



2023 MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES

"In Memory of Many, In Honor of All," City of Novi residents came together to remember the service and sacrifice of our fallen heroes on Wednesday, May 24 for Fuerst Field of Honor and on Monday, May 29 for the Memorial Day Run and Parade.

Fuerst Field of Honor took place from 5:30-7:30 pm at Fuerst Park. The evening kicked off with a patriotic concert put on by Geff Phillips and Friends. The community gathered in the amphitheater to sing and dance along to well known songs. While the band played, 80 Veterans and their guests attended a dinner under the big tent. Staff, three Rotary club members, 18 CERT, and City Council helped serve Mission BBQ to the honored guests. Following the concert, a memorial service concluded the evening with the VFW-Post #1519 presenting the flags, the Novi Girl Scouts leading the Pledge of Allegiance, the Novi Choralaires performing "God Bless America" and the United States Military Branch Anthems, and Mayor Gatt delivering a Memorial Day message and encouraging everyone to walk the Trail of Honor.

The Trail of Honor displayed 200 American Flags and 36 medallions. Gerald Davis and Cathleen Ziegler were added to the Trail of Honor this year. The flags remained in place thru May 31 to give the community the opportunity to walk through the trail and reflect in their own time.

Memorial Day kicked off with the eleventh annual **Memorial Day Run** which included a 5K and 1 mile fun run. The run began at Fuerst Park and ended at Fuerst Park. The event features music, refreshments, a finishers medal for all participants, and a tech shirt. This year the event had 389 people registered (281 5K & 108 1 Milers) and raised an estimated \$3,000 for Jessica's Splashpad.

Prior to the parade, Meadowbrook residents, veterans and City representatives were invited to attend a continental breakfast at Meadowbrook Commons. At the same time, Novi's civic organizations, businesses, scouts, and community members prepared their floats and participants to march along the Memorial Day parade route. Family and friends lined their chairs along the route to cheer on 18 veterans and 35 parade groups as the **Memorial Day Parade** moved along Meadowbrook Rd and Ten Mile Rd to the Novi Civic Center.

The program incorporated the Department's core value of excellence and inclusion by bringing together the community to honor Novi's fallen heroes in a variety of ways.



Memorial Day 2023	Stats
Fuerst Field of Honor Veterans and Guests	80
Runners/Walkers	389
Money Raised for Jessica's Splashpad	\$3,000
Participating Parade Groups	35
Event Supervisors	S. Fisher G. Morris M. Lachance

The mission of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is to provide exceptional park, recreation and cultural opportunities that are diverse and enhance lives.