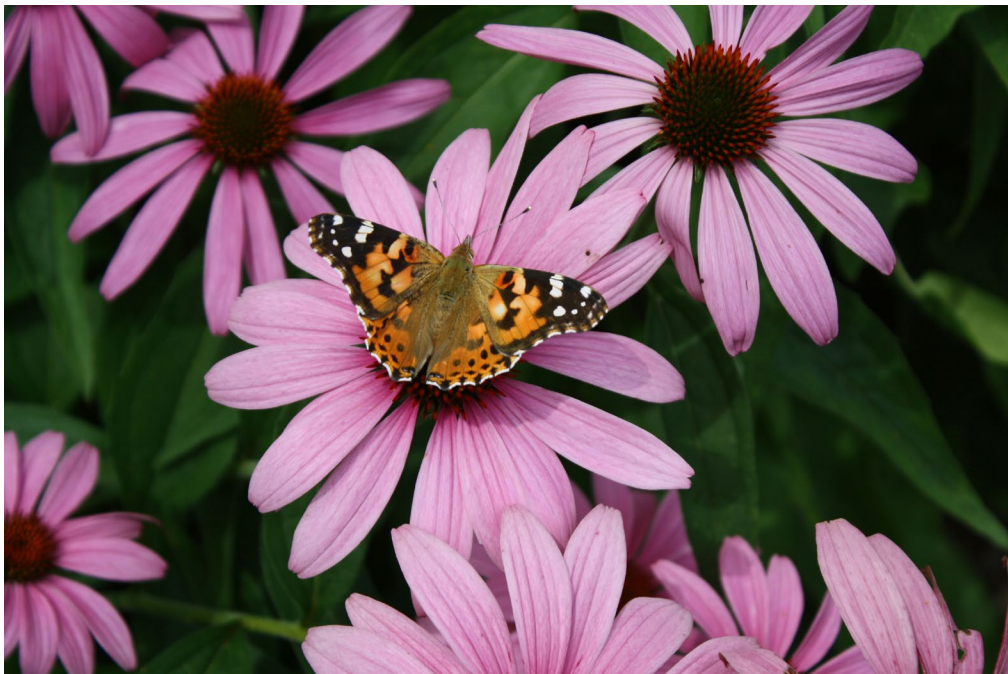




Beautification Commission

2025 Annual Report & 2026 Goals



Beautification Commission Award Program 2025

Approved by Beautification Commission,
March 17, 2026

2025 ANNUAL REPORT
FARMINGTON HILLS BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Introduction

The Beautification Commission plays a vital role in advising the Farmington Hills City Council on matters related to beautification and environmental concerns. As outlined in its by-laws, the Commission works to promote and publicize beautification and environmental projects, while also recognizing and celebrating the efforts of the community in enhancing the city’s beauty and sustainability.

In 2025, the Commission held eleven regularly scheduled monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at Farmington Hills City Hall. While attendance averaged seven members, the Commission remained committed to fulfilling its mission. Additionally, the Commission upheld its membership in the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan (BCSEM) and the statewide organization Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. (KMB), maintaining important connections within the broader network of beautification and environmental efforts.

2025 Beautification Commission

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kailee Sosnowski, Chairperson | Michael Harris |
| Jo Ann Rowland, Vice Chairperson | September Ingram |
| Kathie Brown, Secretary | Dr. Robert Levine |
| Jawahar Babu | Frank Romano |
| James Geisling | Staff Liaison -Tacey Emmanuel |

2025 Goals

The Commission selected the following projects to work on during the year 2025:

- 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 of 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/or 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 2025 to complement City Earth Day events.
- Continue to be aware and participate in programs conducted by the BCSEM and KMB.

2025 Results

Annual Awards Ceremony

The 40th Annual Beautification Awards Reception was held on October 23, 2025 at The Hawk. The Commission honored forty-eight business, office, apartment complex, subdivision, condominium, and places of worship/organizations entrances for their exceptional landscaping. Commissioners visited nominated sites to evaluate design, color, originality, and overall property maintenance, with additional consideration given to work done by non-professionals and environmental sensitivity. The “Beautification Commissioners’ Award” for exemplary landscaping was presented to Chestnut Ridge Condominiums for their outstanding work. In addition, the Commission recognized 28 participants with the “Continued Excellence Award for 10 years or More” for their long-term commitment to maintaining beautiful landscapes.

Promotion and Public Awareness

The Commission continued its efforts to maintain a visible presence within the Farmington Hills community throughout the year by utilizing a range of outreach methods. These included local newspapers, the City website and social media platforms, and the distribution of flyers at community events and other locations. The Commission regularly shared meeting schedules, minutes, and program updates to keep residents informed and encourage public participation. These combined efforts helped increase public awareness and strengthen community support for the Commission’s projects and initiatives.

Development and Community Awareness

While the Commission had fewer opportunities to participate in scheduled events this year, efforts were made to maintain community awareness of the Commission’s work. The Commission continues to explore new avenues for engaging the public and fostering greater awareness of its initiatives.

Grow Membership in the Beautification Commission

The Beautification Commission by-laws specify a membership of nine regular members and two alternates. In 2025, the Commission experienced several membership changes, with five appointments made during the year and three subsequent resignations. As a result, the Commission averaged seven active members throughout the year and had no alternates. The Mayor, City Council and Commission members actively worked to recruit volunteers and fill vacant positions.

Plant Swap

The Beautification Commission hosted a Plant Swap on May 10th in the Nature Center parking lot at Heritage Park. The Spring Plant Swap continued to be a well-attended and valued community event, offering residents the opportunity to exchange plants, share gardening knowledge and connect with fellow gardeners. Based on consistently lower attendance at past fall swaps, the Commission determined in 2024 to focus its efforts on hosting a single annual spring event, which has proven to be successful and well supported by the community.

Tree City USA Certification

While the Beautification Commission was unable to apply for the Tree City USA certification in 2025, it remains committed to pursuing this goal and plans to apply for certification in 2026. The Commission will explore new strategies and efforts will be strengthened to ensure a successful application in the coming year.

While the Beautification Commission did not apply for the Tree City USA certification during the reporting period due to the time and effort required for the application process, it recognized the potential value of the program. The Commission has recognized the need to for a dedicated subcommittee to focus on long-term objectives, such as preparing and submitting a Tree City USA certification application., and acknowledged that more focused planning and support would be necessary to pursue certification in a future year.

Environmental Sustainability

While no specific sustainability projects were undertaken in 2025, the Commission will remain focused on exploring opportunities for future initiatives.

Natural Beauty Roads

The city currently has five designated Natural Beauty Roads. Major roadways are designated by City Council, while local roads require a majority petition from abutting property owners, followed by a public hearing and Council approval. Because the designation and maintenance of these roads are managed by City Council and the department of Public Works, the Commission does not have independent authority to advance this initiative as a goal-driven activity. The Commission remains supportive of the Natural Beauty Roads program and is available to provide input or support if requested.

Carol Posby Litter Walk

The Commission held the 2025 Carol Posby Litter Walk on April 27, with 207 volunteers participating at 19 locations throughout the city. Volunteers included homeowner associations, community organizations, and individuals residents who worked together to clean up litter. Volunteers were provided with gloves and garbage bags and focused on litter cleanup along public roadways. DPW supported the event with 11 personnel, collecting approximately 20 yards of trash and debris and 15 yards of woody debris yard bags. DPW noted the positive community impact of the event and advised that future outreach emphasize litter and trash collection rather than yard waste. DPW indicated it will continue to support cleanup efforts throughout the year by providing locations, supplies, and trash pickup upon request.

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

The Commission maintained its memberships in these regional and statewide organizations during the reporting period. These memberships provide opportunities for information sharing, professional connections, and general awareness of broader beautification initiatives. The Commission continues to evaluate the relevance and tangible benefits of participation to ensure alignment with the specific goals, priorities, and needs of Farmington Hills.

2026 Goals

FARMINGTON HILLS BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Annual Awards Ceremony

Organize the 41st Annual Beautification Awards and ceremony in October 2026 to recognize local beautification efforts, while aligning the program with Commission capacity and implementing targeted outreach to increase nominee participation and attendance. Planning and management will be led by the Annual Awards Ceremony subcommittee as required by the bylaws (Article VI, Section I).

Outreach, Promotion and Community Engagement

The Commission aims to maintain a visible presence within the Farmington Hills community and strengthen engagement with residents, businesses, and local organizations. In 2026, the Commission will establish an **Outreach, Promotion, and Community Engagement subcommittee**, as provided for in its bylaws, to coordinate and enhance outreach and engagement efforts. The Commission will continue promoting its activities through local media, social media, the City website and cable channels, and by fostering connections with other City boards and commissions as well as City departments, while seeking new opportunities to increase public awareness and participation in its beautification initiatives.

Grow Membership in the Beautification Commission

Increase public awareness of Beautification Commission participation opportunities and actively encourage community members to apply for available positions, with the goal of filling all vacancies and strengthening the Commission's capacity and engagement to support its programs and initiatives.

Plant Swap

Host the annual Spring Plant Swap in May 2026 at Heritage Park's Nature Center parking lot, providing residents the opportunity to exchange plants, share gardening knowledge, and connect with fellow gardeners. The event will focus on a single spring swap to maximize participation, foster community engagement, and promote sustainable gardening practices while continuing its tradition as a well-supported and valued community-building event.

Tree City USA Certification

Establish a dedicated Tree City USA subcommittee in 2026 to prepare for and advance a future Tree City USA certification application. The subcommittee will coordinate required documentation, collaborate with City departments, and develop a flexible timeline to support long-term urban forestry planning and tree preservation initiatives.

Environmental Sustainability

Explore opportunities to promote long-term environmental sustainability in Farmington Hills, with a focus on best practices in landscaping, community beautification, and resource conservation. The Commission may reference the work of the Innovation, Energy, and Environmental Sustainability Commission (IEESC) and consider establishing a Sustainability Commission subcommittee to evaluate potential initiatives and partnerships that enhance sustainable practices within the community.

Natural Beauty Roads

The designation and maintenance of Natural Beauty Roads are overseen by City Council and implemented by the Department of Public Works. Because the process is initiated by Council or

property owners and requires formal Council action, the Commission does not have independent authority to designate or manage these roads and has limited ability to advance this initiative as a goal-driven activity. While this item is not proposed as a formal 2026 goal, the Commission remains supportive of the Natural Beauty Roads program and is available to provide input or support upon request.

Carol Posby Litter Walk

Organize an annual citywide Community Litter Walk Clean-up on April 25, 2026 in conjunction with Earth Day, bringing together residents, neighborhood groups, and community organizations to remove litter from public roadways in Farmington Hills. The event will provide volunteers with supplies and coordinated city support, reinforcing community pride, environmental stewardship and visible improvements throughout the city.

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

Maintain memberships in BCSEM and KMB to stay informed of regional and statewide beautification initiatives, share best practices, and sustain professional connections. The Commission will continue to evaluate the relevance and benefits of these memberships to ensure alignment with the goals and priorities of Farmington Hills.