# **CITY of NOVI CITY COUNCIL**



Agenda Item O August 13, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Approval of the request of the applicant, Walmart Stores East LP, Inc., for SP10-42, a revised landscape plan for the east portion of the site, bordering Town Center Drive. The subject property is located in Section 14, at the northwest corner of Eleven Mile Road and Town Center Drive, in the TC, Town Center District. The subject property is approximately 12.8 acres and the applicant has constructed an approximately 149,000 square foot Walmart store. The applicant has installed landscaping in accordance with the previously-approved plan. The applicant has now proposed additional landscape screening between the loading zone and Town Center Drive to confirm the sufficiency of the planting plan in lieu of a decorative wall or fence.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Community Development Department - Planning

## CITY MANAGER APPROVAL

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City Council approved a Special Land Use Permit and Site Plan for Walmart on January 10, 2011. Construction on the facility has commenced with significant progress. As the site has reached final stages of development, an aspect of the approved landscape has been further reviewed. The east side of the new building is the loading area for the store. While a 3-foot wall or fence in this area could have been considered by the City as part of the landscape plan, Walmart included the amenity of a well-landscaped pocket park on the corner of Eleven Mile and Town Center Drive and various additional plantings along Town Center Drive. The Planning Commission and Council both reviewed the plan and, as permitted by ordinance, allowed that planting plan shown. No fence or wall was explicitly called out. Consideration was given to the grade change from Town Center Drive and the rear of the facility forming an effective buffer. Landscape requirements were bolstered and many evergreen trees were included to form an effective screen from Town Center Drive.

Approved landscaping is now in place. In response to inquiries, Walmart has given further consideration to augmenting the landscape screening on the east side of the building, along Town Center Drive. Features of the revised Final Landscape Plan include:

- A total of 40 additional large shrubs, upgraded from 22 shrubs shown on the original augmentation plan.
- Increased diversity of plant material to include a minimum of three species.
- The new shrubs will be grouped in mulched landscape beds for a cohesive look and for ease of long term maintenance.

Staff is strongly in support of the additional landscape as it will further enhance an effective and attractive landscape buffer at the loading area of the new facility. The additional landscape added at this time will have an immediate impact on the buffer

qualities. As this landscape matures, the seasonal aesthetics and substantial screening will improve the appearance of the back of the Walmart store from Town Center Drive.

The Planning Commission considered the revised landscape plan at the August 8<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting and recommended approval of the revised plan. City Council is asked to approve the revised plan at the August 13<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**: Approval of the request of the applicant, Walmart Stores East LP, Inc., for SP10-42, a revised landscape plan for the east portion of the site, bordering Town Center Drive. The applicant has installed landscaping in accordance with the previously-approved plan. The applicant has now proposed additional landscape screening between the loading zone and Town Center Drive to confirm the sufficiency of the planting plan in lieu of a decorative wall or fence.

	1	2	Y	Ν
Mayor Gatt				
Mayor Pro Tem Staudt				
Council Member Casey				
Council Member Fischer				

	1	2	Y	Ν
Council Member Margolis				
Council Member Mutch				
Council Member Wrobel				

MAPS

Location/Air Photo



MAP INTERPRETATION NOTICE

MAP INTERPRETATION NOTICE Map information depicted is not intended to replace or substitute for any official or primary source. This map was intended to meet National Map Accuracy Standards and use the most recent, accurate sources available to the people of the City of Novi. Boundary measurements and area calculations are approximate and should not be construed as survey measurements performed by a licensed Michigan Surveyor as defined in Michigan Public Act 132 of 1970 as amended. Pleased contact the City GIS Manager to confirm source and accuracy information related to this map.

Walmart Project Area (Approx.)



45175 W Ten Mile Rd Novi, MI 48375 cityofnovi.org

_	_		Feet		
0	50	100	200	300	400
		1	inch = 266	feet	





Looking west from the intersection of Town Center Drive and Eleven Mile Road



Looking north along Town Center Drive



Behind Walmart store, looking east toward Town Center Drive

### Pictures of existing conditions behind the Walmart Store, August 2012



Looking south, Town Center Drive on left side of picture, Walmart on right side



Looking south along Town Center Drive



Looking southwesterly from the east side of Town Center Drive

# **REVISED LANDSCAPE PLAN**



## APPROVED SITE PLAN



# LANDSCAPE REVIEW



#### <u>Petitioner</u>

Walmart Stores East LP, Inc.

#### **Review Type**

Revised Final Landscape Plan

#### Property Characteristics

- Site Location:
- Site Zoning:
- Adjoining Zoning:
- Current Site Use:
- Adjoining Uses:
- School District:
- Site Size:
- 12.8 acres

TC

(Section 14) TC, Town Center

New Walmart Store

West: various retail

Novi Community School District

Plan Date: August 2, 2012

#### Project Summary

Walmart received a Special Land Use Permit and Site Plan Approval through the City Council on January 10, 2011. Construction on the facility has commenced with significant progress. As the site has reached final stages of development, an aspect of the approved landscape has been further reviewed. The east side of the new building is the loading area for the store. While a 3-foot wall or fence in this area could have been required by the City as part of the landscape plan, Walmart included the amenity of a well landscaped pocket park on the corner of Eleven Mile and Town Center Drive and various additional plantings along Town Center Drive. The Planning Commission and Council both scrutinized the plan and, as permitted by ordinance, allowed that planting plan in lieu of any wall or fence. Consideration was given to the grade change from Town Center Drive and the rear of the facility forming an effective buffer. Landscape requirements were bolstered and many evergreen trees were included to form an effective screen from Town Center Drive.

The landscape is now in place, and in response to inquiries, Walmart has given further consideration to augmenting the landscape screening on this east side of the building along Town Center Drive. Walmart has been most cooperative throughout on-site discussions with staff. The Applicant did provide a plan for the augmentation of this landscape buffer, and did respond to staff comments by adding still further landscape

# PLAN REVIEW CENTER REPORT

August 2, 2012 **Revised Final Landscape Review** Walmart SP#10-42

North of Eleven Mile Road, West of Town Center Drive

North: TC; South (across Eleven Mile Road): TC; East (across Town Center Drive): OSC, Office Service Commercial; West:

North: various retail; South (across Eleven Mile Road): various

retail and office; East (across Town Center Drive): office;

Revised Final Landscape Plan Walmart August 2, 2012 Page 2 of 2

materials and adjusting the proposed layout. The Applicant has provided the attached plan in response to staff comments and further discussion. The Planning Commission is asked to recommend approval this augmentation plan as an addition to the approved site plan.

### Recommendation

#### Approval of the Revised Final Landscape Plan for SP#10-42 Walmart is recommended.

### Landscape Augmentations

Features of the revised Final Landscape Plan include:

- A total of 40 additional large shrubs, upgraded from 22 shrubs shown on the original augmentation plan.
- Increased diversity of plant material to include a minimum of three species.
- The new shrubs will be grouped in mulched landscape beds for a cohesive look and for ease of long term maintenance.

Staff is strongly in support of the additional landscape as it will further enhance an effective and attractive landscape buffer at the loading area of the new facility. The additional landscape added at this time will have an immediate impact on the buffer qualities. As this landscape matures, the seasonal aesthetics and substantial screening will well serve Walmart, adjacent property owners and all members of the Novi community.

Please follow guidelines of the Zoning Ordinance and Landscape Design Guidelines. This review is a summary and not intended to substitute for any Ordinance. For the landscape requirements, see the Zoning Ordinance landscape section on 2509, Landscape Design Manual and the appropriate items in the applicable zoning classification.

Reviewed by: David R. Beschke, RLA ASLA