

From: postmaster@muniweb.com
To: [Morris, Melissa](#); [Hanson, Cortney](#)
Subject: The Form "Boards and Commissions Application - V2" was submitted
Date: Saturday, May 11, 2024 5:46:18 PM

Name

Sara Srinivasan

Nickname, if preferred

Address*

43144 Emerson Way

Preferred Phone Number*

248-884-5661

Email*

sacole@umich.edu

Are you a registered voter in the City of Novi?*

Yes

How long have you lived continuously in the City of Novi?*

8 years

Employed by

Homemaker

Educational Background*

Michigan Master Naturalist - Rouge River Region (MSU), 2021; Natural Resources & Environment, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (2014); Science Education, Wayne State University (2011)

Please describe your professional qualifications, skills and/or work experience, and how you would use these to benefit the boards and/or commissions for which you are applying.*

I am an environmental conservation professional with over ten years of experience in both conservation ecology and environmental education. Most of my professional experience has focused on coordinating environmental conservation programming with either the public or with corporate clients (as a former consultant). These included tree plantings, native plant habitat restoration & maintenance, public bird banding demonstrations, various school programs, and more. I am certified in Project Wet, Project Wild, Project Flying Wild, and Project Learning Tree, and can use these resources and more to inspire innovative city programming. I specialize in birds & bird conservation, pollinator habitat, and native plant gardening. I would love to use my skills to help steer the direction of projects in the planning stage and provide hands-on assistance during the execution phase in ways that maximizes benefits to both nature and people, engaging Novi's diverse audiences and integrating beautification aspects into different events beyond those with environmental focus (e.g., not just on Earth Day but cultural events as well). I would also feel comfortable speaking to crowds and engaging the public to engage them in our efforts.

Please list any community groups with which you are currently or have previously been active and describe your role.*

Detroit Bird Alliance (formerly Detroit Audubon), Board Member; Cub Scouts, Walled Lake Pack 238 - Den Leader; Co-Director, Novi Photography Club; I am also active in a local network of regional environmental specialists.

What motivated you to apply to serve on a board or commission, and why did you select the boards/commissions that you did?*

Torry Yu referred me; I am active Detroit Bird Alliance member and do public outreach events focused on helping people enhance their backyard habitat for birds. I would love to serve on a similar committee doing service for Novi.

If appointed, what do you hope to accomplish during your term? What do you hope to learn?*

I would like for homeowners and businesses to participate in a collective effort to restitch our local regional ecosystem (i.e. "Homegrown National Park") to regenerate biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants and creating new ecological networks. I would like to see more shared knowledge about native plants & pollinator-friendly gardening, increased access to native plant options, a native plant or native plant seed library, and a GIS-map database of Novi homes & businesses participating in native plant gardening & landscaping. This map also include locations of Monarch Waystations and similar wildlife-supporting habitats within the city. Part of this effort could include biodiversity monitoring training. I would also support projects adjacent to this mission such as volunteer based eradication of invasive species like garlic mustard but also take action to ban invasive trees like Bradford Pear and incentivize the planting of native trees like Oaks, Maples, and more. I might also be interested in reducing pesticide & fertilizer usage or offering native alternatives to lawn which do not need as much input & maintenance.

What do you think the City is doing well or could be doing differently when you think about the areas of responsibility for the boards and/or commissions for which you are applying?

Novi already does a lot in terms of maintaining a number of habitats across its diverse landscapes; including the habitats of Lakeshore Park and Rotary Park, the upcoming Novi Northwest Park, and more. I enjoy walking the trails and seeing a lot of birds, wildflowers, and interesting plants. Unfortunately I also notice the spread of garlic mustard and phragmites in some of these areas, which I understand is difficult and maybe even futile (in some instances) to fight. I would love to support Novi's continued efforts to keep our natural environment robust, healthy, beautiful, and inviting to people.

Is there anything else you would for Council to be aware of, or know about you?

Here is my LinkedIn for more information: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarascole/> I have taken some time off from my career to raise family which is why I am currently not employed, but looking to go back to work this year.

1st Choice

Beautification Commission

2nd Choice

Parks & Recreation

3rd Choice

List any additional choices (in order of preference)

Beautification areas of expertise

Registered Voter (Required)

Gardening/Landscaping

Leadership

Fundraising

Board of Review areas of expertise

Building Authority areas of expertise

Construction Board of Appeals areas of expertise

Corridor Improvement Authority areas of expertise

Economic Development Corporation areas of expertise

Election Commission areas of expertise

Historical Commission Area of Expertise

Library Board areas of expertise

PRCS areas of expertise

Novi Resident (Required)

Recreation/Cultural Arts Programs & Services

Strategic Planning

Advertising/Marketing/PR

Planning Commission areas of expertise

Zoning Board areas of expertise

Signature/Date

Sara Srinivasan