

New Natural Features Ordinance for Highland by **Katheryn Krupa**

Recently, the Highland Township Planning Commission has been reviewing and revising various ordinances. One of the things our Highland residents treasure most is the natural beauty of this area. We are fortunate to have an abundance of high quality lakes, rivers and parkland. In fact, when residents were surveyed, the resounding refrain was a desire to protect open spaces and keep Highland green, natural and rural. The Planning Commis-

sion has been working hard to craft ordinances that meet the needs of Highland’s residents yet minimize overly-destructive building practices that are too often common practice in new developments. As new subdivisions are built in Highland, it is important to protect the natural features of each site as much as possible. This is best achieved through effective ordinances and site plan review regulations. The Natural Features ordinance includes

provisions for roadside buffers of trees and plants, and preserving mature trees and open spaces. This creates a win/win situation. People who are shopping for a new home usually prefer a site with natural features such as mature trees to a site that has been clear cut, bulldozed, stripped of top soil and flattened into a wasteland. Building sites with intact natural features are more desirable plus the developer benefits because they command higher prices.



Highland’s new regulations do not impact individual land-owners who still maintain their rights as protected under our current ordinances.

Downy Oaks Park by **Katheryn Krupa**

Did you know there is a lovely park directly north of the library called Downy Oaks Park? The Highland Conservancy is seeking to protect this beautiful “pocket park” by targeting and removing invasive plants such as spotted knapweed and swallow-wort (among others). Also, we hope to plant wild-

flowers, native plants and grasses to protect the park’s ecosystems. There are tall stands of big blue stem, rolling oak savanna, woodlands and a marsh teeming with wildlife. Protecting such parks is a key initiative for the Highland Conservancy along with protecting wildlife habitat, encouraging open space

development, and helping keep Highland rural and beautiful for future generations to enjoy. Other goals include: land conservation, educating the public on issues related to global warming and preserving our natural resources.



JOIN THE HIGHLAND CONSERVANCY

Show your support for the Highland Conservancy by becoming a member today!

With your tax free donation of \$25, \$50, \$100, or \$500 or more you’ll receive a tote bag, decal, Email newsletter and the satisfaction you’ve done something to help keep Highland rural and natural for future generations.

Send your name, address and EMAIL along with your check made payable to:

Highland Conservancy
205 W. Livingston Road
Highland, MI 48357

Together we can make a difference for Highland Township!

Our mission is to encourage and facilitate the conservation of land and natural resources to preserve the rural character of Highland Township.

JOIN US! You are always welcome to join us or just drop in on our meetings. Whether you like to be outdoors or are more comfortable behind a keyboard, there’s always something to do.

We meet at 7 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Huron Valley Council of the Arts building, 205 W. Livingston Road. Or contact Katheryn Krupa at 248-887-4643 for more information.

WE’RE ON THE WEB:
WWW.HIGHLANDCONSERVANCY.ORG