



CITY OF NOVI
Beautification Commission
Wednesday, July 15, 2026 6:30 pm
Mayor's Conference Room
Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road

Call to Order: 6:34 p.m.

Roll Call – Gareth Crawford, Yogesh Kumar, Nicole Rumao, Dinesh Seksaria, Tracy Wick, Mary Angela Winter, Torry Yu

Present: Nicole Rumao, Dinesh Seksaria, Tracy Wick, Torry Yu

Late Arrival: Commissioner Kumar arrived at 6:58 p.m.

Absent Excused: Gareth Crawford, Mary Angela Winter

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Seksaria; Seconded: Rumao; Approved: 4:0

Approval of Minutes – June 17, 2026

Motion: Yu; Seconded: Rumao; Approved: 4:0

Chair – Gareth Crawford

Secretary – Torry Yu

City Liaison – Kate Oppermann

Purpose of the Meeting

1. Trail/Walking Path Review

Staff Liaison Oppermann opened the conversation by going through the review of Rotary Park that Commissioner Winter had sent in advance given her planned absence. Commissioner Winter noted the Rotary Park trail to be quiet and pleasant, giving the feeling of being immersed in nature despite being so close to the nearby Chase Farms subdivision. It was noted that wayfinding was somewhat difficult, and that signage could perhaps be improved. Commissioner Seksaria suggested that we might consider using the model of the National Park Service for trail marking, for consistency and increased ease of navigation.

Ms. Oppermann then went over her own review of the walking trails through Ella

Mae Power Park, the trail on the Novi High School property, and Fuerst Park (including the connection options between the three). Ms. Oppermann noted that she and many other City employees regularly walk on these routes since they are highly accessible from the Civic Center and other municipal buildings, that you can easily adjust your route for walks of different durations, and that each one gives a slightly different feel. She also noted that Power Park and Fuerst park are both quiet accessible given the well maintained and mostly flat pathways, they also both have restrooms and water available, depending on the time of day/year which is a bonus.

Commissioner Yu presented a short slide deck for his review of the recently expanded walking trail at Villa Barr Art Park. This trail was noted to also be very accessible, more so with the recent paving and extended loop. It also has a botanical and sculpture tour, and a variety of excellent interpretive signage about the sculptures, the artist David Barr and his wife Beth Dwaihy Barr. A minor issue was that he was unable to use the QR code for the tour on the sign but that he was able to pull it up via the webpage instead.

Commissioner Wick spoke on her experience riding her bike on the ITC trail and Wildlife Woods Park. She enjoyed the trail and the connection to Wildlife Woods and looks forward to Bosco Park being connected in the near future. She was especially impressed with the amenities at Wildlife Woods like the covered fitness area and the pickleball courts. She thinks that Wildlife Woods could be a good potential venue for future events.

Commissioner Rumao and Commissioner Seksaria both affirmed that they would take on another park trail to present at the next meeting. Commissioner Kumar indicated that he would do Novi Northwest Park and Commissioner Rumao took on Pavillion Shore Park.

2. Review 2026 Project Plan

The plan was provided for review but no discussion took place at the meeting.

Roundtable Discussion

Commissioner Winter briefly suggested that we should consider good potential garden spaces that the Commission could work with Plymouth Pollinators on in 2027.

Public Comment - None

Adjournment:

Motion: Yu; Seconded: Wick; Approved: 5:0