



innovative *by* nature

Q. Will this increase my taxes?

A. No. The ballot proposal did not authorize any new or additional tax or renewal of any current tax. Rather, it permits revenue derived from the existing Green Space Millage to be used for stewardship of the City's green spaces. Specifically, the proposal authorizes tax revenues the City has received, and will receive, from the existing voter-approved Green Space Millage to be used not only for the purchase of green spaces, but also to protect, care for and maintain, and to improved pedestrian accessibility to and within all green spaces the City owns, acquires or controls.

Q. What properties would be covered by this change?

A. All City-owned green spaces and natural features including all Green Space purchases, undeveloped portions of parklands and other natural features or open space owned or controlled by the City. This would include significant (named) watercourses (Clinton River, Paint, Stony, Galloway and Sargent Creeks, etc.). It also would cover any land under a conservation easement dedicated to the City.

Q. How do we define "Stewardship" for Rochester Hills green space?

A. A written policy was adopted by the GSAB in 2013 that defines stewardship as, "The responsible managing of land to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity and natural features, for the benefit of current and future generations."

Q. What are the elements of a good stewardship program?

1. An accurate vegetative inventory and baseline assessment for each green space property.
2. A management plan for each parcel of land.
3. Establish a team of volunteers to help implement the Stewardship Plan while working with qualified contractors to oversee the initial removal of invasive species.
4. A continual education and communication program with surrounding property owners and the community.

Q. How can we be sure the Green Space Millage will continue to be used for its intended purpose?

A. The City Council recently expanded the role of the GSAB by directing the GSAB to annually report to and advise the City Council about green space priorities and issues. The Green Space Millage is a special, voter-approved millage, and funds derived from the millage are dedicated and restricted to the permanent preservation of green spaces and natural features in the City. The Green Space fund is accounted for and managed separately from other funds of the City, and the ballot proposal did not alter that. The establishment of the Rochester Hills Green Space Perpetual Care Trust Fund would ensure significant annual funding for stewardship activities for as long as the trust fund exists.