

MANAGEMENT PLAN
July 10, 2008

Rivercrest Property

Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan



Summary

The Rivercrest Green Space Property is located at the northwest corner of Avon Road and Livernois Road in Rochester Hills, Michigan. This approximately 2 acre parcel as donated to the City of Rochester Hills as a part of their open space initiative. The parcel contains a stretch of the Clinton River and associated wetlands. The City of Rochester Hills Green Space Advisory Board (GSAB) was established by the City Council on October 19, 2005 for the purpose of developing strategies and recommendations to City Council regarding the expenditure of millage funds to permanently preserve natural green spaces, wildlife habitats and scenic views; protect woodlands, wetlands, rivers and streams; and expand the Clinton River Greenway and other trail corridors. This Management Plan consists of 13 pages and includes a Table of Contents, management recommendations, a timeline for these recommendations, and a site map.

Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy

P.O. Box 80902

Rochester, Michigan 48308

(248) 601-2816

www.sixriversrlc.org

Table of Contents

Section I. Management Agreement	3
Section II. Property Description.....	4
Location	4
Access	4
Section III. Management Units.....	5
Identification of Management Units	5
Overall Goals	5
Section IIIA. Management Unit I: Name of Unit.....	6
Description of Management Unit.....	6
Conservation Goals	6
Stresses and Management Strategies	6
Section IV. Management Actions and Timeline.....	7
Communication Plan.....	8
Spring Stewardship Plan.....	8
Summer Stewardship Plan	8
Fall Stewardship Plan	8
Winter Stewardship Plan.....	8
Section V. List of Stakeholders	9
Landowner	9
Conservation Easement Holder.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Volunteer Steward	9
Other	9
Adjacent Landowners	9
Section VI. References	10
Appendix 1. Maps	11

SECTION I. MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Agreement

By:	OWNER	By:	CONSERVANCY
	_____		_____
	Owner Name		Donna Folland
	Owner Title		Executive Director
	Owner Organization		Oakland Land Conservancy
Date:	_____	Date:	_____

SECTION II. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Location

The property is located in Rochester Hills, Michigan and comprises a short length of the Clinton River. Avon Road to the south, Livernois Road border the property to the west, and XX to the north.

Access

Access is possible from the Rivercrest Hall on Avon Road, and from two foot paths along Livernois Road.

City Property restrictions and allowed uses

Need this information from the City of Rochester Hills.

SECTION III. MANAGEMENT UNITS

Identification of Management Units

The property is approximately 2 acres of historically mixed hardwood swamp and black ash swamp. Today, the site is a degraded floodplain forest, with remnants of the mixed hardwood swamp still visible in the northwest portions that border the subdivision open space. Also present today is a small area of dry uplands, a perfect opportunity for prairie or grassland plantings. The restoration potential at Rivercrest Green Space is a little dubious, though the site could become a well functioning wooded wetland, floodplain forest, and have a very nice upland/grassland component close to the intersection of Avon and Livernois Roads.

The site is divided into two Management Units, (1) the floodplain of the Clinton River including the remnant hardwood swamp, and (2) the uplands of the site close to roads.

- Management Unit 1: Clinton River and Floodplain Forest
- Management Unit 2: Uplands

Overall Goals

The Rochester Hills Green Space Advisory Board has expressed interest in increasing their stewardship capacity for lands conserved under the city millage adopted in 2005 for the preservation of valuable open and green space within city limits. On the Rivercrest Green Space Property, stewardship and restoration goals include invasive plant removal, community involvement in caring for open space, and increasing the functionality of the wetlands and forest along the Clinton River. Care should be taken with respect to aesthetics as this parcel is very close to main thoroughfares in the City, and people should be encouraged to enjoy the scenic value of conserved open space in Rochester Hills.

- Eliminate invasive plant populations on the site
- Increase adjacent landowner and city resident knowledge of open space, invasive species, and stewardship
- Maintain the health and quality of the Clinton River
- Increase public involvement and awareness of the Rochester Hills Open Space and encourage volunteerism on properties

SECTION IIIA. MANAGEMENT UNIT I: CLINTON RIVER AND FLOODPLAIN FOREST

Description of Management Unit

The Clinton River flows directly through the parcel, creating floodplain and wetland on both the east and west sides of the river. The pre-European settlement composition of this Management Unit is mixed hardwood swamp and a small portion of black ash swamp. This mixed hardwood swamp has now become what is generally called a floodplain forest, and is dominated by invasive shrubs and cattails. The disturbance caused by development, building and improvement of infrastructure is the most likely culprit for this degradation of the site.

Conservation Goals

- Control and eliminate invasive plant populations within floodplain and wetlands
- Monitor and work with Watershed Council to maintain and increase water quality in the wetlands and the Clinton River

Stresses and Management Strategies

Stress 1: Invasive plant populations

- Map and identify invasive plant populations
- Begin control efforts of both herbaceous and woody invasives through working with consultants
- Hold volunteer workdays for invasive control

Stress 2: Soil erosion control

- Monitor effects of the cement bank stabilization
- Monitor areas of possible erosion – roadside and north end near subdivision

Stress 3: Deer herbivory

- Consult with biologists to observe any herbivory
- Monitor effects of herbivory
- Community outreach regarding overpopulation of deer in City limits

SECTION IIIB. MANAGEMENT UNIT II: UPLANDS

Description of Management Unit

This Management Unit is quite small, but necessary because the uplands will be addressed differently than the River and floodplain. The pre-European settlement composition of this Management Unit is also mixed hardwood swamp. The small area of higher ground, most likely created when roads, houses, etc. were built, present the opportunity to create a restoration demonstration area close to Avon and Livernois Roads.

Conservation Goals

- Control and eliminate invasive plant populations in the small upland unit
- Plant and maintain a grassland and prairie area for wildlife and aesthetic values

Stresses and Management Strategies

Stress 1: Invasive plant populations

- Map and identify invasive plant populations
- Begin control efforts of both herbaceous and woody invasives through working with consultants
- Hold volunteer workdays for invasive control

Stress 2: Soil erosion control along roadside

- Monitor erosion potential along roadside and near the river drainage

SECTION IV. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND TIMELINE

Communication Plan

<i>Management Action</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Work with Clinton River Watershed Council – erosion, water quality	City of Rochester Hills
Contract and communicate with consultants for invasive control	City of Rochester Hills
Conduct outreach and advertisement for volunteer workdays or hikes	City/GSAB

Spring Stewardship Plan

<i>Management Action</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Mapping and estimating extent of invasive plant populations	Consultant/GSAB
Herbaceous invasive control – hand removal or chemical	Consultant/Volunteers
Water quality testing	CRWC/Volunteers/GSAB
Site visits/public hikes?	GSAB

Summer Stewardship Plan

<i>Management Action</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Monitor removal techniques	Consultant
Continue removal of herbaceous invasives	Consultant
Removal of certain woody/shrubby invasive plants	Consultant/Volunteers

Fall Stewardship Plan

<i>Management Action</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Woody invasive control	Consultant/Volunteers
Water quality testing	Volunteers/CRWC
Public hikes?	GSAB

Winter Stewardship Plan

<i>Management Action</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Woody invasive control	Consultant
Wetland monitoring/control technique monitoring	Consultant

SECTION V. LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

Landowner

<i>Contact Name:</i>	Green Space Advisory Board – Jerry Carvey		
<i>Title:</i>	Chairperson		
<i>Company:</i>	City of Rochester Hills		
<i>Address:</i>	1000 Rochester Hills Dr.		
	Rochester Hills, MI 48309		
<i>Home Phone:</i>		<i>Bus. Phone:</i>	
<i>Email</i>		<i>Website:</i>	www.rochesterhills.org
<i>Notes:</i>	Jerry: gcarvey@aol.com		

Volunteer Steward

<i>Contact Name:</i>			
<i>Title:</i>			
<i>Company:</i>			
<i>Address:</i>			
<i>Home Phone:</i>		<i>Bus. Phone:</i>	
<i>Email</i>		<i>Website:</i>	
<i>Notes:</i>			

Other

<i>Contact Name:</i>			
<i>Title:</i>			
<i>Company:</i>			
<i>Address:</i>			
<i>Home Phone:</i>		<i>Bus. Phone:</i>	
<i>Email</i>		<i>Website:</i>	
<i>Notes:</i>			

Adjacent Landowners

<i>Name</i>	<i>Street Address</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>Email</i>

SECTION VI. REFERENCES

Interviews

Information for this document was gathered through reports, interviews, discussions, and email correspondence with the following individuals. The information from these interviews has been incorporated into the body of this report.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Names of Participants</i>
June 4, 2008	H. Huffstutler(SRRLC), Jerry Carvey & Paul Funk(GSAB), Melinda Hill (community member)
July 1, 2008	H. Huffstutler & Ryan Guerena (SRRLC), Melinda Hill (community member), Jerry Carvey (GSAB)

Site Visits

Information for this document was gathered during site visits conducted by Oakland Land Conservancy staff members, partners and/or consultants. The information from these site visits have been incorporated into the body of this report. Individual site visit reports on permanently on file at the Conservancy.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Names of Investigators</i>
July 1, 2008	H. Huffstutler & R. Guerena (SRRLC), Jerry Carvey (GSAB), Melinda Hill (community member)

Documents

The following documents were consulted in the preparation of this report. .

Reference 1

Author	City of Rochester Hills
Name of Document	City website
Date	
Location	www.rochesterhill.org

Reference 2

Author	Michigan Natural Features Inventory
Name of Document	Michigan Natural Communities
Date	
Location	www.msu.msue.edu/mnfi

Reference 3

Author	
Name of Document	
Date	
Location	

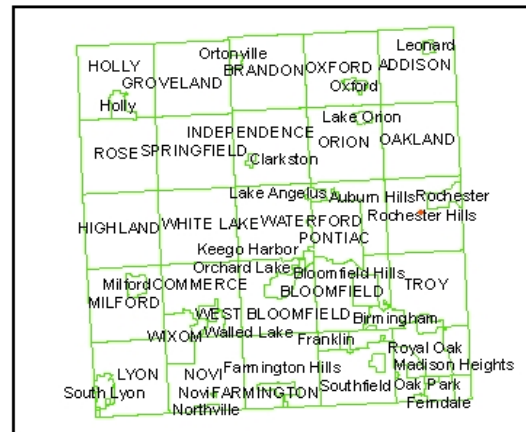
APPENDIX 1. MAPS

Rochester Hills
RiverCrest Property
Parcel ID # 1515352026



Legend

- Hydrology
- MNFI_2004**
- Priority**
- Priority One
- Priority Three
- Priority Two
- OaklandTaxParcels



APPENDIX 2. SPECIES CHECKLISTS