



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

March 21, 2016

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
**Huron River Green Infrastructure Drainage District, Washtenaw County
Tree Planting 2016 - 2017
State Revolving Fund Project No. 5504-05**

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comment on a preliminary decision by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to implement recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment of a nonpoint source pollution control project plan submitted by the applicant mentioned above.

HOW WERE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED?

Part 53, Clean Water Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.5301 to 324.5316 of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, requires the DEQ to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed wastewater project. The DEQ has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. A project plan containing information on environmental impacts was prepared by the municipality and reviewed by the State. The DEQ has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment and found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of an EIS.

WHY IS AN EIS NOT REQUIRED?

Our environmental review concluded that no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the project plan or will be reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is attached. This information is also available on our website at www.michigan.gov/cleanwaterrevolvingfund under "Related Links." The Environmental Assessment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the proposed action, and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing one of the contact people listed below.

HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?

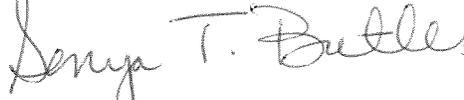
Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted to me at DEQ, Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance, Revolving Loan Section, Constitution Hall, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7741. We will not take any action on this project plan for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider any comments.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The applicant will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this Agency to construct the proposed project.

Any information you feel should be considered by the DEQ should be brought to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. JoAnn Kalemkiewicz, the project manager, at 517-284-5411, or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonya T. Butler".

Sonya T. Butler, Chief
Revolving Loan Section
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
517-284-5433

Attachments

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Huron River Green Infrastructure Drainage District, Washtenaw County
State Revolving Fund (SRF)
Environmental Assessment
March 2016

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: Huron River Green Infrastructure Drainage District,
Washtenaw County

Authorized Representative: Mr. Evan Pratt, Water Resources Commissioner

Address: 705 North Zeeb Road, P.O. Box 8645
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8645

Project No.: 5504-05

II. PROJECT SUMMARY

The city of Ann Arbor and the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission established the Huron River Pollution Abatement District (HRPAD) in order to develop a comprehensive plan to evaluate and reduce pollutants that were contributing to negative impacts to the Middle Huron River. The HRPAD covers the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti and several surrounding townships. A comprehensive plan was developed in 2010 with extensive public input through a series of public meetings. A resolution was passed by the HRPAD Statutory Drain Board and signed on June 28, 2010, approving the project plan and agreeing to implement the recommended alternatives. In 2012, the Huron River Green Infrastructure Drainage District (HRGIDD), which includes Allen, Fleming, Malletts, Millers, Swift Run, and Traver Creeksheds, and areas that directly discharge to the Huron River within Ann Arbor, was established to facilitate implementation of projects established in the comprehensive plan that involved more than one of the creeksheds. The HRGIDD has applied for funding under the SRF program to implement several stormwater management practices identified in the HRPAD comprehensive plan that reduce nonpoint source (NPS) pollution and flow variability. This proposed project, SRF Project No. 5504-05, HRGIDD Tree Planting 2016-2017, will plant approximately 1,000 trees in the HRGIDD to reduce the NPS pollutants in the Middle Huron River Watershed. The total project cost will be \$415,000. There will be no increase to the existing annual stormwater fee as a result of the project.

III. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The portions of the Middle Huron River Watershed covered by this project include the tributaries within the HRGIDD (see Figure 1). Ann Arbor is highly urbanized with a large amount of impervious land cover. The major land use in Ann Arbor is residential (48 percent), followed by institutional (10.3 percent). Ann Arbor's current population is 113,949, and is projected to show modest growth to 115,218 by 2035.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has demonstrated measurable water quality impairments in the Middle Huron River and has developed total maximum daily loads (TMDL) for those pollutants. The TMDL goals require actions be taken to reduce the

pollutants that are restricting the designated uses of the affected waters. Problems identified in the TMDL plans include high nutrient levels (phosphorous in particular), total suspended solids (TSS), and bacterial contamination. A significant source of these pollutants come in the 'first flush' of stormwater runoff, which carries the majority of accumulated pollutants from lawns, parking lots, and rooftops into the receiving waters. The watershed also experiences a high variability in flows from stormwater running off impervious surfaces.

IV. PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Alternatives Considered

The HRPAD comprehensive project plan contains numerous projects to pursue over a 5 to 10-year period. These projects are designed to better control stormwater runoff and, therefore, reduce NPS pollutants to the Middle Huron River. The projects already implemented over the past five years include rain gardens, stormwater infiltration basins, stream bank stabilization, porous pavement (street, alley, and parking areas), and tree planting. These projects will help the county and city achieve the TMDLs for the Middle Huron River, thus helping to return the watershed to healthy sustainable levels. The project proposed under SRF Project No. 5504-05 is discussed in Section B below.

The Best Management Practices (BMP) alternatives were compared against water quality benefits, infiltration capacity, land availability, compatibility with surrounding land uses, capital, operation and maintenance costs, and ease of implementation. The BMP load and removal efficiencies were calculated as the cost associated with removal of each pound or cubic foot of runoff volume reduction over the lifespan of each BMP. Projects were based on opportunities previously outlined in local management plans or opportunities to coordinate with planned city projects, such as pending street reconstruction. Removal efficiencies were qualified for TSS, total phosphorus (TP), and stormwater volume.

If no action is taken to reduce the stormwater contributions, the existing problems in the watershed that led to the development of TMDLs will continue to worsen. Ann Arbor is required under the TMDLs to take steps to control and reduce the pollutants of concern. Studies show that up to 75 percent of TSS and TP come from NPS in stormwater runoff. Capturing and treating large volumes of stormwater by conventional wastewater treatment methods would be costly both in the short term, to build the facilities, and in the long term, to operate and maintain the treatment plants.

The no-action and conventional treatment plant methods were both rejected in favor of using BMPs to reduce the pollutants of concern while offering a more aesthetically pleasing and low-maintenance alternative across the community.

B. Description of the Proposed Project

This tree planting project is the fifth phase of a multi-year plan to plant trees in the HRGIDD. Approximately 1,000 trees will be planted during the fall of 2016 and spring of 2017. The trees will be planted in established rights-of-way along the streets. Some stumps and old trees will need to be removed prior to planting the new trees. For a map of planting areas, see Figure 2. For description of area boundaries see Table 1.

C. Project Cost and Implementation Issues

The total cost of the project is \$415,000 including construction, contingencies, engineering, administration, and legal services.

It is anticipated that the project will be funded through the SRF program, administered by the DEQ, Revolving Loan Section, and the Michigan Finance Authority. The repayment period is 20 years at the current interest rate of 2.5 percent.

The HRGIDD is expected to receive principal forgiveness for a portion of the total loan as a result of provisions in the Fiscal Year 2015 Environmental Protection Agency Capitalization Grant for Green Project Reserve.

There will be no increase to the existing annual stormwater fee as a result of this project.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Primary Impacts

This project will reduce pollutants and negative impacts of NPS contributions to the Middle Huron River by detention or infiltration of stormwater runoff. Planting trees will slow and reduce the runoff of nutrients and reduce flow variability. This will help the county and city achieve the TMDL developed for the Middle Huron River, thus helping to return the watershed to healthy sustainable levels for aquatic life, wildlife, drinking water, full body contact, agriculture, and industrial uses.

The stormwater BMPs are designed to primarily reduce TSS and peak runoff flows. Sampling in nearby watersheds has demonstrated a significant relationship between TSS in the stream and phosphorous concentration. Therefore, by reducing TSS runoff, TP will also be reduced. Reducing peak runoff flows will also reduce erosion. Clearly, runoff reduction and water and nutrient uptake will vary with the size of the trees. Each fully grown tree is estimated to detain approximately 1,500-1,900 gallons of stormwater per year. These reductions will have a beneficial impact to the Middle Huron River and its impoundments and will help meet the load reduction targets in the TMDLs.

Impacts of tree planting activities associated with this project are considered short-term disruptions that, for the most part, do not extend beyond the planting activities. Short-term adverse impacts include noise, dust, exhaust fumes, removal of groundcover, and increased erosion potential.

The project may cause brief inconveniences to those who live and travel through the project areas. Noise and dust generated by project activities will temporarily impact area residents. The project will occur along streets within existing road rights-of-way causing temporary traffic patterns disruptions. Traffic control procedures, therefore, will be used.

Disrupted areas will be restored as soon as possible. Provisions will be enforced for compliance pursuant to Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, to prevent damage to the surrounding areas from soil erosion and sedimentation.

The project was reviewed by the DEQ, Water Resources Division, for inland lakes and streams, wetlands, and floodplain impacts under the state's regulatory authority. They found no resource impacted by this project.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division have reviewed the project and concur that no endangered or threatened species habitats will be affected. All anticipated impacts on flora and fauna resulting from the project are expected to be temporary.

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the proposed project for impacts on historical and archeological resources. It has been determined that there will be no impact on historical/archeological resources from the implementation of the proposed project.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan has reviewed the proposed project for impacts to tribal historic, religious, and archeological resources. They have determined that there will be no impact to known historic, religious, cultural, or archeological sites.

B. Secondary Impacts

No significant adverse secondary impacts are anticipated for this project. The proposed project will not cause changes to the area's population growth rate. Impacts include the reduction of peak stormwater flows and the improvement of water quality in the Middle Huron River Watershed.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The HRGIDD project plan is based on recommendations contained in the HRPAD 2010 Watershed Management Plan for the Huron River in the Ann Arbor – Ypsilanti Metropolitan Area. A public hearing for the HRGIDD project plan was held on June 24, 2013, at the New Center, 1100 North Main Street in Ann Arbor. This public hearing was advertised in the *MLive Ann Arbor.com Daily Edition News* May 16, 2013. Comments were addressed on the various alternatives considered, the proposed projects selected, and the project costs. A resolution was passed by the HRPAD Statutory Drain Board and signed on June 24, 2013, approving the project plan and agreeing to implement the recommended alternatives.

VII. REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

No long-term adverse impacts are associated with this project. The benefits of the proposed project are anticipated to outweigh the short-term adverse project related impacts.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

Ms. Sonya T. Butler, Chief
Revolving Loan Section
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30241
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7741
Telephone: 517-284-5433
Email: butlers2@michigan.gov

Figure 1
Ann Arbor Creeksheds

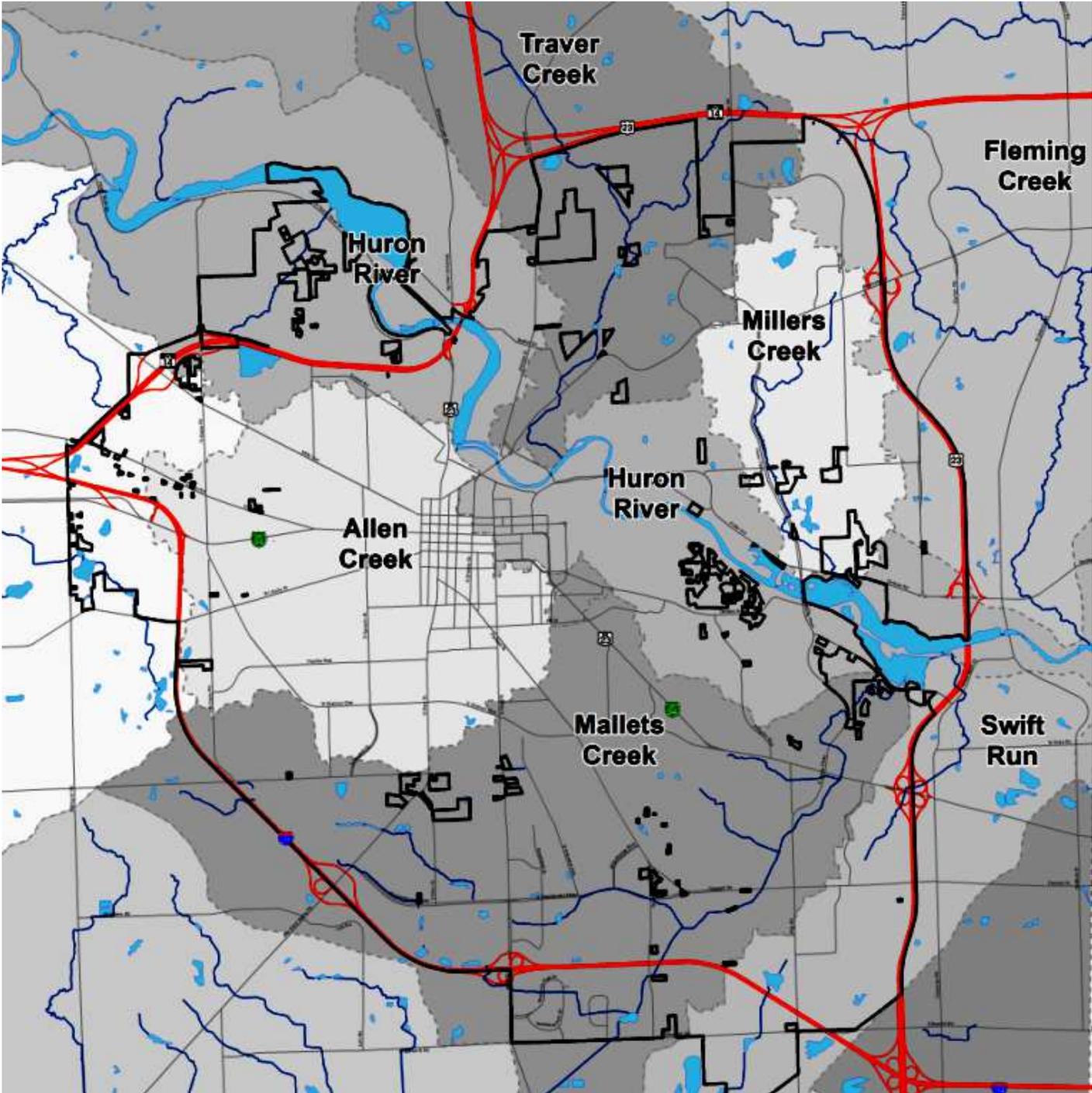


Figure 2
5504-05 HRGIDD
Tree Planting Areas

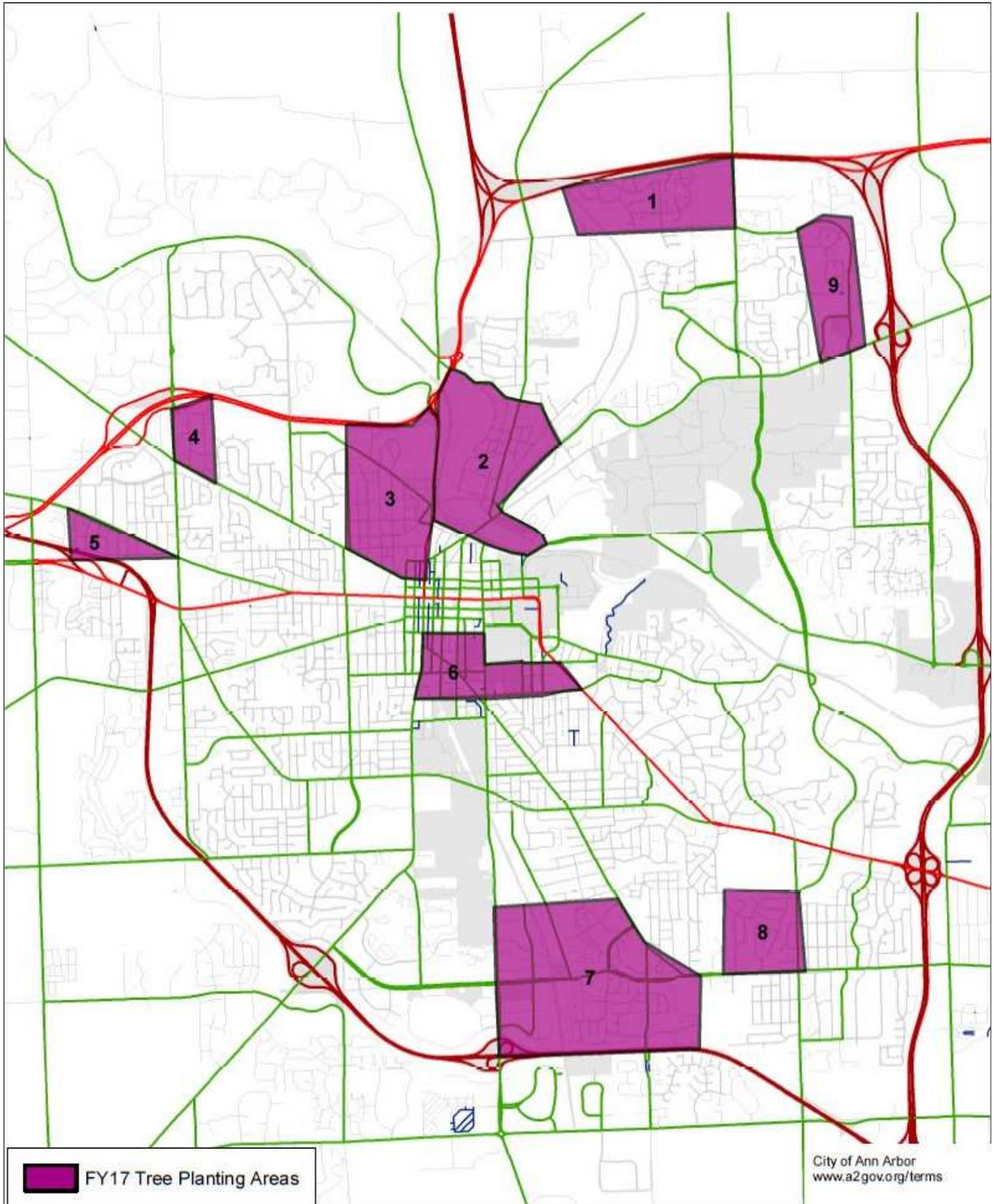


Table 1
5504-05 HRGIDD
Tree Planting Areas

Area # (See Map)	Tree Planting Areas	Estimated # of Potential	Width of Lawn	Avg. amount of Impervious Area
1	Area bounded by Nixon Road, Dhu Varren, Pontiac Trail and M-14; including, Hickory Point, Olmesaad, Foxway Dr. and Birchwood Dr.	80	4-10'	70%
2	Area bounded by Plymouth Road/Broadway, Baron Dr., and Longshore Dr; including, Amherst, Indianaola, Pontiac Trail, Traver, and Pear St.	151	4-10'	50%
3	Area bounded by N. Main St., Miller Ave., Brooks St. and M-14; including, W. Summit, Brooks, Fountain, Miner, Felch and Cherry St.	157	4-10'	70%
4	Area bounded by Fulmer, M-14, and N. Maple; including, Franklin, Foss, Garden Homes and Fulmer St.	86	4-10'	50%
5	Area bounded by Dexter Rd, Valley Dr., and Rose Dr; including Barber, Pinewood, Glenwood, Evergreen and Kingwood.	73	4-10'	40%
6	Area bounded by Washtenaw, Hill St., S. Fourth and E. William; including, S. Division St., Thompson St., S. State St., E. University, S. Forest Ave.	71	4-10'	75%
7	Area bounded by Hikone Dr., Packard, Pine Valley Blvd, and S. State St.; including, King George Blvd, S. Industrial, Birch Hollow, Victors Way, Boardwalk and E. Oakbrook Dr.	237	4-10'	75%
8	Area bounded by Gloucester Way, Canterbury, Easy St. and Packard; including, Carmel, Towner Blvd., Hampshire Rd, Radcliff Ave., and Chesterfield Dr.	64	4-10'	65%
9	Area bounded by Green Road, Plymouth Road and Georgetown Blvd.	147	4-10'	75%