natural plants. Visitors will be able to access the property off of Sheldon Road and Mead Road as well as from the Clear Creek subdivision to view the variety of wildlife.

“There are many steps that must still be taken before the property is acquired, the entire process could take several months, but we are celebrating this achievement as this first step is a major one,” said Mike Hartner, Director of Parks and Forestry.

The Green Space Advisory Board was a vital player in developing strategies and criteria for ranking the nominated green space parcels and recommending the properties they felt were the highest priorities.

“The protection of the Sheldon-Mead property should yield many dividends and provide a lasting legacy for many generations to come,” states Tara Beatty, Chief Assistant and Grant Coordinator.

“Our grant proposal was selected from over 150 submissions across the State of Michigan,” states Mayor Bryan Barnett. “This is the result of a tremendous team effort and is a huge victory for our residents.”

The preserved green space parcels in our community are just one of the many reasons Rochester Hills is considered a preeminent place to live, work and raise a family.

###