



## Planning and Economic Development

Sara Roediger, AICP, Director

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From: Sara Roediger  
To: Historic Districts Commission, Historic Districts Study Committee, Planning Commission & City Council  
Date: January 16, 2020  
Re: Historic District Survey Options

Rochester Hills is one of thirty Certified Local Government (CLG) communities in the State. CLG communities are partners with the federal government and the State of Michigan's Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) working to promote historic preservation and reflect best preservation practices. In order to maintain this designation, the City is required to submit an annual report cataloging preservation and HDC activities in the past year. One of those requirements includes the survey and inventory of historic resources. The City has not undertaken a historical survey since 2002 and SHPO has asked (as part of the annual report) the City to identify its top survey priorities and the plan for achieving those.

In response, the Historic Districts Commission (HDC) and the Historic Districts Study Committee (HDSC) have been meeting to determine historic survey priorities in accordance with the state request.

After several meetings, the HDC and HDSC have ranked the historic survey opportunities as follows, listed from greatest priority to least.

1. Re-survey the Winkler Mill Historic District and redefine the district boundaries in order to remove areas of new construction that do not contribute to the district. (Estimated Cost: \$5,000 - \$8,000 for the survey plus \$3,000 - \$4,000 if City Council directs HDSC action)
2. Evaluate the first phase of suburban development in Avon Township (aka the Brooklands) including the developers of the subdivision, early residents and businesses and the overall history of the neighborhood. (Estimate Cost: \$60,000 - \$70,000)
3. Conduct intensive survey on the former 'potential' historic properties list to determine whether they qualify for local designation or national register listing. (Estimated Cost: \$60,000 - \$72,000)

The City Council is asked to determine whether any and/or which of the aforementioned historic survey opportunities should be pursued with the understanding that if no surveys are completed, the City may lose its CLG designation. See the provided staff report from the City's historic preservation consultant Kristine Kidorf dated December 2, 2019 for additional information on the City's CLG designation and the associated survey options.