



BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION AGENDA

CITY OF NOVI

January 08, 2025 | 6:00 PM

Mayor's Conference Room

Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road

(248) 347-0460

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL - Gareth Crawford, Yogesh Kumar, Jan Lach, Christen Pietraz, Laura Williams, Mary Angela Winter, Torry Yu

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[November](#) 13, 2024 Minutes

NEW BUSINESS

[2025](#) Social Media Engagement Planning

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE: People with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk (248) 347-0456 at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.

Beautification Commission Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2024
6:00 pm
Novi Civic Center
45175 10 Mile Rd.
Mayor's Conference Room

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Roll Call: Yogesh Kumar, Jan Lach, Christen Pietraz, Laura Williams, Mary Angela Winter, Torry Yu

Present: Yogesh Kumar, Jan Lach, Christen Pietraz, Mary Angela Winter, Torry Yu

Absent Excused: Laura Williams

Approval of Agenda: Moved: Pietraz, Seconded: Winter, Approved 5:0

Approval of Minutes – October 9, 2024: Moved: Pietraz, Seconded: Yu, Approved 5:0

New Business:

1. Community Development Block Grant – Deputy Finance Director, Sabrina Lilla

Deputy Finance Director Sabrina Lilla gave an overview of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process to the Commissioners, including how the money is allocated under County restrictions with 15% of funds being assigned to Public Service activities and 85% assigned to Minor Home Repair. Oakland County approves programs that qualify for CDBG funds. This meeting is to determine what projects to award the 15% for public services, this year the total that can be allocated totals \$18,486.

Having reviewed the recommended applicant projects the Commission determined to continue the longtime City support to HAVEN, Novi Youth Assistance, and Hospitality House. It was determined that the greatest portion of the available funds be allocated to Novi Youth Assistance as their program is highly localized, whereas the other two organizations, while also highly deserving, are more regional and have additional resources for funding opportunities comparatively.

Motion to recommend that City Council approve the 15% allocation of funds that can be allocated to public service activities (\$18,486.00) out of the total CDBG funds (\$123,243.00) as follows: \$8,000.00 to Novi Youth Assistance and \$5,243.00 each to HAVEN and Hospitality House. The remaining \$123,243.00 will be allocated to the City of Novi Minor Home Repair Program, as usual.

Motion Maker: Winter, Seconded: Pietraz, Approved 5:0

Recommended Projects					
<i>CDBG Program Descriptions</i>	<i>Organization Requesting Funding</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>2024 Application Amount</i>	<i>2025 Agency Requests</i>	<i>2025 Beautification Commission Recommendation</i>
Public Services	HAVEN	Domestic violence	\$5,393	\$15,000	\$5,243
Public Services	Novi Youth Assistance	Specialized counseling and camp and fieldtrip scholarships	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$8,000
Public Services	Hospitality House	Emergency Services	\$5,393	\$9,950	\$5,243
		Sub-Total*	\$18,786	\$33,950	\$18,486
Minor Home Repair	City of Novi	Residential Repair Program for Novi Residents	\$106,460	\$89,293	\$104,757
		Total	\$125,246	\$123,243	\$123,243

The Commissioners also requested that, if possible, in future years to have additional time to make their decision regarding the CDBG funds. Suggesting that the information and the decision could be split between October and November meetings. Ms. Lilla noted that the timeline to do so would be tight (the County informs us of the allocation amount quite close to the October Beautification meetings) but that she would be happy to accommodate the request.

Roundtable Discussion:

The Commission spoke briefly about the planned 2025 monthly social media presence. Commissioner Kumar noted that it is easy for a small Commission such as ours to be forgotten if we don't stay visible to the community. It was determined that Staff Liaison Oppermann and the Commission would discuss the 1st quarter/half of the 2025 year programming and posts at the next Commission meeting.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment: 6:40 pm

Upcoming Meetings: 12/11

Beautification Commission 2025 Social Media Post Planning

Notes:

1-2-24: The current list is an initial draft, not yet reviewed by Commissioners or Community Relations team.

1-6-24: January “event” has been posted by Community Relations team without specific branding to this series, it is planned to repeat weekly throughout January and later editions can be branded as needed.

Q1

January

Happy New Year from the City of Novi Beautification Commission! Welcome to our new monthly “??? Commission Corner? Garden Gazette? Beautification bite???” series. Throughout the year we’ll be offering suggestions and inspiration for your yards, big or small. Some features will be Good Plants to incorporate in your gardens (as well as a few Bad Plants to look out for), beautification tips and facts, as well as upcoming events around the City of Novi that might be of interest to those interested in Beautification related topics.

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

GOOD PLANT

- [Eastern Hemlock Trees](#) (*Tsuga canadensis*)
A lovely native conifer, commonly used in parks and residential areas for their ornamental beauty. If healthy, they can live up to 400 years, providing food and shelter to local wildlife.

Beautification Tip/Fact

- [Non-native? Invasive?](#) Native? Establish basis for good plant/bad plant
- If you have an [Eastern Hemlock Tree check them for signs of infestation by the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid this winter](#). If you find signs takes steps to protect your tree(s) and report the infestation so it can be tracked. An untreated infestation can kill the normally long-lived tree in just 4 – 10 years.

Featured Events?

-Deadline for the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program:

2025 Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program Deadline Approaching

Has your subdivision signage seen better days? Are your plantings in need of sprucing? Lighting looking for a refresh? Homeowners Associations (HOAs) planning on beautifying their neighborhood entrances can apply for a matching grant of up to \$5,000.00 from the City of Novi. Applications are due by **January 31, 2025 at 5:00pm**.

Application and further information can be found online [Here](#).

Beautification Commission 2025 Social Media Post Planning

Contact Katherine Oppermann at 248-347-0478 or koppermann@cityofnovi.org should you have any questions.

1-6-24 POSTED version

Is your subdivision signage looking a bit tired? Do your plantings need a little love? How about a lighting update? If your Homeowners Association (HOA) is thinking about sprucing up your neighborhood entrances, you can apply for a matching grant of up to \$5,000 from the City of Novi! Just remember, applications are due by January 31, 2025, at 5:00 pm. You can find the application and more info online here>> cityofnovi.org/hoa. Email Kate if you have any questions: koppermann@cityofnovi.org

- "Nature Study: Noticing Nature Through Photography", a month-long exhibit in the Civic Center Atrium featuring the photographs of Novi-based photographer & Novi Photography Club member Sara Srinivasan.
 - [Art Gallery Opening & Reception January 8th 6-8pm](#)

February

Happy February, the month of Love. Even though the ground is still frozen it's a good time to think about love we can show to our yards and pollinator friends come Spring.

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

- Beebalm/Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Beautification Tip/Fact

- [Not all pollinators sting](#)
Pollinators investigating flowering plants in your lawn are not likely to sting you. They are only interested in the food and habitat in your lawn and garden, and not interested in bothering you. As you look to make your yard more friendly for pollinators, remember to reduce the amount of chemicals you use in your gardens, never spray any flowering plants in bloom or bare soil, and always read and follow label directions. Reimagine (bee-imagine) your idea of a perfect lawn. Does it need to be a picture-perfect turf landscape, or a perfect paradise for you *and* pollinators?
- Be part of a pollinator corridor! If you have a full yard to dedicate to gardens, great! But even those with just a small patio or balcony can contribute with potted plants (also consider speaking to your association or management office about adding pollinator habitat to your grounds)

Featured Events?

March

Beautification Commission 2025 Social Media Post Planning

Happy March! With the snow and slush melting away it will soon be time again to turn our eyes to our yards and gardens.

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

GOOD PLANT

- [Sugar Maple \(*Acer saccharum*\)](#)
- **Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)** – excellent to incorporate as part of groundcover in lawns

Beautification Tip/Fact

- Whether you mow your own lawn or hire a service to assist you can consider [pollinator aware lawn care](#) principals:
 - o Mow less often, and/or cut higher
 - o Reduce or ideally stop chemical applications to your lawn, particularly any kind of use neonicotinoid insecticides.
 - o Use electric, rather than gas-powered, lawn care equipment to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
 - o Let dandelions and clover bloom! OR better yet, consider a pollinator lawn – incorporate native pollinator-friendly plants like wild strawberry, lanceleaf coreopsis, selfheal (*prunella vulgaris*).
 - o Reduce your turf lawn/mowable area, extend existing or create new garden beds or rain gardens where appropriate. If you select native plants then, once established, you will likely have fewer yard chores to attend year-over-year

Featured Events?

- Honeybee Hive Preparation
Hive boxes for our pilot program will need to be prepared including sanding (if necessary), priming, and painting. This opportunity can be kept within the Commission/City staff or can be opened to the public if we wish. (as we are starting with 2 hives we can expect 8 – 14 boxes, confirm with M. Theisen)
- [Tollgate Farm Maplefest 2025!](#)

Q2

April

Beautification Commission 2025 Social Media Post Planning

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

GOOD PLANT

- Milkweed Varieties
Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), for well drained, sandy soil
Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnate*), for rich, wetter soils.

The beloved Monarch butterfly spends late spring through early fall here in Michigan; so, it is important to provide a variety of plants that bloom May through September as consistent food sources. One of the most important plants to Monarchs is milkweed! They are essential host plants for monarch caterpillars and their nectar supports adult monarch. Consider adding one of the varieties above to your garden. The Monarch as well as many other pollinators will thank you!

BAD PLANT [Garlic Mustard \(*Alliaria petiolata*\)](#)

- best removed in early Spring before it goes to seed

Beautification Tip/Fact

Featured Events?

- Bee Installation! We'll be welcoming our new honeybees this month
- Pollinator Aware Lawn Care?

May

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tip/Fact

Featured Events?

June

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tip/Fact

Beautification Commission 2025 Social Media Post Planning

Featured Events?

Q3

July

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tip/Fact

Outdoor Lighting (from A2gov.org)

- Pollination happens at night as well as during the daytime. You can help nocturnal pollinators (such as moths) and improve bird safety by reducing your light pollution.
- Turn off exterior lights when possible, and shade windows in lighted rooms at night. If you must use outdoor lights, use dim, shielded, downward pointing, motion activated lights, with a warm yellow-red color temperature. All of these options reduce light-induced distraction of night time insects, birds, and other animals.
- All exterior lighting must adhere to Ann Arbor's Unified Development Code, [Chapter 55, Section 5:25](#). Learn more about the City's Outdoor Lighting Ordinance [here](#). (pull the equivalent from current Novi code)

Featured Events?

August

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tip/Fact

Beautification Commission 2025 Social Media Post Planning

Featured Events?

World bee day is August 15, Related Event?

[San Diego recommended children's books](#)

September

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tip/Fact

Featured Events?

Q4

October

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tip/Fact

- Leave the Leaves! (and other plant materials)
- Autumn mulching (environmentally safe varieties?)
- bulb planting reminder

Featured Events?

November

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tips/Fact

- Holiday Shopping/Decorating? (Michigan EGLE suggestions)
- Use [gift wrap, boxes and other materials](#) that are recyclable.

Beautification Commission 2025 Social Media Post Planning

Shop with [reusable bags](#) instead of using plastic bags.

Featured Events?

December

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tip/Fact

-what happens to live Xmas trees collected by Priority Waste?

-[Michigan EGLE Suggest Christmas Tree Uses](#) (Dec 2024 Article)

Suggested Christmas tree uses

OK, so what is the best use for that Christmas tree? Here are some options to consider:

- *Create a brush pile on your property with the tree to provide habitat; wildlife may use it for nesting or as a food resource. Just make sure that the tree is pesticide free and that you've removed all of the ornaments and other decorations.*
Ordinance Issue?
- *Cut the tree into small pieces or mulch it to use in garden pots or landscaping, which will return nutrients to the soil. Depending on the type of gardening you're doing and the type of tree you have, you may need to confirm that the tree is pesticide free and that it won't negatively affect soil composition for whatever you're growing.*
- *Give the tree to a friend with chickens or goats. Chickens can roost on them through the winter and goats love to chew on them. Again, make sure the tree is pesticide free before allowing animals to use it.*
- *Recycle your tree through your municipality. Many cities and towns collect trees or have designated drop off locations; these trees are usually turned into mulch. ???*

Featured Events?