



PARKS & FORESTRY  
Mike Hartner, Director

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From: Gerald Lee, Forestry Operations Manager  
To: Mike Hartner, Director  
Date: January 13, 2012  
Re: Pathway Ordinances, Amendments, Executive Summary

As of January 2012 there are about 89 miles of existing pathway, 35 miles of proposed pathway and about 149 miles of sidewalk in Rochester Hills. Based upon our ordinances as they exist, it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain their private vegetation from obstructing proper use of these public walkways. Ordinance Enforcement Officers identify locations where woody vegetation is obstructing or creating a safety issue with proper use of the pathways. They notify the appropriate property owners to complete the necessary work within a reasonable length of time. If they are unsuccessful in achieving adequate compliance, a work order is sent to Forestry to complete the work, and the property owner is billed for the reasonable cost of the work.

Staff recognized that the pertinent ordinances were not entirely consistent with each other, or with some of our actual practices. The purpose of the amendments is to have the ordinances be consistent with each other and more effective at addressing and correcting problems, but not placing unnecessary burdens upon property owners.

These amendments will benefit the community by reducing unnecessary regulation and focusing it where it is needed.

These ordinances are of significant importance to the safety of the users of our pathway and sidewalk system as they are affected by the way these ordinances are written and implemented.

The impact of the ordinance changes will be to ease or eliminate unnecessary regulation and to more clearly identify those regulations that are necessary to keep our streets/pathways/sidewalks safe and user friendly for the purposes they were intended.