



March 21, 2012

John D. Cherry, Grant Coordinator
Grants Management Division
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
P.O. Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909-7925

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SUBJECT: ITC Community Sports Park – ITC Trail & Trailhead Connector

Dear Mr. Cherry,

As requested by the City of Novi's Walkable Novi Committee, I am writing in support of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant being submitted by the City of Novi for construction of the ITC Community Sports Park – ITC Trail and Trailhead Connector.

This grant would make possible the construction of a 10-foot wide pathway with a trailhead within the ITC Community Sports Park and a crossing at Eight Mile Road to Maybury State Park. The proposed 0.56 mile trail segment is the first phase of the City of Novi's planned nine mile long regional trail. The regional trail will ultimately connect four City of Novi parks with Maybury State Park in Northville Township to the south and Commerce Township to the north.

In 2011, through the work of the Walkable Novi Committee, the City of Novi adopted a Non-Motorized Master Plan. The regional trail concept, including the segment through ITC Community Sports Park, was a key element of this plan. When completed, this regional trail will be accessible to users throughout the City through local sidewalk and bike path connections to the trail. Users outside Novi will be able to access the trail through the connection to Maybury State Park and by future connections to regional trails in adjoining communities. Ultimately, the regional trail in Novi will serve as a key link between regional trails in western Oakland and Wayne Counties including the Airline Trail, Wayne County's Hines Park and the M-5 and I-275 Metro Trails.

The City of Novi is working diligently with the DNR, MDOT, the Road Commission for Oakland County and our neighboring communities to create a regional trail system. The City of Novi's Walkable Novi Committee strongly supports this grant proposal and requests that the MNRTF board fully fund this project to help move that effort forward.

Sincerely,

Andrew Mutch, Chair
City of Novi, Walkable Novi Committee

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