



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL**  
**MARCH 18, 2024**

**SUBJECT:** Approval of the Beautification Commission's recommendation on the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program to award the requested grant amount for the following neighborhoods upon successful completion of the entryway work depicted in the applications: Village Oaks (\$5,000.00) and Walden Woods (\$2,526.50).

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** City Manager

|                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>EXPENDITURE REQUIRED</b>   | <b>\$ 7,526.50</b>                   |
| <b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>        | <b>\$ 25,000 (FY 2023-24 BUDGET)</b> |
| <b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b> | <b>\$ 0</b>                          |
| <b>LINE ITEM NUMBER</b>       | <b>101-172.00-816.002</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. Guidelines require 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.

Two applications were received before the deadline of January 26, 2024: Village Oaks and Walden Woods. 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 Commission recommends the requested grant amounts be awarded to both of the following two (2) neighborhoods:

**1. Village Oaks (\$5,000)**

The Beautification Commission generally approved the plan but noted some inconsistencies within the application. They respectfully request that, as a condition of the grant approval, Village Oaks works closely with the Community Development Department and Department of Public Works to ensure their final plan meets all requirements and is properly permitted.

**2. Walden Woods (\$2,526.50)**

The Beautification Commission agreed that the addition of new plants would greatly improve the current condition of the current entryway at Walden Woods. They also suggested that the HOA might consider additional native plants due to their greater drought tolerance as well as potentially utilizing a ground covering plant to reduce the need mulch.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approval of the Beautification Commission's recommendation on the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program to award the requested grant amount for the following neighborhoods upon successful completion of the entryway work depicted in the applications: Village Oaks (\$5,000.00) and Walden Woods (\$2,526.50).