



innovative *by* nature

Bryan K. Barnett
Mayor

October 8, 2019

City Council

Stephanie Morita
District 1

James Kubicina
District 2

Susan M. Bowyer, Ph.D.
District 3

Ryan J. Deel
District 4

Dale Hetrick
At-Large

Jenny L. McCardell
At-Large

Mark A. Tiedel
At-Large

Representative Jack O'Malley
Chair, House Transportation Committee
House Office Building S-1385
Lansing, MI 48909

Chairman O'Malley and members of the House Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the city of Rochester Hills and its more than 74,000 residents, I am writing to express support for a package of bills currently before this committee. House Bills 4486, 4775, and 4776 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to require a person renewing their vehicle registration to opt out of purchasing a recreation passport rather than the current system of opting in. As a recipient of a Recreation Passport Grant, we know the importance of this program in serving our local and regional residents. This grant helped us rebuild the only outdoor biking velodrome in the state, bringing visitors from around the State and Canada. Increasing the revenue allocated to local recreation grant programs will help ensure our residents enjoy everything the beautiful outdoors has to offer close to home and continue to build a strong outdoor economy across the State.

Rochester Hills has a slogan: **innovative *by* nature**. Outdoor recreation is not just a hobby for our residents, but a way of life. Our city is home to many parks, greenspaces, and trails—including the Clinton River Trail and Paint Creek Trail. This system supports more than 1,000,000 visits annually. Recreational facilities, such as tennis, golf, skiing, swimming, pickle ball, soccer, softball, trails, sledding, ice-skating, bicycling, boating, biking, and fishing are within easy reach at municipally supported parks.

We are also proud of Innovation Hills, which will be the city's first new park in over 25 years. This new eco-park consists of woods, waterfalls, wetland overlooks, sensory gardens, glowing pathways, over 4 miles of trails — both paved and rustic — scenic pond vistas and a large, 3-acre universally accessible natural elements playground never seen before in our region. It's a major investment in the quality of life for our residents both locally and regionally. Building this park would not have been possible without the support of State grant programs.



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This legislation will continue to provide for the betterment of recreational opportunities in local communities throughout the State and, in turn, the quality of life for all Michiganders. For that reason, we ask that this committee support House Bills 4486, 4775, and 4776.

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Respectfully,


Bryan Barnett
Mayor, Rochester Hills