



Pittsfield Charter Township

6201 West Michigan Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Phone: (734) 822-3135 • Fax: (734) 944-6103

Website: www.pittsfield-mi.gov

Office of the Supervisor

One Year!!

March 23rd will mark a whole year since I began writing these community letters at the onset of the Great Pandemic!! During the course of this unprecedented year we have faced and overcome a multitude of challenges – together as a community and as individuals. The pandemic has taken 500,000 American lives, placed millions in economic hardship, and generally wreaked havoc in all our lives in one way or another! However, with your continued partnership, we used the past year to further cement our commitment to equity and sustainability here in Pittsfield Township.

We redirected resources to support our small businesses and those that are the most vulnerable members of our community. We expanded our green infrastructure projects, obtained input on and outlined recommendations for improving racial equity, and acquired over \$30 million in grants to further enhance our multi-modal transportation network. This approach reflects our decade-long commitment to fiscal, economic, and environmental sustainability: pittsfield-mi.gov/sustainability

It is our belief that economic/fiscal stewardship is intrinsically related to our ability to be good stewards of our environment. In other words, we cannot afford to promote environmental sustainability if we don't have the economic means to provide excellent public services. They are both critical to attracting private investment (an average of \$10M/year, 2012-2019). An impact of this approach is that Pittsfield supports one of the most diverse and desirable housing in the region.

Since 2009, our fiscal stewardship has centered around three main tenants: (1) Grant acquisition; (2) Reduce/minimize administrative costs; and (3) Maintain low taxes for residents and businesses. As such, we have acquired unprecedented amounts in grant funding – \$50 million in 10 years – and have essentially the same number of municipal employees we did a decade ago.

With regard to taxes, Pittsfield, with the third highest population, has one of the lowest tax rates (6.5 mills) in Washtenaw County while being one of only two full-service municipalities providing water, sewer, rubbish, parks and recreation, public safety (police and fire), assessing, and building services. Your taxes have remained the same since November 2009, with the exception of the increase you approved to the public safety millage in 2011. Now, 10 years later, we are requesting the same of you. The reasons and data associated with this request to increase the public safety millage, on the ballot in May, will be made available, in the next few weeks, at: Pittsfield-mi.gov/publicsafety

Information will also be included in the upcoming spring edition of the Post so you are well equipped to make a decision on or before May 4th. In fact, as we re-open full public access to our administrative buildings and resume in-person public meetings, I look forward to staying in touch with you through such regular channels as the Pittsfield Post and interpersonal exchanges. While I will miss these more frequent communiques, as you know, I am available to you anytime. As always, I sincerely urge you to please be kind and patient with yourselves and each other.

My most sincere regards,

Mandy Grewal, Ph.D.
Supervisor



CITY OF ANN ARBOR

301 E. Huron Street | Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

734.794.6000 ext. 42798 | greenbelt@a2gov.org

February 24th, 2021

Pittsfield Charter Township
6201 W. Michigan Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Re: 5174 Platt Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Dear Supervisor Grewal,

In 2003, City of Ann Arbor residents passed the Open Space and Parkland Preservation Millage, known as the Greenbelt Millage. Since then, Ann Arbor and many partnering organizations have protected over 6,200 acres, which represents over \$72 million in permanently conserved lands in the Ann Arbor area.

To accomplish these goals, the Greenbelt Advisory Commission utilizes a scoring system designed to evaluate individual projects, as well as a GIS-based landscape-level analysis to identify potential priority parcels for conservation. With these tools, staff can provide preliminary screening and accurate reports to the Greenbelt Advisory Commission on applications, and the Greenbelt Advisory Commission is then able to make sound recommendations to City Council on Greenbelt acquisition matters.

Using the criteria from the Greenbelt's scoring system, I can tell you that the property at 5174 Platt Road in Pittsfield Township would likely score competitively if an application was received by the City and able to be processed in greater detail. As well, the property has been identified as a conservation priority in the Greenbelt's GIS parcel-level prioritization. These two factors indicate a competitive candidate internally at the City, as well as a competitive applicant for local, state or federal land preservation matching funds.

I have enclosed the Greenbelt Program's application. We accept new applications on a rolling basis and would be pleased to receive an application for this property and have the chance to evaluate the opportunity in greater detail.

Regards,

Remy Long, Manager
City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program

GREENBELT PROGRAM APPLICATION



COMMUNITY SERVICES AREA
CITY OF ANN ARBOR
301 East Huron St.
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Please fill out the application completely. Please include a copy of the deed for the property, a copy of all easements, and any additional documents identified in the application or that you believe are relevant.

Please note that information provided in this application may be disclosed as required by law, including in response to a request under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. Certain private information, such as unlisted cell phone numbers, may be exempted from disclosure in accordance with applicable law.

If you have questions, please contact the City's Greenbelt Program Manager.

CITY OF ANN ARBOR
COMMUNITY SERVICES
301 EAST HURON STREET
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Application Number

GREENBELT PROGRAM APPLICATION

*This information is required by authority of the Open Space and Parkland Preservation Ordinance
(Chapter 42, Ann Arbor City Code) for Greenbelt District Acquisitions*

LANDOWNER INFORMATION

LANDOWNER: Please clearly print or type all information. **Be sure to complete the front and back sides of all pages.**

Landowner's Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Home Telephone Number
Street Address or PO Box Number			Business Name (if applicable)
City	State	Zip Code	Business Telephone Number
Best time of the day to call			Email

PROPERTY INFORMATION

County Where Nominated Property Is Located	Township
Town, Range and Section Number(s)	
Tax Parcel Number(s) of Nominated Property	
Total Number of Acres Nominated	Type of Land <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Acres <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space / Natural Area Acres
Land Use on Nominated Property (Check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock Type: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Area <input type="checkbox"/> River or Stream Frontage	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash Crops <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater Recharge <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic View <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse and/or Nursery <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Trees <input type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Floodplain <input type="checkbox"/> Other

I own the nominated property by: ☐ Deed ☐ Land Contract *

* The Land Contract Seller's signature is required in the Certification Section on Page 5.

Are there any existing surface or subsurface leases, easements, liens or other encumbrances on the property (i.e. mineral rights, utility easements, mortgages etc.)? Your land is eligible for consideration even if some easements, leases or liens exist.

☐ No ☐ Yes If yes, please explain:

Type of Sale

☐ Fee Simple ☐ Purchase of Development Rights

☐ No ☐ Yes If yes, please explain:

Please provide a copy of deeds or land contracts, which contain the legal description of the property you wish to nominate. Please specify if you are not including the whole parcel described in the deed or land contract. Existing building sites should be excluded from the legal description of the property offered in the application since the City will not pay for areas that have already been developed. In addition, we recommend you also consider excluding future home site(s). You need not provide a survey of the excluded areas when you submit this application, but you may be asked to do so if your land is selected.

Please attach a map of the property showing property boundaries, roads, and buildings. The map should also indicate areas to be excluded from the application, if any. If you are not able to attach a map, you may provide a sketch of the property including the same information in the area below.

A blank grid map for a field study. The grid is 10 columns wide and 10 rows high. A north arrow is located in the top right corner, pointing upwards and labeled 'N'.

Are there any contingencies that you would like to make the Greenbelt Advisory Commission aware of that may affect the property in the future (such as farm leases, oil or gas leases, death/estate plans etc)?

☐ No ☐ Yes If yes, please explain

How much public road frontage exists on the nominated property? This would not include seasonal roads or private farm lanes, but would include public paved, dirt, gravel, etc. roads. (Check only one box.)

☐ None ☐ Less than ¼ mile ☐ ¼ mile or more, but less than ½ mile
☐ ½ mile or more, but less than ¾ of a mile ☐ ¾ mile or more

Is the nominated property enrolled in any of the following programs?

- ☐ Private Forestry Act (Part 513 of NREPA)
- ☐ Commercial Forest Act (Part 512 of NREPA)
- ☐ Hunter Access Program (Part 435 of NREPA)
- ☐ Wetland Reserve Program
- ☐ Crop Reserve Program

Is the nominated property (or a portion of the nominated property) currently enrolled in a PA 116, Farmland Development Rights Agreement (FDRA)?

☐ No ☐ Yes, If yes, list the agreement number(s):

Have you identified any additional funds that are available to assist toward purchase of the property or development rights? For example, such funds may come from a private land conservancy, local government or other interested party.

☐ No ☐ Yes -- I have identified additional funds.

Amount \$ _____

Source: ☐ Private Conservancy ☐ Local Government ☐ Other (Describe)

Further description (if necessary):

Are you willing to donate a portion of the appraised value? Applicants who commit to such a donation will be scored higher. Such a donation may result in a tax benefit. However, you must obtain your own independent tax advice from e.g. a tax attorney or CPA, as the City is not able to provide tax advice.

☐ No ☐ Yes If yes, please indicate what percentage of appraised value you will donate: ☐ 5% ☐ 10% ☐ 20% ☐ Other _____

Please provide a description of the property (including features such as water bodies, scenic views, streams, wetlands, rare species, or other desirable features):

☐ Please check this box if you do NOT want the City of Ann Arbor to share this application with other agencies or organizations that have matching funds available for land preservation. It is the City's goal to protect as much land as possible by leveraging as many other funding sources as possible. Applications with potential matching funds are scored more highly than those without.

CERTIFICATION

I affirm that the statements and information provided in this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that submission of this application does not obligate the City to purchase any interest in the property, but is solely for the purposes of enabling the City to evaluate such a purchase. I understand the information provided in this application may be disclosed, subject to permitted exemptions, consistent with applicable law. I will grant reasonable access to the property for purposes of inspection and appraisal by the City, its employees and contractors, and the City Greenbelt Advisory Commission.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Attachments:

- 1. Deed / Land Contract**
- 2. Existing Easements**

Land Acquisition Criteria

Sites for consideration shall be evaluated using the criteria listed below together with any criteria determined by the Green Belt Advisory Committee to be appropriate to accomplishing the purpose of this Ordinance.

1. Agricultural Land Criteria

Characteristics of the land: type of agricultural land, parcel size, road frontage, wetlands and/or floodplain, groundwater recharge and natural features

Context: distance from city limit, adjacent zoning classification, adjacent land use, proximity to protected land, scenic and/or historical value, fits within the Greenbelt Strategic Plan

Acquisition considerations: matching funds, landowner contribution, urgency for acquisition, recreation potential

2. Open Space Land Criteria

Characteristics of land: mature trees or rare species, parcel size, road frontage, wetlands and/or floodplain, groundwater recharge

Context: distance to city limit, adjacent land use, proximity to protected land, proximity to water resource frontage, scenic and/or historical value, number of vehicle trips per day, fits within the Greenbelt Strategic Plan

Acquisition considerations: matching funds, landowner contribution, urgency for acquisition, recreational potential

