



Beautification Commission

2022 Annual Report & 2023 Goals



*Beautification Commission Award
Program 2023*

Approved by Beautification
Commission, February 21, 2023

2022 ANNUAL REPORT
FARMINGTON HILLS BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Introduction

The purpose of the Beautification Commission, as outlined in its by-laws, is to advise the City Council about beautification and environmental concerns, to promote and publicize beautification and environmental projects and to acknowledge projects of beautification and environmental improvement.

The Farmington Hills Beautification Commission met eight times at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting (third Tuesday of the month). The meetings were held in person at Farmington Hills City Hall and a special meeting at the DWP facility in 2022. Attendance averaged 6 members. The Commission has maintained the City's membership in the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan (BCSEM) and the statewide organization, Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. (KMB).

2022 Beautification Commission

Jennifer Chinn, Chairperson	Alex Clar
Katherine Massey, Vice Chairperson	Sherry Jones (Resigned in April 2022)
Carol Kurth	Betti Pool
Kathie Brown, Secretary	Jarel Readous
Jawahar Babu	Rita Roberts

Staff Liaison

Charmaine Kettler-Schmult

2022 Goals

The Commission selected the following projects to work on during the year 2022:

- Continue to improve and celebrate the Annual Beautification Awards Ceremony.
- Promote public awareness of Beautification Commission projects using community and City media outlets.
- Keep in contact with key people about the major projects happening within the City of Farmington Hills.
- Grow membership in the Beautification Commission.
- Involve the community in a Plant Swap to exchange garden plants once or twice a year.
- Maintain certification for Tree City USA through the State of Michigan and the Arbor Day Foundation.
- Explore opportunities to initiate and participate in projects to ensure long term environmental sustainability.
- Encourage enhancement of existing Natural Beauty Roads and move forward projects in the Natural Beauty Road right-of-way.
- Organize and implement the Carol Posby Litter Walk along local roads in the Spring of 2022 to complement City Earth Day events.
- Continue to be aware and participate in programs conducted by the BCSEM and KMB.

2022 Results

Annual Awards Ceremony

The 37th Annual Beautification Awards Reception was held on October 27 at the Costick Activities Center. The Beautification Commission did recognize sixty-nine: businesses, offices, and subdivision and condominium entrances. Beautification Commissioners visited nominated sites to look for landscape variety, imaginative use of color, and overall property maintenance. An award for exemplary landscapes, the Beautification Commissioners' Award, was presented to Beaumont Commons for their outstanding landscape.

Promotion and Public Awareness

The Beautification Commission continued efforts to remain in the public eye. The Commission reached out to the Farmington Hills community through many different media: internet, newspaper, cable television and events. The Commission utilized the city web site by posting meetings, minutes and events of the Commission.

Development and Community Awareness

The Beautification Commission had limited opportunities to participate in scheduled events this year and the opportunity to create community awareness about the Beautification Commission was minimal.

Plant Swap

Two plant swaps were held in 2022. The Spring Plant Swap was held May 14 and the Fall Plant Swap was held on September 17th at the Nature Center parking lot. Between fifteen and thirty people attended to exchange garden plants and plant related products.

Tree City USA Certification

The Beautification Commission submitted an application for certification.

Natural Beauty Roads

The Beautification Commission continued to encourage the City's maintenance, enforcement and inclusion of additional Natural Beauty Roads.

Carol Posby Litter Walk

The Beautification Commission held the 2022 Carol Posby Litter Walk event on April 23, 2022. The event had 21 homeowner associations and community organizations registered and over 261 participants signed up. Volunteers were supplied with t-shirts, gloves and garbage bags and hit the main roads to collect debris. The event made a big impact on the community with the support of the DPW staff. This annual event is scheduled to re-occur April 29, 2023.

Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan (BCSEM) and Keep Michigan Beautiful (KMB)

The Beautification Commission continued to be a member of these regional and statewide organizations.

2023 Goals

Annual Awards Ceremony

The celebration of the 38th Annual Awards Ceremony will be held in October 2023. The annual awards ceremony will recognize the efforts of business, office, church properties and residential entrances to beautify the City of Farmington Hills.

Promotion and Public Awareness

The Beautification Commission will seek to continue public awareness and promotion of the Commission's programs and activities using community and City media outlets. The Beautification Commission representative will visit the Council of Homeowners Association (COHA) to update the group on upcoming Beautification Commission events. The Commission will continue to forward information on events to the *Farmington Observer*, *Farmington Press*, *Detroit Free Press* and electronic media such as: *The Michigan Gardener* for publishing. The Commission will continue to utilize all available social media, within the guidelines of the City of Farmington Hills' social media policy. The Commission will also continue to utilize the City website and local cable channel to stay in contact with the homeowners' associations (COHA), and other community groups in order to promote the Commission's work and purpose.

Development and Community Awareness

The Beautification Commission will invite key City employees and local representatives of agencies of interest to attend meetings when updates to the Commission about major projects and any relevant issues are desired.

Grow Membership in the Beautification Commission

The Beautification Commission will seek to expand public awareness of the opportunities to participate in the Beautification Commission and seek to fill vacant membership positions.

Plant Swap

The Beautification Commission will continue to engage the public in exchanging garden plantings by holding annual Plant Swaps at the Heritage Park Nature Center parking lot on Saturday May 13 and September 16, 2023.

Tree City USA Certification

The Beautification Commission will work to maintain certification of the City of Farmington Hills as a Tree City USA. A recommendation to officially recognize Arbor Day will be forwarded to City Council in 2023. In addition, all required information regarding tree planting and maintenance will be forwarded as required in the application for recertification.

Environmental Sustainability

The Beautification Commission will continue to explore opportunities to initiate and participate in projects to ensure long term environmental sustainability.

Natural Beauty Roads

The Commission will continue to support the existing Natural Beauty Roads.

Carol Posby Litter Walk

The Beautification Commission will organize community volunteers to do a “Litter Walk Clean-Up”. The event is scheduled for April 29, 2023. The event will complement Earth Day.

Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan (BCSEM) and Keep Michigan Beautiful (KMB)

The Beautification Commission will continue to be a member of these regional and statewide organizations. The Beautification Commission will continue to be involved in the BCSEM organization.