ANN ARBOR PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT

For Planning Commission Meeting of February 5, 2013

SUBJECT: Hideaway Lane Planned Project Site Plan (2000 Traver Road) File No. SP12-025

PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission hereby recommends that the Mayor and City Council approve the Hideaway Lane Planned Project Site Plan and Development Agreement.

PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission hereby authorizes the disturbance of the natural features open space per submitted plans.

PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission hereby recommends that the Mayor and City Council approve the alternative mitigation plan for 295 caliper inches of required tree replacement.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the site plan be **postponed** until all outstanding issues have been addressed, including clarification of natural feature impacts and mitigation requirements and receipt of preliminary approval from the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner.

Staff recommends authorization of the disturbance to the natural features open space be **postponed** until the quantity of the proposed impacts is more precisely determined and minimized as much as possible.

Staff recommends action on the alternative mitigation be **postponed** until the precise quantity of necessary alternative mitigation is determined.

LOCATION

This site is located in the Northeast planning area and the Traver Creek watershed.

STAFF REPORT

The petitioners seek approval to construct 19 single-family dwellings on a 4.6-acre site, zoned R4A Multiple-Family Dwelling District. The site currently contains one single family-dwelling and

nine townhouse dwelling units. In addition to the existing buildings, the site has a central driveway, underground public utilities, and a storm water detention basin on the south side. These were installed as the first phase of another single-family dwelling development of the same name that was not completed and its site plan has since expired (see History section of this report).

Four perpendicular courts of single-family homes, three with three homes and the fourth with four homes, are proposed on the west side of the central driveway. On the east side of the central driveway, the homes are arranged parallel to the drive. The homes on the courts will be arranged for front doors to face one another or, for the homes on the perimeter, onto the side and rear yards of the site. Each home will have a two-car attached garage. Additional parking is available in parallel parking spaces along the central driveway and in the individual driveway aprons. The homes are all two stories and have either two or three bedrooms. They are spaced 10 feet apart. Since the Zoning Ordinance requires a minimum building spacing of 20 feet, planned project modifications have been requested.

The site is bordered along its western property line by Traver Creek. The Ann Arbor Railroad runs along the site's southern property line. At this time, the site's natural features include a watercourse and its 100-year floodplain, as well as wetlands and landmark trees. There is also a 25-foot natural features open space adjacent to Traver Creek. The plan proposes the filling of two small wetland areas that emerged after the construction work stopped on the previous development, and natural features open space encroachment in two places. Encroachment of 5 feet or less is proposed to accommodate unit 10, the most southwestern unit. Encroachment of about 15 feet is proposed to accommodate units 2 and 3. No other disturbances are proposed.

Ultimately, the previous site plan proposed a total of 6,560-square feet of wetland disturbance and 9,884-square feet of wetland mitigation. The approved wetland disturbances were generally located within the buildable area of the site. The mitigation areas were on the east side of the site (labeled as a bioswale on the proposed site plan), southwest of the townhouse building, and flanking a spillway that transports water from the railroad. The petitioner and staff continue to work together to confirm which wetlands were impacted, which wetland mitigation areas were completed and what mitigation remains to be done.

Similarly, the previous site plan identified six landmark trees and a pioneer woodland covering most of the site. The landmark trees were removed and the entire pioneer woodland was removed, except within the 25-foot natural feature open space along Traver Creek, as approved and permitted. A total of 1,646 caliper inches were approved to be removed and a total of 823 caliper inches of tree mitigation was required. Of the 823 caliper inches of tree mitigation, 528 caliper inches of trees were to be planted on site, 149 caliper inches of invasive species were to be removed from the site as one form of alternative mitigation, and a donation of funds to plant 113 caliper inches of trees in City parks as a second form of alternative mitigation. The petitioner and staff also are working together to determine how many trees were planted on site specifically for mitigation, how many still need to be planted, and whether the invasive species have been removed and the funds have been deposited. Further, because of the new housing style and layout of the proposed site plan, it may be necessary to adjust the number of trees planted on site and the alternative mitigation scheme.

A storm water detention basin has been constructed in the southern portion of the site. It has a wetland shelf that is well-vegetated and may have been intended as wetland mitigation. Another wetland mitigation area was created south of the detention basin and is bisected by a

riprap spillway that was constructed to stabilize an erosion problem from a large area on the east side of the railroad that ultimately drains across the tracks and into Traver Creek. A postcard notice was mailed by the petitioner to owners and occupants within 500 feet of the site when the project was submitted in early September 2012.

	LAND USE	ZONING
NORTH	Leslie Park Golf Course	PL Public Land
EAST	Single-family Residential	Township
SOUTH	Ann Arbor Railroad, Truck Rentals (on Plymouth Road)	Township
WEST	Multiple-family Residential	R4A Multiple-family Residential

SURROUNDING LAND USES AND ZONING

		EXISTING	PROPOSED	REQUIRED
Zoning		R4A (Multiple-Family Dwelling District)	R4A	R4A
Gross Lot A	∖rea	199,069 sq ft	199,069 sq ft	21,780 sq ft MIN
Min. Lot Are Dwelling Ur		19,907 sq ft per unit	6,330 sq ft per unit average*	4,300 sq ft MIN*
Min. Usable Space in %		Unknown	66%	65% MIN
Min. Active Space	Open	Unknown	17,700 sq ft	300 sq ft per dwelling unit MIN (9,000 sq ft MIN)
Ŋ	Front	45 ft (existing townhouse bldg)	45 ft (existing)	15 ft MIN 40 ft MAX
Setbacks	Side(s)	42 ft – west 20 ft – east	42 ft – west 20 ft – east	20 ft MIN
0)	Rear	760 ft	250 ft	40 ft MIN
Height		Approx 26 feet	30 ft	35 ft MAX
Parking - Automobiles		Approx 18 spaces	40 garage spaces 30 surface spaces	39 spaces MIN
Parking - Bicycles		Unknown	23 Class A 2 Class C	1 Class A, 1 Class C MIN

COMPARISON CHART

* The applicable minimum lot area per single-family dwelling unit is 7,200 square feet (R1C standards). The applicable minimum lot area per townhouse dwelling unit is 4,300 square feet (R4A standards). The proposed combination of units (21 single family @ 7200 sq ft per unit = 151,200 sq ft plus 9 townhouse @ 4300 sq ft per unit = 38,700 sq ft) requires a total lot area of 189,900 sq ft.

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HISTORY

The majority of the site, 4.3 acres, was site planned as Traver Park, approved in 1965, for six townhouse buildings with a total of 49 units. Only one of the six buildings was constructed. At some point, the remainder of the site was haphazardly littered with construction site spoils and over time, a pioneer woodland emerged among the mounds of dirt, bricks and rubble.

On July 14, 2005, the Hideaway Lane Annexation, Zoning and Planned Project Site Plan petitions were approved. A 0.25-acre parcel adjacent to the original Traver Park site was annexed and zoned R4A and included in a site plan for four duplex units and 18 single-family dwellings, in addition to the existing 9-unit townhouse building. Mass clearing and grading of the site, installation of underground utilities and a central driveway, the storm water detention basin and wetland mitigation areas, and one single family dwelling were constructed shortly thereafter. The curbline of Traver Road was also realigned by the previous developer, removing a cul-de-sac bulb and constructing a sidewalk across the site's frontage. The project stalled due to changed market conditions and eventually stopped altogether.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

This site is located in the Northeast planning area. The site has a specific future land use recommendation (Site 16 in the Northeast Area) for residential uses at a gross density of 8 to 10 dwelling units per acre, preferably including a mix of apartments, duplexes, and townhouses. The <u>Master Plan: Land Use Element</u> also emphasizes the need to develop new neighborhoods with the overall community in mind. Compact and clustered development, front porches, landscaping, a mixture of housing types, natural area protection, pedestrian/bicycle/transit connections, reduced setbacks and street facing entries are some of the specific community design techniques for neighborhoods.

PLANNED PROJECT STANDARDS FOR APPROVAL

According to Section 5:70 of the Zoning Ordinance, the City Planning Commission may recommend approval, and City Council may approve modifications of the area, height and placement regulations of the Zoning Ordinance in the form of a planned project site plan, based upon the following standards (petitioner response in regular type, staff comments in *italics*):

Requested modifications:

• Modification to Section 5:30 – Requires a minimum building spacing of 20 feet. *The petitioner is requesting 10-foot building spacing.*

How these modifications will help achieve the objectives of the development program and the standards for planned project approval: [We request these modifications] to allow development consistent with the previously installed infrastructure as part of the previously approved site plan.

1. The lot(s) included in the planned project meet the minimum gross lot size requirement of the zoning district in which they are located. In residential zoning districts, the minimum gross lot size shall be the combined total of the minimum gross lot sizes for each dwelling on a parcel.

The proposed combination of 21 single-family dwelling units and 9 townhouse units require a gross minimum lot size of 189,900 square feet. The 199,069-square foot site meets this requirement.

- 2. The proposed modifications of zoning requirements must provide one or more of the following:
 - a. Usable open space in excess of the minimum requirement for the zoning district.
 - b. Building or parking setback(s) in excess of the minimum requirement for the zoning district.
 - c. Preservation of natural features that exceeds ordinance requirements, especially for those existing features prioritized in the land development regulations as being of highest and mid-level concern.
 - d. Preservation of historical or architectural features.
 - e. Solar orientation or energy conserving design.
 - f. An arrangement of buildings that provides a public benefit, such as transit access, pedestrian orientation, or a reduced need for infrastructure or impervious surface.
 - g. Affordable housing for lower income households.
 - h. A recorded conservation easement or similar binding instrument providing for permanent open space of 20 percent or more of the planned project.

Proposed modifications provide: a (excess usable open space), c (exceeding natural features preservation), and f (beneficial arrangement of buildings).

Staff agrees the requested modifications will enable the proposed development to provide for (f) an arrangement of buildings that provides pedestrian orientation and a reduced need for infrastructure. Staff believes that the proposed modifications do meet the intent of planned projects, namely the added degree of flexibility in the placement and interrelationship of the buildings within the planned project. When taken as a whole, the proposed modifications provide for a better design than if the standard requirements were applied with no flexibility. Infill residential projects, particularly in the 5-7 dwelling units per acre range and containing a variety of housing types, are expressly recommended by the draft Northeast Area Plan.

3. The planned project shall be designed in such as manner that traffic to and from the site will not be hazardous to adjacent properties.

[There will be] no new curb cuts to Traver Road.

4. The proposed plan modifications shall be consistent with the proper development and use of adjacent land and buildings.

[The] current plan is fundamentally the same as the previously approved plan for this property.

Because single-family detached uses in the R4A district are subject to the R1C district standards, and the minimum side setback requirement in the R1C district is 5 feet on each side, one could argue that the minimum building spacing requirement for the detached single-family

dwelling units is 10 feet. Staff does not believe the Zoning Ordinance should be interpreted in this manner, but it does illustrate that reducing the minimum building spacing requirement is in keeping with proper development. Traver Creek and the Ann Arbor Railroad are permanent features with very little possibility of being further altered or developed, so it is reasonable to assume that they can make up for lost side setback area.

5. Required off-street parking and landscaping must be provided in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 59 and 62.

All applicable ordinance provisions are met.

6. The standards for density, allowable floor area and required usable open space for the zoning district(s) in which the project is located must be met.

All applicable ordinance provisions are met.

7. There shall be no uses within the proposed project which are not permitted uses in the zoning district(s) in which the proposed project is to be located.

Proposed uses are permitted within the district.

UNIT COMMENTS

<u>Land Development</u> – Preliminary approval from the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner is required prior to City approval of the site plan.

<u>Natural Resources</u> – Clarification is needed regarding the quantity of wetland impacts already done and newly proposed, as well as wetland mitigation. The same clarification is also needed regarding woodland impacts. Staff and the petitioner have had several discussions on these matters and are actively working together to resolve these issues.

<u>Planning</u> – New, modestly-size, single family homes in a compact setting will fill a gap in the City's available housing choices. Staff recommends the petition be postponed until the outstanding questions regarding the natural features impacts and mitigation can be resolved and preliminary approval from the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner is received.

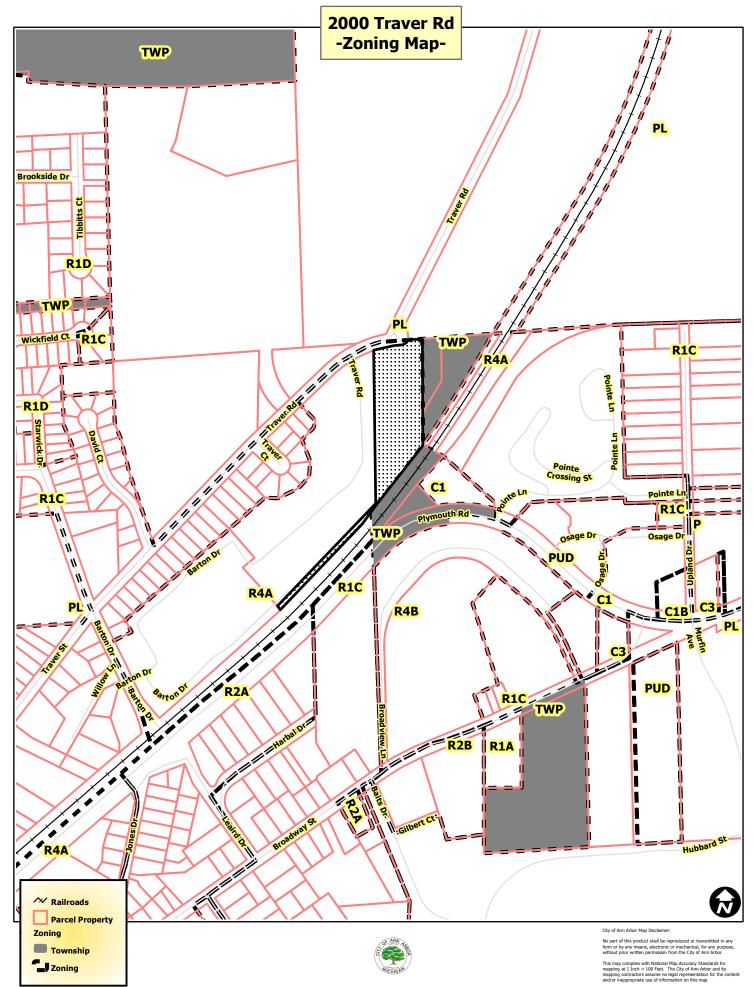
A revised development agreement will be prepared once the alternative mitigation measures are finalized and will be attached to the future staff report.

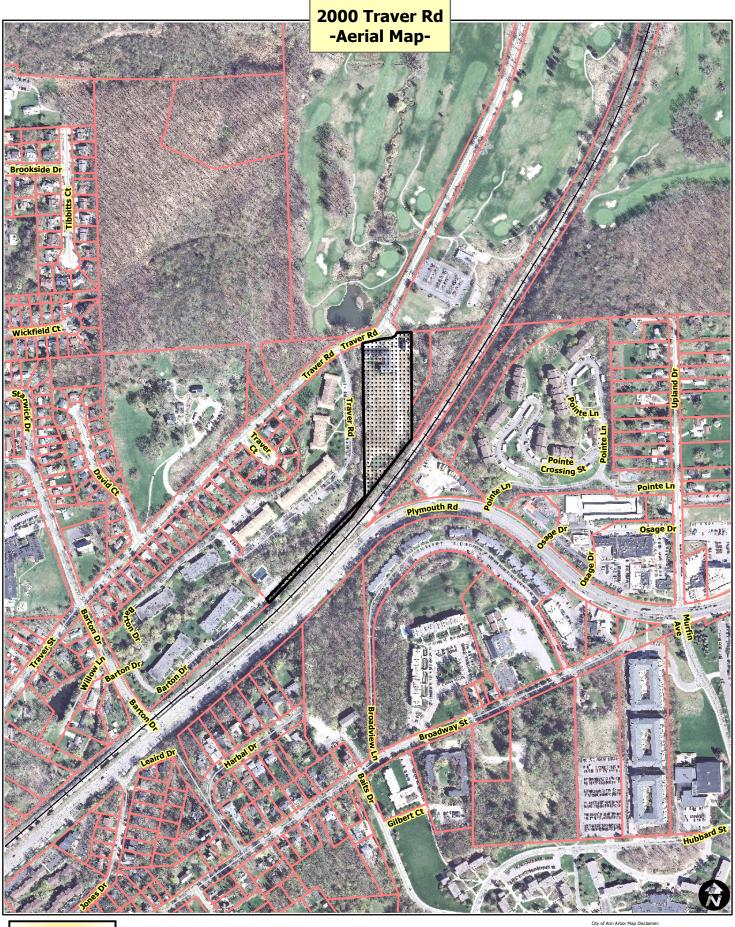
Prepared by Alexis DiLeo Reviewed by Wendy Rampson 2/1/13

Attachments: Zoning Map Aerial Photo Site Plan Hideaway Lane Page 7

- c: Petitioner: Trowbridge Homes of Hideaway, LLC 2614 Beacon Hill Drive Auburn Hills, MI 48326
 - Petitioner's Agent: Bruce Michael Ojibway Development, LLC 3270 Coolidge Highway Berkley, MI 48072

Systems Planning Project No. SP12-025



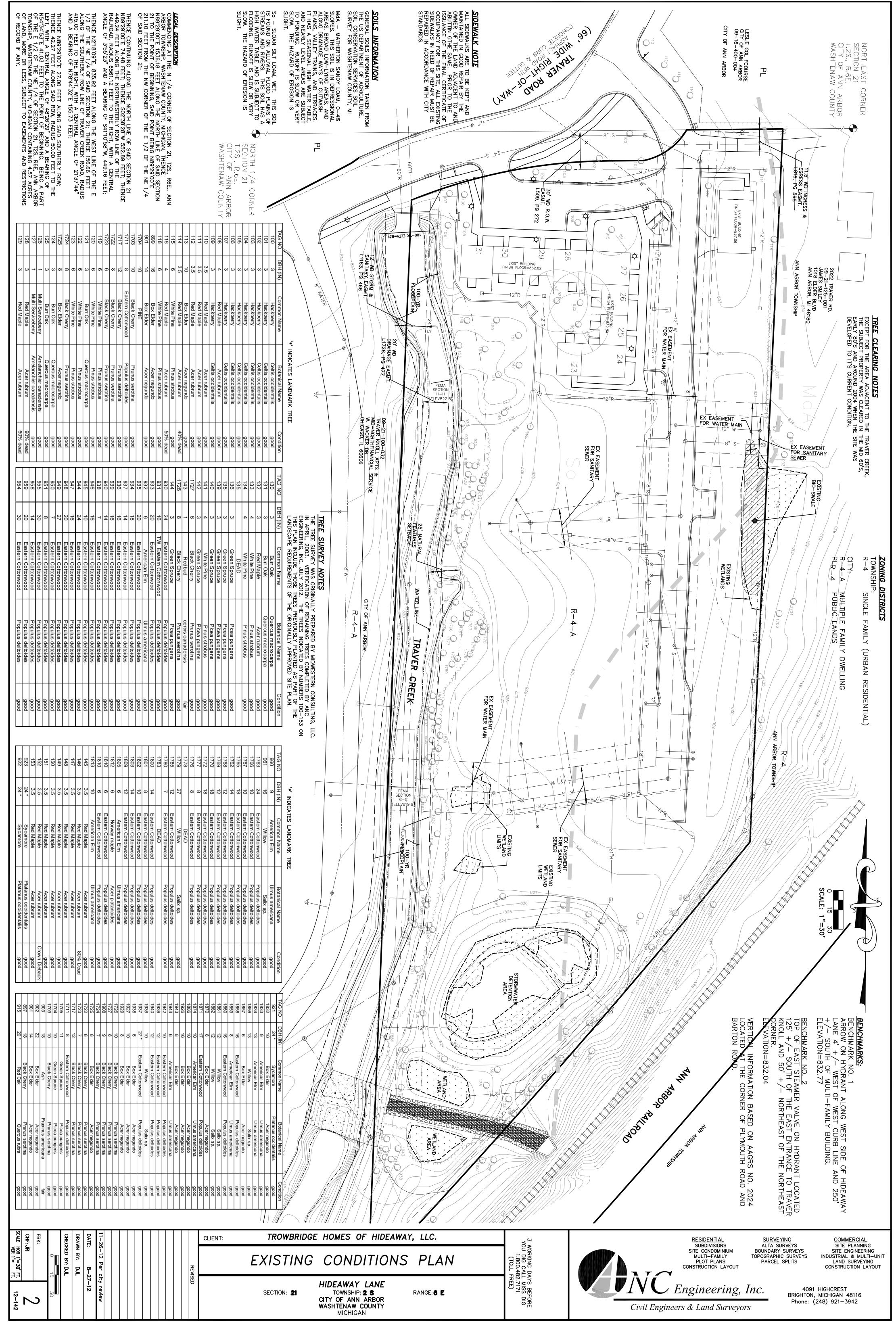


Railroads
Parcel Property



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dition	TAG NO	DBH (IN)	Common Name	Botanical Name	Condition	_	TAG NO	DBH (IN)	Common Name	Botanical Name
od	130	ω	Burr Oak	Quercus macrocarpa	good		960	9	American Elm	Ulmus american
od	131	ω	Burr Oak	Quercus macrocarpa	good		961	16	Willow	Salix sp.
od	132	ω	Red Maple	Acer rubrum	good		1763	24	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
od	133	4	White Pine	Pinus strobus	good		1766	10	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
bod	134	4	White Pine	Pinus strobus	good		1767	10	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
od	135		DEAD				1765	18	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
od	136	ω	Green Spruce	Picea pungens	good		1762	14	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
od	138	З	Green Spruce	Picea pungens	poog		1768	12	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
od	139	ω	Green Spruce	Picea pungens	good		1769	12	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
od	140	ω	Green Spruce	Picea pungens	boog		1770	18	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
od	141	4	White Pine	Pinus strobus	boog		1772	18	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
od	142	З	Green Spruce	Picea pungens	poog		1777	8	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
od	1727	6	Black Cherry	Prunus serotina	good		1776	8	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
od	143	1	Redbud	cercis canadensis	fair		1778		DEAD	
dead	1726	8	Black Cherry	Prunus serotina	good		1779	27	Willow	Salix sp.
ŏ	144	ω	Green Spruce	Picea pungens	good		1785	12	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
dead	930	24	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	good		1780	7	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
od	931	16	TW. Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	good		1783		DEAD	
, od	933	20	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	good		1800	14	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
od	932	6	American Elm	Ulmus americana	good		1801	œ	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
	935	20	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	good		1802	10	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
Ö	934	18	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	good		1803	14	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
. d	937	14	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	good		1809	12	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
od	936	16	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	good		1805	6	American Elm	Ulmus american
. d	939	16	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	good		1812	ი	Norway maple	Acer platanoide
Ö	940	14	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	boog		1810	б	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
Ö	938	7	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	good		1810	6	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoide
Öd	946	16	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	good		1813	10	American Elm	Ulmus american
od	945	10	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	boog		145	3.5	Red Maple	Acer rubrum
ŏ	944	24	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	good		146	3.5	Red Maple	Acer rubrum
od	947	16	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	poog		147	3.5	Red Maple	Acer rubrum
od	948	20	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	good		148	3.5	Red Maple	Acer rubrum
od	949	27	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	poog		149	3.5	Red Maple	Acer rubrum
od	950	7	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	good		150	3.5	Red Maple	Acer rubrum
od	951	8	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	boog		151	3.5	Red Maple	Acer rubrum
od	955	30	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	boog		152	3.5	Red Maple	Acer rubrum
od	856	14	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	poog		153	3.5	Red Maple	Acer rubrum
dead	959	20	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	poog		923	24 *	Sycamore	Platanus occident
dead	954	30	Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	poop		922	24 *	Sycamore	Platanus occident



BUFFER BUFFER	C STORY STOR		KNOX BOX SF)	able space able space RING RING AND FIRE ERMIT ERMIT SCESS.	Total SF 6,000 4,032 1,728 0 15,722 41,100 68,582
	* Minimum required size in 1965 when previ * Minimum setback distance increased 5 ft	Side Yard Least One Total of two Rear Yard Height Existing Single Fam Proposed Single Fam	Bicycle Multiple Family - Zo Two Spaces per 5 E Type A = 50% Type One Family Dwelling Setbacks Front Yard	Min. Lot/Dwelling Unit Single Family Dwelling Units - = 21 x Townhome Dwelling Units - 4,3 = 9 x 2 % Min. Usable Open Lot Areas % Min. Usable Open Lot Areas One Family - Zoned R4A Two Spaces per Dwelling Unit One Family Dwelling Unit	Component size: City Zoned R4A Dwelling Units 1 1/2 to 2 Story, 3 bed Vancant Home Site ow Exist. 2 Story Townhor Proposed 2 & 3 BR Sir
	65 when previous Site Plan Approval was received increased 5 ft - 4 in due to the length of the town increased 5 ft - 4 in due town increased 5 ft - 4 in due to the length of town increased 5 ft - 4 in due to the length of the town increased 5 ft - 4 in due to the length of town increased 5 ft - 4 in due to the length of town increased 5 ft - 4 in due town incr	20 ft 40 ft 40 ft 40 ft Jle Family Dwelling Jle Family Dwelling	- Zoned R4A r 5 Dwelling Units 9 Units / 5 = 2 Spaces Type C = 50% elling Unit None 45ft - 7in *	welling Units - 7,200 sft/ea = 21 x 7,200 sft = 151,200 sft = 9 x 4,300 sft/ea = 9 x 4,300 sft = 38,700 sft Total Required = 189,900 sft reas 65% - Zoned R4A r Dwelling Unit = 2 * 9 Units = 18 Spaces Dwelling Unit = 1 * 21 Units = 21 Spaces	COMPARISON TABLE Existing/Required/Permitted 199,069 sf - 4.57 Acres Planned Project - PP owned by Existing single family Dwelling Units owned by Existing single family homeow Single Family Dwelling Units
	received re townhouse being greater than 50 ft	20 ft 55 ft 295 ft 295 ft 27 ft -7 1/4 in 30 ft (to point mid way from eave to peak)	23 Type A - Covered Spaces 2 Type C - Open Space 25 Spaces	Total Provided = 199,069 sft 66% 40 Garage Spaces 29 Standard Spaces 1 Barrier Free Space 70 Spaces	Proposed 199,069 sf - 4.57 Acres Planned Project - PP 1 Existing Unit 9 Units 19 Units 30 Units Total
REVISE III-26-12 Per Ci DATE: 8-27 DRAWN BY: DJL CHECKED BY: DJL FBK: 0 15 FBK: 0 15 SCALE HOR 1"= 30" FT. SCALE HOR 1"= 30" FT.	client: trowbridge homes of hideaway, llc. DIMENSIONAL SITE PLAN & COMPARISOI	3 WORKING D YOU DIG CAI 1.800.44 (TOLL		CONSTRUCTION LAYOUT	SURVEYING COMMERCIAL LTA SURVEYS SITE PLANNING NDARY SURVEYS SITE ENGINEERING GRAPHIC SURVEYS INDUSTRIAL & MULTI-UNIT ARCEL SPLITS LAND SURVEYING CONSTRUCTION LAYOUT
City Review City Review 12-142	SECTION: 21 TOWNSHIP: 2 S RANGE: 6 E CITY OF ANN ARBOR WASHTENAW COUNTY MICHIGAN	DAYS BEFORE ALL MISS DIG 482.7171 - FREE)		C Engineering, Inc.	4091 HIGHCREST BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN 48116 Phone: (248) 921–3942