

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

The Novi Beautification Commission (NBC) has had a great interest in environmental impacts. We have installed a Rain Garden at Tollgate and a Bioswale at Rotary Park. The Fuerst Farm plan is one that several members of the NBC have been able to review.

The Bioswale on the west side of the Library is wonderful. The NBC would like to see if the Novi High School parking drain in the area of the Library Bioswale could have the runoff water go to the rain garden. The topography was not available to review, but if it were possible it would help the flooding that occurs on Taft road by the North entrance of Novi High School. Frequently, the Taft Road corridor by the north entrance of the school is flooded. Many of the High School drivers are new drivers and when the road conditions are wet or flooded it really is difficult to drive for even the experienced driver.

A second Bioswale would be helpful on the East side of Taft Road, South of Ten-Mile Road, in the native planting area. The Bioswale would again prevent the flooding that occurs during heavy rainfall. The best way to create a Bioswale would be to create a lower ditch by 2-4 feet deep, 10-12 feet long, fill with compost and allow the water runoff to sit in the compost. Specific plants need to be planted in the compost of the Bioswale to allow proper absorption of the water by the roots of the plants. The ditch could have multiple Bioswales in a row to allow drainage to be stationary and then absorbed for a period of time. If multiple Bioswales were incorporated a clay wall (the soil that is present at the current ground level) between each Bioswale would be beneficial to separate each area and slow the runoff. The best thought would be to have 3-5 Bioswales in a row to contain the most runoff. This would really enhance the safety of the traffic flow on Taft in a heavy rainstorm.

The NBC could provide many of the plantings for the Bioswales and the native planting areas. We are able to ask the people attending the Perennial Exchange for specific plants that could be used. The NBC received many of the plants for the previously planted Bioswale and Rain Garden in this fashion.

The other suggestion was a Labyrinth, which provides a chance for people to meditate and relax. A website to view Labyrinth is www.lesson4living.com or www.LabyrinthCompany.com.

Thank you for your kind consideration and hope these suggestions will be helpful. The Parks and Recreation Commission is really doing a good job with this Fuerst Farm Plan.

Lynne Paul