



CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of the Beautification Commission's recommendation to award the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant to Beckenham, Bradford of Novi, Carlton Forest, Churchill Crossing, Liberty Park, and Willowbrook Farms

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Manager

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Six applications were received for the 2026 Program Cycle, all of which are recommended for approval
- The total monies requested (\$27,632.04) exceeded the Program Budget (\$25,000) so two applicants, Bradford of Novi and Churchill Crossing, are recommended at amounts less than their requests.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

	FY 2025/26
EXPENDITURE REQUIRED	\$ 25,000
BUDGET Entryway Signage Grant Prgrm Residential 101-172.00-816.002	\$25,000.00
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$0
FUND BALANCE IMPACT	\$0

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.

Six applications were received before the deadline of January 31, 2026. City staff organized the applications for review by the Beautification Commission and provided the evaluation criteria. Project need, impact, feasibility, and sustainability were taken into consideration when assessing applications. The Beautification Commission met on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 to discuss the applications and vote in a public meeting. All applicants sufficiently met the requirements and are recommended for approval by City Council.

For the 2026 Program Year the total monies requested by applicants exceeded the Program budget of \$25,000. Because the projects are ranked as part of the evaluation it was decided that the four highest ranked projects would be given the full amount requested and the two that tied for lowest ranked, Bradford of Novi and Churchill Crossing, would have the remaining funds divided evenly between them, resulting in the amount of \$3,402.73 being recommended (a lesser amount than their application requests).

The Commission recommends the grants be awarded to the following neighborhoods in the amounts indicated for the 2026 Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant award cycle:

1. Beckenham (\$5,000)
2. Bradford of Novi (\$3,402.73)
3. Carlton Forest (4,819.54)
4. Churchill Crossing (\$3,402.73)
5. Liberty Park (\$3,375.00)
6. Willowbrook Farms (\$5,000)

While no recommendation has conditions beyond the standard permitting requirements the Beautification Commission does strongly urge all applicants to review their landscape plan and consider adding or swapping in more native plants. Native plants may offer greater ease in the upkeep of the entryways given their suitability to Michigan's environment and reduced water needs as well as supporting native pollinators. All applications received indicated fewer than half the plants being installed as being Michigan natives.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of the Beautification Commission's recommendation to award the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant to the following neighborhoods upon successful completion of the entryway work depicted in the applications: Beckenham (\$5,000), Bradford of Novi (\$3,402.73), Carlton Forest (4,819.54), Churchill Crossing (\$3,402.73), Liberty Park (\$3,375.00), and Willowbrook Farms (\$5,000).