

Staff Review

Comments from Landscape Architect:

Beckenham

- Photos don't demonstrate a need for the replacements, nor did my site visit
- Green Giant arborvitaes aren't a bad choice, but they're not native to Michigan
- Seems more like a maintenance project than a "new" project creating a new look.

Bradford of Novi

- Provided plan is not super clear of how the plant counts are accounted for
- Despite their claim that they took great care to select plant materials native to Michigan, only one of the 5 species they're using, Serviceberry, is native to Michigan.
- Project does represent an enhancement to the look of the island (only island plantings are proposed).

Carlton Forest

- Plan is provided with post-planting images
- Significant change to entry
- 2 of 5 species proposed are native to Michigan
- Financials are provided – plenty in reserves to cover expense until reimbursement – most landscape maintenance for mowing, irrigation maintenance and snow removal
- It would be good for them to show on a plan view what plants will be removed to be sure all of the invasive shrubs will be removed from the landscaped area.

Churchill Crossing

- Enhances appearance of sign – additional color, plants
- Yews being replaced don't look to be in poor condition
- No natives are used – one hybrid of native x non-native (purple leaf sand cherry)
- It's not clear if shrubs on east end of east wall are being removed – larger shrubs are being removed from west wall – Ask for clarification
- Financials are provided – they will have enough money to cover the project costs until reimbursement

Liberty Park

- Project involves moving sign to improve visibility – remove existing sign and add letters to wall behind fountain
- Financials are provided – there is sufficient balance to cover cost of project
- Cost of project is \$6750 and they're asking for \$5000. Max award would be \$3,375.00 (50%), as noted.
- No plantings are proposed.
- Not sure removing the sign and putting the text on the wall will help with wayfinding.

Willowbrook Farms

- All four entrances will be enhanced
- Plan is updated planting beds for all four entrances
- No native species are used
- Plans are provided for all four entrances
- No existing conditions photos are provided
- Some poor plant choices are proposed (Techny arborvitaes in front of Clermont entry walls – too large, will block wall)
- Entire project cost is \$40,000, grant request \$5000 – budget shows \$35,000 cost for landscaping in 2026 plus \$75,000 for monument signs. Appears to have sufficient funds but together the projects will mostly clear out their fund balance.

Comments from Engineering:

Beckenham – Needs ROW permit

Bradford of Novi – Needs ROW permit

Carlton Forest – Need to submit an aerial plan to determine if a permit is needed

Churchill Crossing – Needs ROW permit

Liberty Park - Need to submit an aerial plan to determine if a permit is needed

Willowbrook Farms - Needs ROW permit

Comments from Code Compliance:

Of the submittals, only Liberty Park proposing entryway signage.

The only suggestion I have is that they NOT do the letters in gold leaf. The reason being is that the sign faces south, and for the greater part of the day the sun will be shining upon the sign whereas there may be some glare created by the reflection from the gold letters of the sign to traveling motorists.