

2024-0042 Natural Features Inventory

Ms. Roediger noted that the City has been working with ASTI Environmental in updating the locations of the various natural features in the city. She mentioned that the update has been in process for two years and was last done in 2005. She noted that there is no set time in which to undertake the update, and the City wants to ensure that developments are using the features as they should be. She explained that ASTI walked the entire community and came up with three different levels of natural features. Most were of base quality. She explained that in ranking the wetlands, they looked at the size of the natural feature, the core area, and landscape connectivity. She stated that the wetland acres are relatively stable, and essentially are the same or a little be more that the previous study yielded, and woodland coverage is about the same.

Mr. McLeod noted that wetlands and woodlands are a part of the natural features. He explained that as a part of the process, the public will get noticed to any change to the recorded wetland boundaries noted in the survey. He stated that the wetlands touch about 3,600 properties but there will also be some new areas. He noted that an interactive map will show wetlands being removed and added.

Ms. Munglioli asked if the map was currently live.

Mr. McLeod responded that it will be ready when the notices will be sent out.

Ms. Roediger noted that this inventory is not intended to replace a professional wetland delineation.

Mr. McLeod stated that this is an indicator but still a wetland determination would have to be done on individual properties for development. He noted that this item will be targeted for the second meeting in March.

Ms. Munglioli asked if this includes private land, park space, and storm drains.

Mr. McLeod confirmed that this includes any property within the city.

Mr. Hetrick commented that this is terrific. He stated that he would hear consistently that Rochester Hills is being overdeveloped, even though this development has not disrupted the natural features.

Mr. McLeod noted that the City's Ordinance protects its natural features.

Discussed