



Natural Features Inventory & Wetlands Inventory Map

City of Rochester Hills City Council

March 18, 2024

Natural Features Inventory Update

- Inventory Completed in 2022
 - Field Survey
 - Sources Referenced: Oakland County Conservation District, Oakland County Water Resources Commission, SEMCOG, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Michigan Geographic Information Library, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Review and Document Production
- Public Review and Acceptance
 - Natural Features Inventory
 - Wetlands Inventory Map – Ordinance requires public notice

Natural Features Ordinances

- Tree Conservation Ordinance (Article III of Chapter 126 of City Ordinance)
- Wetland and Watercourse Protection Ordinance (Article IV of Chapter 126 of City Ordinance)
- Natural Features Setback Ordinance within the City's Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 1, Natural Features of Chapter 138 Zoning of City Ordinance)
- Steep Slopes ordinance within the City's Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 2, Article 9 Natural Features of Chapter 138 Zoning of City Ordinance)
- Floodplain Regulations (Chapter 114 (Floods) of City Ordinance)

Wetlands Inventory Map

- Notices sent to each recorded owner of property on the City's property tax roll.
- Notices were sent out with recent tax statements – Notices were sent to approximately 3,500 properties
 - Stating the map has been created/amended
 - Where the map may be reviewed
 - That the owners property may be designated as a wetland
 - That the City has code sections regulating wetlands
 - Newspaper notice
- **Key Note: A wetland inventory map does not create any legally enforceable presumptions regarding whether property that is or is not included on the inventory map is or is not in fact a wetland – A site specific determination must be conducted.**

Natural Features Inventory Scoring Matrix

Table 1 – Rochester Hills Natural Features Inventory Scoring Matrix

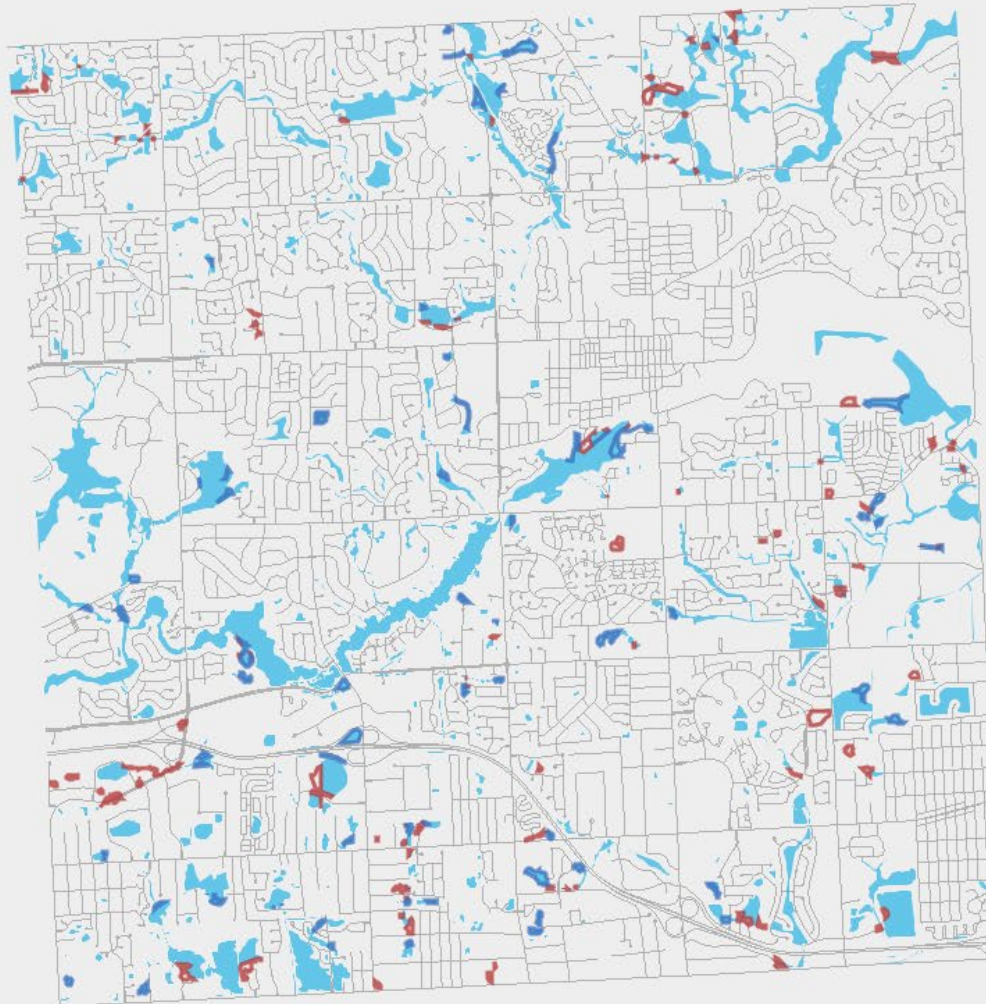
<i>Attributes</i>	<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Factor</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Size of Natural Area</i>	Total size of area.	0-20 acres	1	
	Larger contiguous areas provide greater potential for higher quality and higher functioning ecosystems.	20-40 acres	2	
		40-80 acres	3	
		>80 acres	4	
<i>Core Area Size</i>	Core Area = total natural area size minus 300 ft buffer from the edge of the natural area polygon.	0-6 acres	1	
		6-12 acres	2	
	The greater the core area the fewer negative impacts on edge sensitive fauna.	12-23 acres	3	
		>23 acres	4	
<i>Riparian Corridor</i> (Present or Not)	Riparian corridors provide extended connections between habitats for a variety of flora and fauna.	None	0	
		Present	2	
	The Clinton River, River Rouge, Sargent Creek, and Paint Creek are important regional watercourses.	Present and Clinton River, Sargent Creek, River Rouge, or Paint Creek	3	
<i>Landscape Connectivity</i>	within 1/8 mile radius as a percentage	0-10%	0	
		10%-20%	1	
		20%-40%	2	
		>40%	4	

Natural Features Inventory Scoring Matrix

Attributes	Rationale	Factor	Score	Total	
Wetlands Percentage/Acreage/Quality Wetlands provide important natural functions for water quality enhancement, wildlife habitat, sensitive species habitat, flood control, storm water control, etc.	Considers the calculated amount of wetland within a natural area as a percentage.	0-15%	1		
		15-30%	2		
		30-50%	3		
		>50%	5		
	Considers the calculated amount of wetland within a natural area as acreage	>0-5 acres	1		
		5-30 acres	2		
		30-50 acres	3		
		>50 acres	5		
	Considers the quality of the wetland per field verification including invasive species composition, sedimentation, native species compositions, etc.	Base Quality	1		
		Medium Quality	3		
		High Quality	5		
	Woodlands Percentage/Acreage/Quality	Considers the calculated amount of woodland within a natural area as percentage.	0-5%	1	
			10-25%	2	
			25-50%	3	
>50%			5		
Considers the calculated amount of woodland within a natural area as acreage		>0-10 acres	1		
		10-25 acres	2		
		25-50 acres	3		
		>50 acres	5		
Considers the quality of a woodland per field verification including invasive species composition, tree size, native species composition, etc.		Base Quality	1		
		Medium Quality	3		
		High Quality	5		
TOTAL		Highest Possible Score = 45			



Find address or place



Legend

Wetland Added



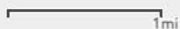
Wetland Removed



Draft Final Wetland Area

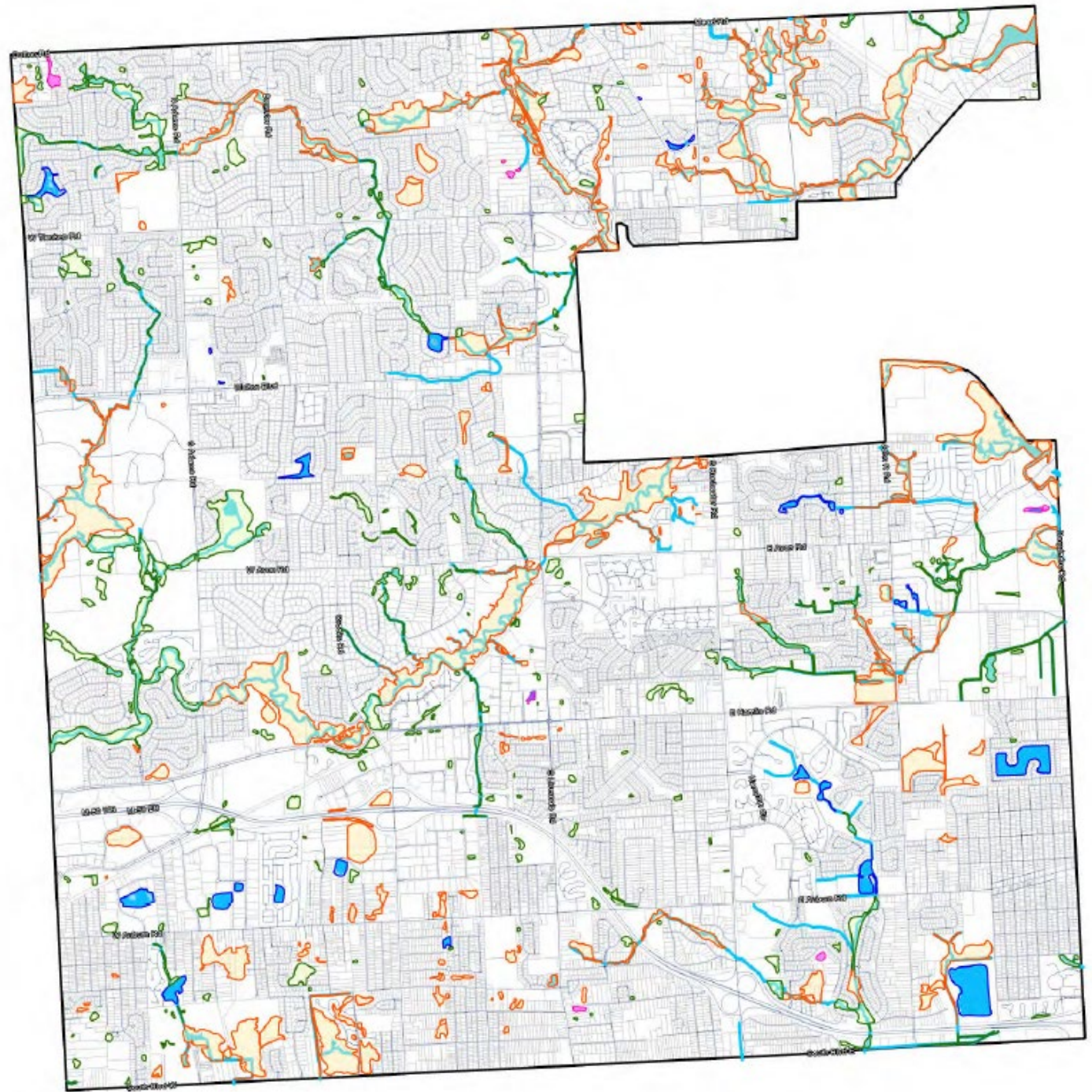


Interactive City GIS Wetlands Map



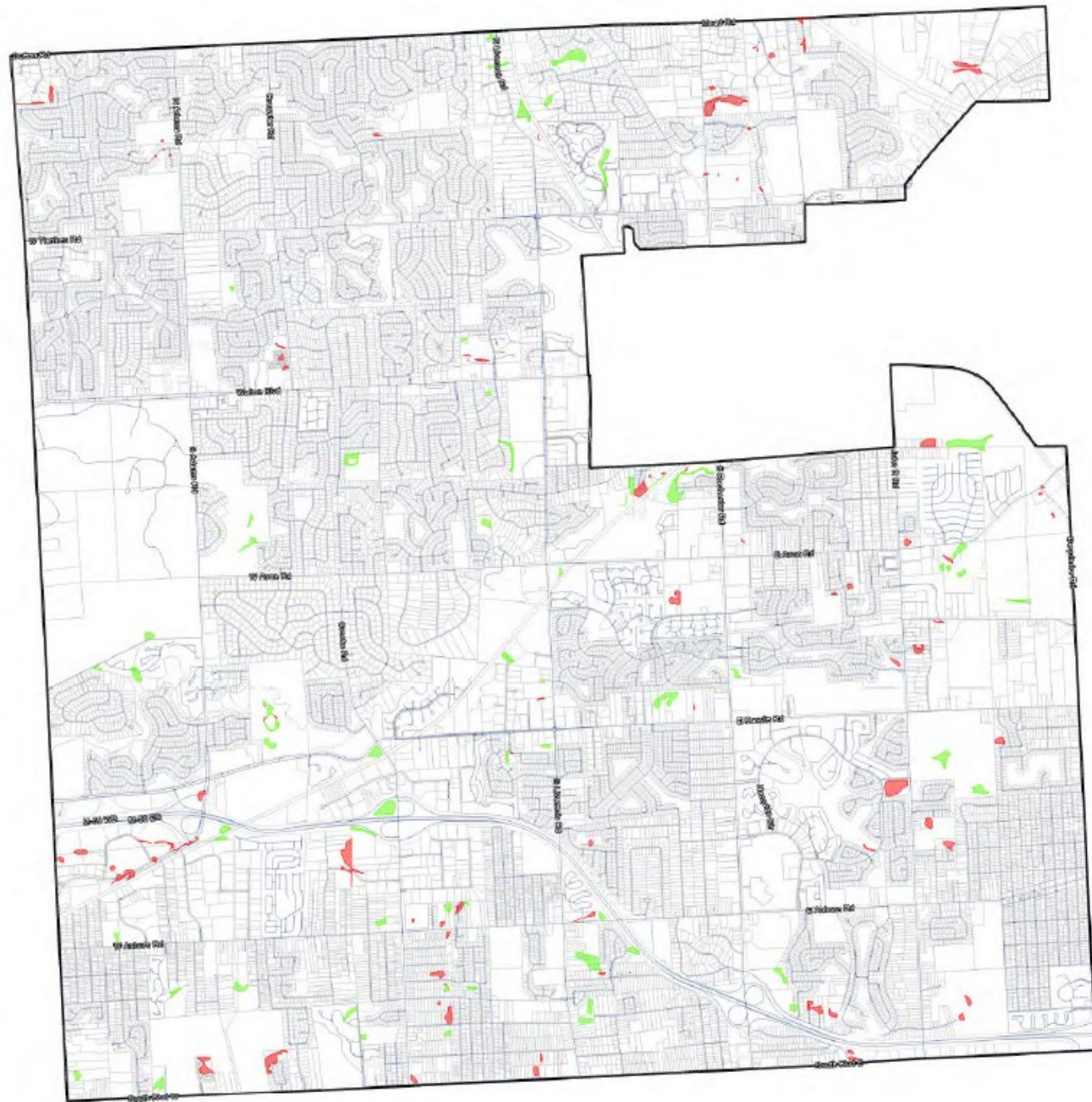
Wetlands Inventory Map

City Land Use Area = Wetland 9%
Change 2005-2022 = +46 acres



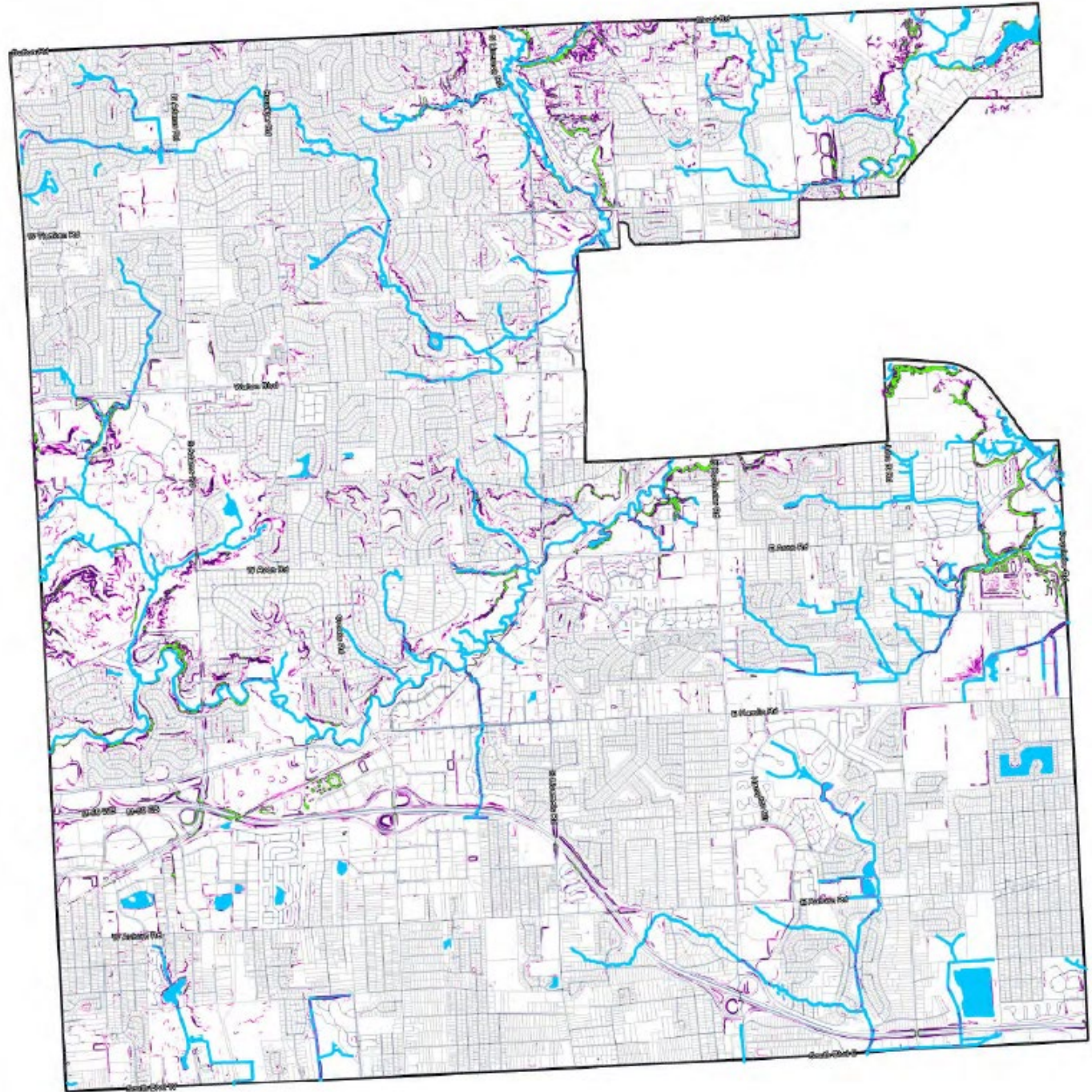
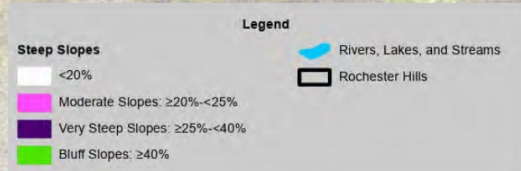
Wetland Changes Map 2005-2022

- Change 2005-2022 = +46 acres



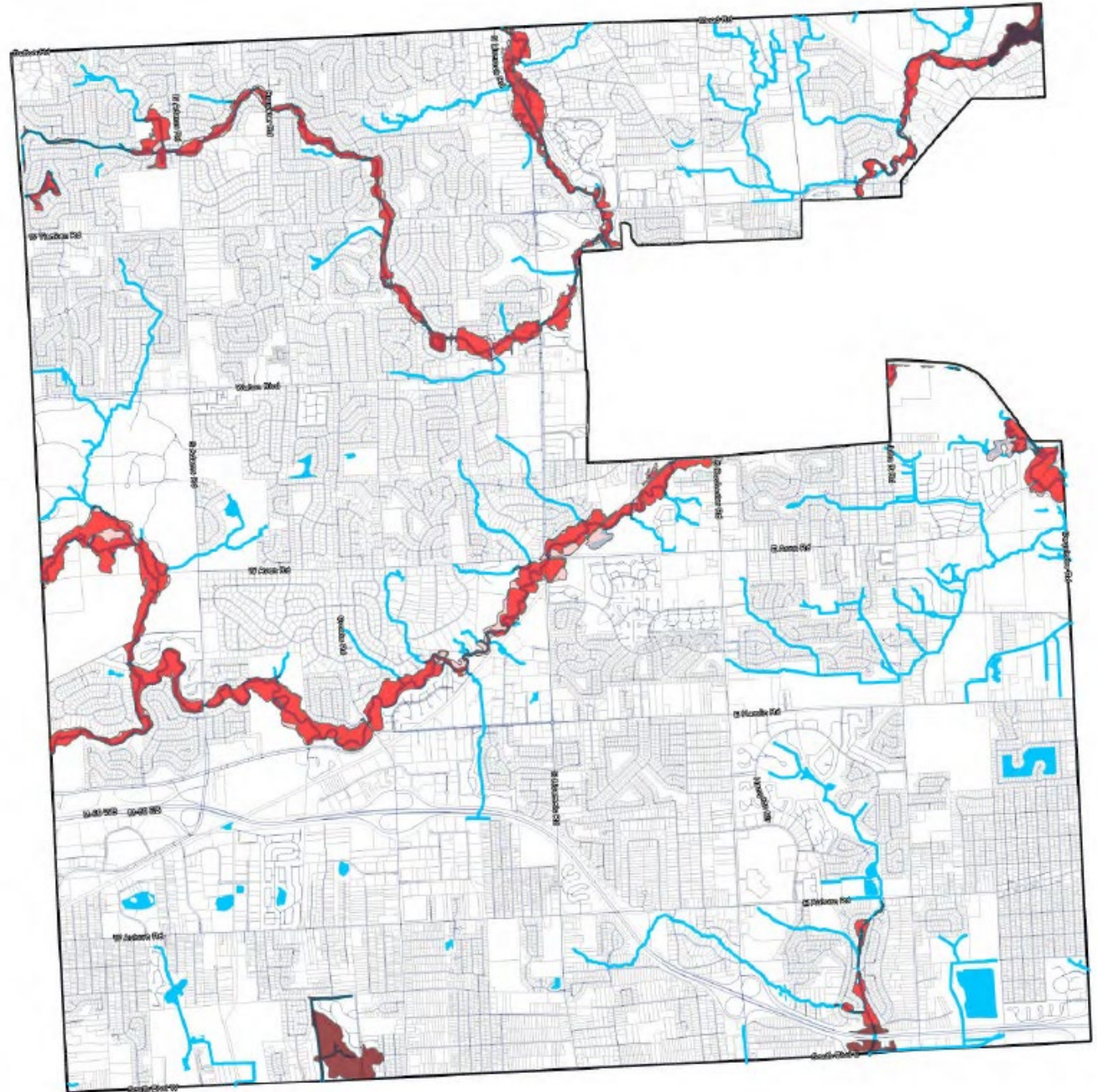
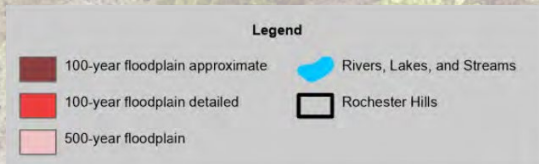
Steep Slopes Map

- Unchanged



Floodplain Map

- Unchanged



Prioritized Natural Features Areas Map

- The River Rouge Corridor
- Spencer Park
- Clinton River Corridor, Sargent Creek/Paint Creek Corridor, Stoney Creek Corridor, Bloomer Park

