



#### CHAPTER 3 OUTLINE

1. **What are Natural Resources?**
2. **Why Natural Resources are Important**
  - a. Citywide Natural Resources
  - b. Natural Resources by Planning Area
  - c. Threats to Grove City's Natural Resources
3. **Natural Resources in Grove City**
4. **Preserving Natural Resources**
  - a. Park and Open Space Details
5. **Education/Involvement**
6. **Goals, Objectives and Actions**

## natural resources and management

### INTRODUCTION

Natural resources such as trees, streams and other natural areas are very important to the community and are invaluable to the parks system. The preservation of natural resources is important to maintain beautiful scenery for current and future residents and to regulate the impact of new development on the environment with cleaner waterways and natural flood control. As Grove City continues to grow, the city has an obligation to future residents to preserve the natural resources in the city, including those on land that is yet to be developed. The Parks and Recreation Department aims to preserve as many natural areas as possible as the city expands in order to provide educational opportunities and to create passive recreational opportunities to residents.

### OVERVIEW

The desire for more natural areas in the city's parks was the sixth most popular comment gathered in the public meetings and online surveys. While Grove City's parks currently contain a variety of natural resources, it will be important to ensure the continued protection of these resources in and around the park system.

Two goals have been identified by the Parks and Recreation Department related to Natural Resources and Management:

1. The protection of the city's natural resources
2. A community aware of natural resources found in and around Grove City

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## WHAT ARE NATURAL RESOURCES?

Natural resources come in a wide variety of forms, from streams and ponds to large stands of trees. Any feature occurring naturally within the environment that exists relatively undisturbed by mankind in a natural form is considered a natural resource. Grove City contains many natural resources, many of which are highlighted in the parks system. Most natural resources in the city include streams, natural ponds, wetlands and tree stands.

### Definitions

Below are a series of natural resources definitions that will be referenced throughout the chapter.

#### Natural Resources

Natural resources occur naturally within the environment and exist relatively undisturbed by mankind in a natural form.

#### Bioretention Areas

Bioretention areas are designed to provide infiltration and plant uptake by temporarily storing, treating and slowly releasing runoff to remove pollutants.

#### Open Space (Natural Open Space)

Open space is land permanently reserved as a nature preserve, stream protection corridor or other land that naturally regulates storm water. This space provides habitat for natural flora and fauna or protects ecologically sensitive sites such as wetlands and significant forested areas.

#### Streams and Waterways

Streams and waterways are channels that have a well-defined bed and bank, either natural or artificial that confines and conducts continuous or periodic flowing water in such a way that terrestrial vegetation cannot establish roots within the streambed.

##### Perennial Stream

Perennial streams carry water more than 80 percent of the year, drying out only during long, dry spells.

##### Intermittent Stream

Intermittent streams carry water 10 to 80 percent of the year.

##### Ephemeral Stream

Ephemeral streams carry water only after rain events and shortly thereafter, and carry water less than 20 percent of the time.

#### Waterbody

A waterbody is any natural or artificial pond, lake, reservoir or other area that ordinarily or intermittently contains water and has a discernible shoreline into which surface waters flow.



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### Wetlands

Wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater with a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

### LONG-TERM BENEFITS

One of the most important reasons to preserve natural resources is the benefits they offer over time. A 30-inch diameter tree provides 70 times the ecological services of a 3-inch diameter tree.

### WHY NATURAL RESOURCES ARE IMPORTANT

Natural resources are important to both the environment and the city's residents because they provide important recreational opportunities and attract tourists. Preserving these resources will ensure their benefits are enjoyed not only by Grove City's current residents, but by future generations.

### Flood Control/Storm Water Management

Natural, undeveloped areas such as fields, forests and wetlands allow storm water to make its way through the soil into the groundwater supply. By contrast, buildings and pavement block rain from reaching soil, instead quickly directing it through storm drains that transport the water to streams. Overwhelmed by the brief but intense water volume, floodwaters scour the stream banks of natural vegetation and erode the stream bed. After wet periods, these creeks often are dry because storm water never enters the groundwater supply, which is a significant source of stream water.

Trees absorb large quantities of water after rainfall events, by taking storm water up through their roots. A mature tree with a 16-inch diameter trunk has a root system that can hold almost 1,500 gallons of rain water. For every 5 percent of tree cover added to a community, storm water runoff is reduced by approximately 2 percent, as the tree directs rainwater down its trunk to the earth.

### Habitats

All natural resources, including streams, ponds, trees and wetlands provide important habitats for wildlife, either temporarily during migration or as permanent homes. Many wildlife species are dependent on the natural resources in which they reside and can be dramatically impacted by even the slightest change to their habitat.

### Aesthetic Benefits/Increase Property Value

The most observable benefit natural resources provide is their ability to improve the character of the community and enhance the general appearance of development. Natural resources have a positive emotional effect on people by connecting us to nature and reducing stress. Therefore, it should be no surprise that natural resources such as streams and woodlands have a positive impact on property values and enhance the desirability of a location. Creating a more desirable community is also key in attracting and retaining skilled residents and businesses.

### Tourism/Recreational Opportunities

Although natural resources are meant to be protected, minor development can safely be conducted within a certain distance of these features to make the resources accessible for recreational purposes. For example, stream corridors make excellent sites for recreational trails. Many of Grove City's streams have been targeted as potential

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corridors for the city's expanding bikeway system. Chapter 4 - Trails and Connectivity details potential routes along the city's streams and identifies the potential for connectivity between the Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park and the future Metro Park located at the former Talbott Park site. Creating this connection and directing cyclists through Grove City could bring significant benefits to Grove City businesses. According to MORPC, visitors to the Little Miami Scenic Trail spend an average of more than \$13 per person per visit.

### Cost Savings

Some people may consider natural resources and the steps taken to protect them as an extra financial burden to development. This, however, is not always the case. One central Ohio community installed a rain garden and filtration swale instead of traditional storm drain lines during repair work to help drain a small 2.5 acre area. The cost of the traditional improvements would've been more than \$31,000. However, by installing the rain garden and new catch basin for less than \$8,000, the city was able to save more than \$23,000 on the project.

## NATURAL RESOURCES IN GROVE CITY

### CITY-WIDE NATURAL RESOURCES

#### Streams

Not including the Scioto River, about 70 miles of waterways flow through Grove City. The majority of streams in the city are perennial streams, with running water most of the year. Most streams hold water seasonally near the stream source, but become perennial streams farther downstream as they collect more runoff.

The longest stream in Grove City is Grant Run, which begins west of Harrisburg Pike and flows into the Scioto River. It also flows through Meadow Grove Park, along a series of public greenways and Indian Trails Park, and joins with the Scioto River at the former Talbott Park, now owned by the Franklin County Metro Parks. Other notable streams in Grove City include Brown Run, which flows along Southwest Boulevard and creates the northern boundary of the Skate Park and Plum Run, in southern Grove City.

#### Ponds

A variety of ponds are located throughout Grove City, many of which are man-made to regulate storm water from developments. Regardless of origin, ponds are an important feature that should be preserved because over time, even man-made ponds can become important habitats. Ponds can also provide opportunities for both active recreation such as boating and swimming, and passive recreation such as fishing or enjoying the natural scenery.

#### Wetlands

Grove City has more than 40 acres of wetlands within its borders, though many of these are not wet all year long and are not very large, with an average size of a half acre. These wetlands are most often located in undeveloped portions of the city in the

### TREE CITY USA

Grove City has been a Tree City USA community for 17 years. This designation is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. Gaining and retaining Tree City USA recognition is an award to the workers, managers, volunteers, board members and others who work on behalf of better care of the city's trees.

### WATERSHEDS

Grove City is located in two watersheds: the Big Darby and the Upper Scioto. This means that all water flows into either the Big Darby Creek or the Scioto River.

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south, though a smaller number are scattered in more developed locations as well. These wetlands are located in agricultural areas, in low-lying wooded areas, and in tall grasses, and are usually close to a small stream.

### Tree Canopy

Grove City is home to many significant tree stands, many of which are located along stream corridors. Tree stands have been preserved in many of the city's parks, including Gantz Park, Henceroth Park and Fryer Park.

### NATURAL RESOURCES BY PLANNING AREA

	Planning Areas				
	A	B	C	D	E
<b>Streams (Miles)</b>	5.6	6.5	15.9	5.9	18.7
<i>Perennial</i>	4.2	5.9	9.7	4.7	15.0
<i>Intermittent</i>	0.8	0.1	4.7	0.7	3.0
<i>Ephemeral</i>	0.3	0.1	4.7	0.7	3.0
<i>Culvert</i>	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.4
<b>Pond (Acres)</b>	14.6	5.6	21.2	31.0	80.0
<b>Floodplain (Acres)</b>	129.7	125.9	135.1	307.4	803.6
<b>Wetlands (Acres)</b>	23.0	7.4	12.2	17.9	87.5
<b>Tree Canopy (Acres)</b>	53.1	109.6	157.8	190.7	429.2

### Planning Area A

Planning Area A is the smallest of the five planning areas and typically has the fewest natural resources when compared to the other planning areas. For example, Planning Area A has the fewest miles of streams flowing through it, at less than six miles. This planning area also has the least amount of tree canopy. The southern portion of this area is primarily agricultural and is the location of many acres of wetlands as well as floodplains from the streams that flow through it. Whiteman Ditch, flowing over the northern portion of the planning area creates much of the floodplain found in Planning Area A.

### Planning Area B

Planning Area B does not have many natural resource areas, partially due to the denser development patterns. Much of Planning Area B was established several decades ago, which gives the area a more mature tree canopy. While the trees are more mature within this area, many of the residential subdivisions do not contain dedicated open space or natural areas that are required in new developments. There are 6.5 miles of streams flowing through this area. These streams are more likely to suffer from erosion than those in other planning areas though. Most of the floodplain in this planning area is around the longest stream in the planning area, Brown Run.

### GROVE CITY'S LONGEST STREAMS

#### Grant Run

7.7 miles

#### Brown Run

5.7 miles

#### Plum Run

4.4 miles

#### Grove City Creek

3.9 miles

#### Patzer Ditch

3.0 miles

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### Planning Area C

This planning area is the second largest and contains a wide range of development patterns. The northern portion is heavily developed, resulting in fewer preserved natural areas, while the southwestern portion of the planning area is primarily agricultural in nature. Multiple streams are located in the southern portion of this planning area such as Plum Run, Patzer Ditch and Grant Run as well as several wetlands. These streams will need to be protected in the future as development extends south into the land that is currently agricultural. Planning Area C has fewer floodplains and less tree canopy than its size would suggest.

### Planning Area D

Planning Area D is only slightly larger than smaller planning areas A and B, but enjoys considerably more natural resources. It has the second highest quantity of many natural resources including more than 300 acres of land in the floodplain, almost 200 acres of tree canopy and 30 acres of ponds. The Scioto River borders the western section of the planning area, causing the significant land within the floodplain in this area. The most significant stream is Republican Run, also called Grove City Creek.

### Planning Area E

Planning Area E is the largest of the five planning areas and contains the most natural resources. Almost 20 miles of streams can be found in this planning area, including Grant Run, Patzer Ditch and Plum Run. The numerous streams and its proximity to the Scioto River give this planning area the most land in the floodplain and also help contribute to the more than 400 acres of tree canopy, preserved along stream corridors. Roughly 80 acres of ponds and almost 90 acres of wetlands are located here.

## THREATS TO NATURAL RESOURCES

Many of the important natural resources found throughout the city are also the most vulnerable. Streams and wetlands both degrade quickly when vegetation is removed from their banks. As development expands and the city grows, it will be important to keep in mind potential threats to natural resources and determine ways to deter these threats.

### Growth and Development

Growth and development means increasing the amount of impermeable surface in the city. Roads, parking lots and buildings all prevent rainwater from naturally infiltrating into the ground. This change in the flow of storm water can lead to flash flooding as streams receive storm water quickly from the runoff over roads and parking lot instead of slowly percolating through the soil to the stream. This also leads to erosion of stream beds, which only compounds the stream's inability to naturally regulate storm water. This phenomenon increases the odds of a stream flooding.

Increasing impermeable surface also leads to the pollution of streams, as water flows over pavement picking up any debris, chemicals or other substances that might be on the paved surface. According to the Central Ohio Greenways Plan, produced by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, many of the streams in Grove City are

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not in favorable ecological condition. Marsh Run is one of only two streams in Franklin County that was given a rating of “very poor” in the Plan. In the same plan, Republican Run was rated “fair”, and Grant Run was rated “poor” before it joins with Patzer Ditch and “fair” after it joins with Patzer Ditch. No streams in Grove City included in the analysis were given a “good” rating.

### **Lack of Knowledge of the Value or Existence of Natural Resources**

Grove City has protected a number of streams and wooded areas in conservation easements when a development is platted. Problems arise when properties bordering these easements are sold and the new homeowners are not aware of the existence of the easement. These easements can carry regulations regarding what uses can be conducted in the area, as well as specific preservation guidelines. However, property owners must be made aware of the regulations.

Furthermore, the benefits of many types of natural resources are often misunderstood. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources considers wetlands to be one of the most misunderstood ecosystems in Ohio. For this reason, it is important for the city to have many educational opportunities available to the public to help residents understand the importance of natural resources and their preservation.

## **PRESERVING NATURAL RESOURCES**

The city recognizes the importance of preserving natural resources and has enacted several policies and joined various organizations in order to raise awareness and work toward the protection of natural resources.

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

Planning for the preservation of natural resources is frequently a regional task as natural resources rarely follow jurisdiction lines. Grove City is involved in a number of regional partnerships to promote the protection of natural resources.

#### **Central Ohio Green Pact**

In 2007, Grove City signed the Central Ohio Green Pact, an agreement made by a number of local governments and agencies to follow certain principles of sustainability and set an example to the community by implementing sustainable practices. The Parks and Recreation Department aims to follow the principles outlined in the Green Pact through the sustainable development of parks, particularly in the use of sustainable materials and general practices in development of parks.

#### **Upper Scioto Planning Partnership**

In 2010, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Agency organized the Upper Scioto Planning Partnership, in which Grove City is involved to help create a Watershed Balanced Growth Plan. A variety of principles guide the partnership, aiming to attain equilibrium between a strong, diversified economy and a healthy ecosystem. These principles include encouraging new development and redevelopment of historic, cultural or scenic resources; promoting public access and enjoyment of central Ohio natural resources; and minimizing the loss of green space.

### **OBJECTIVE 1**

Follow the principles outlined in the Central Ohio Green Pact through the sustainable development of parks.

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### Big Darby Accord

Grove City is one of 10 jurisdictions located within the Big Darby Watershed that has participated in the Big Darby Accord, a plan to preserve and protect the Big Darby Creek and its tributaries. The Accord allowed Grove City to give input on the best possible ways to ensure long-term environmental stewardship while allowing economic and neighborhood growth that respected property owners rights within the watershed. The Accord partners hold regular meetings to communicate, coordinate and advance recommendations outlined in the plan.

### CITY POLICIES

Grove City currently has regulations pertaining to the protection of natural resources, both within the Codified Ordinances as well as separate adopted policies. These regulations ensure that new developments take natural resources into consideration and protect natural features in the city.

#### Stream Corridor Protection Policy

Grove City currently has a Stream Protection Policy that establishes a required riparian setback for all natural open watercourses. The policy also limits the uses that are permitted within the riparian setback and outlines various other regulations for the protection of the stream. When land is developed around streams, these corridors are frequently placed in conservation easements for the protection of the stream.

#### Tree Preservation Policy

Currently, all preliminary and final development plans submitted for Planning Commission review are required to submit plans showing existing trees of six inches diameter at breast height or larger. The city also has regulations for the preservation of trees during construction, including marking trees to be protected and installing fencing around areas to be preserved. Trees that are affected by the installation of driveways, parking lots or proposed buildings are encouraged to be relocated or replaced with new trees of the same species. These are only recommendations though, and not requirements.

### BEST PRACTICES

A variety of tools and development strategies can be used to protect natural resources. By encouraging new developments to utilize these practices, Grove City can grow in a sustainable manner. Many of these development tools and their incorporation into the parks system during the park development process will be reviewed further in Chapter 7 - Land Acquisition and Parkland Development.

#### Nature Reserves

Nature reserves are used in communities throughout central Ohio to protect environmentally significant areas at the time land is developed. The city determines the location of a nature reserve based on a number of criteria such as the presence of streams, floodplains, poorly drained soils or wooded areas.

### CENTRAL OHIO GREEN PACT

In 2007, Grove City signed the Central Ohio Green Pact, an agreement made by local governments and agencies to set an example to the community by implementing sustainable practices.

#### 1. Greener Public Fleets

Agree to take responsibility to reduce air pollution by adopting a Green Fleet Policy, including anti idling directives, higher performance vehicles, alternative energy sources, and retrofitting existing vehicles.

#### 2. Grow a Strong, Green Economy

Collaborate with the rest of the region to pursue development of emerging "green" business such as recycling and other environmentally friendly businesses.

#### 3. Collaborate to Purchase Green Products

Purchase products that are environmentally friendly, preserve natural resources, and reduce waste going to landfills. Consider joint purchasing for these products and review purchasing codes to implement green procurement practices.

#### 4. Adopt Sustainable Land Use Policies

This includes creating walkable, bikeable communities, preservation of trees, riparian corridors, and promoting bio-swales and rain gardens.

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### 5. Build Green Facilities

Explore creation and rehabilitation of buildings that are more energy efficient, conserve water, and use environmentally friendly products.

### 6. Reduce Waste

Lead by example to establish recycling programs and reduce physical waste generated by daily operations.

### 7. Educate and Engage Our Communities

Encourage environmental stewardship by educating residents through the use of programming and hands on activities.

### 8. Reduce Emissions and Climate Protection

Inventory greenhouse gas emissions and develop an action plan to address those emissions. Collaborate on regional solutions by engaging the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

### 9. Preserve Green Space and Creating Greenways

Provide abundant parkland for community use and develop a highly accessible system of pathways. Conserve streams, wetlands, forests, and other environmentally significant areas.

### 10. Promote Mass Transportation

Improve and promote alternative modes of transportation such as bus, bike, or carpooling.

### Rain Gardens

A rain garden, or bioretention area, is a landscaping feature that is created to hold rainwater on-site and provide storm water a chance to percolate into the soil. Rain gardens usually consist of a shallow depression with relatively well draining soils and filled with attractive landscaping that is tolerant of standing water. Downspouts can be directed into the rain garden, and sometimes a drain is installed for when the rain garden is full. According to Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District, an estimated 69 rain gardens in Franklin County collect approximately 46.5 million gallons of storm water every year.

### Rain Barrels

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rainwater that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains and streams. A rain barrel is typically composed of a 55-gallon drum, vinyl hose, screen grate to keep debris and insects out, and other off-the-shelf items. Rain barrels allow property owners to collect rainwater until they need it, saving money and energy, while decreasing the impact of runoff on streams.

### Permeable Pavement/Pavers

Permeable pavement allows water to soak through the pavement and into the groundwater supply. It may either be a poured concrete material or be made of individual pavers. Permeable pavement dramatically reduces storm water runoff and ponding in roadways. The effect of storm water on streams is reduced by allowing storm water to more naturally infiltrate into the ground.

## EDUCATION/INVOLVEMENT

The protection of natural resources and the environment starts with awareness and education. By providing educational opportunities in the parks, the community will learn more about the unique central Ohio environment and interact with the city's parks system. Educational opportunities can come in a variety of forms, particularly environmental education. Learning opportunities that cater to multiple learning styles are critical to creating meaningful educational experiences for the community.

### Organizations

Currently, a number of Grove City residents engage in volunteer efforts such as the Central Ohio Rain Garden Initiative (CORGI), building rain gardens, and Keep Grove City Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. These groups actively engage in sustainable projects such as collecting hazardous household waste for safe disposal and educating the community about sustainability issues.

Civic bodies such as the Tree Commission also play a role in resident involvement in natural resource protection. This all-volunteer group works on events such as Community Environmental Day and the Gardens at Gantz Farm Plant Sale. Members also prune trees on a monthly basis during the growing season.

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### Programs

Grove City offers a variety of sustainable practice educational programs such as the rain barrel workshop, where participants attend a lesson on the benefits and use of a rain barrel, and are given a rain barrel for their own use. Grove City also helps organize stream cleanups where volunteers remove debris from the city's waterways.

As a member of the Central Ohio Rain Garden Initiative (CORGI), the City also offers rain garden workshops to teach residents how to properly install a rain garden on their property. This can serve as a model for other outreach efforts to communicate the benefits of best practices relating to environmental stewardship.

### City Website

Grove City's website is already a heavily used resource for residents researching parks and programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department, making it a good starting point for residents who wish to know more about environmental features in the parks. Information that may be included on Grove City's website includes a map of the parks, illustrating the location of natural resources. The website can provide overall characteristics of each park's natural features as well as any programming or educational opportunities relating to these natural resources.

### Naturalists in the Parks

Several residents expressed an interest in educational programming in the parks, including a naturalist who could share information with park visitors. This individual could offer sessions that vary with the seasons or could speak during educational sessions.

### Handouts and Signage

Brochures in parks as well as educational signage can complement natural features such as tree specimens, aquatic habitats or other natural features. This is an opportunity for residents to "discover" interesting details about park features as they enjoy their park visit. This will also be an important communication approach for park features that are not significant enough to warrant a naturalist or to have available when a naturalist is not present.

### Community Gardens

Community gardens offer residents recreational and educational opportunities. They are a great place for community members to meet and mingle, offer a source of fresh fruits and vegetables and provide an interactive educational experience. Community gardens are particularly important for people who don't have space at home, such as people who live in condominiums or apartments. A well-kept community garden can also serve as a landscape feature that shows the residents care about their neighborhood.

### OBJECTIVE 3

Provide the community with natural resource education opportunities.



“

[I would like] more programs like the rain barrel workshops.

- Planning Area E Resident

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“

[It would be great to have a] nature observation/viewing building... Fryer Park would be perfect to have a bird feeding/water fowl observation building with feeding stations. In the viewing building there should be opportunities for community member/children to learn about the environmental sciences.

- Planning Area D Resident

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### **Educational Attractions**

Grove City already has several successful educational attractions, including the arboretum and herb gardens at Gantz Park. Attractions like these are attractive natural landscaping features, but also serve as learning opportunities for park visitors. Installation of a “nature garden” has proven popular in other communities. The nature garden could include plants native to the area, sensory activities, learning stations to familiarize people with different plants and animals, an example bioretention area and descriptions of natural features. Informational signage would guide visitors by explaining the different attractions.

“

During the bird migration it would be nice to have an expert at programs in the area that migrating birds would be coming through.

- Planning Area B Resident

”

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## GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

### G1. **The protection of the City's natural resources.**

Grove City has many unique natural resources. As the city grows, it is important that these resources are protected and that future development is conducted in a sustainable manner. Developing parks and following policies mindful of environmental stewardship will aid in the protection of our resources and ensure that they will be protected for future generations.

#### O1. **Follow the principles outlined in the Central Ohio Green Pact through the sustainable development of parks.**

The Central Ohio Green Pact is a document signed by local governments (including Grove City) and organizations pledging to follow 10 principles to set an example for their jurisdictions on how to grow greener. Many of the City's long-term environmental goals can be founded in the principles outlined in the Pact, including creating walkable/bikeable communities, protecting our natural resources, and using environmentally-friendly products.

- A1. Use sustainable materials and practices in park development when feasible to do so
- A2. Encourage recycling by placing recycling containers in convenient locations in all parks and along public trails

#### O2. **Preserve natural resources on land to be developed.**

Natural resources can be found throughout the city, not just in city-owned parkland. By reviewing our existing policies aimed to protect natural resources and comparing them to that of other cities', we can ensure that our policies are as effective as possible in protecting our natural resources.

- A3. Adopt Code revisions that require developers to design sites around the existing natural resources and replace any trees removed or damaged during the development process
- A4. Adopt Code revisions that require stream protection corridors and conservation easements by dedicated to the city
- A5. Adopt Code revisions for natural resource definitions, such as wetlands and bioretention area

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### POLICY FOUNDATION DEFINITIONS

#### Goal

A goal is a broad policy statement expressing a desired outcome in simple terms.

#### Objective

An objective is a refinement of the goal necessary to give more detailed policy direction to strategies to implement the goal.

#### Action

An action is a detailed action step, program, project, or policy necessary to initiate and complete an objective.

#### G2. **A community aware of the natural resources found in and around the city.**

The protection of natural resources and the environment starts with awareness and education. By providing educational opportunities in the parks, the community will have the opportunity to learn more about the unique environment found in central Ohio as well as have an additional opportunity to interact with the city's parks system.

#### O3. **Provide the community with natural resource education opportunities.**

Educational opportunities can come in a variety of forms, particularly in terms of environmental education. Having learning opportunities catering to multiple learning styles will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn in their own manner.

A6. Provide educational links / facts on the city's website

A7. Provide naturalists in parks, where applicable

A8. Create handouts and signage to place in parks explaining educational opportunities

A9. Install and promote community gardens as educational opportunities