



BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION AGENDA

CITY OF NOVI

March 13, 2024 | 6:00 PM

Council Conference Room

Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road

(248) 347-0460

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL - Jan Lach, Christen Pietraz, Laura Williams, Torry Yu

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[March](#) 13, 2024 Agenda

MINUTES

[February](#) 21, 2024 Minutes

OLD BUSINESS

[Bee](#) City USA

Pollinator Display and Social Media

NEW BUSINESS

[General](#) Updates

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.



CITY OF NOVI
Beautification Commission
Wednesday, March 13, 2024 6:00 pm
Council Conference Room
Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road

Roll Call – Jan Lach, Christen Pietraz, Laura Williams, Torry Yu

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes – February 21, 2024

Chair – Vacant

Secretary – Jan Lach

City Liaison – Kate Oppermann

Old Business

- Bee City USA
- Pollinator Display

New Business

- General Updates

Public Comment

Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings – 4/10, 5/8, 6/12, 7/10, 8/14, 9/11, 10/9, 11/13, 12/11

Beautification Commission Minutes
Wednesday, February 21, 2024
6:00 pm
Novi Civic Center
45175 10 Mile Rd.
Mayor's Conference Room

Call to Order: 6:06 pm

Roll Call: Jan Lach, Cindy Lang, Christen Pietraz, Laura Williams, Torry Yu

Present: Jan Lach, Cindy Lang, Christen Pietraz, Laura Williams, Torry Yu

Absent Excused: none

Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2024: Moved: Lach, Seconded: Yu, Approved 5:0

Approval of Agenda:

An amendment to the agenda to add “Gardening Program for an Elementary School” by Commissioner Pietraz was made.

Moved: Lach, Seconded: Yu, Approved 5:0

New Business:

City Manager Check-In

City Manager Victor Cardenas explained that the Rules Committee and Mayor Pro Tem Casey wanted input from the Beautification Commission regarding their current role and if the group had any input to add regarding the current verbiage in the City Code of Ordinances regarding the functions of the Commission.

The Commission responded that they think the fairly wide interpretation of the Ordinance covered most of the activities the group takes part in. They spoke about how the group currently is very interested in natives, pollinators, and supporting educational efforts in the community on those and related gardening topics. The group also mentioned wanting to work in greater collaboration with Community Relations to increase the public engagement with the group as well as social media presence. An interest in potentially working with the Novi Community School District was also noted.

Mr. Cardenas thanked the group for the discussion and insight.

2024 Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program

The Commission reviewed the two applications submitted for the 2024 cycle of the program, as well as comments from staff regarding the applications. Following this, the Commission determined to make the following recommendations to City Council:

To recommend approval for Village Oaks to be granted the requested \$5,000.00 with the explicit condition that all required permits be issued, and work approved by the appropriate City inspectors.

To recommend approval for Walden Woods to be granted the requested \$2,526.50 with the suggestion that they consider adding additional native plants to their plan, particularly ground cover (to reduce need for mulch) and for added drought tolerance.

Motion: Williams, Seconded: Pietraz, Approved 5:0

Gardening Book Display

The Commission will be reviewing the Novi Public Library's current books available on plants/gardening/etc. and making any recommendations they might have for the Library to purchase for their collection. There will also be a planned display in July or August to feature pollinators and Bee City USA information. The Commission also wants to consider having a presentation to tie into the display.

Gardening Program for an Elementary School

Commissioner Pietraz explained that she wished for this topic to be added to the agenda because she wanted to ask the Beautification Commissioners for advice regarding the existing garden at Deerfield Elementary School. She was previously a teacher who oversaw the garden as well as programming but they have since retired so the PTA is looking for resources. It was suggested that contacting Tollgate Farm & Education Center and the affiliated Master Gardeners would be an excellent first step. They also made recommendations for the garden to focus on pollinator plants, herbs, and either early or late blooming crops to ensure the exciting parts of gardening are occurring within the school years instead of over summer break.

Old Business

Public Comment: none

Adjournment: 7:16 pm

Upcoming Meetings: 3/13, 4/10, 5/8, 6/12, 7/10, 8/14, 9/11, 10/9, 11/13, 12/11

MEMORANDUM



TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: KATHERINE OPPERMANN, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
SUBJECT: BEE CITY USA
DATE: MARCH 7, 2024

The City of Novi Beautification Commission, as part of their commitment to both the enhancement and preservation of natural beauty in the City, would like to encourage City Council to take on the commitment of becoming a Bee City USA affiliate.

[Bee City USA](#) is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation that, alongside its sister program of Bee Campus USA, provides a framework for communities to conserve native pollinators. The program outlines providing pollinators with healthy habitat rich in a variety of native plants, nest sites, and protection from pesticides. While the program focus is bees, primarily native species, it also benefits a variety of other pollinators such butterflies, moths, and non-native honeybees as well as the environment as a whole.

The first step to becoming a Bee City USA affiliate is for City Council to adopt a Resolution which outlines various commitments to conserve pollinators including:

1. **Increasing the abundance of native plants and providing nest sites**, ideally creating, or enhancing pollinator habitat on public land each year
2. **Reduce the use of pesticides and incorporate pollinator-conscious practices into City policies and plans**, including the creation of or review of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan
3. **Community Education:** By providing pollinator awareness event(s) and making information on habitat creation and management readily available to the community such as native plant and local plant supplier lists through the city webpage

In taking on this commitment doing so the City of Novi would become one of the 204 current affiliate Bee City USA communities across the United States of America, and among the earliest adopters in Michigan.

With City Council's approval and adoption of the Resolution, when presented at an upcoming meeting, the Beautification Commission intends to take on the work of implementing these steps alongside City staff.

POLLINATOR CHAMPIONS

Pollinators feed you. What can you do for them?

Become a champion for pollinators. Pollinator Champions is a free, self-paced online course offered by Michigan State University. The course is packed full of videos, articles, and fun activities to guide you through the amazing world of pollinators and pollination. Click the button below to register for Pollinator Champions. Everyone is welcome to learn about pollinators for free, but for a small fee, you can receive a certificate and materials to help you give presentations about pollinators. Take the free [Pollinator Champions course](#), and then help us spread the word as an [MSU Certified Pollinator Champion](#).



Ready to take the course? [Register for Pollinator Champions](#)

Finished with the course, and want the certificate? [Become an MSU Certified Pollinator Champion](#).

Need a speaker on pollinators in your area? [Fill out a request for a pollinator champion to speak at your group](#).

Pollinator Champions Units and Learning Objectives

Below is an outline of the 4 major units that you will find in the Pollinator Champions course:

Unit 1 Why do we care about pollinators?	• Define pollination and describe the pollination process. • Identify food crops that require pollination. • Explain the role of pollination in ecosystems.
Unit 2 Who are our pollinators?	• Describe plant pollinator interactions - identify what pollinators are attracted to specific plants. • Explain the role of managed pollinators. • Explain characteristics and life cycles of native bees and other pollinators in Michigan.
Unit 3 What is happening to pollinators?	• Give examples of factors that are affecting pollinators. • Illustrate the interconnected relationship between the factors affecting pollinator health. • Describe how honey bees and other pollinators are affected differently by risk factors.
Unit 4 How can you help pollinators?	• Summarize best management practices for homeowner pesticide use to minimize risk to pollinators. • Describe steps that can be taken to establish pollinator supportive habitat. • List actions to promote pollinator supportive policy and research.

POLLINATOR CHAMPIONS CERTIFICATION

If you have successfully completed the Pollinator Champions online course, you can become registered as an MSU Certified Pollinator Champion, for a fee of \$30.

Why Become Certified?

Certified Pollinator Champions have access to their own printable certificate, PowerPoint presentation, and handouts that they can use for giving talks about pollinators in their regions. This is also a way to support this program - the revenue from this course goes directly to the Michigan Pollinator Initiative so we can develop more pollinator-related online courses and programs.

There are no extra qualifications to become an official Pollinator Champion. Once you have successfully completed the Pollinator Champions online course, register for MSUE Certified Pollinator Champions. Follow the instructions below to register:

How Do I Become a Certified Pollinator Champion?

To become a Certified Pollinator Champion, first register for and complete the free [Pollinator Champion Online Course](#).

Once you have registered for the free [Pollinator Champion Online Course](#), you can access registration instructions for becoming a Certified Pollinator Champion



Celebrate Spring!

Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. invites you to join with our friends from the
Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan
on April 10, 2024 for a celebration of Spring and a kick-off to Michigan Clean-up
Days at the Gazebo Banquet Center - 31104 Mound Rd. - Warren 48092.

Enjoy speakers, Buffet Lunch, Raffle and time with your friends!

Schedule of Events

10:00 am	Registration & Hospitality
10:30 am	Speakers: Charles Cross - Detroit Collaborative Design Phil Weitlauf - War Dog Memorial
12:30 pm	Invocation & Luncheon
1:30 pm	Announcement of Raffle Winners

Registration

Name(s) _____

Cost : \$20 per person Check enclosed _____ Credit Card _____
Name on Credit Card _____
Credit Card Number _____ Amount \$ _____
Exp. Date _____ 3-digit Security Code _____ Zip code _____

Make check payable to Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. Send payment with registration info to
Joanne Welihan - 9085 Cordwood Trail - Cheboygan, MI 49721 or register on our website at
KeepMichiganBeautiful.org





novi **NOW**

Nerf Night

Fri, 6-9pm

Mar 8

Grab your Nerf guns and get ready to battle. An all-out Nerf war is about to begin with capture the flag, hunger games, human's vs zombies and freeze tag. Bring your own Nerf guns, darts will be supplied. Each participant will receive a snack and drink.

Grades: 1-3, 6-7:25pm 4-6, 7:35-9pm

Price: Res \$15/Non-Res \$17

Location: Lakeshore Park Building

Registration Ends: Mar 6

Shamrock Shuffle

Wed, 10am-noon or 5:30-7:30pm

Mar 13

Wear green and join us for this two-mile shamrockin' themed hike. Go on a scavenger hunt and find all 17 shamrocks hidden along the trail. After, warm up inside with some hot chocolate. Bring your boots, walk at your own pace, meet new people, and have fun. Register at cityofnovi.org so we can send you event and weather updates. Please note that this path is unpaved.

Age: All

Price: Free

Location: Lakeshore Park Trails and Building

Registration Deadline: Mar 12

NATURE. NURTURE. NOVI.

Managing and Creating Natural Habitat in Your Yard

Wed, 5pm

Mar 27

Join the City of Novi's Landscape Architect, Rick Meader to learn how to make your yard more appealing to nature and add beauty for you as well. Learn how you can save energy and add interest to your landscape by planting native plants, adding water features, removing invasive species and/or changing some of your lawn to a natural bird feeding ground. Rick will share the easy steps to invite wildlife into your life.

Age: All

Price: Free

Location: Novi Civic Center

Instructor: Rick Meader, City Landscape Architect

Registration Ends: Mar 25

Novi's Arbor Day Celebration

Sat, 10am-2pm

Apr 27

Join the City of Novi in celebrating Arbor Day by planting free tree and shrub seedlings! Keep an eye on the City's social media channels for an opportunity to sign up to receive up to 10 seedlings, which Novi residents can plant on their property. The seedlings will be distributed at Lakeshore Park from 10am-2pm on Saturday, April 27. The City's forester will also be leading a tree-themed presentation at noon at the park. Starting on April 22 and leading up to the event, signs with tree facts will line the trail at Lakeshore Park.

Age: All

Price: Free

Location: Lakeshore Park

Instructor: Keith Salowich, City Forester

Registration Ends: Apr 22

Garlic Mustard Pull

Sat, 9am-noon

May 4

Join Novi Parks for a volunteer stewardship workday! Help rid Lakeshore Park of invasive garlic mustard. Garlic mustard removal is an easy project for the whole family, but we will be covering a lot of ground so come prepared for a hike. Gloves, trash bags, trail maps, garlic mustard identification information and refreshments will be provided. Follow the Novi Parks Facebook page for updates and information. No registration required.

Age: All

Location: Lakeshore Park

Wildflowers of the Park Hike

Thu, 5:30pm

May 9

Join the Friends of Maybury as they lead a guided interpretive stroll on open paths lined with many of Michigan's beautiful native wildflowers and natural attractions. The walk will be on dirt trails and will last a little over an hour long. This program is free; however, a Recreation Passport is required for park entry. Pre-register online at cityofnovi.org, spots are limited.

Age: All

Price: Free

Location: Maybury State Park

Instructor: Friends of Maybury Volunteer

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fuerst Field of Honor

Wed, 5:30pm

May 22

Commemorate the lives of our service members with a concert and the Trail of Honor walk at Fuerst Park. The event will conclude with a wreath laying, playing of Taps, twenty-one-gun salute, and a moment of silence and reflection to remember those who were lost. This event is open to the community and there will be a free light meal. Veterans and guests are invited to a special dinner before the ceremony. Pre-registration for this dinner is required by calling 248.347.0400.

Age: All

Price: Free

Location: Fuerst Park

Novi Memorial Day Run

Monday, 7:30-9:30am

May 27

The day's festivities will include a 5K starting at 7:30am and a mile fun run starting at 8:30am. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Novi Parks Foundation and Jessica's Splashpad. Participants receive a shirt for registering. Early packet pick-up will be on Friday, May 24 from 4-7pm at Township Hall in Fuerst Park. Following the run head on over to the Novi Civic Center area for the Memorial Day Parade. In 2023, more than 380 runners participated; register early.

Age: All

Price: \$19 for the Fun Run, \$29 for the 5K

Prices rise to \$34(5K) after April 24.

**Location: Start and Finish at Fuerst Park
(Ten Mile and Taft Roads)**

Registration: Registration and more information is available at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Novi/NoviMemorialDayRunFun>



We want YOU to be IN the Memorial Day Parade!

Mon, 10am

May 27

The Memorial Day Parade has been a Novi community tradition forever, honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Novi civic organizations, businesses, bands, scout troops and families are encouraged to march and showcase community pride and spirit. To be part of this annual community event that also honors Veterans and those currently serving, call 248.347.0414.

Price: Free Community Event

**Location: Ten Mile Road – Meadowbrook Road
to Novi Civic Center**

Registration: Registration and more information is available at cityofnovi.org/memorialday

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NATIONAL FLAG FOOTBALL

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- No Experience Necessary

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