

MEMORANDUM



TO: SHERYL WALSH-MOLLOY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
FROM: DAMON PARNELL, DEPUTY DIR. OF COMMUNICATIONS
SUBJECT: MAYOR'S YOUTH FORUM SUMMARY
DATE: JANUARY 21, 2026

In 2025, the City Council dissolved the Novi Youth Council and created the Mayor's Youth Forum. This new format gives high school students a chance to share their ideas, talk about local issues, and speak directly with City leaders.

The first Mayor's Youth Forum, held on January 20, 2026, was a huge success! Twenty-four teens attended the event. After a short presentation by Mayor Fischer about local government, the students engaged in a robust discussion, sharing their views of Novi. They showed great interest and understanding of topics like zoning, development rights, and the history of Novi's growth.

Key Discussion Points

- **Local Favorites:** The group likes Novi's amenities, including restaurants, parks, and connected trail systems like the ITC corridor.
- **Safety and Walkability:** Students generally feel safe and enjoy how walkable the city is. However, some noted that sidewalks and street lighting are not the same in every neighborhood. This is a safety concern, especially for young drivers.
- **Diversity:** The cultural diversity in Novi is highly valued. The teens expressed pride in our welcoming and inclusive community and events.
- **Communication:** The group suggested the City create a more engaging Instagram account, like the school district's account, to better reach younger residents.
- **Youth Spaces:** There is a clear desire for more community spaces, specifically an indoor recreation center for teens and pre-teens to hang out safely.
- **Development:** Teens raised concerns about the City's development patterns, questioning the focus on building new subdivisions over creating community centers and preserving natural environments.
- **Community Connection:** The discussion revealed a concern that Novi is a "transient" community where families often leave after their children graduate.

The students want to find ways to make people feel like they truly belong, so they choose to stay.

The next Mayor's Youth Forum will be held on April 30, 2026, at the Novi Public Library.

If you have any questions, please let me know!



**NEW AND IMPROVED
NOVI YOUTH COUNCIL**

CITY OF NOVI

MYF

MAYOR'S YOUTH FORUM



OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS IN NOVI GRADES 9 - 12



**THURSDAY
APRIL 30
6:30-8PM
NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY**

DISCUSSION TOPICS

State of the City highlights
Planning/Zoning
Sustainability

SIGN UP NOW



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