

5.23 Natural Features

This section shall be amended as follows.

5.23.1 Purpose and Intent

To establish how Natural Features shall be identified, evaluated, protected, and mitigated, and to provide for the regulation of property in order to prevent physical harm, impairment or destruction of a Natural Feature as defined herein.

It has been determined that activities resulting in harm, impairment and/or destruction of Natural Features are contrary to the public health, safety and general welfare. This regulation is based on the City's general police power for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare including the authority granted in the City and Village Zoning Enabling Act (Act 207, Public Acts of 1921, as amended) and the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (Act 110 of 2006, as amended), and the City's Natural Features Master Plan.

5.23.2 Protected Natural Features

Natural Features protected and regulated in the City are: Rare Species Habitats, Floodplains, Woodlands, Landmark Trees, Heritage Trees, Steep Slopes, Watercourses and Wetlands and their buffers. Each protected, regulated Natural Feature is discussed in substantial detail particularly with respect to:

- A.** A summary of key facets including a perspective on the importance of the Natural Feature to the people of the City.
- B.** Means to identify, differentiate, and evaluate the Natural Feature.
- C.** The general Natural Feature protection priorities of the City, and some perspective on how to measure each Natural Feature's relative importance to others in the City or on the Site.
- D.** Measures for protecting Natural Features during construction.
- E.** Requirements for mitigating important Natural Features that cannot be excluded from Development.