



CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 7, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval of the Beautification Commission's recommendation on the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program to award the grants to the following neighborhoods upon successful completion of the entryway work depicted in the applications: Berkshire Point (\$1,500), Chamberlin Crossing (\$5,000), Lochmoor Village (\$2,816.50), and Vista Hills (\$5,000).

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Manager

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Five applications were received for the 2025 Program Cycle, of these four are recommended to receive the grant award.
- A reduced grant amount is recommended for Berkshire Point as only a small portion of their work described, the installation of new trees/shrubs, was not maintenance work and therefore eligible under the grant criteria.
- One application, The Enclave Condominiums, was deemed entirely ineligible under the Grant criterion and is not recommended.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

	FY 2024/25
EXPENDITURE REQUIRED	\$ 14,316.50
BUDGET Entryway Signage Grant Prgm 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.

Five applications were received before the deadline of January 31, 2025. 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 12, 2025 to discuss the applications and vote in a public meeting. Three of the five applicants sufficiently met the requirements and are recommended for approval by City Council.

The Commission recommends the requested grant amounts be awarded to both of the following three neighborhoods:

1. Berkshire Point (\$1,500)

The majority of the submission for Berkshire Point was found to be maintenance work (sod installation and sprinkler repair) and is therefore not applicable for the grant. That said, the Commission did wish to recognize and support the installation of new trees/shrubs and therefore suggests the approval of the reduced amount of \$1,500 rather than their original request of \$5,000. The Berkshire Point HOA has been informed of this and expressed appreciation for the consideration.

2. Chamberlin Crossing (\$5,000.00)

The Beautification Commission appreciated the variety of proposed plants, especially native specimens on the provided landscape plan. As a condition of the grant approval, the plan must be revised so that no landscape boulders are included in the right-of-way/crash zone and understanding that entryway gates are not permitted on public streets.

3. Lochmoor Village (\$2,816.50)

While their application was sparse, the Beautification Commission approved it given the age of the subdivision and that the proposed plantings would refresh and beautify the entrance.

4. Vista Hills (\$5,000.00)

The Beautification Commission generally approved this plan but were very concerned to see that the landscaping plan included the invasive species

Vinca minor, also known as periwinkle/myrtle. As a condition of the grant approval, Vista Hills must work with their landscaper to select a different, non-invasive shrub to replace the *Vinca minor* in their plans, with a preference for a native alternative. This revised plan must be submitted for approval by city staff prior to any work. The Vista Hills HOA has already confirmed their willingness to make the change as needed.

The final application received for The Enclave Condominiums is not recommended for approval. Their proposed enhancements were for replacing the existing parking lot lighting, a project generally out of the grant purview, and furthermore their location, being on a private road off of the additionally private Twelve Oaks Mall, is not clearly visible from the public right-of-way, a requirement for qualification.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of the Beautification Commission's recommendation on the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program to award the grants to the following neighborhoods upon successful completion of the entryway work depicted in the applications: Berkshire Point (\$1,500), Chamberlin Crossing (\$5,000), Lochmoor Village (\$2,816.50), and Vista Hills (\$5,000).