CITY OF NOVI
Beautification Commission
Wednesday, October 21, 2026 6:30 pm
Mayor's Conference Room
Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road

Call to Order: 6:32 p.m.

Roll Call – Gareth Crawford, Yogesh Kumar, Nicole Rumao, Dinesh Seksaria, Tracy Wick, Mary Angela Winter, Torry Yu

Present: Gareth Crawford, Nicole Rumao, Dinesh Seksaria, Tracy Wick, Mary Angela Winter, Torry Yu

Absent Excused: Yogesh Kumar

Approval of Agenda
Motion: Winter; Seconded: Crawford; Approved: 5:0

Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2026
Motion: Winter; Seconded: Crawford; Approved: 5:0

Chair – Gareth Crawford
Secretary – Torry Yu
City Liaison – Kate Oppermann

Purpose of the Meeting

1. Trail/Walking Path Review Final Form Discussion

   Staff Liaison Oppermann asked the Commissioners what final format they'd like to have Trail/Walking Path Reviews be in for publication? The Commissioners briefly discussed and determined that both a web version, potentially a full page on cityofnovi.org, as well as a printable PDF for individual trails/parks. It was suggested that headings could be used such as "if you're looking for a picnic spot…, if you're looking for a short bike ride, if you're looking for a challenging bike ride…", etc. Ms. Oppermann affirmed that she would work on an initial draft of just the text/copy and have it for the December meeting.

2. 2027 Novi Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program

   Ms. Oppermann briefly went over the updates that were made for the 2027 Program Guide and Application. Some general cleanup, updating it to be a fillable PDF, the inclusion of the new native plant requirement, and the additional resource page regarding native plants.

   - 2026 Program Cycle Update
     Ms. Oppermann briefly provided a to-date update on the 2026 Program awardees. Beckenham, Bradford of Novi, Carlton Forest, and Churchill Crossing have all completed their projects. Final reviews are still taking place for Bradford and Carlton Forest.

     Unfortunately, both Liberty Park and Willowbrook Farms were unable to complete their work during the expected timeline, both have requested extensions through 2027 which Admin has permitted on this occasion based on their explanations of circumstances causing the delay.

3. 2027 Project Planning
   - Pollinator Garden(s) – Opportunity for Plymouth Pollinators Collaboration

     The City's Bee City USA Commitment includes creating or adding to existing bee/pollinator habitats annually. Some potential options for pollinator garden locations have already been identified by Rick Meader (former Novi landscape architect) including Brookfarm Park (neighborhood park in Village Oaks), Fuerst Park (as an extension / enhancement to the existing gardens), and the Center Island of Civic Center parking lot. Ms. Oppermann noted that she will also contact staff in the PRCS and DPW Departments to see if they have any areas in mind that they'd like to see considered among other City Parks or properties. The Commission suggested that they should use all of these suggestions to create a list for prioritization that can be revisited annually.

     The option to work with the Plymouth Pollinators to help residents certify their own properties/gardens as pollinator habits was discussed. Based on prior conversations with the group they affirmed that we could work with them to get a sign developed that includes the City of Novi logo. This project could potentially be a simple lift that encourages pollinator aware practices and habitat maintenance/creation throughout the City. Commissioner Seksaria suggested that this be prioritized, ideally for a full rollout for a Spring 2027 event such as Arbor Day.

- Beautification Award Program Development

  The Commission went over some Michigan examples of local Beautification Awards such as Northville, Northville Township, Farmington Hills, Farmington, Oak Park, Westland, Auburn Hills, and Midland. There is quite a variety of application and evaluation styles, award ceremonies that ranged from community events to a simple announcement at Council meetings, and Awards that recognized businesses, single family residences, as well as condos, apartments, senior living residences, etc.

  The Commissioners suggested that in its first year/pilot the Novi Beautification Awards could recognize businesses, with the option to add additional categories and refinement later on. Starting with these smaller, more focused awards would allow us to gain experience running such a program and more easily modify if needed. It was suggested that the Program might also be a good potential collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, especially if focused on businesses. We will need to focus on tailoring a nomination/application form. Commissioner Wick suggested that we start out purchasing 50 corrugated plastic signs with wire stakes which would, in theory, allow us plenty for several years – though this would be based on how many awards are presented annually.

Roundtable Discussion: None

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: 7:26 p.m.