

City of Rochester Hills

TREE FUND POLICY

February, 2010

The Tree Fund was created by the Tree Conservation Ordinance and adopted by City Council on August 3, 1988. As stated in Section 126.399(c) "...The city shall use the City Tree Fund for the purpose of maintaining and preserving wooded areas and for planting and maintaining trees within the city."

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Tree Conservation Ordinance as described in Section 126-263 is to:

1. Provide for the protection, preservation, proper maintenance and use of trees and woodlands located in the city in order to minimize disturbance to them and to prevent damage from erosion and siltation, a loss of wildlife and vegetation, and/or from the destruction of the natural habitat.
2. Protect the woodlands, including trees and other forms of vegetation, of this city for their economic support of local property values when allowed to remain uncleared and/or unharvested and for their natural beauty, wilderness character, and their geological, ecological, or historical significance.
3. Provide for the paramount public concern for these natural resources in the interest of health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of this city.

USE OF FUND

The Tree Fund may be used for activities that are consistent with the purposes prescribed by the Tree Conservation Ordinance and within this Policy.

Permitted Uses of the Fund (in Order of Priority)

1. Planting trees.
This would include, but not be limited to, planting trees on city-controlled property, including the public street right-of-ways.
Note: The existing Cooperative Tree Planting Program established by Administrative Policy No. 409-1999 remains unchanged and in effect.
2. Operation and Maintaining individual trees on city property, including street right-of-ways.
This would include, but not be limited to, trimming, repair, watering, fertilizing, soil aeration, cabling/bracing, pest management, protection from construction and other damage, and removal. Wages and fringe benefits for City staff including maintenance supplies and/or contracted tree maintenance services are allowable.

3. Operation and Maintaining and preserving wooded areas.

This would include, but not be limited to, trimming or removal of hazardous trees on natural wooded areas on city property affecting adjacent property, managing pest problems (gypsy moth), managing invasive plant problems (buckthorn, autumn olive, garlic mustard). Wages for staff and/or contracted services are allowable.

4. Transfer of interest earnings

The interest earnings from the Tree Fund may be transferred to General Fund to help support the maintenance activities outlined in number 2 and 3 above.

The Tree Fund policy was adopted by a resolution of City Council at its regular meeting held on _____ .