

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

City Council understands that citizens of Oakwood may wish to establish conservation easements over their properties, or parts thereof, in order to preserve natural environmental features and topographic conditions. Council further understands that such conservation easements typically limit current and future use or development of land and therefore can impact the value of private property. Therefore, it is Council's policy to address conservation easements in the following manner:

1. The establishment of conservation easements is to be initiated by Oakwood property owners. Council and city staff may encourage property owners to consider establishing such easements, but will not solicit property owners in this regard. Council respects the rights of property owners to use their land consistent with the rules and regulations established in the Zoning Code or Subdivision Regulations.
2. Council will not require, or permit to be required, the establishment of conservation easements as a condition of approving building or subdivision applications, except as may be specifically outlined in the Zoning Code or Subdivision Regulations.
3. Council will generally promote the establishment of conservation easements if they serve a public purpose.
4. Council will review requests for conservation easements from property owners considering issues including, but not limited to:
 - a. Value to the neighborhood and community;
 - b. Future financial burden to the city;
 - c. Tax consequences; and
 - d. Potential liability to the city.
5. Council will consider each easement proposal on its own merits.

Adopted on January 9, 2023.