



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL**  
**APRIL 7, 2025**

**SUBJECT:** Approval of the Beautification Commission's recommendation to grant the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program award to the following neighborhood upon successful completion of the entryway work depicted in the application: Walden Woods II (\$4,325.50).

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** City Manager

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Four applications were previously approved at the April 7, 2025 City Council meeting to receive the 2025 Program Cycle Award
- The Walden Woods II application was inadvertently omitted from the initial process and is instead appearing before Council now
- The grant program is funded at \$25,000 per cycle, the recommended award at the April meeting totaled \$14,316.50. As such, sufficient funds remain to support Walden Woods II's request of \$4,325.50

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

|                                                                                | <b>FY 2024/25</b>  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>EXPENDITURE REQUIRED</b>                                                    | <b>\$ 4,325.50</b> |
| <b>BUDGET</b><br>Entryway Signage Grant Prgm Residential<br>101-172.00-816.002 | <b>\$25,000.00</b> |
| <b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>                                                  | <b>\$0</b>         |
| <b>FUND BALANCE IMPACT</b>                                                     | <b>\$0</b>         |
|                                                                                |                    |

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program was established in 2015 and offers Homeowners Associations in the City of Novi a 50/50 matching grant of up to \$5,000.00 for the beautification of neighborhood entrances.

The proposed projects may be permanent physical improvements, such as the addition or rehabilitation of entrance signs, construction of flower beds, planting of trees, upgrading of lighting, or the installation of other related entryway improvements. The grant stipulates that all improvements must be located on the perimeter of the neighborhood and visible from the public right-of-way, that they cannot include recurring or maintenance improvement items, and that organizations are not eligible to be awarded a grant in consecutive years.

The Walden Woods II application was received on January 7<sup>th</sup>, appropriately before the deadline of January 31, 2025. Due to clerical oversight their application was not included alongside the other five applications to previously go through the process for the 2025 program cycle. City staff has since ensured their application go through the standard process for review by the Beautification Commission at their May 14, 2025 meeting. As always, Project need, impact, feasibility, and sustainability were taken into consideration when assessing the application. It is the opinion of both staff and the Beautification Commission that the Walden Wood II application sufficiently met the Grant requirements and is recommended for approval by City Council.

The Commission recommends the requested grant amounts be awarded to the following neighborhood:

### **1. Walden Woods II (\$4,325.00)**

The Commission recognized that Walden Woods II was an older subdivision requesting the grant for the first time. Their entryway has been well maintained but is due for improvements. The Commission was pleased to see that a special effort was being made to remove invasive buckthorn from the area. It was noted that none of the new plants planned as additions to the landscape were native, they hope that the HOA might consider working to add some native specimens either as part of this project or in the future.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approval of the Beautification Commission's recommendation to grant the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program award to the following neighborhood upon successful completion of the entryway work depicted in the application: Walden Woods II (\$4,325.50).