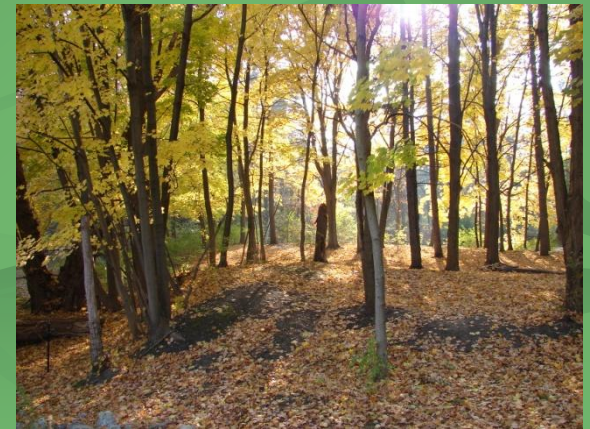


# GSAB

## City of Rochester Hills Green Space Advisory Board Recommendation Report - November 9, 2009 -



# **GSAB Charter & Assignment**

## **GSAB Charter – 2005 – City Council Resolution**

**“Be it Resolved that upon passage of the Millage Proposal to Provide Funding to Permanently Preserve Green Spaces and Natural Features within the City of Rochester Hills the Rochester Hills City Council will establish an Open Space Advisory Board for the purpose of planning and developing strategies, recommending acquisitions and maintaining the green space funded through this millage.”**

### **2009 Citizen Representatives**

**Linda Raschke**

**Tim Gauthier**

**Lorraine McGoldrick**

**Bill Windscheif**

**Laura Douglas**

**Dahlvin Peterson**

**Paul Funk**

**Jerry Carvey**

**Lynn Loeb**

### **Youth Representatives**

**Michelle Thorpe**

**Aly Difilippo**

**Sresht Rengesh**

### **Staff Members**

**Mike Hartner**

**Kurt Dawson**

**Roger Moore**

**Ravi Yalamanchi (Council Rep)**

# GSAB Property Evaluation Criteria

## GREENSPACE / NATURAL FEATURES CRITERIA

### WATER RESOURCES

- rivers, streams, ponds, and lakes
- wetlands
- floodplains

### HABITAT PROTECTION

- wildlife habitat
- woodlands

### RECREATIONAL / HISTORICAL RESOURCES

- Clinton River greenway corridor
- other streams and trail corridors
- adjacency / connectivity
- scenic views
- passive recreation
- historical / cultural
- community planning

### OTHER FACTORS

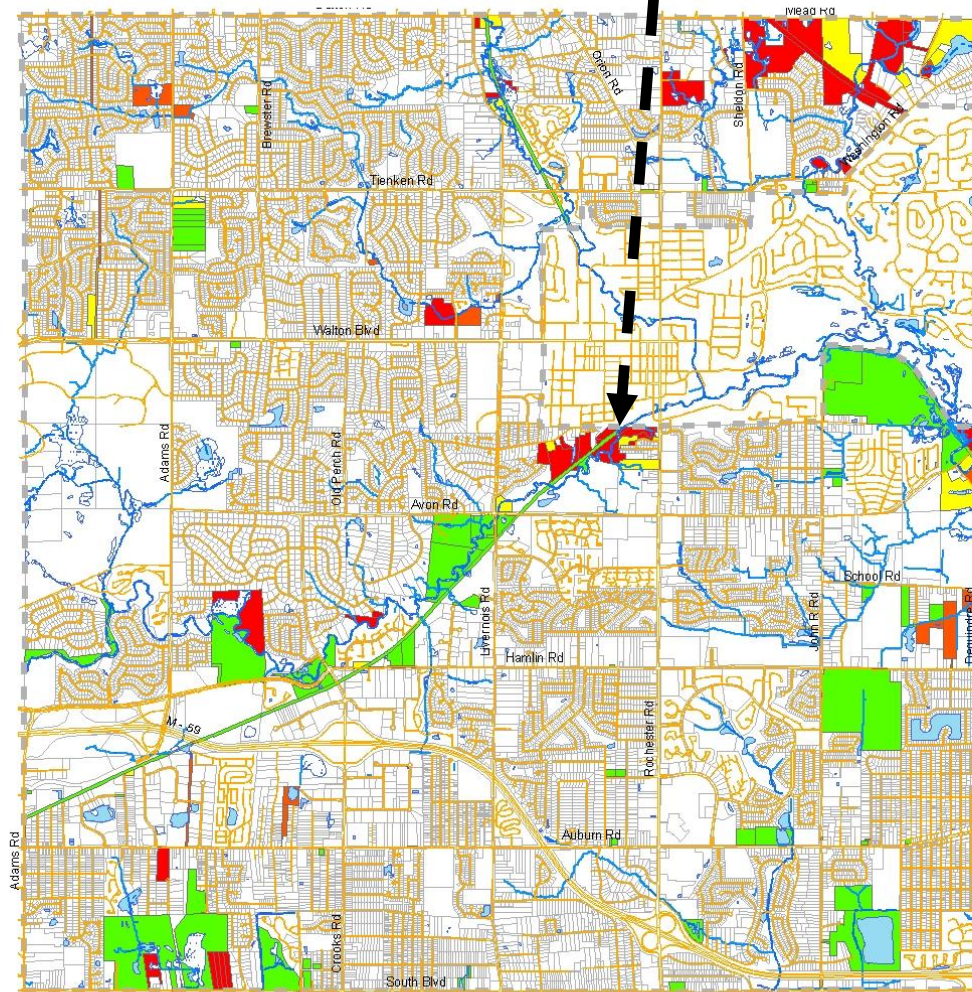
- other unique factors
- market value considerations
- development risk
- steep slopes
- size of property

### ADVERSE FACTORS

- Environmental hazards
- higher than "market value" costs
- any unique detractors

**Since the last GSAB Property Recommendation,  
June 2009:**

- Monthly GSAB committee meetings
- Open meetings with regular citizen input
- Work Plan and Sub-Committees in place
- Youth Members integrated into the GSAB process
- Developed and submitted a Kodak Foundation grant application to fund green space stewardship
- Supported the city's grant application from the MNRTF for acquisition of the previously nominated Clear Creek parcel
- Received a new nomination for two parcels; Clinton River valley parcels 1 and 2
- Reviewed Natural Features Inventory data, conducted site visits, evaluated and scored these parcels
- GSAB is now recommending the city pursue acquisition of Clinton River valley parcel 2



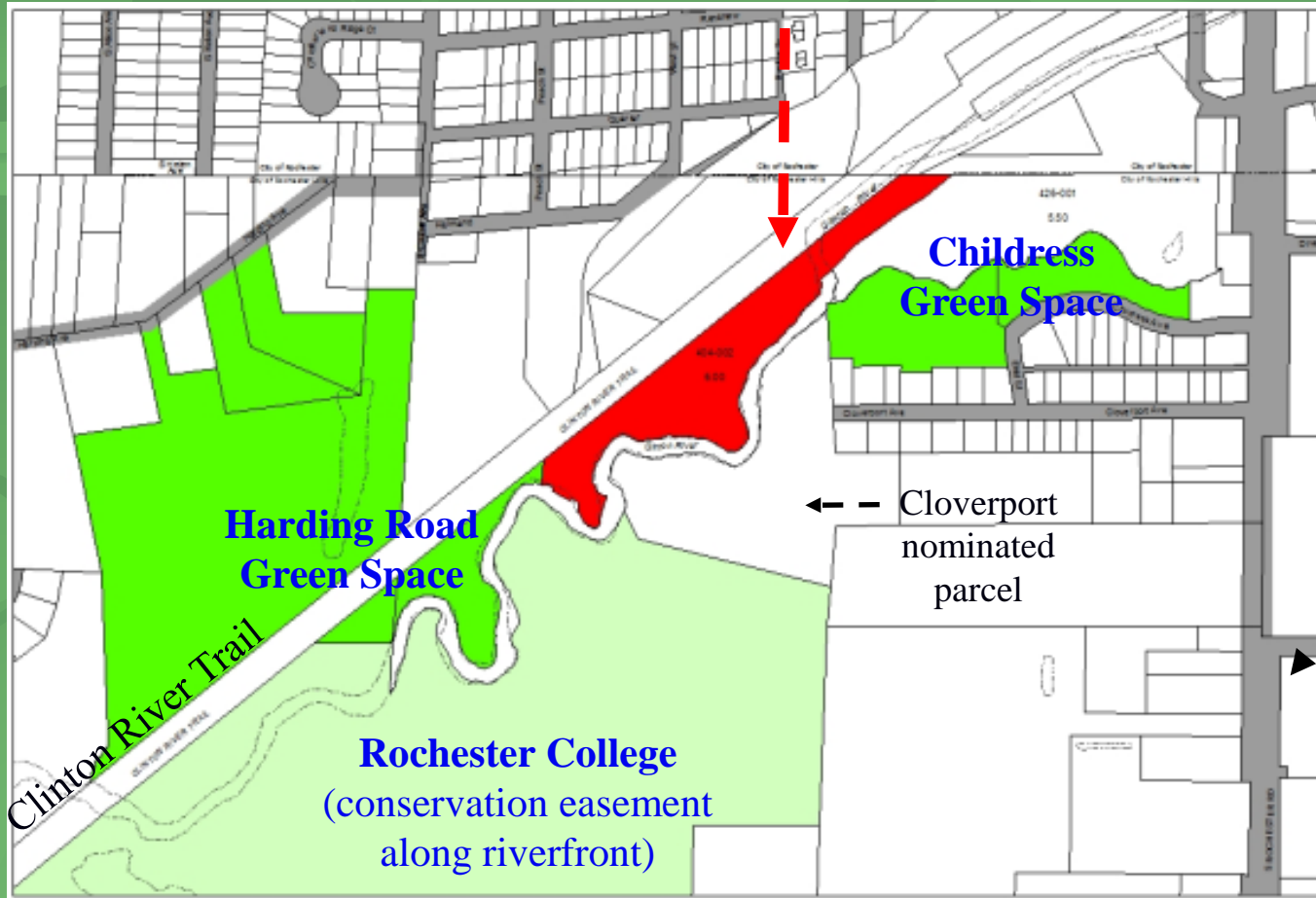
### Natural Features Inventory Priority 1, 2 & 3 Green Space Areas

#### Legend

- Wildlife Habitat Priority 1 (Vacant Parcel)
- Wildlife Habitat Priority 2 (Vacant Parcel)
- Wildlife Habitat Priority 3 (Vacant Parcel)
- Land Value Greater Than 50% of Total Value
- City Owned Or Protected



## Clinton River valley parcel 2



City of Rochester

Rochester Hills

Rochester Road

← - Cloverport nominated parcel

## Clinton River valley parcel 2

A narrow strip of 6 wooded acres in between the Clinton River and the Clinton River Trail, also between the Harding Road and Childress green spaces.

- GSAB conducted a on-site tours in September and observed:
  - Access to the river and the trail
  - 'Wildlife Habitat Priority 1' in the Natural Features Inventory
  - Wetlands (100%)
  - Woodlands (84%)
  - Passive recreation opportunities
  - Good fit with Oakland County Green Infrastructure vision
  - Parcel is in an area of the city with relatively few public green spaces

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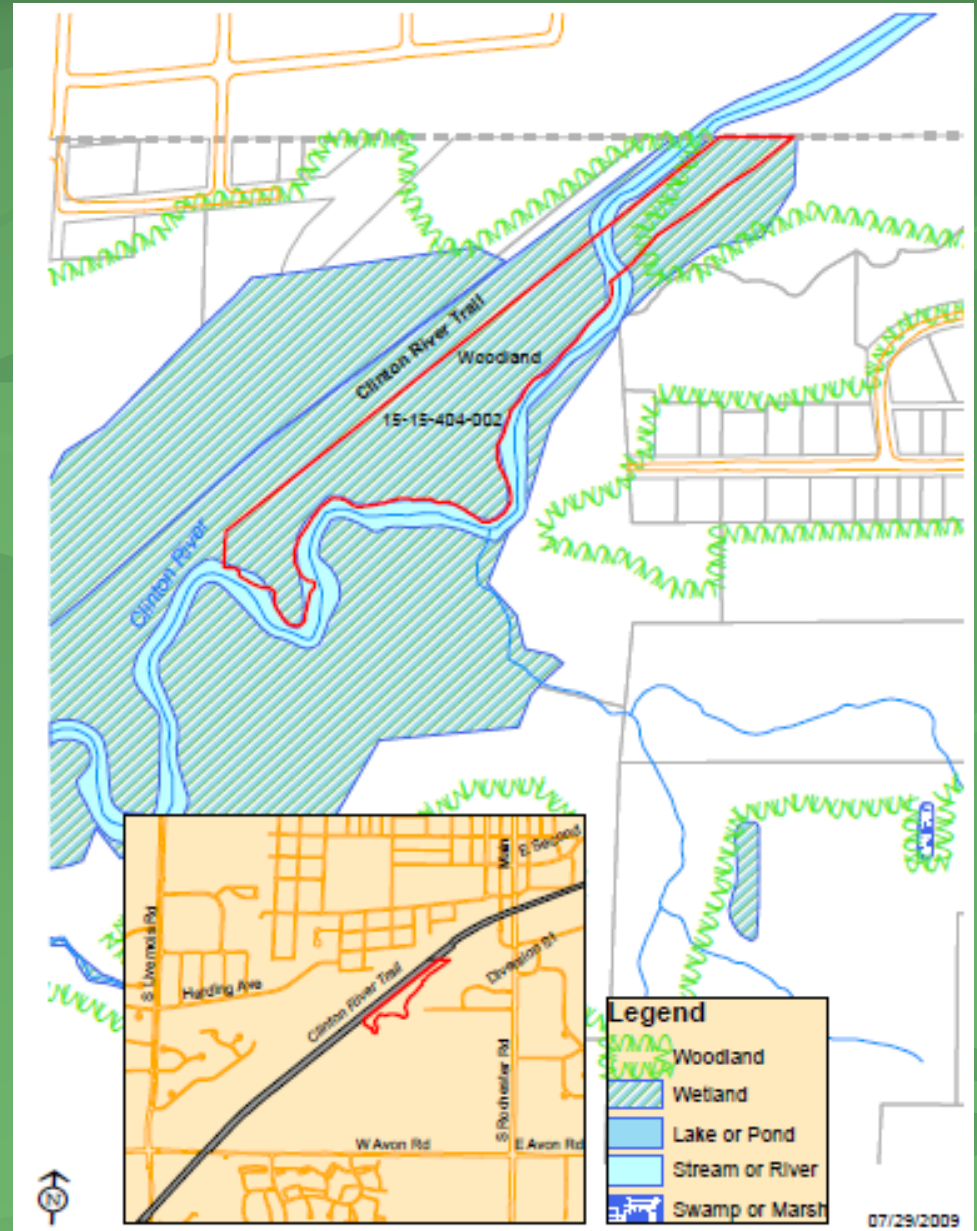
## Natural scenic area along the trail





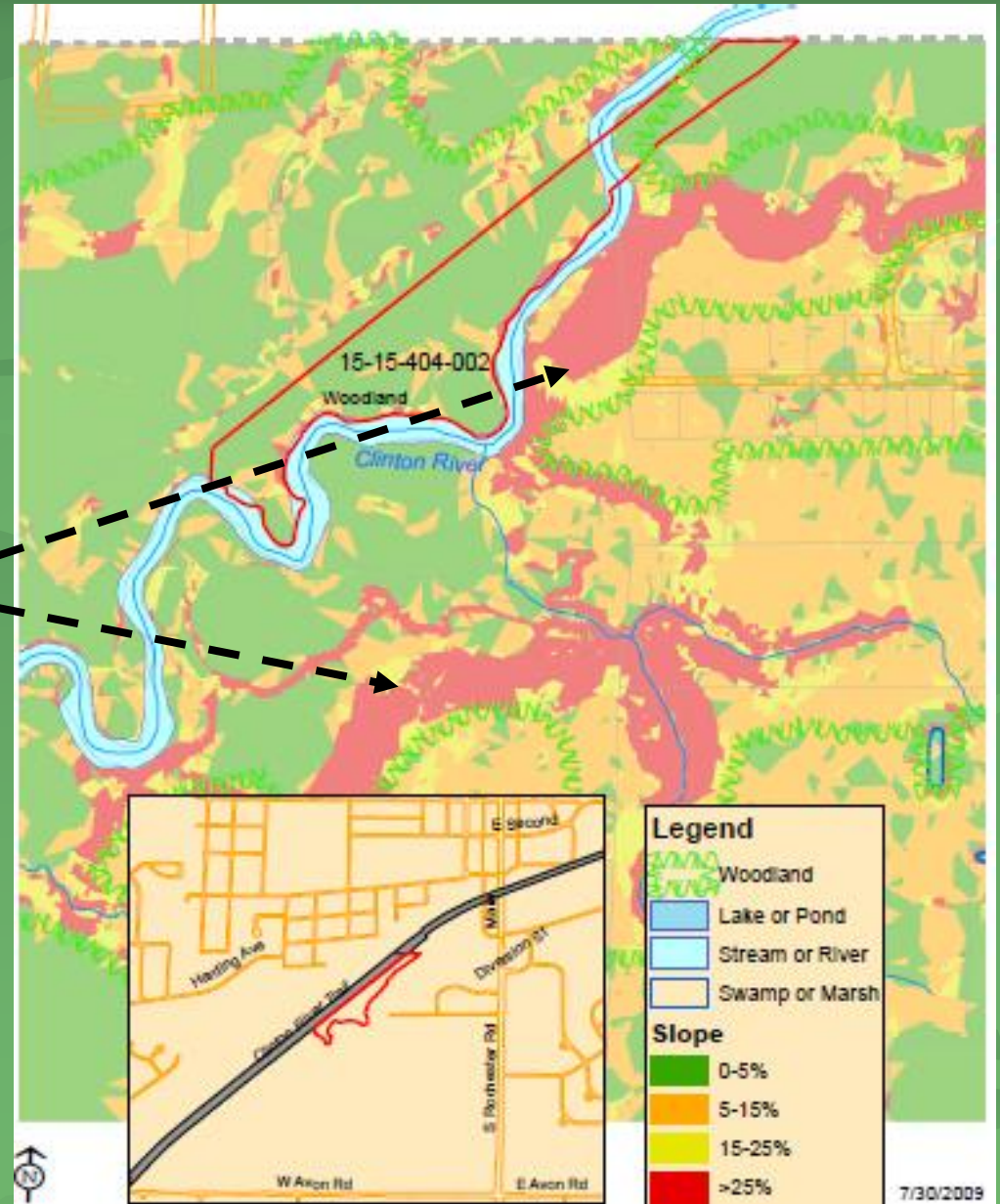
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## Wetlands in between the trail and the river



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Parcel allows  
for views of  
high bluffs  
that are on the  
south side of  
the Clinton  
River



### Strengths of this site:

- ❖ Contributes to the 'feel' of a natural setting on this part of the trail
- ❖ Provides connectivity between the trail and the river
- ❖ Builds on a green space corridor through the middle of the city
- ❖ Close proximity to Harding road and Childress green space parcels

**Why should this parcel be acquired when it is unlikely that it will ever be developed?**

### **Benefits of public ownership include:**

- ❖ Legal access to the property and to the river
- ❖ Ability to protect the property from inappropriate uses
- ❖ Ability to protect the property from environmental threats
- ❖ The opportunity to promote Rochester Hills to visitors as a community that values green space through signage on trail

And ... this parcel is likely to be less expensive than other sites with river and trail access that might be developable.

# **GSAB Recommendation**

**GSAB has reached a consensus decision to recommend Clinton River valley parcel 2 for acquisition under the Green Space Millage**

**This property meets the intent of the Green Space Millage approved by voters**

- ❖ **Protection of water resources, habitat protection, woodlands, recreational value and natural features**
- ❖ **A Clinton River Greenway Corridor**
- ❖ **Connectivity with other resources**

# GSAB

## City Council Questions & Discussion

