



**City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
FINANCIAL ITEMS**

**1000 Rochester Hills Dr.
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Legislative File No: 2009-0247

TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Michael Hartner, Director of Parks & Forestry
DATE: June 15, 2009
SUBJECT: Grant Application and Matching Funds

REQUEST:

We are requesting that the Rochester Hills city Council approve a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for \$510,000 for the purchase of approximately 39.31 acres at the southeast corner of Sheldon and Mead and approve matching funds of \$510,000 (50% of total cost) from the Green Space & Natural Features Fund.

REASON FOR PURCHASE:

The residents of Rochester Hills passed the Green Space and Natural Features Millage in 2005 for the purpose of preserving green space in the city. The Green Space Advisory Board was created to develop the criteria for open space acquisition and to evaluate property based on this criteria, site visits, greenway connectivity, and how it fit into Oakland county's Spoke & Hub Strategy. The GSAB has recommended to City Council that the parcel at Sheldon and Mead (15-02-200-015) meets their criteria for green space acquisition and should be considered for purchase.

In order to leverage the funds made available through the millage, we are seeking \$510,000 through a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to cover 50% of the total purchase cost of these parcels by using \$510,000 from the Green Space & Natural Features Fund (299.971000) as matching funds for this grant. Should the grant be awarded, two property appraisals would be required to determine the grant amount. The current owners of this property, Elro Corporation, are willing to wait for the grant determination.

PROCESS:

Reason for Selection:

The GSAB has determined that this parcel of vacant land totaling approximately 39.31 acres has been highly ranked based on their criteria; its accessibility from Sheldon, Mead and the Cross Creek subdivision; its content of woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat; and its fit into the Oakland County's Spoke & Hub Strategy. If approved, we are requesting that the Green Space & Natural Features Fund (299.971000) be committed to earmark \$510,000 toward the purchase of this property.

Method of Purchase:

This would be a fee-simple purchase based on two property appraisals from state-approved appraisers.

BUDGET:

Funding is available from the Green Space and Natural Features Millage for the grant match being requested.

Fund Name	Department Account No	Account No. Description	Budget Amount	Cost	Remaining Budget
Green Space & Natural Features Fund	299.971000	Land		\$510,000.00	

RECOMMENDATION:

The Green Space Advisory Board and the Parks & Forestry Department are requesting that City Council approve the application for a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to help cover up to \$1,020,000 of property acquisition expenses and approve 50% matching funds of \$510,000 from the Green Space & Natural Features Fund to be used for the purchase of approximately 39.31 acres of the undeveloped property at Sheldon and Mead.

APPROVALS:	SIGNATURE	DATE
Department Review		
Department Director		
Budget Content: Finance Director		
Purchasing Process: Supervisor of Procurement		
Mayor		
City Council Liaison		