



City of Rochester Hills  
AGENDA SUMMARY  
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS

1000 Rochester Hills Dr.  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
248.656.4630  
[www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org)

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Legislative File No: 2026-0170

**TO:** Mayor and City Council Members  
**FROM:** Ken Elwert, CPRE, Director Parks & Natural Resources  
**DATE:** April 13, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Renaming Harding Green Space

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**REQUEST:**

Request to rename Harding Green Space after Gerald Carvey in recognition of his significant service to the City, and also request a waiver from the City Naming Policy that requires a person to be deceased for 3 years prior to the request.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Mayor's Office received a request from a non-related community member to consider naming a Green Space property after Gerald (Jerry) Carvey. On March 19<sup>th</sup> the City Naming Committee met and voted unanimously to recommend the name change to City Council.

Mr. Carvey was a founding member of the Green Space Advisory Board and served as Chairperson from 2005 until 2016. Jerry played a key role in initiating the citizen ballot proposal that led to the passage of the Green Space millage. The City's Green Space system now consists of eight (8) properties totaling over 140 acres. In addition, the Green Space Trust created from this millage to maintain the system and purchase future properties is currently at \$6.7 million. This fund allows preservation activities and stewardship projects to occur yearly to keep the Green Space properties natural and serving their preservation purpose, as well as be used for potential purchase of property.

In addition, Mr. Carvey has been a Rochester Rotarian for over 55 years, was given the statewide Senior of the Year for Leadership Award from mParks in 2017 for his Green Space work. He was a long time Board Member of the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC), leading to the development by the CRWC in 1998 of a yearly award called the "Jerry Carvey Volunteer Service Award." He also served on City Council at the inception of Rochester Hills (changing from Avon Township) from 1984 to 1991.

My Carvey has been inactive in City government since 2017 and City Administration believes this fulfills the intent of the 3-year naming policy exclusion.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Administration is recommending renaming the Harding Green Space the “Carvey Greenspace” because of his avid conservation support, community involvement, and engagement in City government and also requesting a waiver from the City Naming Policy of the recommended outstanding Individual being deceased for 3 years.

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APPROVALS:	SIGNATURE	DATE
Department Review		
Department Director		
Mayor		
City Clerk		

Contract Reviewed by City Attorney       Yes       N/A