



City of Rochester Hills  
AGENDA SUMMARY  
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS

1000 Rochester Hills Dr.  
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Legislative File No: 2024-0289 V2

**TO:** Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Sara Roediger, Planning and Economic Development Director, ext. 2573  
Ken Elwert, Parks & Natural Resources Director, ext. 2552

**DATE:** July 3, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance for Second Reading – An Ordinance to amend Chapter 126, Natural Resources, Article III Tree Conservation, Sections 126-327, 126-362 and 126-369 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan.

**REQUEST:**

Accept for Second Reading of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 126, Natural Resources, Article III Tree Conservation, Section 126-327 Land Developments, Section 126-362 Decision to approve or deny and Section 126-369 Issuance, Appeal of Denial to allow City staff the ability to work with property owners on the removal of trees required by an approved work plan for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Restoration and Remediation Grant.

**BACKGROUND:**

City staff and consultants have been working over the past several months to review and approve applications for assessments for properties within the EGLE Restoration and Remediation Grant areas. Because of the time restrictions affiliated with the grant, the administration is looking to streamline and simplify the tree removal permit process as they apply to these properties. It is likely that most projects will require tree removal as part of the proposed work plans for assessment and remediation. In order to accomplish the goal of the grant to provide substantive environmental improvements, trees that are in contaminated areas must be removed. The City's requirement for a 40% minimum preservation may not be able to be accomplished in these instances. As such, City staff is requesting that the Director of Parks and Natural Resources be given the ability to reduce the minimum percentage that needs to be preserved, while still promoting the intent of the Ordinance. In reviewing requests to remove more than 40% of the regulated trees, City staff will work with ASTI to ensure that all trees proposed for removal are the minimum necessary to accomplish the goals of the grant.

In addition, because these trees will be required to be removed as part of the clean up of the property, we are requesting that the ability to appeal this decision be waived as it will add unnecessary additional time to the process. Please note that a tree survey, tree removal permit, and tree replacements will all still be required for these properties, it is only the minimum percentage and appeal of that percentage be modified.

The City Council, at their June 24, 2024 meeting, approved (6-1 vote) the first reading of the proposed amendment.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that City Council accepts for Second Reading of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 126, Natural Resources, Article III Tree Conservation, Sections 126-327, 126-362 and Section 126-369 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan.

APPROVALS:	SIGNATURE	DATE
Department Review		
Department Director		
Mayor		
Deputy Clerk		

Contract Reviewed by City Attorney       Yes       N/A