



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
MAY 20, 2024**

SUBJECT: Approval of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment 18.296 in order to establish the new City West zoning district. **SECOND READING**

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Community Development, Planning

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The proposed Text Amendment to establish City West District was first introduced to the City Council on July 10, 2023. Since that time, staff has taken the feedback received into account and made changes to the proposed text, and also offer more context for the proposed district.

The City of Novi's 2016 Master Plan Update included recommendations for redevelopment of three areas within the City that were considered vacant or under-utilized given their location, unique features, and size:

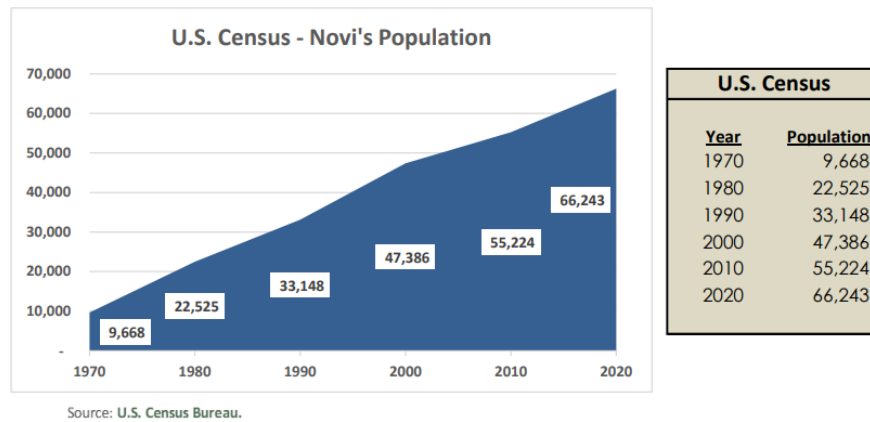
- 1) Pavilion Shore Village, near Walled Lake, which was rezoned to a new zoning classification in 2021;
- 2) Anglin Property near Town Center, which is now incorporated into the Sakura Novi development; and
- 3) City West. City West is proposed north and south of Grand River Avenue, east of Beck Road and west of Taft Road.

The Master Plan recommendation for this area was to create a vibrant, integrated, mixed-use arts and entertainment district that would support and enhance the nearby Suburban Collection Showplace and Ascension Providence Park.

Working with the Planning Commission's Implementation Committee (comprised of Commissioners) and the City Attorney's office, staff developed the City West Zoning Ordinance text to provide the standards under which properties in the new district will be developed, as well as a Design Guide that offers visual examples that the Master Plan and ordinance language are working together to accomplish. The Design Guide complements the ordinance language and will be made part of the ordinance by reference. It includes background information on the area, inspiration images from around Novi and other communities, and 3D models to visually show certain

requirements or guidelines. The intent is for both documents to be used in conjunction to guide development within the district. Each 3D model shown in the Design Guide is conceptual only; actual projects would need to be designed by professional architects and engineers based on specific on-the-ground information not currently available to staff.

As the current 2023 Master Plan update effort continues, Novi continues to grow, as evidenced by the 20% population growth from 2010-2020. At last year's community open houses, 74% of participants indicated the City West area should be "transformed" when given the definition "long-term and large-scale change in the appearance and function of an area with the intent for a dramatic shift in use, design, and accessibility." Another 21% indicated the area should "evolve," while only 5% thought the area should be "maintained" in its current state.



HOUSING OPTIONS

The City West area provides an opportunity to expand the housing choices available for young professionals, empty nesters, and other residents who prioritize an interconnected community with a mix of complementary uses, easy access to destinations within Novi, as well as access to the freeway. Grand River Avenue is a major corridor with greater road capacity than many areas of the city. Mass transit has recently been introduced along the Grand River corridor through Novi and into Wixom. With the addition of transit stops in the City West area, it is a logical location for additional density to be permitted following the principles of transit-oriented development. Most of the city's housing options are currently not in proximity to the new transit routes, which will limit their utilization.

The state's Growing Michigan Together (GMT) Council has recently completed their comprehensive population growth report for the state. Michigan ranks 49th for population growth in the nation. In order to begin to reverse this trend, the GMT Council has recommended three strategies to build back the state's population. Strategy 3 is to "Create thriving, resilient communities that are magnets for young talent." The City West district could help establish the type of housing in proximity to transit that would attract not only the workforce needed for innovative entrepreneurs and businesses, but also provide appealing housing options for the City's aging population in a compact, connected setting.

CREATING A SENSE OF PLACE

City West is also an opportunity to showcase Novi as an area of interest to the thousands of visitors to the Suburban Showplace and Ascension Hospital each year. Creating a place of interest surrounding these existing activity centers will boost the City's image, while reducing the need for shorter vehicle trips with a mix of uses available. Visitors to events at the Showplace could take advantage of nearby restaurants, hotels, and shopping without having to get in a car. Similarly, greater housing options may appeal to employees of the hospital who could walk or bike to work in nice weather.

INTEREST IN THE PROPOSED DISTRICT

Property owners south of Grand River in the City West area, both of vacant land and currently developed property, have expressed an interest in and support of the ordinance amendment. Some property owners have introduced concepts for projects that could align with the intent of the City West ordinance amendment and Design Guide. Current businesses such as Gatsby's, Paradise Park, and Total Sports Novi have found the text amendment appealing due to the flexibility it offers for those businesses moving forward.

The density and height of the buildings would also permit more preservation of sensitive areas, as the footprint of the buildings could be smaller. Above or underground structured parking, instead of surface parking lots, would go further in promoting areas for open space and reducing impervious surfaces. More taxable value would be created on a smaller footprint of developed area, further enhancing the surrounding corridor.

COMPARABLE SETBACKS TO WHAT IS CURRENTLY PERMITTED IN THE I-1 DISTRICT

The City West District includes a baseline level of development for principal permitted uses, which would be allowed at a similar intensity to what can currently develop in the I-1, Light Industrial District. Within 100 feet of a single-family residential district, both non-residential and residential buildings are not permitted, which is the same as in the I-1 District currently. At the baseline level of development, building height is limited to two (2) stories on the south side of Grand River Avenue.

MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT OPTION (MDO)

The ordinance includes an optional Mixed-Use Development Option (MDO), which permits a wider range of uses and higher-intensity development to encourage the creation of a dynamic mix of compatible uses. While the MDO provides greater flexibility in parking and landscaping, as well as setbacks and building height to allow a more urban form of development, projects will still be subject to other applicable codes and regulations of the City, including Wetland and Watercourse protection, the Woodland Ordinance, Stormwater detention standards, façade, and landscape requirements, as well as lighting and noise ordinances. As an optional form of development under the state zoning enabling law, approvals of MDO projects are up to the discretion of City Council, and subject to the project meeting various criteria.

One of the project criteria to be evaluated for MDO projects is whether a proposed site design and layout minimizes negative impacts on existing natural features. Other criteria provide stipulations that surrounding landowners shall not be unreasonably

burdened, and the proposed development is deemed to be compatible/harmonious with surrounding area.

Residential uses are permitted using the MDO option with a minimum setback of 100 feet from single family residential districts. Within 200 feet of single family residential, building height is limited to 35 feet, which is the same height limit as the single-family districts—that is, the same height as a typical single-family home in Novi. Building heights for all uses within 200 to 300 feet of a single-family residential district are limited to 45 feet. These are significant height limitations that respect the existing developments. By way of comparison, the current I-1 District allows a 40-foot building with a setback of just 20 feet to adjacent property when not adjacent to a residential district. I-1 properties that are adjacent to residential districts require building and parking setbacks of 100 feet, and limit building heights to 25 feet.

While the proposed ordinance standards allow for greater height along the north side of Grand River for MDO projects, staff believes that most projects will have 3-5 story buildings, with additional height potentially requested for mixed-use buildings, or for a signature office building or hotel. Buildings greater than 300 feet from single-family residential districts may be eligible for bonus height at City Council's discretion. Bonus height may be granted if the project provides one or more of the following:

- Underground or structured parking (1 additional story per 125 spaces provided)
- Dedicated open space or preservation of natural areas in excess of 25 percent (up to 1 story bonus)
- Gold or Platinum LEED certification in building design (up to 1 story bonus)
- 15 percent or more residential units targeted for workforce housing (up to 1 story bonus)

CHANGES TO THE ORDINANCE TEXT

Since the City Council's first look at the City West Ordinance on July 10, 2023, staff has taken the feedback received into account and made changes to the proposed text. Below is a summary of the issues that were identified and provides a description of the changes made to the text from what was presented at the previous meeting or offers further explanation. In the draft Text Amendment included in this packet, the changes to City West since the last version are shown in [blue strikethrough/underline](#).

Building Height

While the proposed building heights on the north side of Grand River were supported by the City Council, the proposed maximum height of 5 stories on the south side was a concern. In the revised draft, the text now reflects a maximum height of 2 stories south of Grand River under the baseline option. For MDO projects, the height limit is increased to 3 stories, or up to 4 stories if bonus height conditions are met. City Council would need to approve the increase in height for each project proposed. Adjacent to single-family residential zones, additional restrictions would control building heights, with a maximum of 35 feet permitted within 200 feet of single-family districts, and a

maximum of 45 feet between 200-300 feet of such districts. Within 300 feet of such districts, buildings are not eligible for bonus height approval.

Setbacks from Single Family Residential

The City Council expressed concern with the building setbacks' potential to negatively impact adjacent single-family neighborhoods. In the revised draft, all buildings, regardless of use, would be required to have a minimum setback of 100 feet from single family residential districts. Under the current I-1 Light Industrial district, the minimum building setback from single family residential is 100 feet. In the revised draft, the parking setback has also been increased from 50 to 75 feet and would be required to be screened with a 5-foot wall or landscaped berm.

Buffers and Berms

Under the required conditions for City West, item K (page 9) states all sites must comply with Article 5, Site Standards for all applicable requirements, unless more specific standards are specified for City West. Article 5 includes the review standards for the following: off-street parking requirements, off-street parking layout and standards, off-street loading and unloading, landscape standards: (i.e., obscuring earth berms and walls, right of way buffers, and interior and exterior landscape plantings), exterior lighting, corner clearance, road design, façade standards, and bicycle parking.

In particular, the landscaping section related to residential uses adjacent to non-residential has been attached to this packet to show what existing standards would be applied to projects in City West when they are adjacent to a residential use. New multifamily and commercial buildings require a berm or wall of 6-8 feet in height when adjacent to a residential use. This section of the ordinance is very comprehensive in terms of placement, design, and waiver standards, and has been used successfully throughout the city. It would be unnecessary to repeat the information in Article 5 of the ordinance, as it is referenced by section number in the draft City West ordinance.

Hotel Use

At the July 10th meeting, the City Council indicated that hotels would not be an appropriate use on the south side of Grand River. The updated draft states on page 3 that hotels would be permitted only north of Grand River.

Protection of Natural Features

Throughout the City West text, staff has attempted to make clear that protecting the existing natural features (woodland and wetlands) should be a priority for both developers and decision makers for projects in the district. While the Woodlands Protection Ordinance and the Wetlands and Watercourse Protection Ordinance will apply to any proposed projects in this district just as they do to every other site in the city, additional language has been included to show a strong commitment to preservation in the City West District, including in the intent, design guide, and approval criteria sections.

Pedestrian Orientation, Sidewalks and Open Space

The sections on pages 8 and 9 related to the topics have been revised and reorganized to provide more clarity and direction for such features to be coordinated between developments to create a system of connectivity within and between

projects in the district. Usable open space requirements are also more fully described, including encouraging active recreation facilities for children.

Active Mobility Plan

As requested in the first reading, more direct reference to the guidelines and recommendations in the recently adopted Active Mobility Plan have been added. Please see the revised draft in the packet, which has these references **highlighted in green**.

Grand River Corridor

If the City West District is adopted and the property rezoned, staff would begin working more closely with the Road Commission for Oakland County to discuss what changes might be necessary to this section of the corridor. We would propose possible changes to the speed limit, road crossing opportunities, design alternatives and accommodating the bus route stops.

Current Master Plan Update

The current Master Plan Update is still on-going. However, the proposed Future Land Use map that has been reviewed by the Steering Committee at multiple meetings designates the City West area for "General Mixed-Use." Draft documents describe the purpose of this land use category:

The GMX land use category provides the highest flexibility of the categories. It recognizes that certain properties will be developed based on prevailing market trends utilizing a site-specific master plan to guide development, reserving certain portions of the subject property for different land use typologies.

The General Mixed-Use designation would not be contrary to the proposed City West ordinance.

Rezoning

Based on the City Council's feedback, the accompanying rezoning request includes within the suggested motion that the rezoning will exclude the portions of property currently zoned B-3 at the southeast corner of Beck Road and Grand River. If in the future the owner decides to pursue development more consistent with the City West district, they could request a rezoning of that area separately. The area will remain shown in the Design Guide Maps, as well as the Future Land Use map, to be included in City West, as it is Staff's opinion that the area would better add to the creation of a cohesive district under City West rather than the B-3 District.

For a more complete summary of the origin and purpose of the City West Zoning District, Ordinance Language, and Design Guide, please reference the City Council packet motion sheet from the July 10th meeting: [City Council Meeting - July 10, 2023 - Matter 1 - Consideration of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment 18.296 in order to establish the new City West zoning district \(cityofnovi.org\)](#)

PREVIOUS PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION

On May 10, 2023 the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed text amendment and recommended approval to the City Council. The minutes from that meeting are included in the packet.

PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL ACTION

On July 10, 2023, the City Council considered the Text Amendment for the First Reading and provided comment for revisions to the proposed ordinance language. The revised ordinance language is included in the packet and is presented for consideration again as a First Reading. The minutes from the July 10 City Council meeting are included in the packet.

RECENT REVISIONS TO THE TEXT AMENDMENT AND DESIGN GUIDE:

Following discussion at the May 6 City Council meeting for the First Reading on the proposed text amendment, staff has made some revisions to the recommended draft text, including the following:

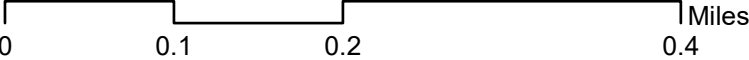
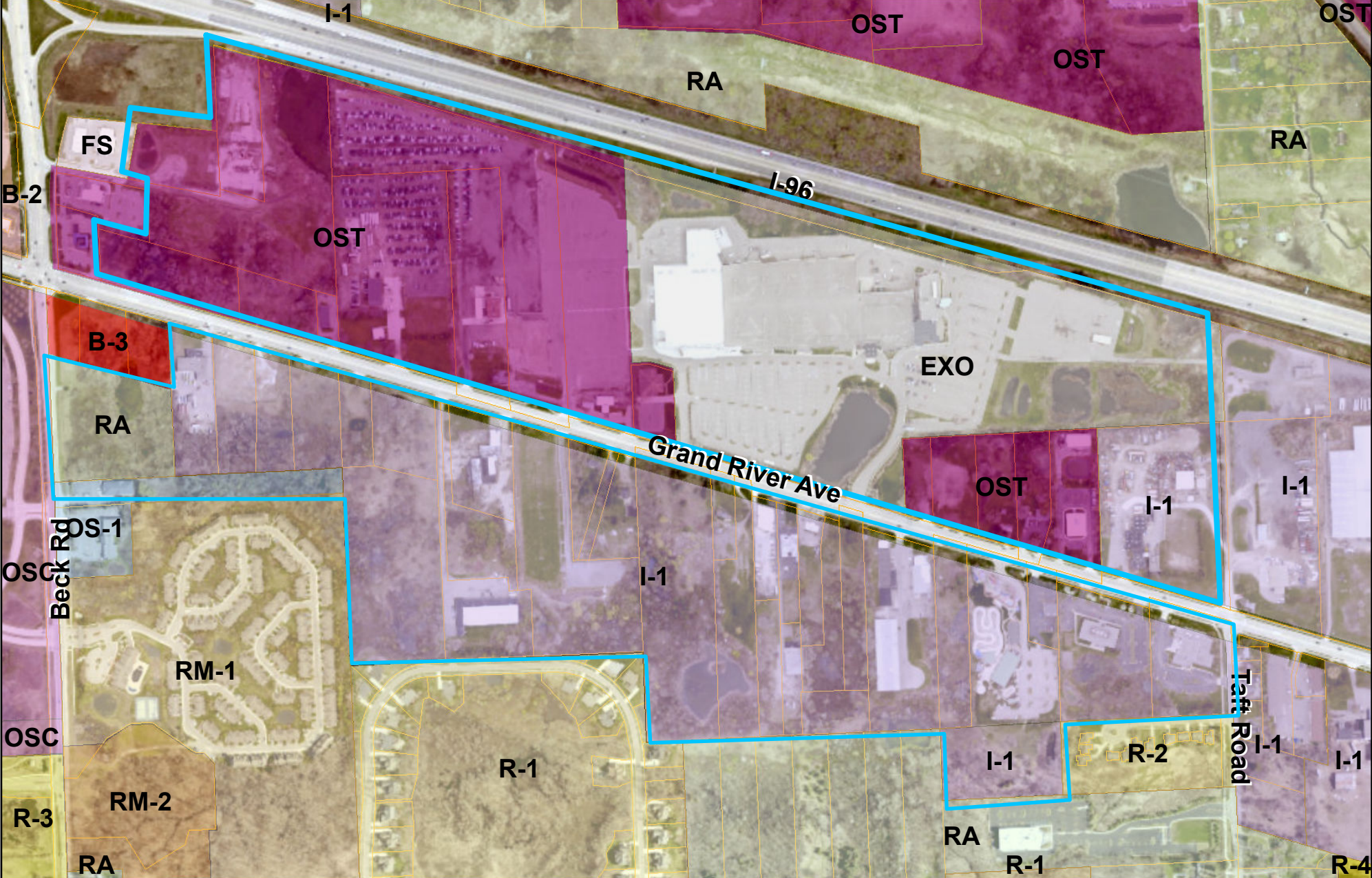
1. Adding Veterinary Hospitals and Clinics to the list of permitted uses subject to Special Land Use approval. Upon further examination, this is a Special Land Use in most of the commercial and mixed-use districts in the city, and it would be complementary to the City West district.
2. Increasing the parking lot setback to 100 feet minimum from a single-family district.
3. References to the Active Mobility Plan in the General Design Standards and site plan submittal requirements. These and other references to bike and pedestrian safety and design have been highlighted in green in the attached draft for easy identification.
4. Allowing up to 2 floors of bonus height for qualifying for LEED Green Building certification (2nd floor available at Platinum level).
5. The review and approval process has been amended to incorporate an initial review by both Planning Commission and City Council in order to give the applicant feedback earlier in the process.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment 18.296 and by reference the City West Design Guide in order to establish the City West zoning district, along with associated ordinance changes to reference the new district, and to amend text related to the EXO District, to reflect an underlying zoning of City West, subject to minor modifications as determined necessary by the City Manager and City Attorney's Office. *This motion is made because the proposed City West Rezoning fulfills the concepts provided in the Master Plan for Land Use to provide a new zoning district that will create a vibrant, integrated, mixed-use arts and entertainment district along Grand River Avenue, east of Beck Road, and that would support and enhance the nearby Suburban Collection Showplace and Ascension Providence Park.*

SECOND READING

MAPS

City West District: Current Zoning



MAP INTERPRETATION NOTICE

Map information depicted is not intended to replace or substitute for any official or primary source. This map was intended to meet National Map Accuracy Standards and use the most recent, accurate sources available to the people of the City of Novi. Please contact the City GIS Manager to confirm source and accuracy information related to this map.



Map Author: Lindsay Bell
 Date: 8/18/23
 Project: City West

City West District: Future Land Use



0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles



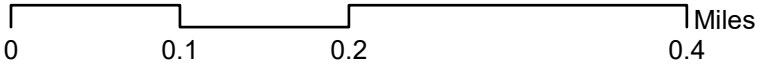
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Map Author: Lindsay Bell
Date: 8/18/23
Project: City West

City West District: Natural Features



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Map Author: Lindsay Bell
Date: 8/18/23
Project: City West

PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT 18.296 - DRAFT

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
CITY OF NOVI

ORDINANCE NO. 18.296

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, ORDINANCE 14-271, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, AT ARTICLE 3.0 ZONING DISTRICTS, ADD SECTION 3.1.30 TO ESTABLISH THE CW – CITY WEST DISTRICT, SECTION 3.33 CITY WEST REQUIRED CONDITIONS, SECTION 3.34 CITY WEST MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT OPTION, RENUMBERING GENERAL EXCEPTIONS TO SECTION 3.35, AND TO AMEND ARTICLE 4.0 USE STANDARDS, SECTION 4.12 GROUP DAY CARE HOMES, DAY CARE CENTERS AND ADULT DAY CARE CENTERS, SECTION 4.24 DRY CLEANING ESTABLISHMENTS, SECTION 4.27 RETAIL BUSINESS OR SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS, SECTION 4.28 HOTELS AND MOTELS, [SECTION 4.31 VETERINARY HOSPITALS AND CLINICS](#), SECTION 4.35 MICROBREWERIES AND BREWPUBS, SECTION 4.62 INSTRUCTIONAL CENTERS, AND SECTION 4.81 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. ALL BEING DONE TO CREATE AND ADD REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CITY WEST (CW) DISTRICT. AMEND ARTICLE 2, SECTION 2.2 DEFINITIONS, TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR WORKFORCE HOUSING. AMEND ARTICLE 3.0 ZONING DISTRICTS, SECTION 3.1.15 EXO EXPOSITION OVERLAY DISTRICT AND 3.25 EXO OVERLAY DISTRICT REQUIRED CONDITIONS, TO CHANGE THE UNDERLYING ZONING OF THE EXO OVERLAY DISTRICT TO CITY WEST.

THE CITY OF NOVI ORDAINS:

Part I.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 3.0, Zoning Districts, Section 3.1 Districts Established, is hereby amended to add a new district as number 30 CW City West District.

Part II.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 3.0, Zoning Districts, Section 3.1 Districts Established, is hereby amended to add section 3.1.30 as follows:

3.1.30 CW City West District

A. Intent and General Provisions

1. Description of the District. The City West district permits a mix of uses, including amusement and entertainment uses, office, commercial, and multiple-family housing, that are appropriate within the context of the City West area. Key design concepts include multiple-story buildings that frame the internal street network, a corridor of buildings massed along Grand River Avenue, shared access and parking, a mix of uses including commercial and multi-family residential, and public gathering spaces.

Buildings should have high-quality materials and allow for changing uses over time. Development will be pedestrian-oriented, with a high degree of transparency on the ground level and functional, attractive outdoor amenities such as plazas and pocket parks with seating and lighting. Parking is placed to the side or rear of main buildings, preferably in parking structures, driveways are consolidated from the major thoroughfare, and on-street parking is permitted on secondary streets.

2. Intent. The intent of the City West district is to encourage high-quality and distinctive development that will complement and support nearby areas. The district will reflect an inviting and vibrant identity for this area of the City's Grand River Corridor while implementing land use planning and development techniques that result in a pleasing, compatible, visual presence. Assembly of small lots and long, narrow lots into larger development parcels is anticipated and encouraged to provide coordinated development with consolidated access points. Minimum lot and frontage thresholds are established for the mixed-use development option to further this objective. Shared parking is strongly encouraged, and vehicular and pedestrian connections between sites is expected.

The district allows a wide range of principal uses. In conjunction with different height, area, and bulk standards, this should increase development and re-development opportunities that will look demonstratively different than existing uses.

Additionally, some of the objectives of the district are intended to be accomplished or facilitated by the establishment of an optional development approval process, the Mixed-Use Development Option (MDO). Under this optional form of development:

- Mixing of uses is permitted, either vertically or horizontally.
- Building heights are greater than most traditional commercial districts in the city.
- Floor area ratios and densities are increased to allow economies of scale.
- Required setbacks are reduced to encourage a development pattern that frames the primary street frontage.

Under the MDO concept, a wider variety of retail, commercial, office, and residential uses and open spaces are permitted, to further the creation of a dynamic mix of compatible uses. As a trade-off for this greater flexibility, regulations regarding streetscape and landscape design, provisions for parking facilities, architectural and façade design, multi-family residential dwelling units, and setback standards are incorporated into the district, resulting in a mix of some form-based standards and more conventional guidance. See the City West Design Guide for examples of the development vision and guidelines for projects in this district. The MDO, if successfully implemented, should:

- Encourage the use of land in accordance with its character and surroundings;
- Conserve natural resources and natural features;
- Encourage innovation and creativity in land use planning;
- Enhance pedestrian and cycling activity within the district and to surrounding destinations;

- Provide enhanced housing, cultural, and recreational opportunities for the people of the City; and
- Bring about a greater compatibility of design and use between and among neighboring properties.

B. Principal Permitted Uses –

- i. Offices, including professional, medical (including labs and clinics)
- ii. Municipal uses, such as post offices and similar governmental office buildings
- iii. Day care centers (4.12.2)
- iv. Financial institutions (4.81)
- v. Retail business or service establishments, including restaurants (4.27)
- vi. Business schools and colleges or private schools operated for profit (4.27)
- vii. Instructional Centers (4.62)
- viii. Outdoor theaters, plazas, parks, public gathering places, farmers markets and like public facilities
- ix. Art galleries, museums, and non-profit community centers
- x. Personal service establishments
- xi. Private recreational facilities, indoor or outdoor
- xii. Publicly owned and operated parks, pathways, and recreational facilities
- xiii. Transit station
- xiv. Brewpubs and Microbreweries (4.35)
- xv. Outdoor restaurants (4.84)
- xvi. Principal uses similar to those listed above, as determined by the Planning Commission
- xvii. Off-street parking lots and structures (not to include vehicle storage)
- xviii. Accessory structures and uses customarily incidental to the above permitted uses, except drive-through windows (4.19)

C. Mixed-Use Development Option Permitted Uses –

- i. Any of the Principal Permitted Uses above
- ii. Multiple-family residential
- iii. Live/work units
- iv. Hotels (4.28.1) – North of Grand River Only
- v. Business establishments which perform services on the premises
- vi. Health and fitness clubs, public or private
- vii. Dry Cleaning Establishments or Pick Up Stations (4.24)
- viii. Other uses similar to the above uses subject to conditions noted
- ix. Accessory structures and uses customarily incidental to the above permitted uses (4.19)

D. Special Land Uses

- i. Amusement and entertainment uses, including theaters, athletic and performing arts venues
- ii. Private clubs, organizations, cultural facilities, and lodge halls
- iii. Places of worship
- iv. Drive throughs, as an accessory to a permitted use (Sec. 5.3.11)
- ~~iv.~~v. [Veterinary hospitals and clinics \(4.31\)](#)

E. Development Standards

Lot size, Lot Coverage, Lot width:

See section 3.6.2.D

Open Space:

Minimum Gross Open Space: 15% (see Section 3.33.4.1.F)

Minimum Usable Open Space: 150 sq ft per dwelling unit

Building Setbacks

Minimum front yard setback: See Section 3.33.1.E

Minimum rear yard setback: See Section 3.33.1.E

Minimum side yard setback: See Section 3.33.1.E

Building Height

Minimum building height: 20 feet

Maximum building height: 2 stories

Parking Lot Setbacks

Front yard setback: Front yard parking is not permitted, unless it is on-street, except as otherwise provided. See Section 3.33.1.E

Rear yard setback: 10 feet; If adjacent to existing residential zoning district a minimum of 50 feet is required

Side yard setback: 10 feet; If adjacent to existing [single family](#) residential zoning district a minimum of [50-100](#) feet is required

3.6.2 Applicability of Notes to District Standards

- o City West Districts: D, M

Part III.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 3, Zoning Districts, is amended to add a new Section 3.33, City West Required Conditions, as follows in its entirety:

3.33 City West District REQUIRED CONDITIONS

1. The following standards shall apply to all uses permitted in the district except as indicated otherwise in this ordinance, or where different or additional standards are either authorized or required for developments utilizing the Mixed-Use Development Option (MDO) in Section 3.34.

- A. Site Plans. Site plans shall be submitted for preliminary approval by the Planning Commission, in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance and other applicable ordinances in Section 6, unless the proposed plan qualifies for administrative review per Section 6.1.C.
- B. Nonconforming Uses and Buildings: A use or structure that is lawfully operating/existing as of the date this Section takes effect shall be considered a legal non-conforming use, so long as it remains otherwise lawful, subject to the following:
 - a. Such uses may be enlarged or increased by up to 10 percent of the existing total floor area, provided the resulting total floor area does not exceed the maximum floor area ratio of 0.275 as described below.
 - b. Any changes to the building or site at these locations that require site plan approval as described in Section 6.1 shall also require Planning Commission approval under the requirements of the Special Land Use permit approval provisions of that Section.
- C. Maximum floor area ratio (FAR): The maximum FAR (ratio of gross square feet of building area to gross land area of site, less prescribed right-of-way) shall be 0.275. Where an addition is proposed to an existing structure, the total resultant structure or combination of structures on-site shall be used in the calculations.
- D. Building and Parking Setbacks: Building and parking setback requirements, except as otherwise specified herein, shall be as noted in the table below, as measured from the future Right-of-Way line. These setback requirements may be reduced or increased by the approving body where strict adherence would serve no good purpose or where the overall intent of the district would be better served by allowing a lesser or greater setback, provided that:

- i. An increase or reduction of a setback will not impair the health, safety or general welfare of the city as related to the use of the premises or adjacent premise,
- ii. The increase or reduction of the setback along a common parcel line between two premises would result in a more desirable relationship between a proposed building and an existing building,
- iii. The increase or reduction of the setback would create a more desirable viewshed along the corridor, and
- iv. The adherence to the required setback would result in the establishment of non-usable land area that could create maintenance problems.

3.33.1.E. Setback Requirements for CW Districts		
Arterials (Grand River, Beck)	Minimum (feet)	Maximum (feet)
Building - Front	20	65
Building - Exterior side ¹	20	65
Parking ⁴	20	None
Nonresidential collectors and local streets	Minimum (feet)	Maximum (feet)
Building – Front	10	20
Building - Exterior Side ¹	0	none
Parking (rear and side yard) ⁴	10	none
Private Drives, Aisles & Shared Access Drives	Minimum (feet)	Maximum (feet)
Building – Front	10	none
Building - Exterior Side ¹	10	none
Parking (rear and side yard) ⁴	10	none
I-96 Highway ROW	Minimum (feet)	Maximum (feet)
Building ¹	75	none
Parking ⁴	30	none
Adjacent to Single Family	Minimum (feet)	Maximum (feet)
Building – Non-residential use	100	none
Building - Residential use	100	none
Parking (rear and side yard) ⁴	<u>75-100</u> feet	none
Notes to Table		

1. Rear and interior side yard building setbacks are not prescribed, except as noted or as necessary to meet landscaping or other requirements, or where the Planning Commission or City Council determines buildings or parking require additional distance for safety, protection of natural features, or to enhance compatibility.
2. Distance Between Buildings: Buildings with a front-to-front relationship shall have a minimum separation of forty (40) feet. Buildings with a front-to-rear or front-to-side relationship shall have a minimum separation of thirty (30) feet. All other buildings shall have a minimum separation of twenty (20) feet, or thirty (30) feet for buildings sixty (60) feet or more in height, unless otherwise provided for in these district regulations.
3. The front yard setback shall be increased at intersections where necessary to obtain the appropriate clear vision area. Clear vision area shall comply with standards set forth in Section 5.9, Corner Clearance, or any more restrictive standards adopted by the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC).
4. Parking Setbacks.
 - a. Front yard off-street parking is generally not permitted as it detracts from the intent to create a pedestrian-oriented district. If parking in the front yard is determined to be essential to the site layout and uses, it shall be limited to one bay of parking and observe a minimum of a 10-foot setback with greenbelt. Surface parking lots shall be screened from all major thoroughfares by: (1) a two and one-half (2.5) foot ornamental brick or stone wall with intermittent landscaped breaks; or (2) semi-transparent screening such as brick pilaster with metal decorative fence in order to maintain attractive streetscapes as approved by the City's Landscape Architect. Landscaping, 12 - 36 inches in height, along the street side of walls or fences shall be provided.
 - b. Side yard parking adjacent to a front yard shall be setback from the front façade of the building by a minimum of five (5) feet. See illustration in Section 3.11.6.A. Screening as described above is required.
 - c. Off-street parking areas may be located within the exterior side yard along arterial roads if the primary building is oriented to front on a non-residential collector or local street. If parking is located in a side yard, the minimum setback of at least twenty (20) feet is required from the right-of-way line of any major thoroughfare, presently existing or as planned by the Road Commission for Oakland County or the City of Novi Master Plan.
 - d. Off-street parking areas adjacent to a single-family district shall be screened with a 5-foot wall or landscaped berm.

- F. Height. Buildings shall be a minimum of 20 feet with quality architectural design and a maximum of two stories, except as otherwise provided under the MDO. Uncovered roof seating areas for restaurant uses may be permitted by the Planning Commission upon a demonstration by the applicant that such seating would not jeopardize public safety and/or privacy of adjoining uses and would

not result in any other adverse consequences to the surrounding area, and particularly to residential uses.

G. Pedestrian Development Amenities. Proposed developments, through innovative planning, design, and architecture, shall create a significant pedestrian orientation in keeping with the intent and purpose of the district and shall take into consideration the City West Design Guide recommendations. There shall be a system of pedestrian connections within and between all developments to enable pedestrians to safely and conveniently access nearby destinations. Benches, plazas, landscaping and other features to create attractive micro-destinations are required. Stubbed sidewalk connections to undeveloped adjacent parcels shall be provided at suitable locations.

H. Sidewalks and Bicycle Facilities. Sidewalks with a minimum width of 6 feet are required abutting any street or internal road, and shall be placed at least 5 feet from the curb where street trees are required. Along major thoroughfares sidewalks shall be 8 to 10 feet wide as shown in the Active Mobility Plan. Sidewalks are also required between vehicular parking areas and building facades with pedestrian entrances. Bicycle parking shall meet or exceed the standards set forth in Section 5.16, and bike paths shall be provided in accordance with the Active Mobility Plan.

I. Open Space. A minimum of fifteen (15) percent of the gross site area of a commercial or mixed-use development shall be devoted to publicly accessible, permanently landscaped usable open spaces and pedestrian plaza areas (such as internal walkways, linear or pocket parks, plazas, or other space for gathering accessible to occupants and invitees). Small strips of landscaped area, landscaped end islands in parking lots, and similar areas that are less than 20 feet wide shall not be counted toward the required open space on the site. All landscaped open spaces and pedestrian plaza areas shall be maintained by the owners of the development it serves.

Up to 50 percent of the required open space may consist of areas that are regulated by City of Novi woodland and/or wetland ordinances if they are permanently protected by conservation easements. Wherever open spaces shall be created or preserved, they shall be physically connected, when possible, to adjacent open space areas.

Usable open spaces required for multi-family development units may count toward the 15 percent requirement if the spaces are publicly accessible (e.g., not private patios, roof decks, balconies, fitness rooms and clubhouses) and part of an integrated development plan. Usable open spaces must be clearly designed for active or passive recreational or leisure use and have a minimum dimension of

~~ten~~-twenty feet in every direction (private spaces like patios or balconies may be less). Open space intended to serve all the units of a project shall be accessible and convenient to all units. Private open space shall be accessible and convenient to the units intended to be served. Active recreational facilities for children in appropriate projects are encouraged, and shall be a minimum of 250 square feet.

- J. Facades. All sites in the City West districts are subject to Region 1 standards of Section 5.15. In addition, all exterior walls of any main or accessory building shall be composed of the same or complementary architectural building facade materials as others on the site. Exterior building facades shall be primarily of brick or stone, which may be augmented by materials complementary to brick or stone. When renovations, alterations, or additions are made to an existing building within the City West district, the exterior building facades of the entire building shall be brought into compliance with this subsection.

Architectural design and facade material are to be complementary to existing or proposed buildings within the site and the surrounding area. It is not intended that contrasts in architectural design and use of facade materials is to be discouraged, but care shall be taken so that any such contrasts will not be so out of character with existing building designs and facade materials so as to create an adverse effect on the stability and value of the surrounding area.

- K. Parking, Loading, Landscaping, Lighting, etc. All sites must comply with Article 5, Site Standards, regarding all applicable requirements, including off-street parking, landscaping, exterior lighting, and buffers/walls, as those standards relate to uses permitted in the City West district, except as otherwise stated. Notwithstanding the above, loading and unloading may be in a side or rear yard, and shall be located as to be inconspicuous and properly screened. The approving body may modify the size requirement for a loading area, an alternate location, or approve a shared loading area between buildings, when the applicant provides ample justification that the uses proposed will be adequately served.

In those areas where on-street parking is permitted, off-street parking requirements may be reduced by the number of on-street parking spaces adjacent to a use. Parking requirements may be reduced when the approving body determines that given parking areas serve dual functions by providing parking capacity for separate uses which have peak parking demand periods which do not overlap. The applicant shall submit a Shared Parking Study based on requirements set forth in Section 5.2.7 to provide justification for the request. Applicant shall also provide information on cross-access and maintenance agreements.

In those instances when a parking structure, underground parking or municipal parking lot is constructed pursuant to a special assessment district, a parking

exempt district shall be created for that area served by the improvement and assessed for its cost.

- L. Vehicular Access. Vehicular access to a development site shall be designed to provide safe and efficient distribution of traffic to and from the site and should form a logical street network connecting to adjacent parcels in the district where appropriate. Access design that results in an undue intensification of traffic congestion shall be prohibited. Multiple curb cuts onto major arterials is discouraged.
- M. Street and Roadway Rights-of-Way. Nonresidential collector and local streets within the City West district shall provide rights-of-way and road cross sections consistent with the City's Design and Construction Standards. Additional rights-of-way area shall be provided where boulevards, squares or traffic circles are created. **The local street network shall be designed to accommodate motorized and non-motorized users.**
- N. Storm Water Detention. The use of underground and shared storm water facilities meeting all relevant standards should be used to the extent feasible to achieve permitted densities while protecting existing natural resources.

Part IV.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 3, Zoning Districts, is amended to add a new Section 3.34, Mixed Use Development Option for the City West District, as follows in its entirety:

3.34 Mixed Use Development Option (MDO) for the City West District

- 1. Intent and General Application. The MDO expands the number and kind of uses permitted in the district. In addition to permitting quality residential development and facilitating mixed-use developments, including multiple-family residential, office, and commercial uses, this optional form of development allows for increased building height—up to 110 ft—and increased floor area ratios (FAR), as well as the opportunity to deviate from height, area, and bulk standards provided the deviations benefit the development and are considered in context with the surrounding area.

The granting of a Mixed-Use Development Option application requires review and recommendation by the Planning Commission and approval of the City Council, under the process contemplated in MCL 125.3503. As part of the review and appeal process, and in light of the potential additional uses and flexible building standards, the development may be subject to certain conditions, and will have to demonstrate conformance with the Design Guide adopted by the City as part of this ordinance.

For purposes of this Section 3.34, the “City West North” area shall be that part of the district north of Grand River Avenue, and the “City West South” shall be that part of the District south of Grand River Avenue.

2. Uses permitted subject to approval of a Mixed-Use Development Option
 - A. For developments utilizing the Mixed-Use Development Option (MDO) the uses listed under Section 3.1.30.B, C, and D will be permitted, with a minimum combination of two distinct use classifications. Multiple-family residential dwellings, including senior, age-qualified, or independent housing, may be proposed as a stand-alone use.
 - B. MDO Projects with a single use may be considered for density reserved for mixed-use projects if there is a clearly designed relationship between complementary uses, including direct pedestrian connections and building entrances located within 300 feet measured along the pedestrian route.
3. Eligibility Criteria
 - A. MDO projects shall require the applicant to demonstrate that each particular use (or single use, as applicable), as well as the quantity and location of such use(s), would result in a reasonable and mutually supportive mix of uses on the site, and a compatibility of uses in harmony with the surrounding area and other nearby areas of the City, as intended in this Article.
 - B. Minimum acreage for a project is five (5) acres, unless varied by City Council approval with a demonstration by the applicant that the proposed development on less land meets the standards of Section 3.34, and subsections 3.33.1 and 3.33.3, and that the proposed development exemplifies the intent of this Article as stated in Section 3.1.30.A and the Design Guide.
 - C. Minimum public road frontage is three hundred (300) feet unless varied by City Council.
4. General Approval Standards
 - A. As part of the application and review for site plan approval, the applicant for the MDO must demonstrate the following:
 - i. The project will result in a recognizable and substantial benefit to the ultimate users of the project and to the community, where such benefit would otherwise be unfeasible or unlikely to be achieved by a traditional development.
 - ii. Relative to a development otherwise permissible as a Principal Permitted Use under Section 3.1.30.B, the proposed type and density of development shall not result in an unreasonable increase in the use of public services, facilities and utilities, and shall not place an unreasonable burden upon the subject and/or surrounding land and/or property owners and occupants.
 - iii. The layout of the site is designed to minimize the negative impact on existing natural features, including woodlands and wetland areas. Where buffers to adjacent uses are required, preserving existing natural features is a preferable strategy to replacement and mitigation if appropriate visual and audible screening can be achieved.
 - iv. Based upon the proposed uses, layout and design of the overall project, the proposed building facade treatment, the proposed landscaping treatment and the proposed amenities, the MDO project will result in a material enhancement to the area of the City in which it is situated.

- v. The proposed development will not have a materially adverse impact upon the Master Plan for Land Use of the City and will be consistent with the intent and spirit of this Section.
- vi. Each proposed use in the development, as well as the size and location of such use, will result in and contribute to a reasonable and mutually supportive mix of uses on the site, and/or a compatibility of uses in harmony with the surrounding area and other nearby areas of the City.
- vii. The land area proposed for development represents a cohesive and logical consolidation of parcels to allow a coordinated project to be brought forward.
- viii. The proposed development will be under single ownership and/or control such that there is a single person or entity having responsibility for completing the project in conformity with this Ordinance. This provision shall not prohibit a transfer of ownership and/or control, upon completion of one or more phases or upon 1) due notice to the City Clerk, 2) appropriate and customary approval by other City officials and 3) financial guarantees for completion of improvements.

5. Project Design Standards. The following project design standards shall apply to MDO projects:

- A. General Design Standards. The following design standards shall apply to all projects:
 - i. Permitted non-residential uses may be allowed in combination with other permitted non-residential or residential uses, based upon a layout and integrated plan approved as part of the site plan.
 - ii. The design standards for non-residential uses shall be based upon the regulations in this Ordinance applicable to the corresponding uses, provided that modified design standards may be approved by the City Council based upon a demonstration by the applicant of the following, and the findings of Section 3.34.7.A.i.d:
 - a. The proposed uses will complement and support the intent of the City West district, the convention center and other established uses within this area of the City.
 - b. The project has shown that design coordination and connection with adjacent property, developed or not, has been accomplished.
 - c. An attractive street-level environment has been achieved that focuses on the pedestrian experience and provides public space amenities, with recommendations from the Active Mobility Plan incorporated.
 - d. Vehicular safety provisions and controls have been applied particularly with regard to access to major thoroughfares.
 - e. Aesthetic quality is improved in terms of design, exterior materials and landscaping, including internal compatibility within the development as well as its relationship to surrounding properties to accommodate future development.
 - f. Preservation of natural features is achieved.

- iii. There is underground installation of utilities, including electricity and telecommunications facilities, as found necessary or appropriate by the approving body.
- iv. In order to provide efficient circulation and reduce driveways and curb cuts along Grand River Avenue, all development sites fronting Grand River Avenue shall be constructed to maximize traffic safety. Toward this end, to the extent feasible internal access drive networks shall be established and utilized as local streets. The shared access drives shall be privately owned and maintained, have a cross-section meeting the City's local street standards, and shall be governed by a cross-access agreement that provides for public access at all times and shall be recorded with the Oakland County Register of Deeds after review and approval by the City Attorney.

The shared access drive shall be a minimum of twenty-eight (28) feet wide (from back of curb) and shall be placed within a thirty-six-foot (36) (minimum) private easement. Parallel parking may be permitted along said shared access drive provided an access aisle of 26 feet is maintained. The local street network shall be designed to accommodate motorized and non-motorized users.

The City Council may waive the requirement for a shared access drive where it is not feasible to extend it to another property due to 1) environmental limitations, 2) incompatible adjacent development, 3) shallow lots, or 4) other unique site features.

- v. The City Council shall resolve ambiguities in the interpretation of applicable regulations using the Zoning Ordinance, Master Plan, the Design Guide, and the intent of this Article and other City standards or policies as a guide.
- B. Bonus height. Buildings in an MDO project may exceed the height stated in the Development Standards, except those buildings located within 300 feet of a single-family district, subject to the following:
- i. Bonus height may be granted under the following circumstances:
 - a. If underground or structured parking is provided, the maximum height of the building may be increased up to 2 additional floors (1 story per 125 spaces provided);
 - b. If dedicated Open Space or preservation of natural areas is provided in excess of 25 percent of the total site area, the maximum height of the building may be increased an additional story.
 - c. The provision and use of energy and water efficient design, water conservation, reuse and preservation of resources, and sustainable lifestyle solutions such as electric vehicle charging or integration of solar arrays. Applicants shall provide a narrative explaining how

sustainability elements will be incorporated and quantify the impacts of those strategies. For qualifying for ~~Gold or Platinum~~ LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, or equivalent for green building strategies, the maximum height of the building may be increased ~~an additional floor~~ (up to ~~1-2 stories for Platinum~~).

d. Providing 15 percent or more residential units targeted for workforce housing as defined in Section 2 (1 story bonus).

- ii. Building height, including bonuses earned, shall not exceed one hundred fifteen (115) feet or 8 stories, whichever is less, in the City West North area or 55 feet or 4 stories, whichever is less, in the City West South area.
- iii. Buildings utilizing this subsection shall be designed to minimize their impact on surrounding existing uses and roadways, including, but not limited to, building design elements such as variation in building materials, mitigation of exterior and interior building lighting, and utilization of building relief strategies (including step-backs of higher stories).
- iv. For all buildings utilizing bonus height strategies above, the City Council, following a recommendation by the Planning Commission, shall make a finding that the additional height will complement and be compatible with the vision for the district with respect to the size, height, area, and configuration of adjacent or surrounding parcels and structures and any other relevant characteristics and interest. The City Council shall determine whether the architectural design of the buildings provides adequate building relief to minimize the mass and height of the building and will not have a negative impact on the goal of creating a cohesive, walkable district.

6. Required Site Development Conditions for MDO projects

- A. The required conditions listed within Section 3.33 must be met except as otherwise permitted within this Section 3.34
- B. The following standards are required for residential-only buildings, either as a component in a mixed-use or a single-use development:
 - i. All residential structures shall have a minimum of two (2) stories or equivalent height.
 - ii. The minimum distance between townhouse buildings shall be twenty (20) feet. No more than eight (8) attached townhouse units in a single building.
 - iii. The minimum distance between multifamily buildings shall be one-half (1/2) the height of the taller building.
 - iv. The length/depth of a building shall not exceed four (4) times the height of the building.
 - v. Private community swimming pools and similar private amenities shall not require additional parking spaces except for barrier free spaces.

- vi. Off-street parking shall not be placed within ten (10) feet of any wall of a dwelling structure. Units that have garages may be permitted parking on garage aprons if parking space dimensions are met without encroaching on sidewalks.
 - vii. Landscaping for residential-only buildings (See Section 5.5 for definitions):
 - a. Multi-family Unit Trees: 1.5 trees per first floor unit
 - b. Multi-family Unit Shrubs: 2 shrubs per first floor unit
 - c. Interior Street Trees: 1 canopy tree per 50 linear feet (less driveway widths)
 - viii. Parking requirements:
 - a. Studio and 1-bedroom units: 1 space per unit
 - b. 2+ bedroom units: 2 spaces per unit
- C. The following additional site development conditions shall apply to all MDO projects:
- i. Commercial and office uses may occupy any number of total floors within a building used for residential uses. No commercial or office use shall be located on the same floor as residential use, unless it is considered a live work unit, and no floor may be used for commercial or office purposes which is located above a floor used for residential purposes.
 - ii. All trash receptacles and trash collection areas shall be screened from view and shall not be placed within ten (10) feet of any wall of a dwelling structure which contains openings involving living areas.
 - iii. HVAC units that are not placed on the roof of a structure must be located away from openings to dwellings, including windows, and must be screened from view.
 - iv. Buildings may be permitted to have parking on the ground level of the building. The parking inside the building must be aesthetically and effectively screened from view through architectural design, landscaping, or other means, from adjacent drives, walkways and buildings, and particularly from the street level view.
- D. The following densities/intensities shall be permitted based on mixed-use or single-use developments:

Table 3.34.6.D Development Density/Intensity – Based on Net Site Area			
	Residential Only	Mixed-Use Developments	Mixed-Use Developments
A. Maximum Density ¹		Single Use Building	Multi-Use Building
City West North	20 du/ac	25 du/ac	30 du/ac
City West South	10 du/ac	15 du/ac	20 du/ac
B. Floor Area Ratio ¹			
City West North		2.0 FAR	2.5 FAR
City West South		1.0 FAR	1.5 FAR

C. Maximum Building Height ²			
City West North	65 feet	65 feet	65 feet
City West South	35 feet	45 feet	45 feet
D. Minimum Building Height ²			
City West North	35 feet	40 feet	40 feet
City West South	25 feet	25 feet	35 feet

Notes to Table

1. For all development, density/intensity shall be calculated for the net site area of the development.
2. All structures within 200 feet of a one-family residential district shall be limited to 35 feet in height. Any structure more than 200 feet but less than 300 feet of a one-family residential district shall be limited to a maximum of 45 feet or three stories. In all other locations building height may be exceeded with bonus height as described in subsection 3.34.5.B.
3. Buildings with a front-to-front relationship shall have a minimum separation of 40 feet. Buildings with a front-to-rear or front-to-side relationship shall have a minimum separation of 30 feet. All other interior buildings shall have a minimum separation of 20 feet, or 30 feet for buildings 60 feet or more in height.

E. Landscape Standards at Major Thoroughfares

- i. Greenbelt: A landscape planting buffer is required to improve the appearance from the right-of-way, including screening off-site parking and access drive areas.
 - a. Greenbelt that is adjacent to on-site drives or parking shall be a minimum of 10-feet in width, with a brick wall 3 feet in height to provide screening, and small plantings on the street side. The wall should be placed 3 feet from the curb. Trees should be planted within 4-foot gaps between wall sections.
 - b. Greenbelt that is not adjacent to parking or drive shall be a minimum of 20 feet in width. No screening wall is required.
 - c. The following greenbelt landscaping is required: 1 canopy tree per 30 feet or 1.5 subcanopy trees per 30 feet (less drive width). Trees to be evenly spaced.

F. Landscape Requirements for Mixed-Use and Commercial Buildings are shown in Table 3.34.6.F below:

Table 3.34.6.F Landscaping Requirements for Mixed Use/Commercial Buildings	
Location	Minimum Requirement
i. Interior Drives	

Street trees	1 canopy tree per 75 feet ¹ on both sides, spaced not closer than 25 feet
Minimum greenspace/tree	200 sf or silva cells (or comparable alternative) with 1,000 ft ³
ii. Foundation Landscaping	
Sidewalk 12 ft or wider	15% of building frontage, 2-3 feet depth
Sidewalk less than 12 ft	None
iii. Open Space	
Paved gathering areas	5% landscaped, including movable planters
Outdoor dining areas	60% of periphery landscaped with permanent planting beds or movable planters
Primarily unpaved areas	1 canopy tree + 1 subcanopy tree + 10 shrubs per 5,000 sf of area
Landscaping feature	1 per 10,000 sf of open space in the development
iv. Parking	
Surface Lots	200 sf & 1 canopy tree per 10 spaces, 15 space contiguous limit
Parking Structures	35% of building frontage (trellis or planted walls can meet requirement)
Notes to Table	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measured along linear foot of street/drive, less driveway widths. See Figure 5.5.3.B.ii 2. Buffers are not required between developments within the district, but may be desirable in some circumstances to enhance compatibility between different uses. 	

5. Review and approval process for all MDO projects

A. Preliminary Application and Review

- i. Pre-Application Submittal. Before formal submittal of a MDO plan, the applicant shall apply for and attend a pre-application meeting with the Plan Review Center, and other appropriate officials deemed necessary by the City Planner. Prior to the meeting, the applicant shall provide to the Plan Review Center a conceptual site plan and brief narrative of how the development meets or exceeds the standards of this ordinance and furthers the vision for the district. The Plan Review Center will provide initial comments on the plans.
- ii. Preliminary MDO Application.
 - a. An application to develop under the MDO shall be made to the Planning Commission for its review and recommendation to City Council. The application shall be filed concurrently with a fully documented Preliminary Site Plan. The Preliminary Site Plan shall be completed in

- accordance with the review requirements as set forth and regulated in the City's Site Plan and Development Manual and Section 6.1. The MDO plan shall include the information required in [subsection 3.34.7.C](#).
- b. In those instances where it is necessary to request rezoning in order to effectuate a MDO plan, an application to rezone shall be made to the Planning Commission for its review and recommendation to the City Council. The application for rezoning shall be completed in accordance with the City's Site Plan & Development Manual.
 - c. The Planning Commission may proceed simultaneously with review and recommendation on applications for rezoning, MDO plan and Preliminary Site Plan approval, along with any associated permit reviews.
- iii. ~~Planning Commission Review~~[Initial Review](#). Upon receipt of an application for preliminary site plan, the application shall be reviewed by the Plan Review Center and referred to the Planning Commission ~~and then City Council~~ for ~~preliminary initial~~ review. [Review shall be conducted at a regular meeting of each body and no public hearing shall be required to be noticed. Members of the Planning Commission and City Council will be able to provide feedback on the plans presented.](#)
- iv. Following ~~preliminary the initial~~ review, [the applicant may choose to make any revisions to the plan and submit revised plans for review by the Plan Review Center before being scheduled for a public hearing before Planning Commission.](#)
- ~~iv.v. the Planning Commission Public Hearing.~~ [shall set a public hearing date for review of the application.](#) Notice of the public hearing shall be given and the hearing held as provided by the Zoning Enabling Act, at which a review shall be conducted. Following such review, the Planning Commission shall provide its report and recommendation to the City Council. In making its recommendation to the City Council, the Planning Commission shall consider:
- (1) Consistency with the Master Plan;
 - (2) Innovative planning and design excellence;
 - (3) Relationship to adjacent land uses, design form and layout;
 - (4) Compliance with this Ordinance, including subsections 3.33 and 3.34;
 - (5) Adherence to the City West Design Guide;
 - (5) Benefits to the community such as publicly accessible parks and open areas, and public facilities.
 - (6) **Pedestrian and vehicular safety provisions.**
 - (7) Aesthetic beauty in terms of design, exterior materials, landscaping, and natural features, including internal compatibility within the development as well as its relationship to surrounding properties,
 - (8) Provisions for the future users of the project.
 - (9) Impacts to existing natural features.
 - (10) The standards of Section 6.1.2.C for Special Land Uses.
- vi. City Council Approval. The City Council shall review the Preliminary Site Plan with regard to the Planning Commission's recommendation and the review

requirements and conditions set forth in Section 3.34.4.A. The City Council shall determine whether the proposed plan meets the conditions as set forth in Section 3.33 and 3.34, and the standards of Section 6.1.2.C.

- a. As part of its approval of the Preliminary Site Plan, the Council is authorized to impose conditions that are reasonably related to the purposes of this section and that will:
- Insure public services and facilities affected by a proposed land use or activity will be capable of accommodating increased services and facility loads caused by the land use or activity,
 - Protect the natural environment and conserve natural resources and energy,
 - Insuring compatibility with adjacent uses of land, and
 - Promote the use of land in a socially and economically desirable manner.

All conditions imposed shall be made a part of the record of the approved Mixed Use Development Option.

- b. Deviations From Density, Area, Bulk, Yard, and Dimensional Requirements. As part of approval of a Preliminary Site Plan, the City Council shall be authorized to grant deviations from the strict terms of the zoning ordinance governing density, area, bulk, yard, and dimensional requirements applicable to the property; provided, however, that such authorization to grant deviations shall be conditioned upon the Council finding:
1. That each zoning ordinance provision from which a deviation is sought would, if the deviation were not granted, prohibit an enhancement of the development that would be in the public interest;
 2. That approving the proposed deviation would be compatible with the existing and planned uses in the surrounding area;
 3. That the proposed deviation would not be detrimental to the natural features and resources of the affected property and surrounding area, or would enhance or preserve such natural features and resources;
 4. That the proposed deviation would not be injurious to the safety or convenience of vehicular or pedestrian traffic; and
 5. That the proposed deviation would not cause an adverse fiscal or financial impact on the City's ability to provide services and facilities to the property or to the public as a whole.
- c. In determining whether to grant any such deviation, the Council shall be authorized to attach reasonable conditions to the Site Plan that will:
1. Insure that public services and facilities affected by a proposed land use or activity will be capable of accommodating increased services and facility loads caused by the land use or activity,
 2. Protect the natural environment and conserving natural resources and energy,
 3. Insure compatibility with adjacent use of land, and

4. Promote the use of land in a socially and economically desirable manner.

All conditions imposed shall be made a part of the record of the approval of the Site Plan.

- B. Approved Preliminary Site Plan. Once the Preliminary Site Plan has been approved by City Council, no development shall take place therein nor use made of any part thereof except in accordance with the approved plan or in accordance with an approved amendment thereto. Once approval of the Preliminary Site Plan is granted, the applicant shall proceed with development of the Final Site Plan.
- C. Final Site Plan approval. A Final Site Plan shall be prepared and submitted by the applicant for approval. Review and approval shall be administrative unless the City Council requests that the Final Site Plan be submitted to it for review. The Final Site Plan shall:
 - i. Conform with the Preliminary Site Plan and meet the conditions as set forth in the Council's approval.
 - ii. Contain all the requirements as set forth in Section 6.1 of this Ordinance and the requirements as set forth in the City's Site Plan and Development Manual.
 - iii. The dedication of public rights-of-way or planned public open spaces, where proposed on the site plan or as may be otherwise required, shall have been made.
 - iv. In residential use areas, any proffered open space has been irrevocably committed to be retained as open space for park, recreation and related uses, and that all such lands meet the requirements of the City.
 - v. Where applicable, road easements or rights-of-way have been provided.
- D. Site Plan Revisions. Revisions to an approved Preliminary Site Plan or Final Site Plan shall require re-submittal of plan revisions to the City for review. Such revisions shall be resubmitted to the Planning Commission and City Council for review and approval, except those revisions permitted to be reviewed administratively under Section 6.1.1.C. Revisions requiring Planning Commission and City Council review shall include physical changes to the exterior building wall façade materials or layout alterations that will significantly change the appearance of a building or site, as determined by the City Planner. The Planning Commission and City Council, in making a review of a revised site plan, shall find that any such revisions forwarded to them for review and approval, meet all the minimum requirements of this Section, including general intent.
- E. Phasing: Where a project is proposed for construction in phases, the planning and designing shall be such that, upon completion, each phase, considered

together with other completed phases, shall be capable of standing on its own in terms of the presence of services, facilities, and open space, and shall contain the necessary components to insure protection of natural resources and the health, safety, and welfare of the users of the planned mixed use development and the residents and property in the surrounding area. Sidewalks and pathways shall be completed to avoid dead ends within the site. Plans shall clearly illustrate what is to be included in each phase. The Council may require performance guarantees in accordance with Chapter 26.5 to ensure that permanent facades are constructed. In developments which include residential and non-residential uses, phasing shall be consistent with the following:

- i. At least thirty (30) percent of all proposed residential units and non-residential floor area shall be constructed no later than concurrent with the first phase of construction.
- ii. At least an additional thirty (30) percent of all proposed residential units and twenty (20) percent of non-residential floor area shall be constructed no later than concurrent with any second phase construction; and
- iii. The balance of all proposed residential units shall be constructed no later than concurrent with any third phase of construction. For purposes of implementing the residential/non-residential phasing requirements set forth above, the percentages shall be reasonable approximations, as determined in the discretion of the City Council, and such percentages may be substantially modified should the City Council determine in its discretion that the applicant has presented adequate and effective assurances that both residential and non-residential component(s) of the development shall be completed within a specified period.

8. Plan Information

- A. MDO Preliminary site plans shall include the following:
 - i. All requirements listed in the City's Preliminary Site Plan Checklist
 - ii. Statement of intent of proposed use(s) of land and any phasing of the project, including anticipated completion dates.
 - iii. Evidence of market need for the use(s) and economic feasibility of the project.
 - iv. Qualifications of applicant/developer including information of past projects, size, location, type etc.
 - v. A Contextual plan sheet with the general layout and all uses within 300 feet of the property lines to demonstrate the proposed project in context with the surroundings.
 - vi. Existing and proposed right-of-way width of all adjoining and internal roads, and layout of all internal roads and drives.

- vii. A traffic study, prepared in accordance with the City's Site Plan and Development Manual requirements, shall be submitted, unless such requirement is waived by the Plan Review Center during pre-application conference.
- viii. Proposed acceleration, deceleration, and passing lanes.
- ix. All parking areas and number of spaces and any requests for shared parking reductions. The City may permit the use of a flexible shared parking formula if a Shared Parking Study is submitted and accepted by the City Council, after review and recommendation by the Planning Commission and City's traffic consultant.
- x. The size and location of areas to be preserved as open and recreational space and intended programming of those spaces.
- viii-xi. **Demonstrated adherence to the recommendations of the Active Mobility Plan.**
- xii. Density calculations, number and types of units (if applicable), and floor area per habitable space for each use proposed.
- xiii. Fair representation of each type of use, square footage or acreage allocated to each use, locations of each principal structure and use in the development, setbacks, typical layout and elevation for each type of use.
- xiv. Specification of each deviation from the applicable ordinance regulations which will be sought to be approved, and the safeguards, features and/or planning mechanisms proposed to achieve the objectives intended to be accomplished by the regulations from which a deviation is being sought.
- xv. Community Impact Statement for all projects, including impact on City services, fiscal impact analysis addressing anticipated costs and revenues to City and school district, unless such requirement is waived by the Plan Review Center during pre-application conference.
- xvi. If phasing is proposed, a plan showing what improvements will be constructed in each phase, with a description of the anticipated timing of construction.

B. Final site plans shall include the following:

- i. All requirements specified in the City's Final Site Plan Checklist and Application.
- ii. List all deviations from Ordinance standards granted by City Council and any conditions imposed.
- iii. If phasing is proposed, provide detailed plans that show what will be constructed/installed by the completion of each phase to verify that

each phase, considered together with previous completed phases, shall be capable of meeting ordinance requirements on its own as described in Section 3.34.7.E, including utilities, parking, end of pavement, landscaping, amenities, lighting, signage, any mechanisms designed to reduce noise, and visual screening features. Required Engineering and Landscape Cost estimates shall also be broken down by phases.

9. Performance Guarantees. The applicant shall comply with the requirements for performance guarantees contained in Chapter 26.5 of the Code of Ordinances, as amended.

Part V.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 3, Zoning Districts, is amended to renumber Section 3.33, General Exceptions to Section 3.35.

Part VI.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 4, "Use Standards," Section 4.12 "Group Day Care Homes, Day Care Centers, and Adult Day Care Centers" is amended to read as follows:

Section 4.12 Group Day Care Homes, Day Care Centers, and Adult Day Care Centers

1. [unchanged]
2. Day care centers and adult day care centers are a permitted use in the B-2, B-3, OST, TC, TC-1, CW districts and EXO Overlay district and a special land use in the OS-1, OSC, and PSLR districts, all subject to the following:
 - A. In the B-2, B-3, OST, OS-1, OSC, TC, TC-1, CW, PSLR districts and EXO Overlay district:
 - i. Outdoor recreation areas shall be provided, consisting of at least one -hundred fifty (150) square feet for each person cared for, with a minimum total area of three-thousand five hundred (3,500) square feet. All such outdoor recreation areas shall be fenced with self-closing gates. The recreation area may extend into an exterior side yard up to twenty-five (25) percent of the distance between the building facade and the property line.
 - ii. The hours of operation shall be limited to the period between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. for those facilities abutting residential zoning districts.
 - iii. Facilities shall be located either within a permitted office, or commercial structure, or in a freestanding building on a site

coordinated with surrounding development (i.e., traffic flow, parking access, drop off areas, architecture and relationship to other buildings).

- iv. Screening and landscaping of outdoor recreation areas, recreation area fences and parking lots shall comply with Section 5.5.
- v. Off-street parking shall comply with Section 5.2.12. and Section 5.3.

B. [unchanged]

3. [unchanged]

Part VII.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 4, “Use Standards,” Section 4.24 “Dry Cleaning Establishments or Pick Up Stations,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4.24 Dry Cleaning Establishments or Pick Up Stations

In the B-1, B-2, B-3, CW and TC districts, dry cleaning establishments, or pick-up stations, dealing directly with the consumer are a permitted use. Central dry cleaning plants serving more than one retail outlet shall be prohibited.

Part VIII.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 4, “Use Standards,” Section 4.27, “Retail Business and Service Establishments,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

4.27 Retail Business or Service Establishments

- 1. In the B-2, B-3, CW, TC and TC-1 districts, all retail business or service establishments are permitted as follows:
 - A. Any retail business whose principal activity is the sale of merchandise in an enclosed building.
 - B. Any service establishment of an office, showroom or workshop nature of a decorator, dressmaker, tailor, bridal shop, art gallery, interior designer or similar establishment that requires a retail adjunct.
 - C. Restaurants (sit down), banquet facilities or other places serving food or beverage, except those having the character of a drive-in or having a drive-through window.
 - D. Theaters, assembly halls, concert halls, museums or similar places of assembly when conducted completely within enclosed buildings.
 - E. Business schools and colleges or private schools operated for profit.
- 2. In the FS district, retail establishments to serve the needs of the highway travelers, including such facilities as, but not limited to, gift shops and restaurants, not including drive-ins are permitted uses.

Part IX.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 4, “Use Standards,” Section 4.28 “Hotels, Motels, and Transient Lodging Facilities,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4.28 Hotels and Motels

1. In the B-2 and CW district, hotels and motels are a permitted use provided the site does not abut a residential district.
2. (Unchanged)
3. (Unchanged)
4. (Unchanged)
5. All hotels and motels in all districts, shall provide a minimum of 30 square feet of usable open space for each room subject to the following conditions:
 - A. Usable open space shall include an unobstructed portion of a site which has a minimum dimension of ten feet in any direction, is landscaped and developed for active and passive recreational use, and is conveniently located and accessible;
 - B. The usable open space may include amenities such as pavers, benches and other landscape design elements with pervious surface materials. All such areas shall be for the benefit of the hotel patrons;
 - C. For TC, TC-1, CW, and PD-2 districts, the usable open space required per this section can be counted towards the minimum usable open space requirements for respective district standards;
 - D. The usable open space shall not be counted toward any minimum landscaping or other open space requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and required parking setback area;
6. (Unchanged)

Part X.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 4, “Use Standards,” Section 4.31 “Veterinary Hospitals and Clinics,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4.31 Veterinary Hospitals or Clinics

Veterinary hospitals or clinics are permitted as a special land use in the B-2, B-3, CW, NCC, TC, and TC-1 districts. They are also a special land use in the I-1 district when abutting residential districts. In the I-1 and I-2 districts, when not abutting a residential district, they are a permitted use. In all districts they are subject to the following:

1. In the B-2, B-3, CW, NCC, TC, TC-1, I-1, and I-2 districts:
 - A. [unchanged]
 - B. [unchanged]

2. In the B-2, B-3, CW, NCC, TC, TC-1 and I-1 (when the I-1 district is abutting residential) districts a noise impact statement is required subject to the standards of Section 5.14.10.B.

Part XI.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 4, “Use Standards,” Section 4.35 “Microbreweries and Brewpubs,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4.35 Microbreweries and Brewpubs

Microbreweries and brewpubs are permitted uses in the B-3 and CW districts and special land uses in the RC, TC, and TC-1 districts subject to the following conditions:

1. Microbreweries and brewpubs
 - A. In the B-3, CW, RC, TC and TC-1 districts:
 - i-iv. (Unchanged)
 - B. (unchanged)
2. (unchanged)
3. (unchanged)

Part XII.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 4, “Use Standards,” Section 4.62 “Instructional Centers,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4.62 Instructional Centers

In the CW and NCC districts, instructional centers, such as schools for dance, music, language, arts, or general education are a permitted use subject to the following:

1. The center must comply with all applicable state laws and licensing requirements.
2. All business, servicing or processing, except for off-street parking or loading, shall be conducted within a completely enclosed building.

In the OS-1 district, instructional centers are permitted uses provided that such facilities do not exceed two-thousand (2,000) square feet in size. However, when such uses exceed two-thousand (2,000) square feet, they shall be treated as special land uses subject to approval by the Planning Commission in accordance with the additional requirements of Section 6.1.2.C for special land uses, and subject to the public hearing requirements set forth and regulated in Section 6.2 of this Ordinance. All instructional centers shall comply with the following conditions:

1. All business, servicing or processing, except for off-street parking or loading, shall be conducted within a completely enclosed building.
2. Multiple tenants with square footage less than 2,000 square feet shall be allowed in a single building.

Part XIII.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 4, “Use Standards,” Section 4.81 “Financial Institutions,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4.81 Financial Institutions

In the CW, TC and TC-1 districts, financial institutions are a permitted use, provided that such institutions shall not have drive-thru teller or ATM facilities as the principal use of the premises.

Part XIV.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 2, Definitions, Section 2.2. Definitions, is hereby amended to include the following definitions:

Section 2.2 Definitions

Workforce Housing: A residential unit for sale or for rent with combined annual rental costs or combined annual mortgage loan debt service, property taxes, and required insurance that do not exceed thirty percent (30%) of the gross annual income of a household earning between sixty percent (60%) and one hundred and forty percent (140%) of the area median income, as defined annually by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Part XIV.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 3, Zoning Districts, Section 3.1.15 EXO Exposition Overlay District, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3.1.15 EXO Exposition Overlay District

A. Intent

The EXO, Exposition Overlay district is designed to accommodate the development of a planned exposition, convention, and conference facility, including exhibit halls; display floor area; meeting rooms; conference rooms; eating and lodging facilities; banquet, concession, and catering uses; museums; theaters; recreational facilities; space for school and civic affairs; warehousing accessory to principal uses; and off-street parking and loading/unloading space, all for the purpose of supporting the growing high-tech business base within the city and regional demand for an exposition facility.

The EXO Exposition Overlay district is intended to encourage the development of an exposition, conference, and convention facility that is located near the ~~City's Town Center (TC)~~ City West (CW) district as shown on the Master Plan for Land Use, has visual exposure to the I-96 freeway (whether directly or in combination with other property), is accessible from a major thoroughfare, and has adequate site area. Taking into consideration the need to limit the overall impact of the use, and the need to have sufficient population support for the use, in no event is it the intent to have the EXO Overlay District encompass more than 55 contiguous acres, or to have more than one EXO Overlay district until the population of the City exceeds 100,000. The EXO district is intended to be utilized exclusively in connection with the ~~OST Planned Office Service Technology district~~ CW City West district as the underlying zoning district. The EXO

district is not intended to be adjacent to residential districts. To permit quality design and sound economic value for the City, any exposition, conference, and convention facility should have unified architectural and functional design and provide an overall master plan for all phases for the complete development. The district contemplates the existence of a principal exposition, conference, or convention facility as part of the development before, or at least coincidental with, permitted "secondary" overlay uses. It is not the intent of this district to authorize the establishment of a new area within the City for an independent commercial center or district. Rather, it is the intent of this district to recognize the special need and character of a planned exposition, convention, and conference facility, and to make provision for this special need and character in an appropriate location.

B. Principal Permitted Uses

[existing content all removed]

See the underlying zoning district CW City West for Principal Permitted uses, standards and regulations (Section 3.1.30).

C. Special Land Use (EXO overlay uses)

The following uses are permitted as part of an EXO Overlay subject to Section ~~3.33~~ 3.19, Section ~~3.34~~ 3.20, and Section 3.25: The supplemental conditions of Section 3.25 shall govern in the event of a conflict.

- i. Exposition, conference, and convention facilities

The following uses, when part of a development that includes a use described in subsection C above:

- ~~ii. Hotels and motels~~
- ~~iii. Museums~~
- ~~iv. Theaters~~
- ~~v. Places of worship~~
- ~~vi. Restaurants (sit down, but not fast food sit down)~~
- vii. Indoor and outdoor recreational facilities
- viii. Retail sale of products or services
- ix. Onsite support retail uses
- x. Outside exhibits, fairs, entertainment and festivals
- xi. Surface parking lots

D. Development Standards

Lot Size

Minimum lot area: See section 3.25

Minimum lot width: Not specified

Lot Coverage

Maximum FAR: 0.5 FAR

Setbacks

Minimum front yard setback: 50 ft or height of building*

Minimum rear yard setback: 50 ft or height of building*

Minimum side yard setback: 50 ft or height of building*

Building Height

Maximum building height: 65 ft or 5 stories, whichever is less

Floor area

Minimum floor area: See Section 3.25

Parking setbacks

Minimum front yard setback: 20 ft

Minimum rear yard setback: 20 ft

Minimum side yard setback: 20 ft

Notes

For additions to the above requirements, refer to Section 3.6.2 Notes to District Standards: E, M, P, and Q

See Selected references below for applicability

*See section 3.25.2.F for further regulations

Selected references

3. Zoning Districts

~~-OST Retail Service Overlay~~

~~-OST District Regulations and Required Conditions~~

- CW City West

- MDO Mixed-Use Development Option

- EXO Overlay District Requirements

Subsections 4-7. [unchanged]

Part XVI.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 3, Zoning Districts, Section 3.25 EXO Exposition Overlay District required conditions, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3.25 EXO Overlay district required conditions

1. EXO Overlay required conditions

A. [unchanged]

B. An EXO Overlay district shall satisfy all of the following in order to qualify for approval:

i.-iv. [unchanged]

v. The zoning classification of the entire EXO Overlay district shall be ~~OST, Planned Office Service Technology CW, City West district.~~

vi. [unchanged]

2. Supplemental Required Conditions for Overlay Uses. In the event of construction of building(s) for overlay uses permitted under Section 3.1.15.C, the following supplemental required conditions shall apply:

A.-K. [unchanged]

L. Approval Process

i. Approval of an EXO Overlay district shall require the approval of a Zoning Ordinance amendment to amend the Zoning Map by the City Council, in the exercise of its legislative discretion, following a public hearing held by, and receipt of a recommendation from, the Planning Commission. An applicant seeking approval of an EXO Overlay district rezoning shall submit a rezoning petition to the City. If approved, the amendment shall place, or overlay, the EXO Overlay district over the underlying CW or OST district relative to the property which is the subject of the amendment.

ii.-iii. [unchanged]

PART XVII. Severability. Should any section, subdivision, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be invalid, the validity of the Ordinance as a whole, or in part, shall not be affected other than the part invalidated.

PART XVIII. Savings Clause. The amendment of the Novi Code of Ordinances set forth in this Ordinance does not affect or impair any act done, offense committed, or right accruing, accrued, or acquired or liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment, pending or incurred prior to the amendment of the Novi Code of Ordinances set forth in this Ordinance.

PART XIXVIII. Repealer. All other Ordinance or parts of Ordinance in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

PART XIX. Effective Date: Publication. Public hearing having been held hereon pursuant to the provisions of Section 103 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of 2006, as amended, the

provisions of this Ordinance shall be published within fifteen (15) days of its adoption by publication of a brief notice in a newspaper circulated in the City of Novi stating the date of enactment and effective date, a brief statement as to its regulatory effect and that a complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public purchase, use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Local Time. The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective seven (7) days after its publication.

MADE, PASSED, AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ON THE ___ DAY OF _____, 2024.

JUSTIN FISCHER, MAYOR

CORTNEY HANSON, CITY CLERK

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Absent:

CITY WEST DESIGN GUIDE – DRAFT

City West Design Guide

A Design Guide to accompany sections 3.33 and 3.34 of the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance

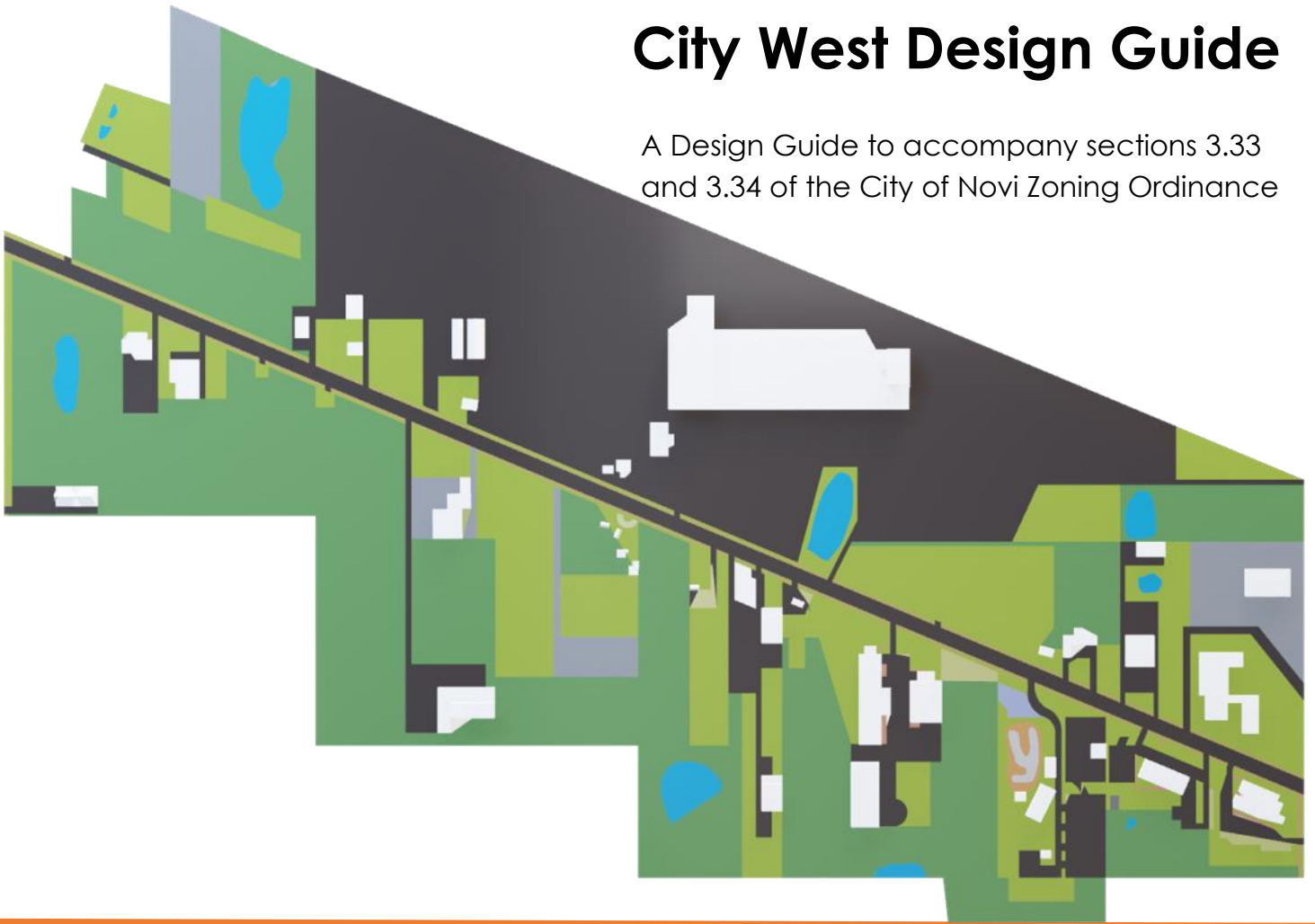


Table of Contents:

- A. Executive Summary
- B. Background & Existing Conditions
- C. Vision and Guiding Principles
- D. Form Based Design & Inspiration Images
- E. Recommended Design Guidelines



A. Executive Summary

The City West Design Guide is meant to provide guidance and visual representation of the development standards for the City West District in addition to providing design features and concepts recommended to be included in development projects. The goal of the City West Design Guide is to facilitate development that includes high-quality project design and building materials and works to create a vibrant, people-oriented district in the City of Novi.

“This area offers the potential for the creation of a prominent new district combining entertainment, convention, commercial, office and residential uses in a cohesive, high-density, walkable pattern.”

- 2016 Master Plan

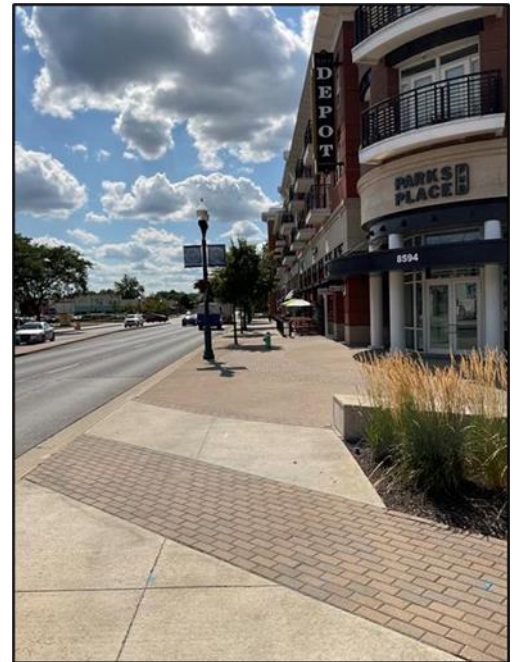


Figure A1: mixed-use development and streetscape in Fishers, Indiana

Figure A2 (below): Fishers, Indiana mixed-use development; images of Indiana communities courtesy of Rowan Brady of Beckett and Raeder, Inc.

The guide includes images of developments from Novi and other communities, maps representing the current conditions of the City West area, and 3D models to illustrate standards of this district. Images and renderings are meant to serve as examples, while the Zoning Ordinance contains the actual development regulations, standards and procedures. Inspiration for the vision and guiding principles is based on the recommendations in the 2016 Master Plan and Grand River Corridor Study.



B. Background & Existing Conditions

B.1 — Land Use

⇒ Description of the District

⇒ Natural Features

B.2 — Public Facilities

⇒ Nonmotorized Infrastructure

⇒ Transit

B.3 — Zoning

B.4 — Utilities

B. Background & Existing Conditions



Figure B2 (above): aerial of the western portion of the City West North area , outlined in blue

Figure B1 (below): aerial of both City West areas



Figure B3 (above): aerial of the City West South area, outlined in green

B. Background & Existing Conditions

B.1 — Land Use: Description of the District

The City West district is situated southeast of the intersection of Interstate 96 and Beck Road, bounded by I-96 to the north, Taft Road on the east, residential communities to the south, and Beck Road on the west. The historic Grand River Avenue corridor, running from downtown Detroit all the way to Lake Michigan on the west side of the state, bisects the City West area. In this area of the city, Grand River is an auto-centric five-lane major arterial with a speed limit of 50 miles per hour. A mix of older office, industrial and manufacturing buildings, and vacant properties are present on either side. These characteristics make the streetscape inhospitable for pedestrians and cyclists.

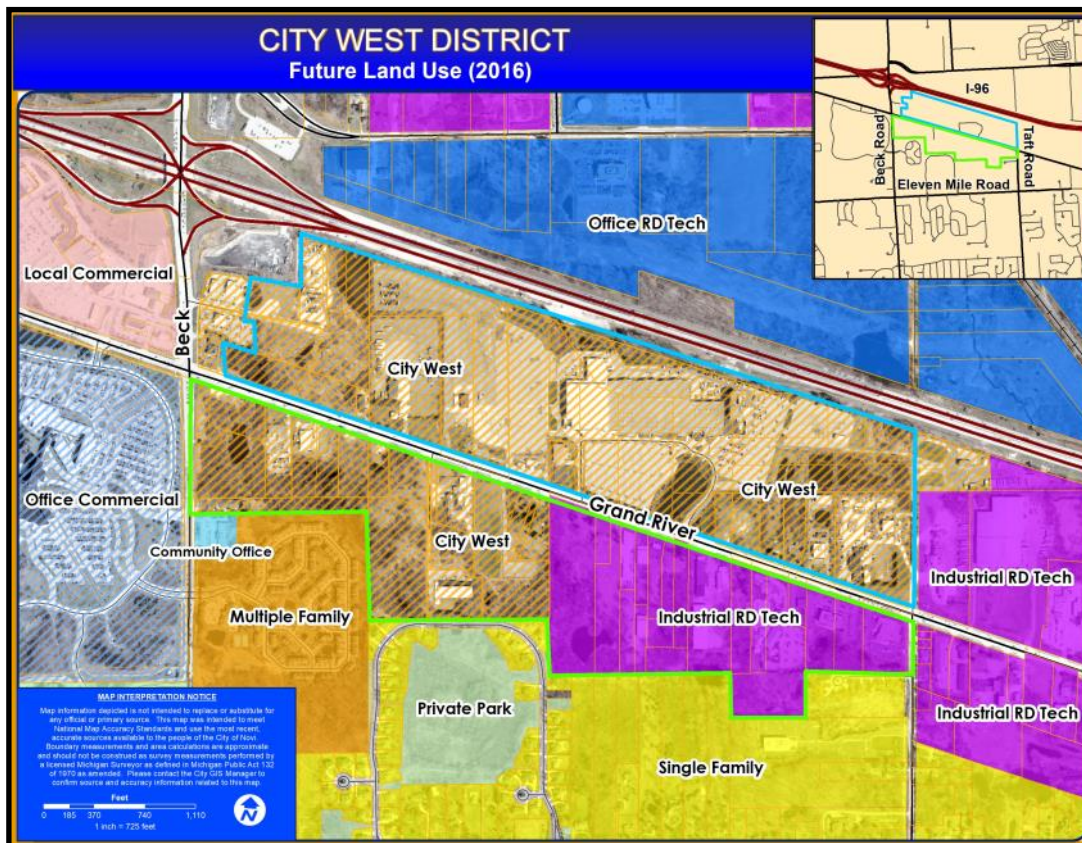


Figure B4: City West Future Land Use Map (2016)

Overall, the total land area included in the City West District is approximately 200 acres. Approximately 68.6 acres are vacant or a non-conforming residential use. Parcels developed with industrial uses that are not consistent with the desired future use for City West make up a total of about 55 acres. Destinations nearby in the corridor include Providence Park Hospital System and Suburban Collection Showplace, which are significant economic drivers in Novi, providing jobs and bringing in visitors.



Figure B5: Providence Park Hospital;
Image source: Novi Chamber of Commerce

B. Background & Existing Conditions

B.1 — Land Use: Natural Features

A map of the natural features shows the presence of both woodlands and wetlands in the area. A significant amount of woodlands and wetlands are present in the City West South area, while there are just wetlands located in the City West North area.

The City West text allows for **up to 50 percent** of the required open space to consist of regulated woodlands and/or wetlands if they are permanently protected by conservation easements (3.33.H).

“Wherever natural open spaces shall be created or preserved, they shall be physically connected, when possible, to adjacent natural open space areas.”

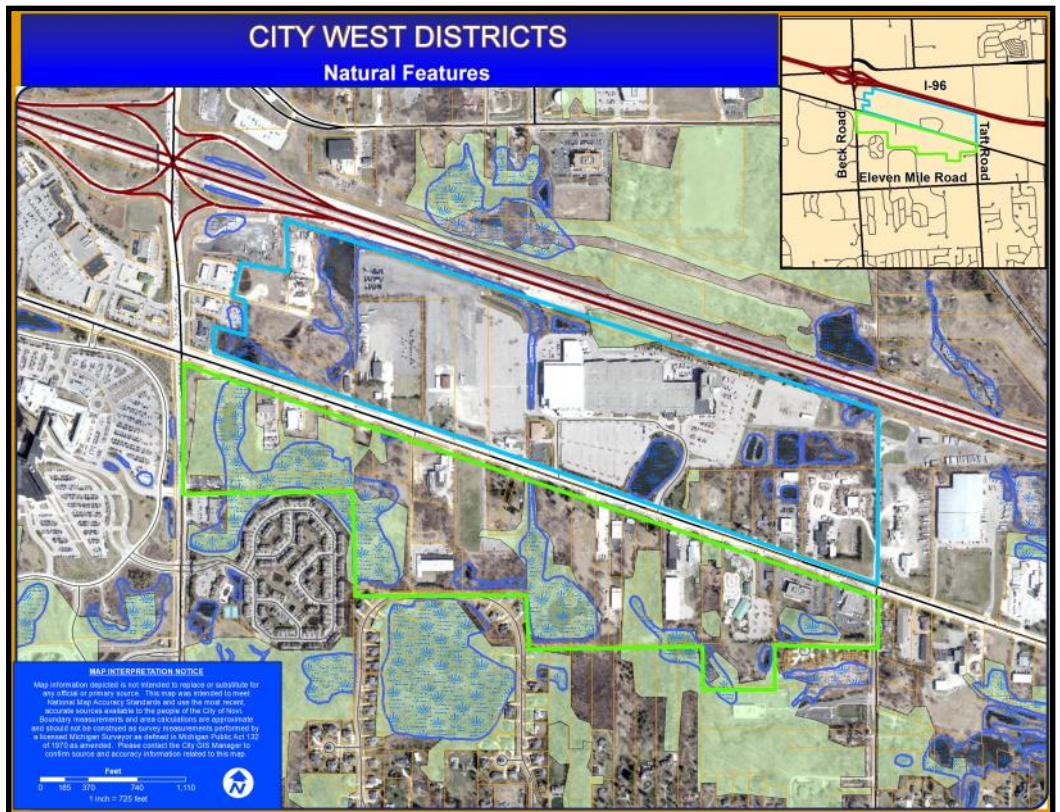


Figure B6: City West Natural Features Map, woodlands are denoted in light green while wetlands are colored in blue.



Figure B7: aerial of City West facing east

The aerial to the left shows City West facing east down Grand River. Two large ponds (circled in yellow) are present on either side of Grand River, and the difference in woodland concentration between north and south is evident. Buffers and setbacks from natural features help preserve, protect, and maintain quality of woodlands, wetlands, and streams within the district.

B. Background & Existing Conditions

B.2 — Public Facilities: Nonmotorized Infrastructure

Public Facilities shown in Figure B8 to the right include the sidewalk inventory of the district — 8-foot sidewalks line both sides of Grand River from Taft to Beck Road. Other facilities of note include traffic signals and street lights, which both can be found at important intersections. Road crossing difficulty, established in the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, portrays Grand River as category E, the most difficult road category to cross.

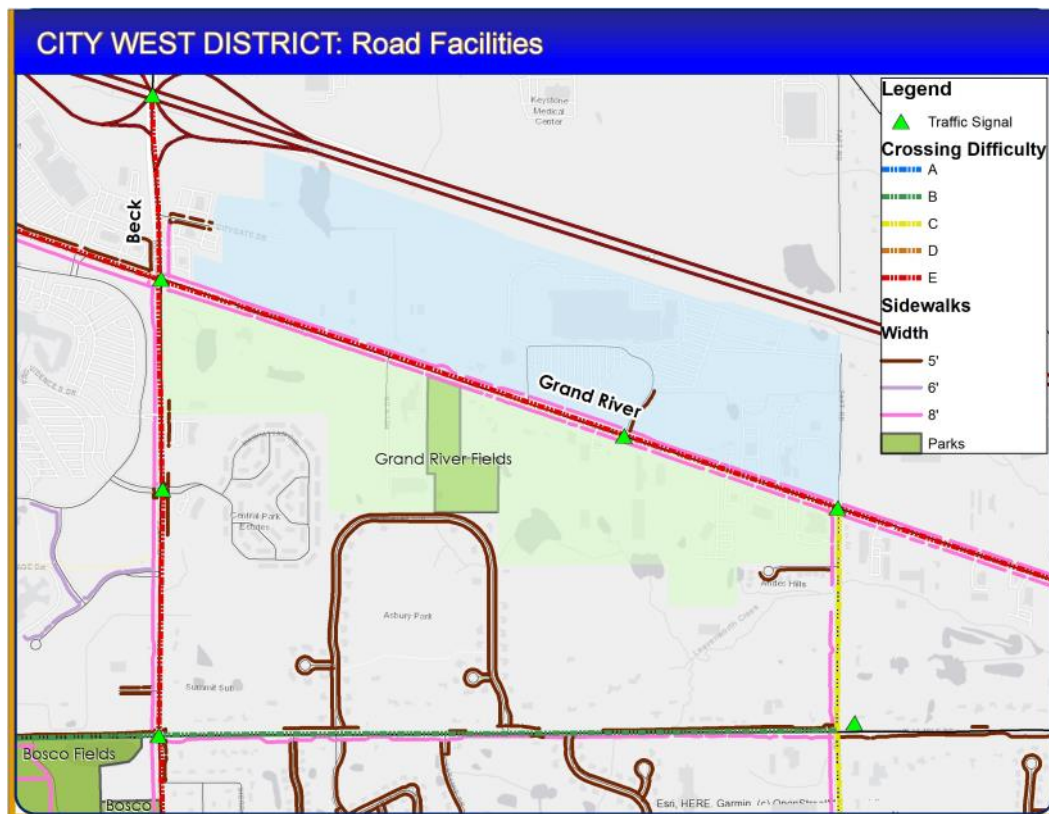


Figure B8: Roads and Sidewalk Facilities map

Beck Road runs north and south, connects with Grand River, and has been identified as a major non-motorized corridor in the City of Novi Non-Motorized Plan. The ITC Trail, depicted below, has been proposed as a regional trail connection crossing Grand River at Beck Road. The Providence Park hospital campus has recently expanded their trail network, and connects with the ITC Trail.



Figure B9: the ITC Trail is a prime example of non-motorized infrastructure in the City of Novi

B. Background & Existing Conditions

B.2 — Public Facilities : Transit

Another form of public facility that is new to the City of Novi is transit. SMART has extended its service into Novi and Wixom to the west, with one route (route 305) running directly through City West and another running nearby (route 740). Figure B10 below shows the stops along Grand River of route 305 within or just outside of City West

City West District SMART Stops

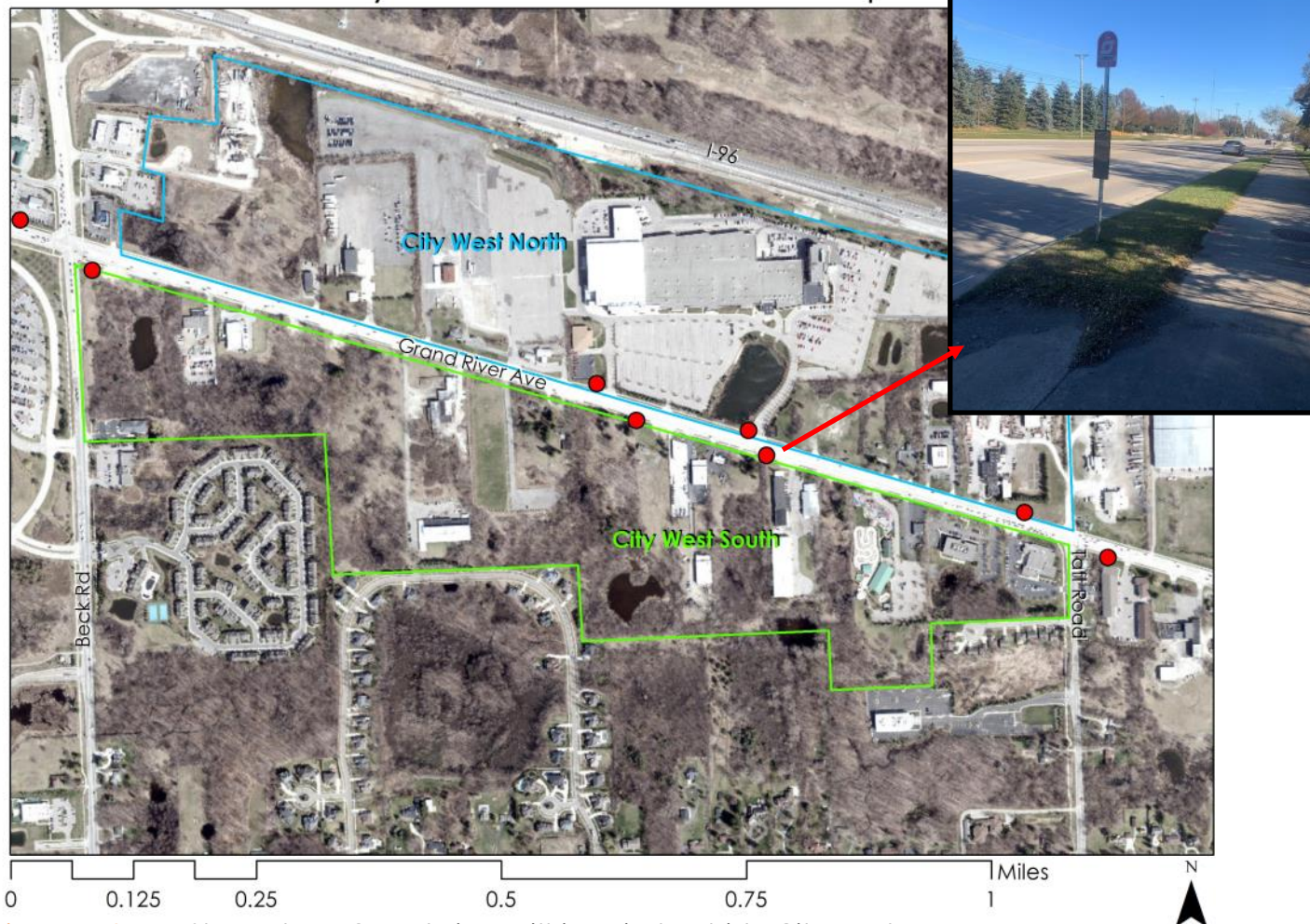
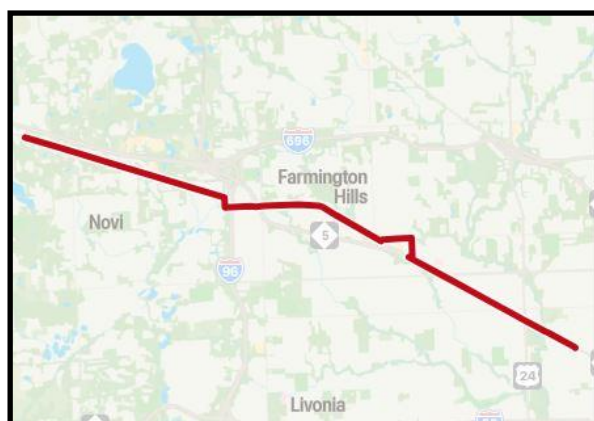


Figure B10: Bus Stops along Grand River within or just outside City West



Transit-Oriented Development (TOD): the inclusion of bus traffic presents an opportunity to encourage development along the bus route through City West, where residents or visitors can easily reach other destinations within Novi or outside of the City without a car. Route 305, as seen to the left, runs from the Meijer in Wixom to the Meijer in Old Redford, with stops along Grand River roughly every half mile including Novi Town Center, downtown Farmington, and other grocery, dining, and shopping opportunities.

Figure B11: SMART Route 305, courtesy of Apple Maps

B. Background & Existing Conditions

B.3 — Zoning

The current zoning of the City West area includes six different classifications. Approximately 140 acres are north of Grand River Avenue with 17 parcels included. The majority of the area, 124.96 acres, is currently zoned OST - Office Service Technology. The EXO Exposition Overlay District applies to a 55-acre portion of the Suburban Collection Showplace property. Approximately 10.05 acres are zoned I-1 Light Industrial. To the south of Grand River Avenue, the City West area includes 34 parcels totaling 113.48 acres. The current zoning of the majority of the area is I-1 Light Industrial.

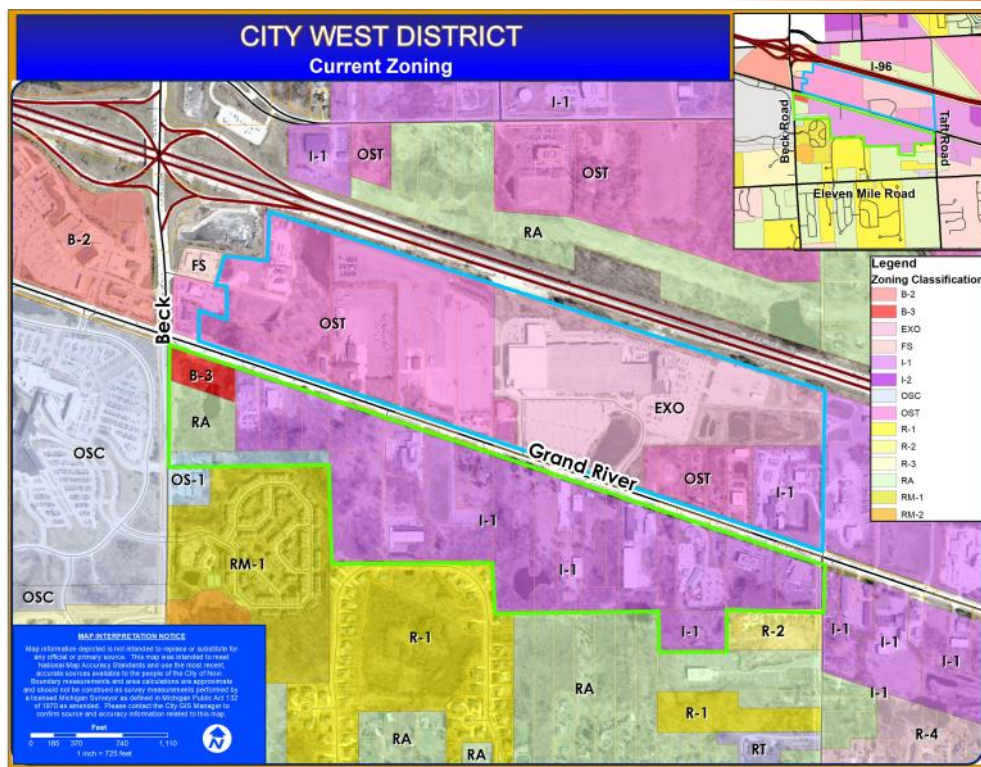


Figure B12: Current Zoning Map of the City West area

One area located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Beck Road and Grand River Avenue is zoned B-3. Fronting on Beck Road, one 6.4 acre area is zoned RA Residential Acreage, and a 3.4 acre parcel is zoned OS-1 Office Service.

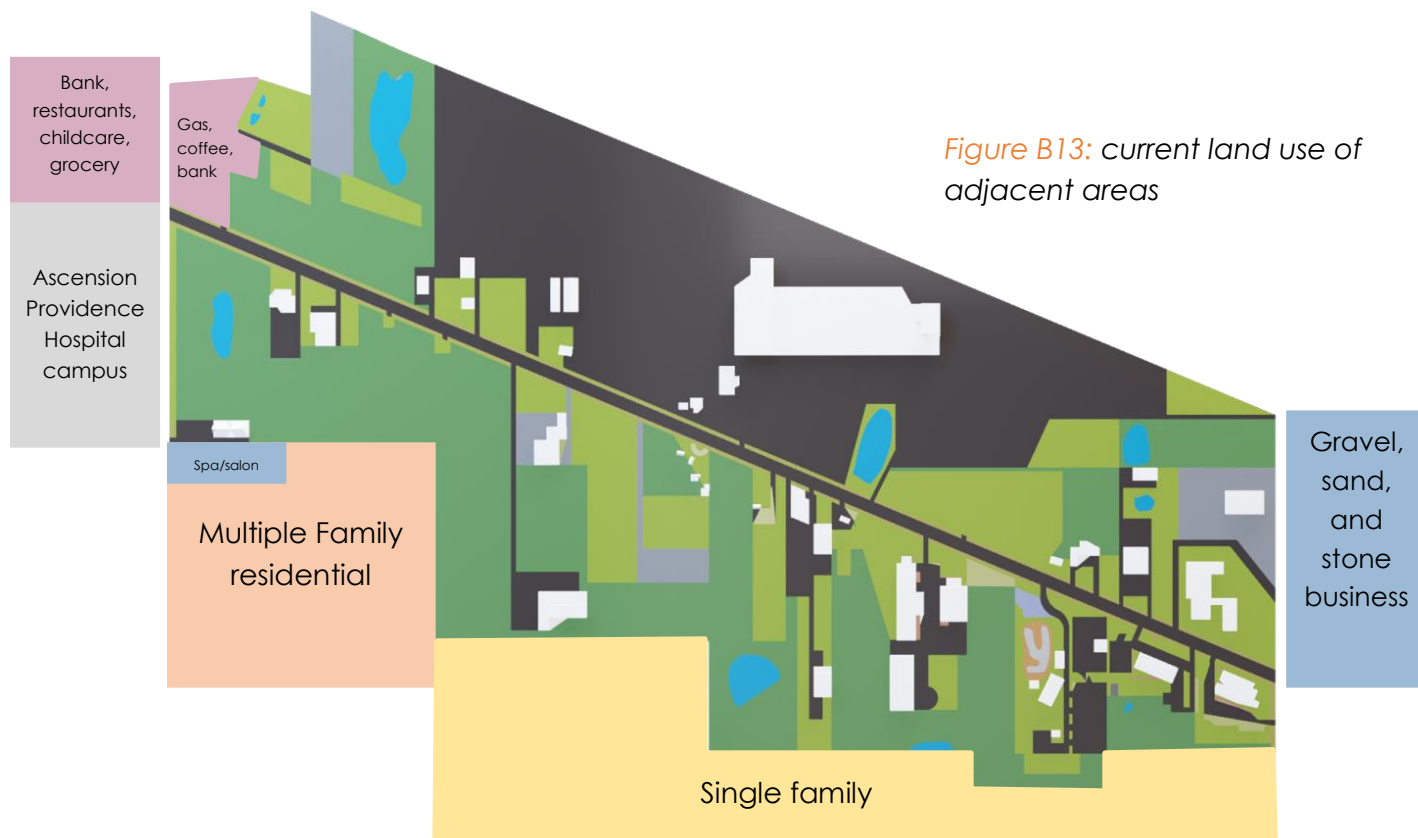


Figure B13: current land use of adjacent areas

B. Background & Existing Conditions

B.4 — Utilities

Development in the City West area will depend on both existing and future utility infrastructure to serve the needs of residents and businesses. Some sanitary sewer improvements will need to be made before all of the area is developed. **Figure B14** below shows the sanitary districts and the locations of the current sanitary gravity mains.

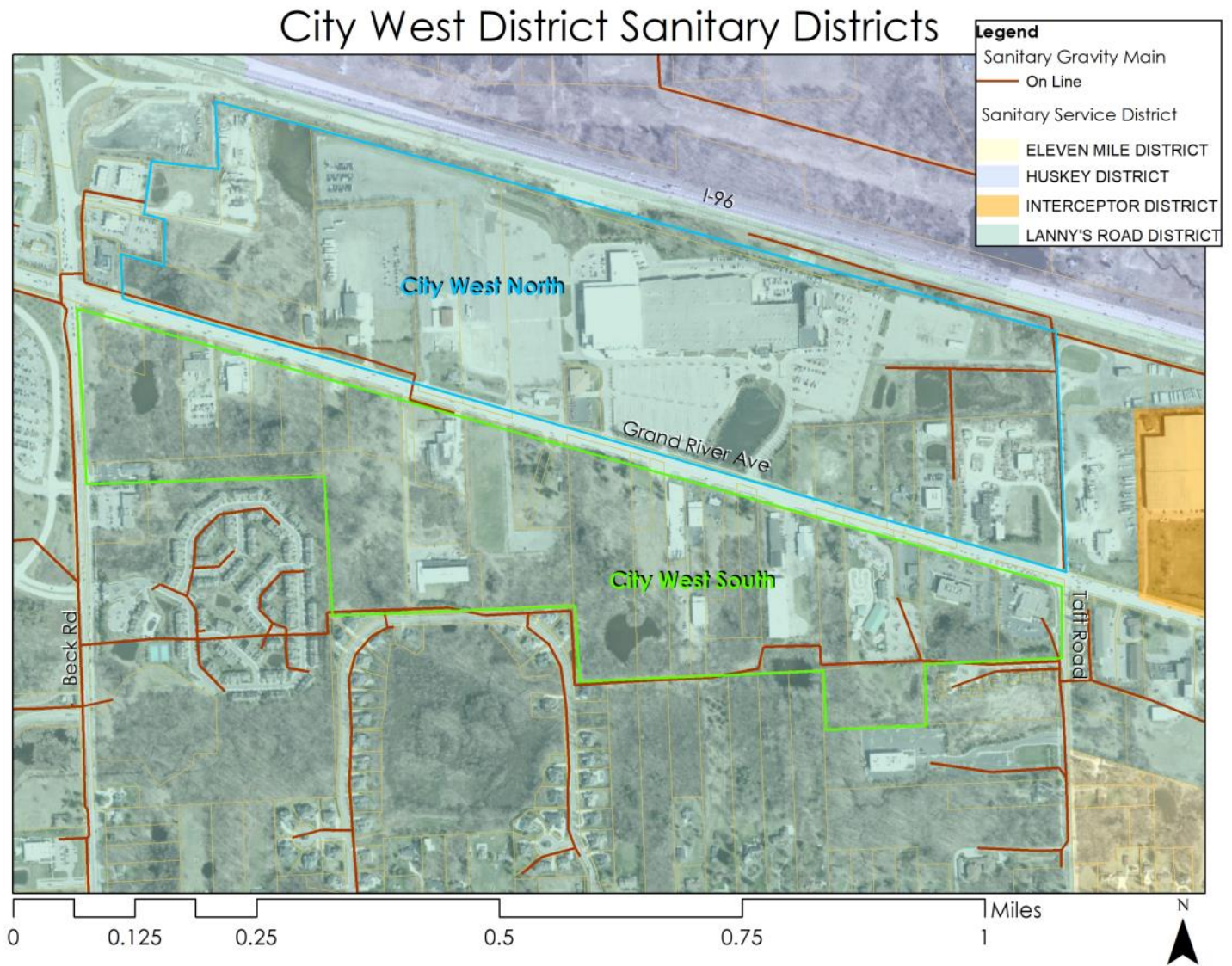


Figure B14: sanitary service districts and sanitary gravity main locations in City West

B. Background & Existing Conditions

B.4 — Utilities

Regional or shared detention basins between developments, in addition to underground detention basins, are encouraged to help consolidate properties and facilitate denser development. **Figure B15** below shows the drainage districts in City West and their respective status. Properties in City West are all located within one of four regional detention districts — the North Novi District and Bosco District, which are proposed but not built, and the Taft Road District and Grand River District, which both have built regional detention.

City West District Stormwater Drainage

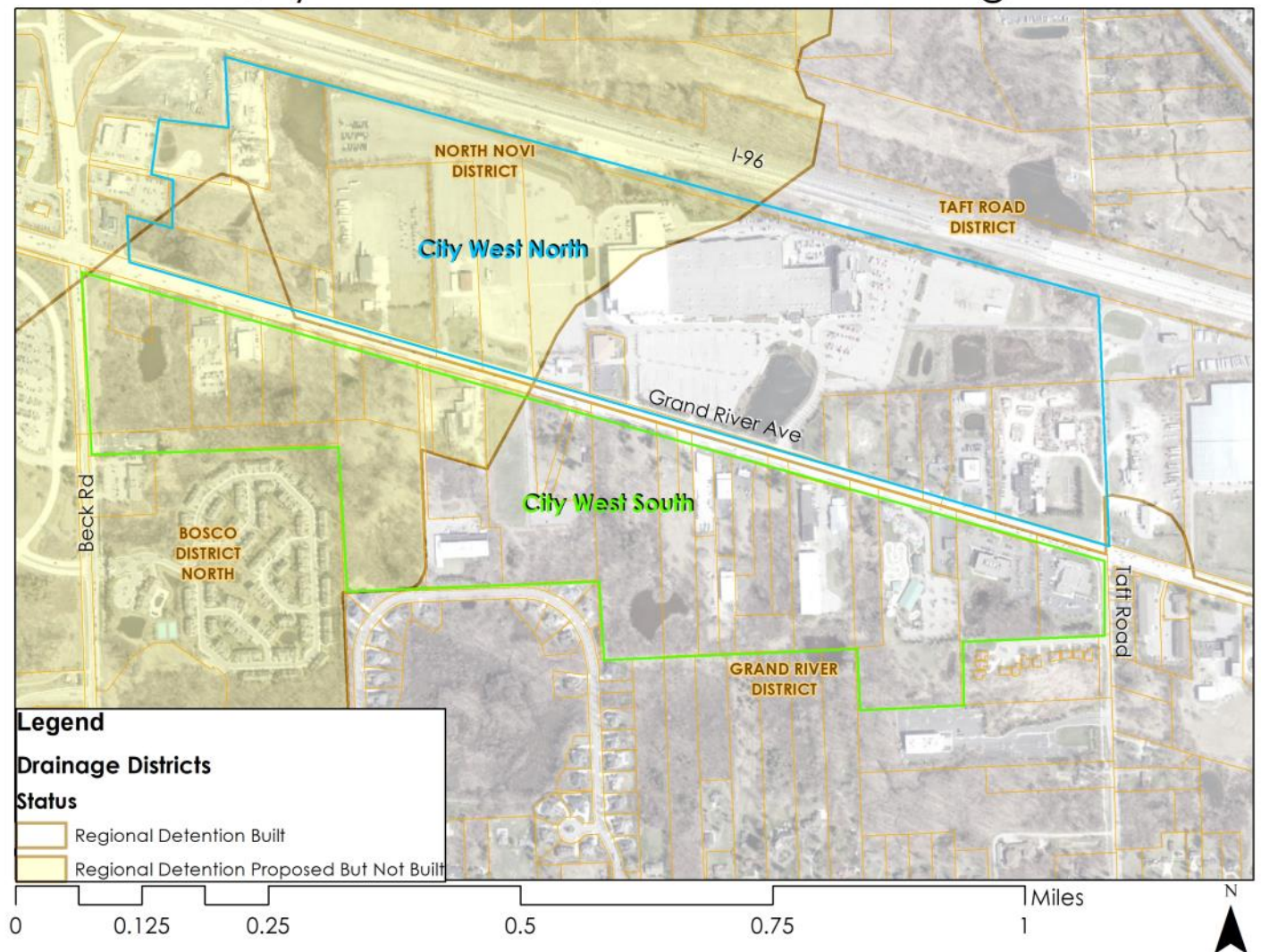


Figure B15: drainage districts and their status in City West

B. Background & Existing Conditions

B.4 — Utilities

Figure B16 below shows current infrastructure for water service in the City West area. All of City West is located within the intermediate water pressure district. There is water provided on both the north and south sides of Grand River.

City West District Water Service

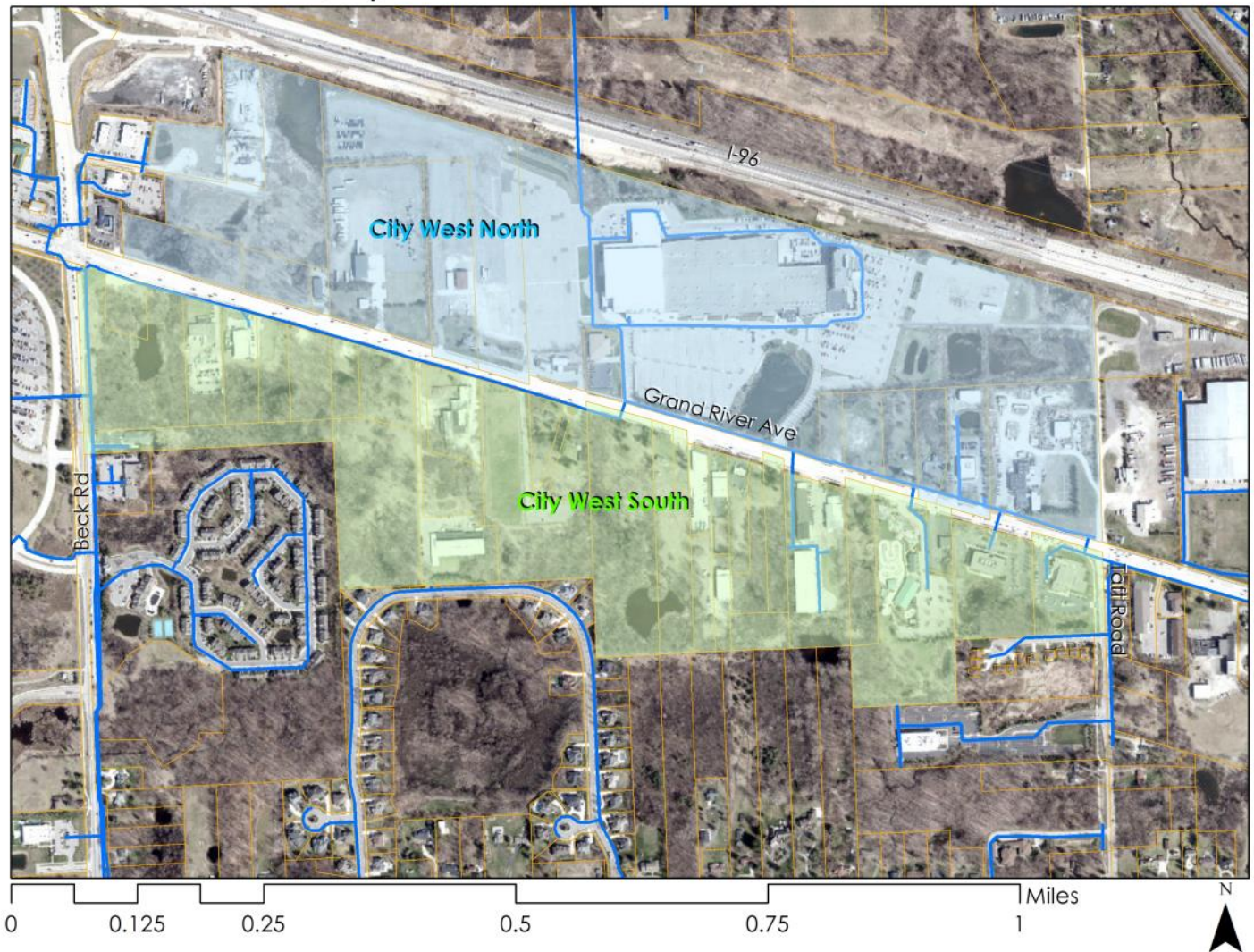


Figure B16: water main locations in City West

C. Vision and Guiding Principles

C.1 General Vision

C.2 Horizontal Mixed Use

C.3 Pedestrian Focus — Street Design



C. Vision and Guiding Principles

C.1 — General Vision

Figures C1 and C2 below illustrate the vision for City West in terms of building form north and south of Grand River — taller buildings in the City West North area, especially closer to I-96, and scaled down heights in the City West South area. Shared access and parking, public gathering spaces, pedestrian and vehicle connectivity, and preservation of important natural features are also depicted.

Parking lots are located in the side and back of buildings with the intent of framing both Grand River and the collector streets with buildings.

Models within the Design Guide are purely conceptual and do not assume any changes to existing standards



Figures C1 (above) and C2 (left): aerial views of a part of City West with 3D model example developments overlaid. Additional development anticipated on other parcels.

It is strongly encouraged that internal access drive networks shall be established and utilized as local streets which are to be privately owned and maintained.

Buildings are to be oriented towards the primary pedestrian street

C. Vision and Guiding Principles

C.1 — General Vision

Excerpt from the 2016 Master Plan Update describing City West:

The district is envisioned as a distinct neighborhood as well as a complement to major nearby uses such as the Suburban Collection Showplace and the hospital....Creating a vibrant restaurant and entertainment scene that spills into outdoor patios and open spaces is a major goal of this redevelopment strategy.



Figure C4 (above): rendering (by Gensler) of an outdoor gathering space at San Pedro Plaza, Los Angeles.



City West District developments are expected to be designed with pedestrians in mind. Walkable connections between businesses, residences, and entertainment options should provide people with the ability to interact with one another in public areas such as the photos shown to the left and below. The images included on this page provide examples of the kind of public gathering spaces and density that is meant to take place in the City West District.

Figure C3 (below): outdoor dining in front of a vertical mixed-use development. Photo courtesy of Bethesda Magazine



Figure C5 (left): lighting and pedestrian activity at night at The BLVD in Lancaster County, California. Photo courtesy of the Congress for New Urbanism

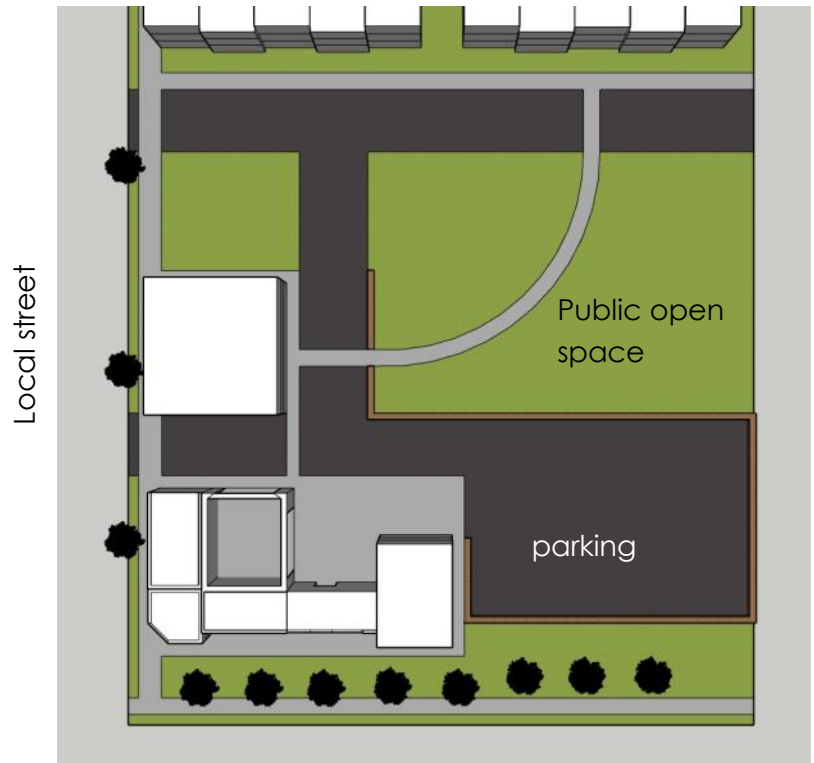
C. Vision and Guiding Principles

C.2 — Horizontal Mixed Use

Horizontal mixed-use refers to developments where the site contains separate residential and non-residential buildings, as opposed to vertical mixed-use, where multiple uses are integrated into a single building. Both types of mixed-use developments are encouraged and permitted in the City West District.

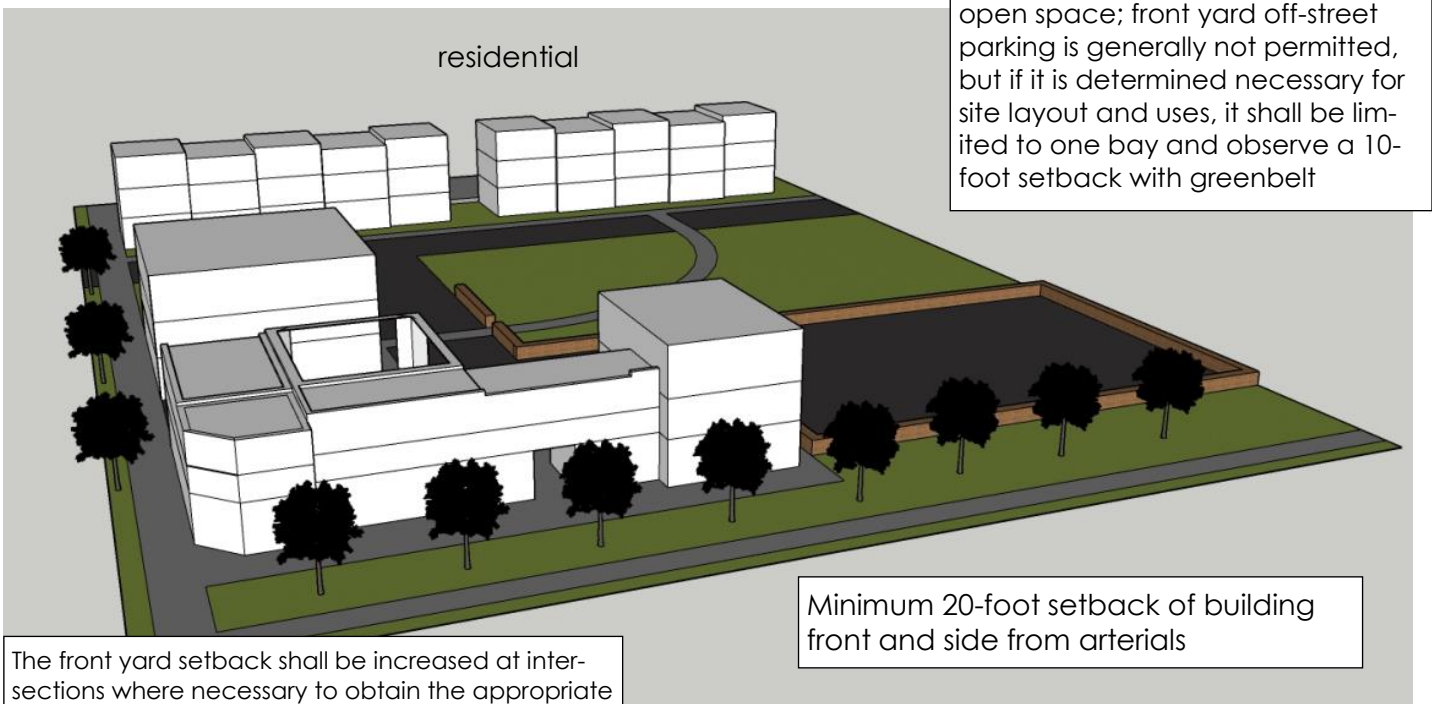
For the Mixed-Use Development Option (MDO), the development must have at least 300 feet in public road frontage

Maximum building setbacks of 20 feet from nonresidential collectors and local streets are meant to create a building presence along the street connected by sidewalks. **Setbacks are measured from the future Right of Way.**



Major arterial (Grand River, Beck, or Taft)

Figures C6 (top) and C7 (bottom): plan views of example horizontal mixed-use model



At least 15% of the development is open space; front yard off-street parking is generally not permitted, but if it is determined necessary for site layout and uses, it shall be limited to one bay and observe a 10-foot setback with greenbelt

Minimum 20-foot setback of building front and side from arterials

The front yard setback shall be increased at intersections where necessary to obtain the appropriate clear vision area for vehicular traffic.

C. Vision and Guiding Principles

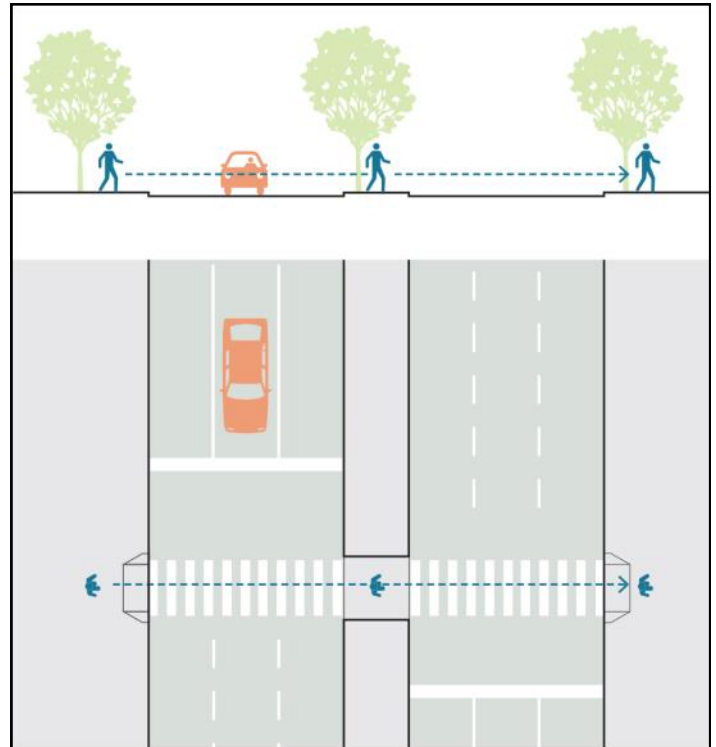
C.3 — Pedestrian Focus - Street Design

The City of Novi is committed to take part in capital projects that result in traffic-calming and a more pedestrian-oriented streetscape. Nonmotorized transportation infrastructure remains an important part in the City's goals. As it currently stands, Grand River Avenue consists of high volumes of fast-moving traffic that is not conducive to people on foot or on bike.

The diagram on the right portrays a midblock crossing and pedestrian refuge that allows for the crossing of a road like Grand River. These kinds of measures increase the ease and safety of crossing busy thoroughfares.

Sidewalks with a minimum of 6 feet are required abutting any street or internal road. Along major thoroughfares sidewalks shall be 8 to 10 feet.

Figure C8: diagram of a midblock crossing; image courtesy of the Global Designing Cities Initiative



It is intended the internal street network and local roads created would be designed to focus the activity **off** Grand River. However, it will be necessary to provide additional connections between the north and south sides of the district. The conceptual design of Grand River shown below in Figure C9 shows available options for pedestrian-oriented changes on Grand River.



Figure C9: new design of a section of Grand River Avenue in the City of Detroit

C. Vision and Guiding Principles

C.3 — Pedestrian Focus - Street Design

Changes to and along Grand River are expected to align with the development of this denser, pedestrian-focused corridor. To connect the north and south sides of Grand River, there will be options of implementing an at-grade crosswalk with a traffic light or potentially the construction of a pedestrian bridge as seen in Figure C10 below. Further research into feasibility will be required, in addition to looking into possible grants for funding these alternative transportation infrastructure projects.



Figure C10: Pedestrian bridge with accessible switchback ramps in Columbia Heights, Minnesota. Photo courtesy of C.S. McCrossan

Another change to Grand River Avenue is the addition of bus traffic, with two SMART routes extending into Novi, one of which runs directly through the City West district along Grand River. See [page 7](#) for bus stop locations and route details.

The City will have to work with SMART on determining where improved bus stop infrastructure should be implemented. Bus shelters like the one seen on the right are an opportunity to incorporate details unique to Novi and City West.



Figure C11: bus shelter in Houston, courtesy of ricedesignalliance.org

D. Form Based Design/Inspiration Images

D.1 Townhouses, Apartment Dwelling Development and Multifamily Housing

D.2 Building Density and Intensity

D.3 Density Transition from Residential Districts

D.4 Lighting

D.5 Inspiration Images

D. Form Based Design/Inspiration Images

D.1 — Townhouses, Apartment Dwelling Development and Multifamily Housing

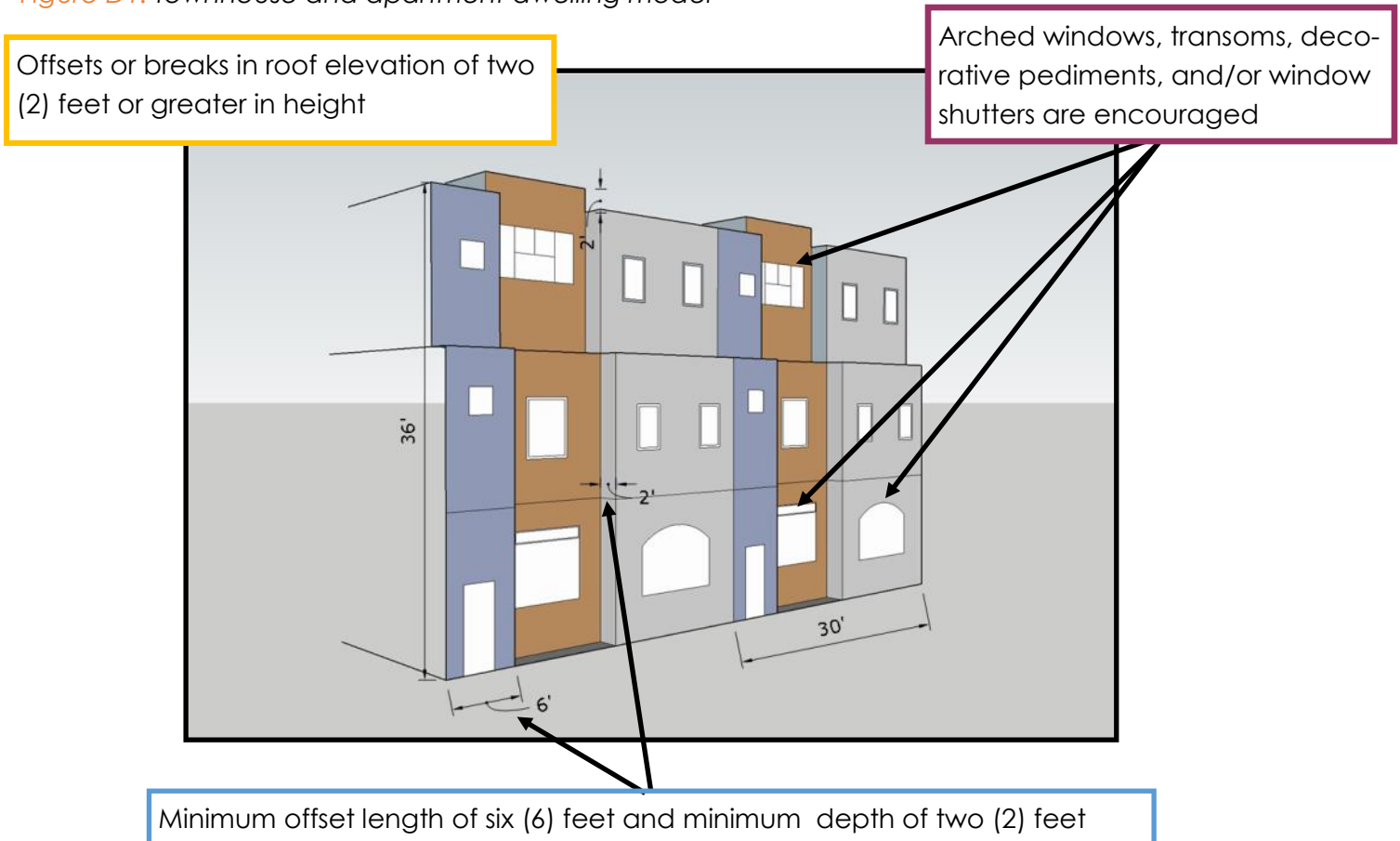
The following text and accompanying images provide guidelines to the development of townhouses, apartment dwellings, and multifamily housing in the MDO.

Wall offsets: A wall offset is defined as a projection or recess of a façade wall of at least two (2) feet in depth. Wall offsets should be incorporated onto those building facades having a length of 40 feet or greater. Wall offsets should be a minimum of six (6) feet in length

Varying roof lines and forms: Offsets or breaks in roof elevations of two (2) feet or greater in height. Incorporate roof pitch and materials of adjacent buildings into carport or garage roofs.

Windows: Decorative window features, such as arched windows, transoms, decorative pediments, and/or window shutters that are sized appropriately and proportionally to the window are encouraged on those facades fronting on streets. The use of recessed windows, moldings, decorative trim and wood frames to add three-dimensional quality and shadow lines to the façade.

Figure D1: townhouse and apartment dwelling model



D. Form Based Design/Inspiration Images

D.1 — Townhouses, Apartment Dwelling Development and Multifamily Housing



Images on this page are apartments in Exton, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia. Nearby uses include retail and commercial.

Standalone residential uses can be built under the MDO so long as nonresidential uses are nearby (within 300 feet), and connections to those uses are made.

Figure D2: Apartments in Exton, PA; courtesy of Ashbridge Apartments Facebook page



Figure D3: Amenities at Exton, PA apartments; courtesy of Ashbridge Apartments Facebook page

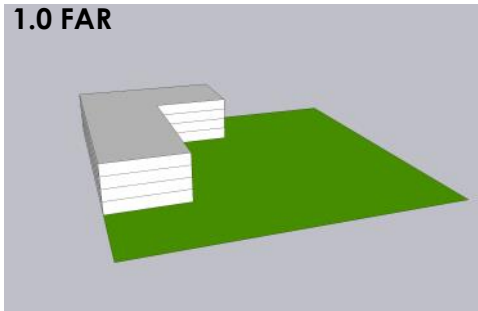
D. Form Based Design/Inspiration Images

D.2 — Building Density and Intensity

One of the key incentives for utilizing the MDO in the City West District is to permit greater density/intensity. Consult table 3.34.5.D in the City West District text for greater detail. Without the MDO, the maximum Floor Area Ratio in City West is **0.275**. Under the MDO, the density of the net site area for single-use buildings is a maximum FAR of 2.0 in the City West North area and 1.0 in the City West South area. For mixed-use buildings, the maximum FAR is 2.5 for the north area and 1.5 for the south.

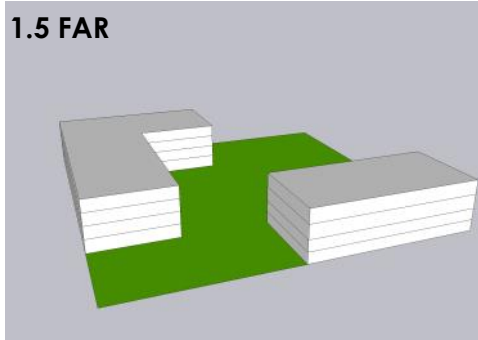
Figure D4: FAR Models depicting potential density available

Single-use buildings in City West South Area →



Four-story building covering a quarter of an acre

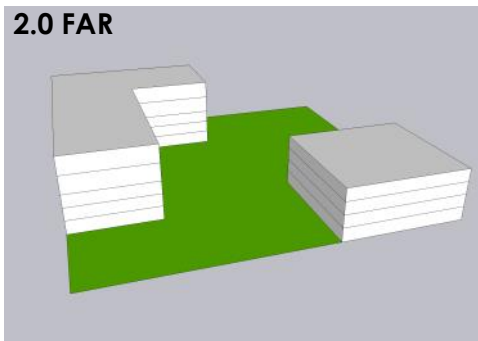
Mixed-use buildings in City West South Area →



Two four-story buildings, one covering a quarter of an acre and the other covering an eighth of an acre

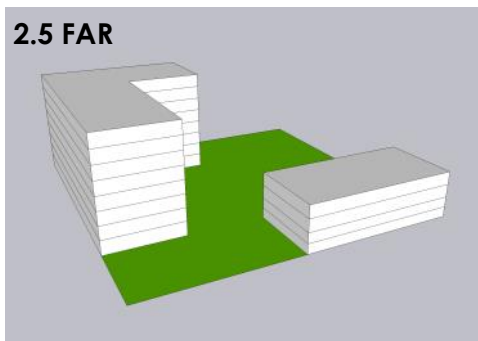
Note that other conditions such as height, parking and open space preservation must be met and may not be accurately portrayed by these models

Single-use buildings in City West North Area →



One six-story building covering a quarter of an acre and one four-story building covering an eighth of an acre

Mixed-use buildings in City West North Area →



One eight-story building covering a quarter of an acre and a four-story building covering an eighth of an acre

D. Form Based Design/Inspiration Images

D.2 — Building Density and Intensity

The following table is from the City West Mixed Development Option text and refers to the density of development in the district in terms of dwelling units per acre.

3.34.5.D Development Density/Intensity – Based on Net Site Area			
	Residential Only	Mixed-Use Developments	Mixed-Use Developments
Maximum Density ¹		Single Use Building	Multi-Use Building
City West North area	20 du/ac	25 du/ac	30 du/ac
City West South area	10 du/ac	15 du/ac	20 du/ac

¹For all development, density/intensity shall be calculated for the net site area of the development



Haggerty Center/The Liv in Livonia is an example of horizontal mixed-use that includes retail/restaurant and single-use residential buildings on the site. The site has a density of 27.4 du/ac

Figure D5: aerial of Haggerty Center/The Liv



Main Street Village in Novi is an example of a site with a density of 15.26 du/ac. Developments with this density—if incorporated with a nonresidential use on the site—would be permitted in the City West South area

Figure D6: Main Street Village in Novi

D. Form Based Design/Inspiration Images

D.2 — Building Density and Intensity

The following images show other real-world examples portraying what certain density can look like. Refer to table 3.34.5.D to see the required conditions for differing levels of density.

Figure D7 (right): rendering of The Griffin Novi, by Singh Development

The two renderings shown here are approved developments in Novi—the Griffin Novi (top) and the Bond (bottom). The Griffin will have a density of 23.6 du/ac while the Bond will have a density of 32.5 du/ac.



A residential-only site in the City West North area or a mixed-use site with multi-use buildings in the City West South area permits a maximum 20 du/ac, slightly less than that of The Griffin.

A mixed-use site with multi-use buildings in City West North permits a maximum of 30 du/ac, which would allow for a project such as The Bond.



Figure D8 (above): rendering of The Bond, Humphreys & Partners Architects

Figure D9 (right): aerial of Huntley Manor Apartments in Novi. Huntley Manor has an overall density of 7.6 du/ac, which would be permitted in the City West South area in a residential-only site.



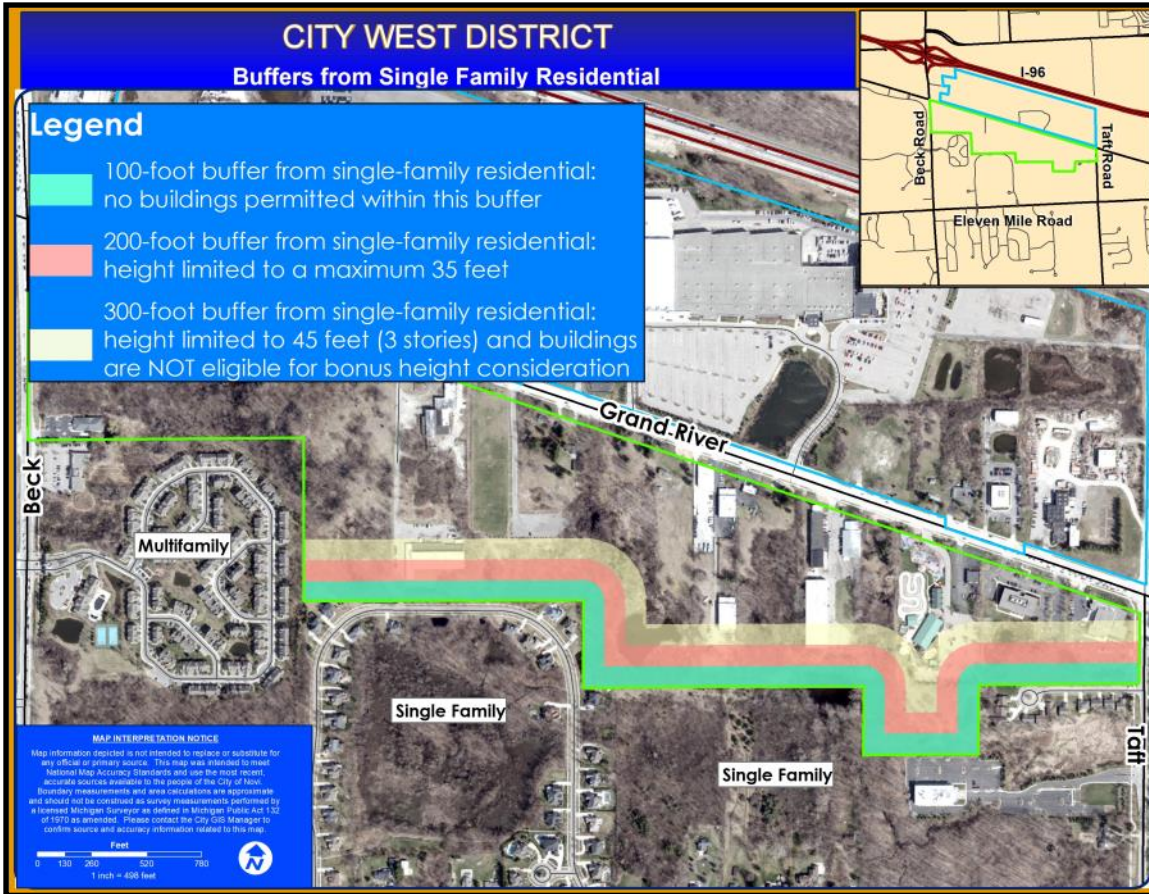
NOTE: the minimum acreage for an MDO project is 5 acres, unless otherwise approved by City Council

D. Form Based Design/Inspiration Images

D.3 — Density Transition from Residential Districts

The City West District, while intended to be one of the most high-density districts in the City, shall provide a more moderate transition where it abuts Single-Family Residential Districts in City West South as portrayed in [Figure D10](#) below.

[Figure D10](#): map of buffers from residential districts and associated conditions in City West



[Figure D11](#): Main Street Village, pictured to the right, is an example of low-rise multi-family that could be built between 100 and 200 feet away from single family residential



D. Form Based Design/Inspiration Images

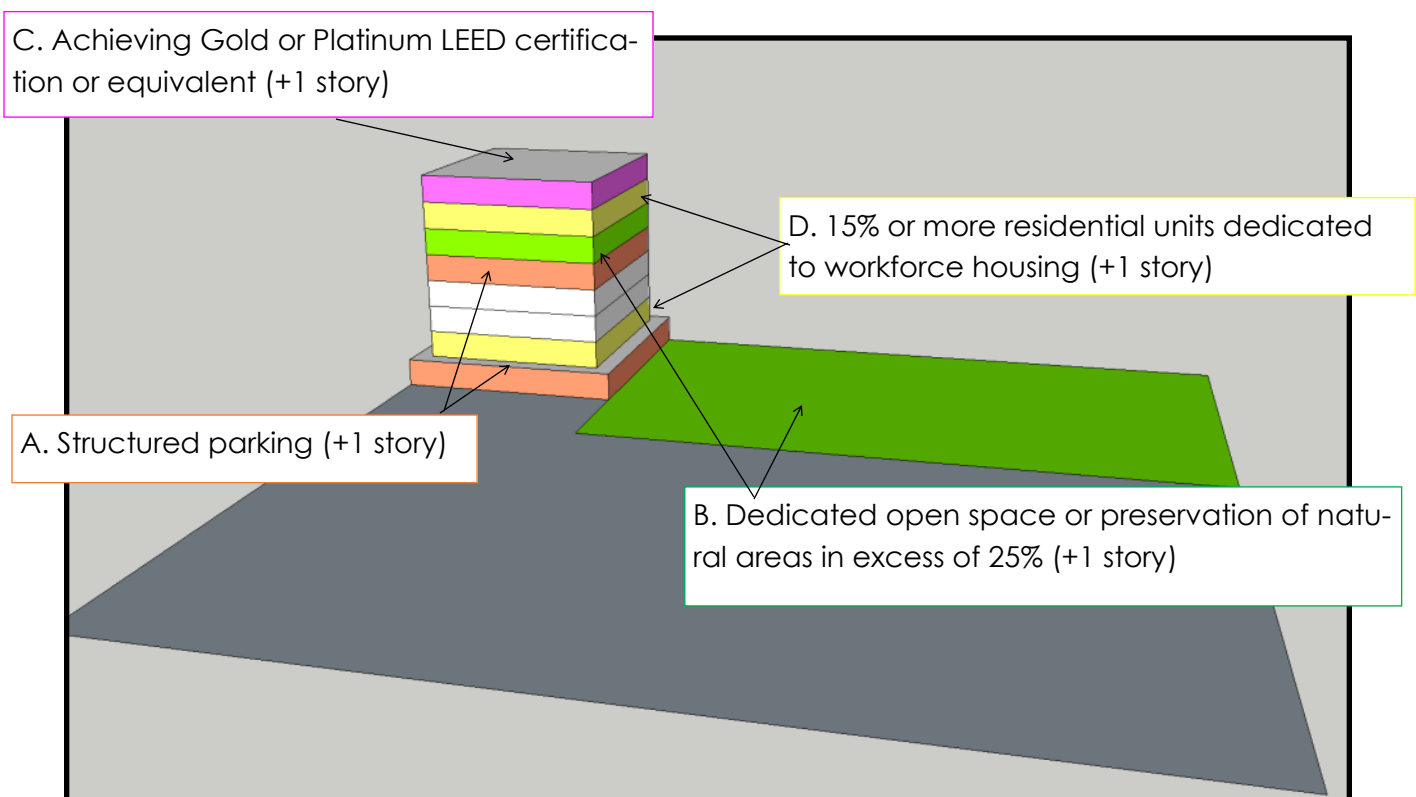
D.4 — Bonus Height

Within the City West District the minimum building height is 2 stories and the maximum building height is 3 stories. With the Mixed Use Development Option, the maximum height for the City West North area is 5 stories and the maximum height for the City West South area is 4 stories, but that **may be exceeded if bonus height conditions are met**.

Maximum building height in the north area may not exceed one-hundred fifteen (115) feet or 8 stories, whichever is less, and in the south area no building shall exceed 55 feet or 4 stories, whichever is less.

The following model in [Figure D12](#) shows examples of how to achieve greater building height through qualifying for the bonus height conditions as described in 3.34.5.B.

Figure D12: bonus height model



- A. Underground **or** structured parking (up to 2 additional floors—1 story per 125 spaces)
- B. Providing 25% of the total site area as open space; the image above shows the open space consolidated in one location but this does not have to be the case
- C. Applicants shall provide a narrative explaining how sustainability elements have been incorporated and quantify the impacts of those strategies
- D. As described in section 3.34.5.B; the illustration above shows a floor dedicated to workforce housing in yellow and then an additional floor in yellow depicting the bonus story granted for satisfying this condition

D. Form Based Design/Inspiration Images

D.4 — Bonus Height

Figure D13 below shows minimum and maximum heights allowed in City West.

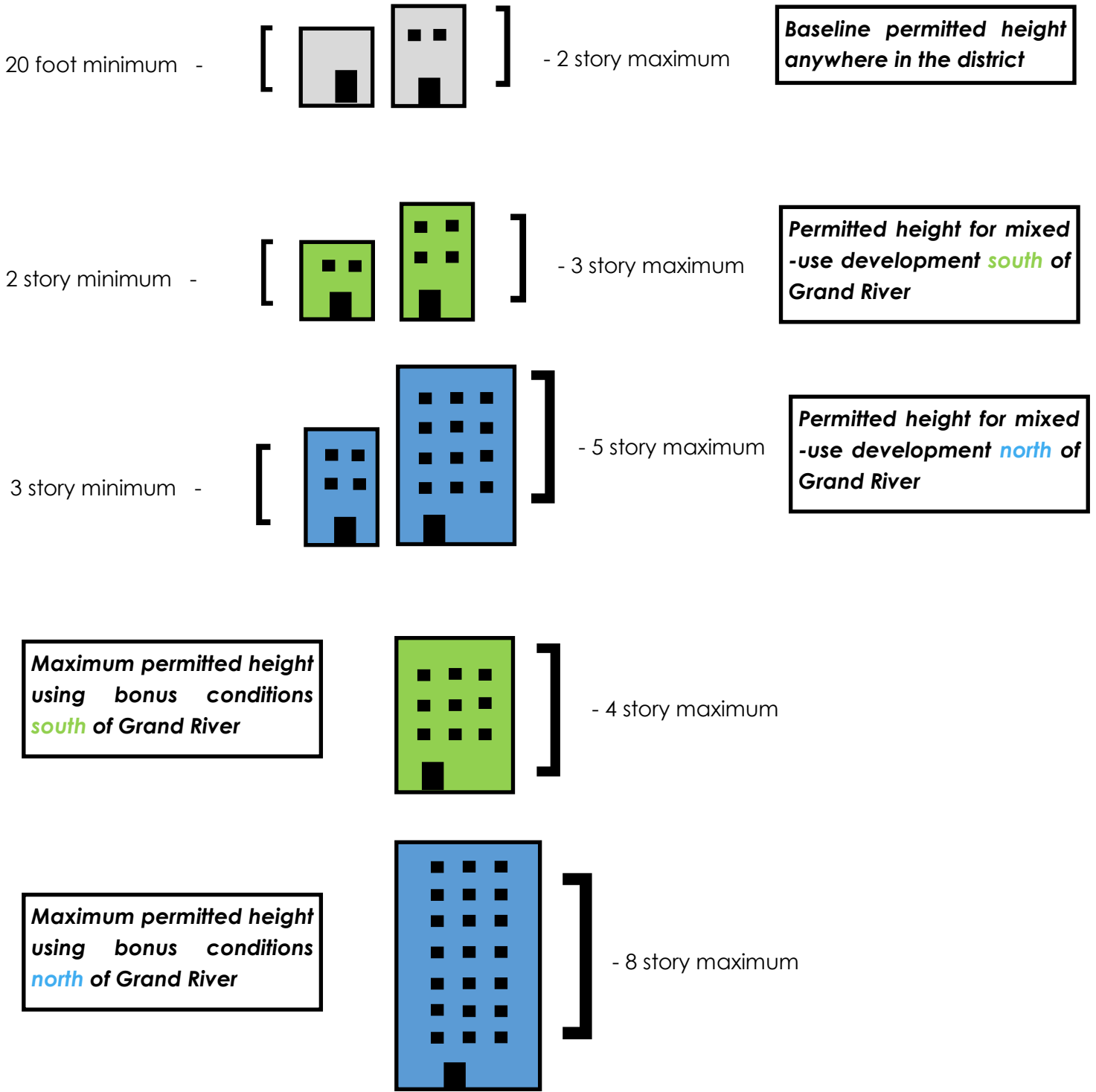
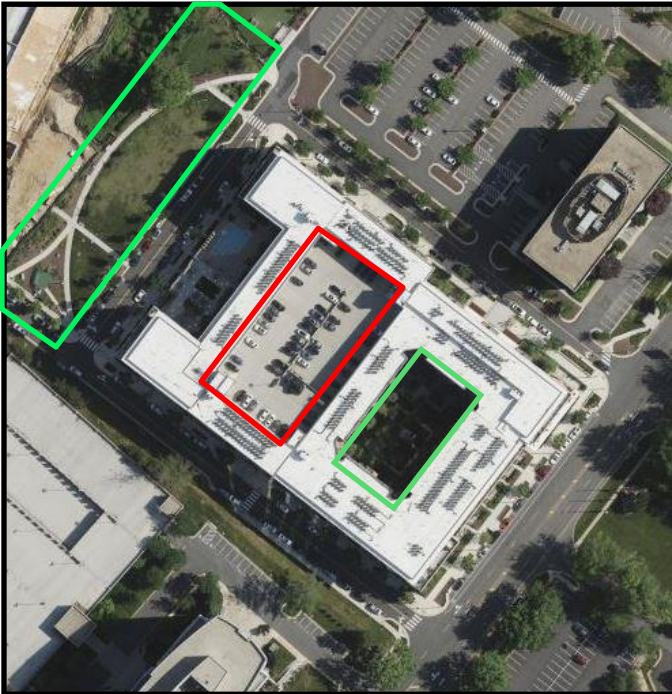


Figure D12: guide to allowable heights in City West

D. Form Based Design/Inspiration Images

D.4 — Bonus Height

Below are images of Highgate apartments, a residential building in Tysons, Virginia, a suburb of Washington, D.C. Structured parking is provided for residents with the entrance located on the ground floor. This is an example of a way for additional height to be granted through the bonus conditions as described in the City West Ordinance. **Figure D14** shows an aerial of the apartment complex and the parking structure surrounded by the building. **Figure D15** shows the street entrance to the garage and highlights the additional story granted from the inclusion of structured parking. Another way to earn bonus height is open space or preservation of natural areas in excess of 25%.

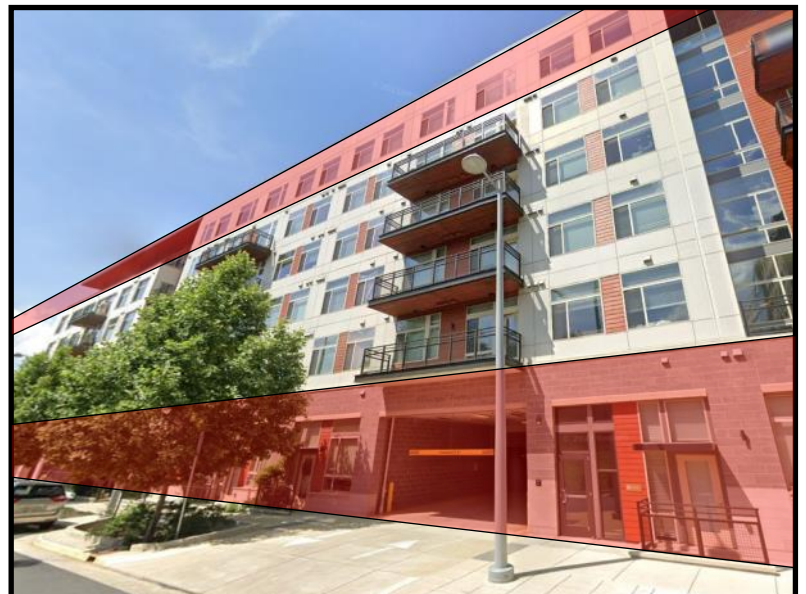


Allowing taller buildings can reduce the footprint and permit greater preservation of natural features

Figure D14: aerial of Highgate Apartments in Tysons, VA with parking and open space highlighted.

The structured parking on the ground floor and the additional height granted via bonus height are highlighted in the image to the right

Figure D15: street view of Highgate Apartments with structured parking entrance highlighted.



D. Form Based Design/Inspiration Images

D.4 — Bonus Height

Achieving gold or platinum LEED Certification or the equivalent can be done in many ways. The provision and use of energy and water efficient design, water conservation, reuse and preservation of resources, and sustainable lifestyle solutions are encouraged to be put into practice through this bonus height consideration. Visit the LEED Certification Levels web page to learn more.



Figure D16: green infrastructure included in the streetscape; source: deeproot.com

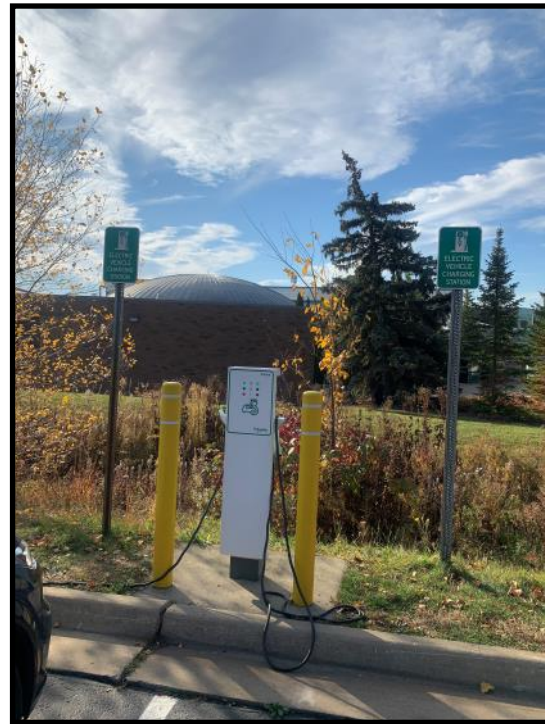


Figure D17: electric vehicle charging stations at the Novi Public Library; see subsection 5.2.15 for details on EV charging stations



Figure D18: solar arrays built in parking lots on Michigan State University's campus

The images on this page are examples of sustainable components that can be constructed on a site. These components are integrated into a site in parking lots or landscaping areas.

D. Form Based Design/Inspiration Images

D.5 — Inspiration Images

The following images are from peer communities or within the City of Novi itself. They contain certain details that could be included in City West developments.



Figure D19 (above) Orenco Station neighborhood in Hillsboro, Oregon



D20 (left): multi-family development in Carmel, Indiana

The landscaping and seating in the image to the right is an example of a public space being made available for nearby residents and visitors to meet. Civita Park also provides fountains and play structures for children, sport courts, picnic areas and native plantings.



Figure D21: public seating and shade structure in San Diego, CA

D. Form Based Design/Inspiration Images

D.5 — Inspiration Images

Figures D21 and D22 show images of a development in Wayzata, Minnesota, composed of senior residential and associated services in the northern half with retail and service businesses located on the ground floors throughout the development.



Figure D22: aerial of The Promenade in Wayzata, Minnesota



Figure D23: public seating and amenity a part of Folkestone, a senior residential community in Wayzata; source: preshomes.org



Figure D24: 618 South Main Apartments in Ann Arbor provide structured parking within the building, high quality building materials, offsets in the architecture, and balconies for its residents

Folkestone and The Promenade work well together in the fact that the businesses that operate on the ground floors in and around Folkestone are often catered towards the older population.

It is the intent of the City West District to encourage developments that are complementary to one another.

E. Recommended Design Guidelines

E.1 General Standards

E.2 Pedestrian Circulation

E.3 Screening

E.4 Lighting

E.5 Site Furnishings

E.6 Bicycle Amenities

E.7 Public Gathering space/plazas/p

E.8 Building Design

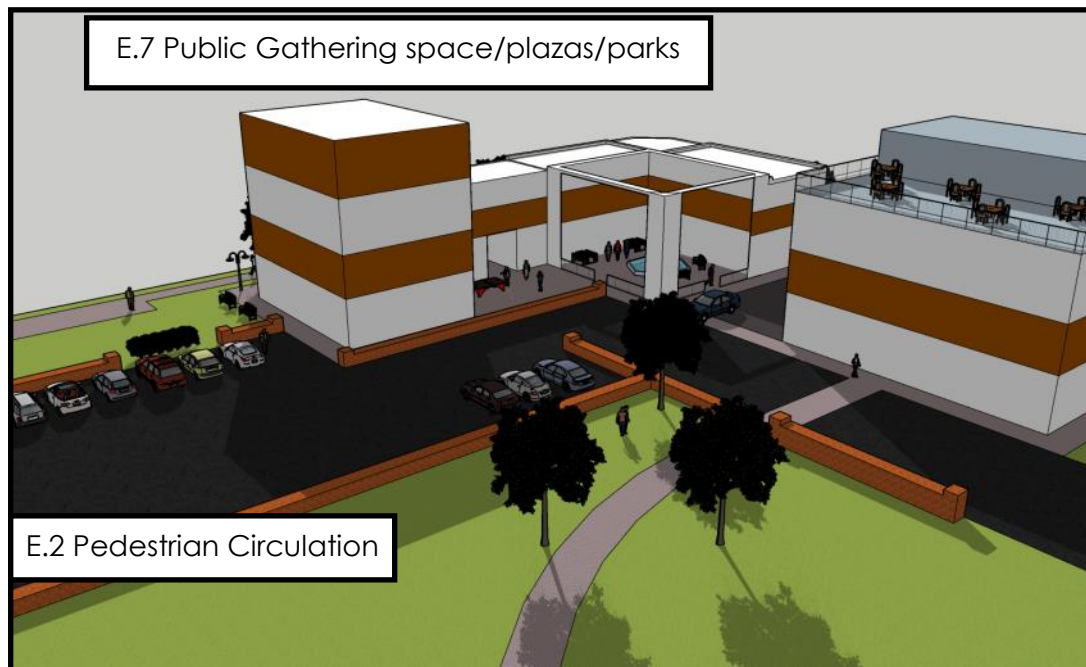
E.9 Parking Structures

E.10 Landscaping

E.11 Greenway Buffers

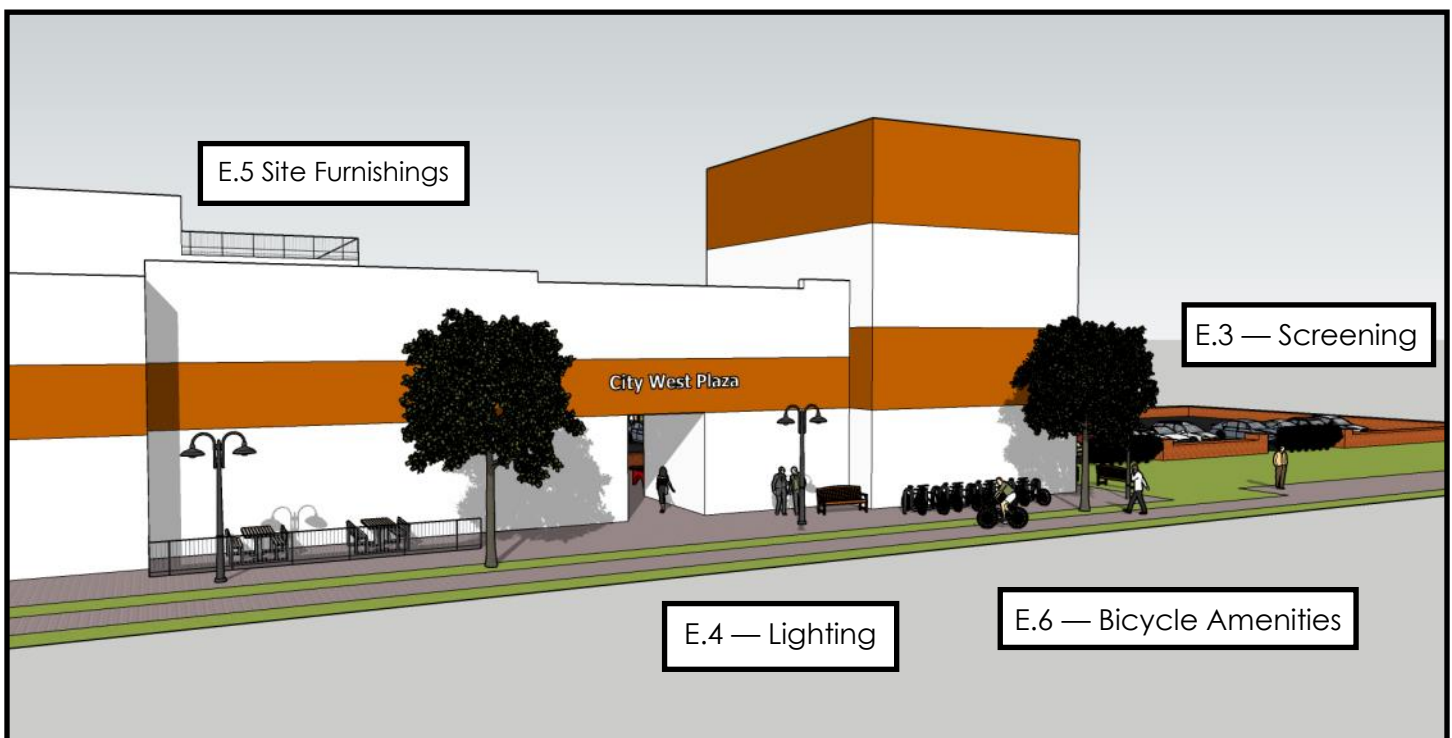
E. Recommended Design Guidelines

Figure E1: model of development with public gathering spaces



Section E — The Recommended Design Guidelines draws language from the Zoning Ordinance to explain design standards that are encouraged to be incorporated into developments in City West. Figures E1 and E2 are models containing certain aspects anticipated to be included in City West sites such as amenities for pedestrians, public meeting areas, signage, lighting, and other details as laid out in this section. The section will break each subsection into **Design Intent**, **Configuration and Scale**, and **Colors and Materials**, where possible.

Figure E2: model with recommended design guidelines



E. Recommended Design Guidelines

E.1 — General Standards

Design Intent

The proposed uses will **complement and support the intent** of the City West district, the convention center and other established uses within this area of the City.

Proposed projects will demonstrate that **design coordination and connection with adjacent property**, developed or not, has been accomplished.



The Suburban Collection Showplace brings numerous visitors to Novi every year. The uses in the City West District are meant to supplement the visitors and guests of the city with entertainment and restaurant options, and other complementary uses, within a walkable distance.

Figure E3 (left): The Hyatt Hotel at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi

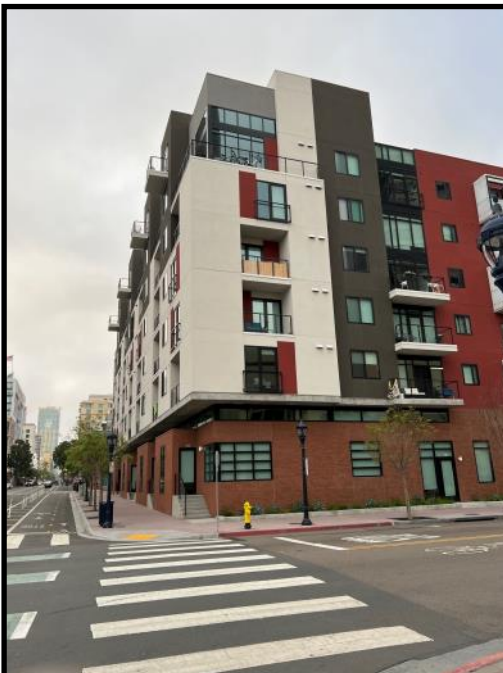
Configuration and Scale

An **attractive street-level environment** has been achieved that focuses on the **pedestrian experience** and provides public space amenities

Vehicular safety provisions and controls have been applied particularly with regard to access to the surrounding street network



Figure E4: splash pads in Carmel, IN



Colors and Materials

Aesthetic quality is improved in terms of design, exterior materials and landscaping, including internal compatibility within the development as well as its relationship to surrounding properties to accommodate future development

Figure E5: apartment building in San Diego, CA with high-quality aesthetic design and exterior materials

E. Recommended Design Guidelines

E.2 — Pedestrian Circulation

Design Intent

Development will be pedestrian-oriented, with a high degree of transparency on the ground level and functional, attractive outdoor amenities such as plazas, seating and lighting. Parking is placed to the side or rear of main buildings, driveways are consolidated on the major thoroughfare, and on-street parking is permitted on secondary streets.

Scale and Configuration

All buildings shall be oriented parallel to the primary pedestrian street with direct entrances and windows facing the street.

Color and Materials

Entrance doors are encouraged to include architectural details such as contrasting paint or material colors and decorative trim.

On-street parking permitted on secondary streets



Windows and direct entrances oriented parallel to the primary pedestrian street



Figure E6: townhomes in Carmel, Indiana

Attractive outdoor amenities such as plazas, seating and lighting

Figure E7: pedestrian amenities in Carmel, Indiana

NOTE: MDO Projects with a single use may be considered for density reserved for mixed-use projects if there is a clear relationship between complementary uses, **including if direct pedestrian connections and buildings entrances are located within 300 feet measured along the pedestrian route** (3.34.2.B)

Signage and clear delineation of pedestrian-routes



Figure E8: crosswalk at a residential development in Novi

E. Recommended Design Guidelines

E.2 — Pedestrian Circulation

Design intent

Site amenities shall create tidy and well-landscaped plazas and pedestrian walkways with decorative paving, pedestrian-scale lighting, seating, trash receptacles, landscape treatments, and attractive architectural features at entranceways and focal points of the development (e.g. arch, gateway, bell tower, fountain, public art). All such amenities shall be privately owned and maintained and shall be included in an open space maintenance agreement.



Figure E9: model with fountain, pedestrian walkways, and seating

Scale and Configuration

Buildings shall be oriented on the property to emphasize a continuous street presence and provide greater pedestrian access and circulation to the site. The main entry to each building shall be from the primary public streetscape, with one entry for every 75 feet of façade along the front lot line. Alongside lot lines, functional entries are required every 100 feet, or fraction thereof, where sidewalks are present.



Figure E10: model showing one entry every 75 feet

Street trees should be planted to define the pedestrian corridor and buffer traffic lanes. It will be necessary to understand mature tree height when trees are located within utility easements.

The design of pedestrian walkways and non-motorized paths shall be reviewed with the goal of achieving **connectivity and safety**, and also considering the objectives and intent of this district.

E. Recommended Design Guidelines

E.3 — Screening

Design Intent

Developments which abut off-site single family residential zoned property, shall incorporate noise reduction and visual screening provisions such as earthen and/or landscape berms and/or decorative walls, which shall be approved as to design and location. There is a perimeter setback and screening for the purpose of **buffering the development** in relation to major highways or adjacent residential developments. Developments should include proper setback, landscaping, and massing to address privacy and compatibility with adjacent developments or land.



Figure E11: Huntley Manor Apartments in Novi has screening that separates Grand River, a major arterial, from residential units. Both decorative walls and landscaping in the form of trees were used to screen the homes from the street.

Scale and Configuration

Surface parking lots shall be screened from all major thoroughfares by either (1) a two and one-half (2.5) foot ornamental brick or stone wall with intermittent landscaped breaks, or (2) a semi-transparent screening such as brick pilaster with metal decorative fence in order to maintain attractive streetscapes as approved by the City's Landscape Architect.

The figures below show the various screening treatments. *Figure E12* shows a 2.5-foot brick or stone wall with a landscape break. *Figure E13* shows a brick and metal decorative fence.

Figure E12: brick wall with landscape break

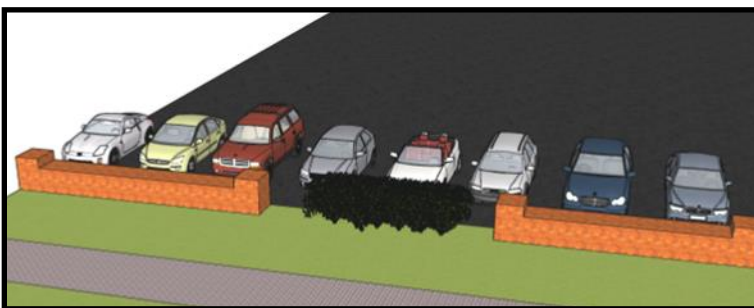
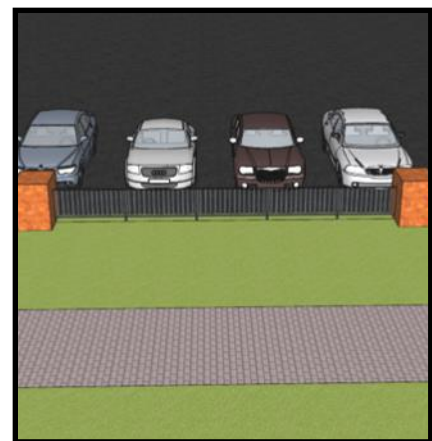


Figure E13: brick with metal fence



E. Recommended Design Guidelines

E.4 — Lighting

Design Intent

Signage, lighting, streetscape, landscaping, building materials for the exterior of all structures, and other features of the project, shall be designed and completed with the objective of achieving an **integrated and controlled development**, consistent with the character of the community, surrounding development or developments, and natural features of the area.



LED Roadway Series; source: DTE Outdoor Lighting Catalog



LED Teardrop Series; source: DTE's Outdoor Lighting Catalog

Configuration and Scale

Height of light fixtures will depend on location in the district. The examples on the left include the LED Roadway Series, meant for local roadways and walkways, and the LED Teardrop Series, meant for downtown districts, plazas, and commercial developments.

Colors and Materials

Light fixtures shall take recommendation from DTE's latest Outdoor Lighting Catalog to determine both light fixture and light pole.

Lighting and landscaping provided along pathway to create a controlled environment. Lighting along pedestrian pathways is essential in maintaining a friendly, safe environment at all times of day.



Figure E14 (below): street view of the Promenade in Wayzata, Minnesota

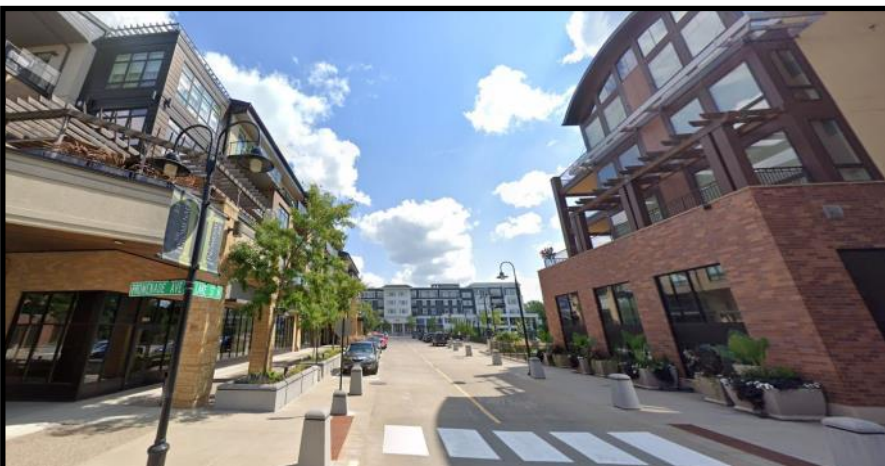


Figure E15 (above): Monon Greenway in Carmel, Indiana.

The development to the left provides ample lighting in addition to porticoes to shelter pedestrians from inclement weather when they walk from place to place

E. Recommended Design Guidelines

E.5 — Site furnishings

Design Intent

Site amenities shall create tidy and well-landscaped plazas and pedestrian walkways with decorative paving, pedestrian-scale lighting, seating, trash receptacles, landscape treatments, and attractive architectural features at entranceways and focal points of the development (e.g., arch, gateway, bell tower, fountain, public art). All such amenities shall be privately owned and maintained.



Figure E16: the receptacle shown to the left is encouraged to be used as a site furnishing (DuMor receptacle 107— black)



Figure E17: the bench shown above is used in parks and along sidewalks within Novi

E.6 — Bicycle amenities

Design Intent

Bicycle parking shall meet or exceed the standards set forth in Section 5.16 Bicycle parking facility requirements. [Figure E18](#), shown below on the left, exceeds the standards by providing bicycle fix-it stations in addition to the standard bicycle parking.



Figure E18: bicycle parking and fix-it station along the Monon Trail in Carmel, Indiana



Figure E19: bicycle parking outside of the Civic Center in Novi

E. Recommended Design Guidelines

E.7 — Public gathering space/plazas/parks

Design Intent

Open Space. A minimum of fifteen (15) percent of the gross site area of a commercial or mixed-use development shall be devoted to publicly accessible, permanently landscaped usable open spaces and pedestrian plaza areas (such as internal walkways, linear or pocket parks, plazas, or other space for public gatherings accessible to non-residential occupants and invitees). Common open space and amenities that **enrich the lives** of the residents should be incorporated.

Configuration and Scale

Small strips of landscaped area, landscaped end islands, and similar areas that are less than twenty (20) feet wide shall not be counted toward the required open space on the site. Up to 50% of the required open space may consist of areas that are regulated by City of Novi woodland and/or wetland ordinances **if they are permanently protected by conservation easements**. Wherever natural open spaces shall be created or preserved, they shall be **physically connected**, when possible, to adjacent natural open space areas.



Figure E20: Huntley Manor Apartments in Novi



Figure E21: Gateway Townhomes in Novi

Figure E22: Farmer's Market in Northville; source: Northville Chamber of Commerce



E. Recommended Design Guidelines

E.8 — Building design

- A. All developments with two or more buildings shall be designed with **variation between building setbacks** and/or placement to avoid the creation of monotonous streetscapes. Site plans shall be designed with variation in both the patterns and the siting of structures so the appearance of the streetscape is not repetitive. The following design guidelines shall be considered:
- B. Varying roof lines and forms: provide offsets or breaks in roof elevations of two (2) feet or greater in height. Incorporate roof pitch and materials of adjacent buildings into carport or garage roofs.
- C. Building façade colors and materials: **At least two variations in color and materials** should be used in the treatment of the building façade. Decorative patterns on exterior materials may include scales/shingles, wainscoting, ornamentation, and similar features that incorporate texture and interest.
- D. **Bays, porches and balconies:** Incorporate smaller-scale forms such as bays, recessed or projecting balconies or porches and dormers into the design to visually reduce the height and scale of the building and to emphasize the definition of individual units.
- E. Wall offsets: A wall offset is defined as a projection or recess of a façade wall of at least two (2) feet in depth. Wall offsets should be incorporated onto those building facades having a length of 40 feet or greater. Wall offsets should be a minimum of six (6) feet in length.
- F. Windows: **Decorative window features**, such as arched windows, transoms, decorative pediments, and/or window shutters that are sized appropriately and proportionally to the window are encouraged on those facades fronting on streets. The use of recessed windows, moldings, decorative trim and wood frames to add three-dimensional quality and shadow lines to the façade.
 - On retail buildings, windows within areas of the premises to which the public is invited shall be mostly transparent.

Additional conditions for Townhomes:

- No more than 8 attached units per buildings
- Minimum distance between buildings of 20 feet



Figure E23: townhomes by Caliber Homes of Ontario

E. Recommended Design Guidelines

E.8 — Building design

Design Intent

Townhouse and apartment dwellings are **designed to be compatible** with surrounding neighborhoods and land use

Configuration and Scale

Structural placement, building orientation, and landscaping treatment along the streetscape and open space areas comply with design guidelines. Site design guidelines orient and cluster buildings and design parking, landscaping and open space in ways that **connect to surrounding neighborhoods and complement view-sheds** and surrounding natural features.

Figure E24: (right) Townhomes as residential infill in Traverse City, Michigan

Compatibility and connectivity are recommended to take high priority in site design. *Figure E24* to the right shows a clustering of residential buildings that frames the street. The plaza in *Figure E25* below sits in front of an office building and can serve as a meeting place for those who live and work in the area.

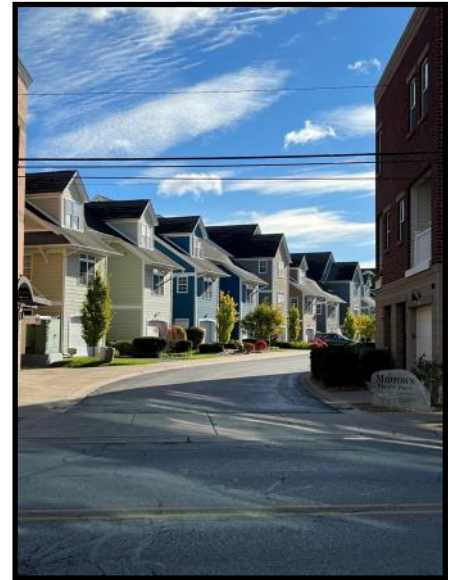


Figure E25 (below): rendering of a plaza in Virginia Square in Arlington, Virginia; source: arlnow.com



E. Recommended Design Guidelines

E.9 — Parking Structures

Design Intent

Buildings are encouraged to have parking on the ground level or in structured garages. Structured parking within or under the building shall be aesthetically and effectively screened through architectural design, landscaping, or other means, from adjacent drives, walkways, and buildings, and particularly from the street level view.

Color and Materials

An architectural treatment, such as a finished fascia, shall be provided to shield any unfinished structural elements (including electrical elements, exposed metal beams, and fireproofing material) or mechanical appurtenances from a viewing position at grade from the opposite side of the street.

Scale and Configuration

The perimeter of each parking structure floor above street level shall have an opaque screen or other screening mechanism to shield automobiles from public view. The screen shall be at least 3½ feet high measured from the finished floor elevation.



Figure E26: Parking structure with screening and high quality material in Ann Arbor



Figure E27: Parking structure in Traverse City

The top floor of parking structures that are open to the sky are subject to landscaping requirements for parking areas as described in subsection 5.5.3.C.

35% of parking structure frontage shall have foundation landscaping (living walls could meet that requirement)

E. Recommended Design Guidelines

E.10 — Landscaping

Design Intent

The intent of the landscaping in City West is to promote walkability, create welcoming environments, and establish public areas where people may gather. Many aspects of the landscaping should be uniform across developments to promote the identity of a single district. City West is meant to be more urban in character, thus the landscape standards are less stringent compared to other areas of the City. Standards differ between commercial/mixed use buildings and strictly multifamily residential. See table 3.34.6.E in the ordinance text for mixed-use and commercial building requirements.

Configuration and Scale

In areas where the surface is made up primarily of concrete, box planters and other urban style planters can be used in front of each building, with occasional larger beds to provide visual interest. Planters should be placed to frame seating areas and in front of buildings. The quantity of trees planted shall be based on building frontage, but will be more flexible in order to prioritize healthy tree growth. For example, if steps are taken to ensure the longevity and health of planted trees, then the required quantity may be lessened. An example of this includes the use of silva cells with permeable pavers (seen below in [Figure E28](#)), or an approved equal alternative that encourages trees' survival with minimal open area.

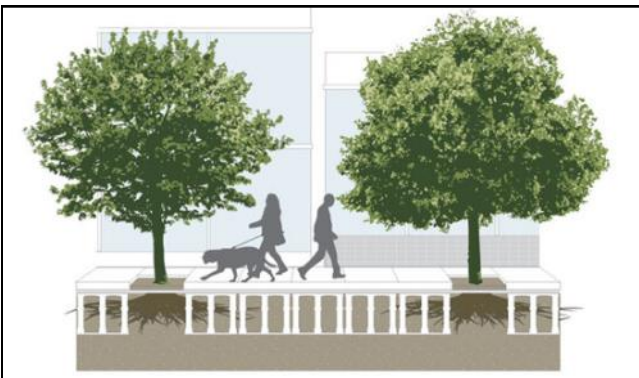


Figure E28: illustration of silva cells underneath urban trees; source: landscapeperformance.org

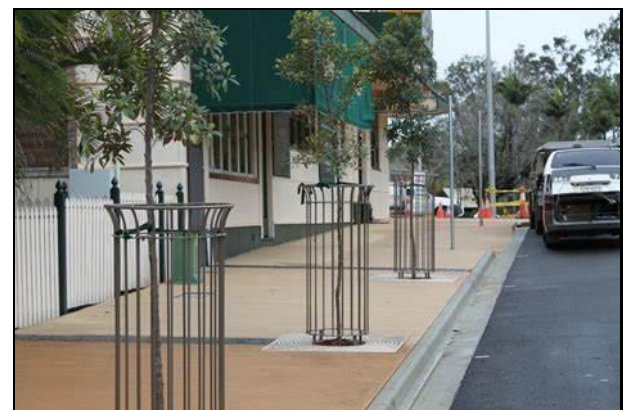


Figure E29 (above): image of tree guards in New Zealand; source: urbaneffects.co.nz

Figure E30 (left): image of a linear pocket park in between townhomes near Richmond, VA

E. Recommended Design Guidelines

E.10 — Landscaping

Flexibility

To allow for the necessary flexibility of urban landscape design, new landscaping standards have been established for both the residential, nonresidential, and mixed-use developments in City West. The new standards generally lessen the amount of landscaping required, including fewer canopy trees per dwelling unit, smaller greenbelts, and flexibility for paved open areas to include features such as movable planters to satisfy landscaping requirements.

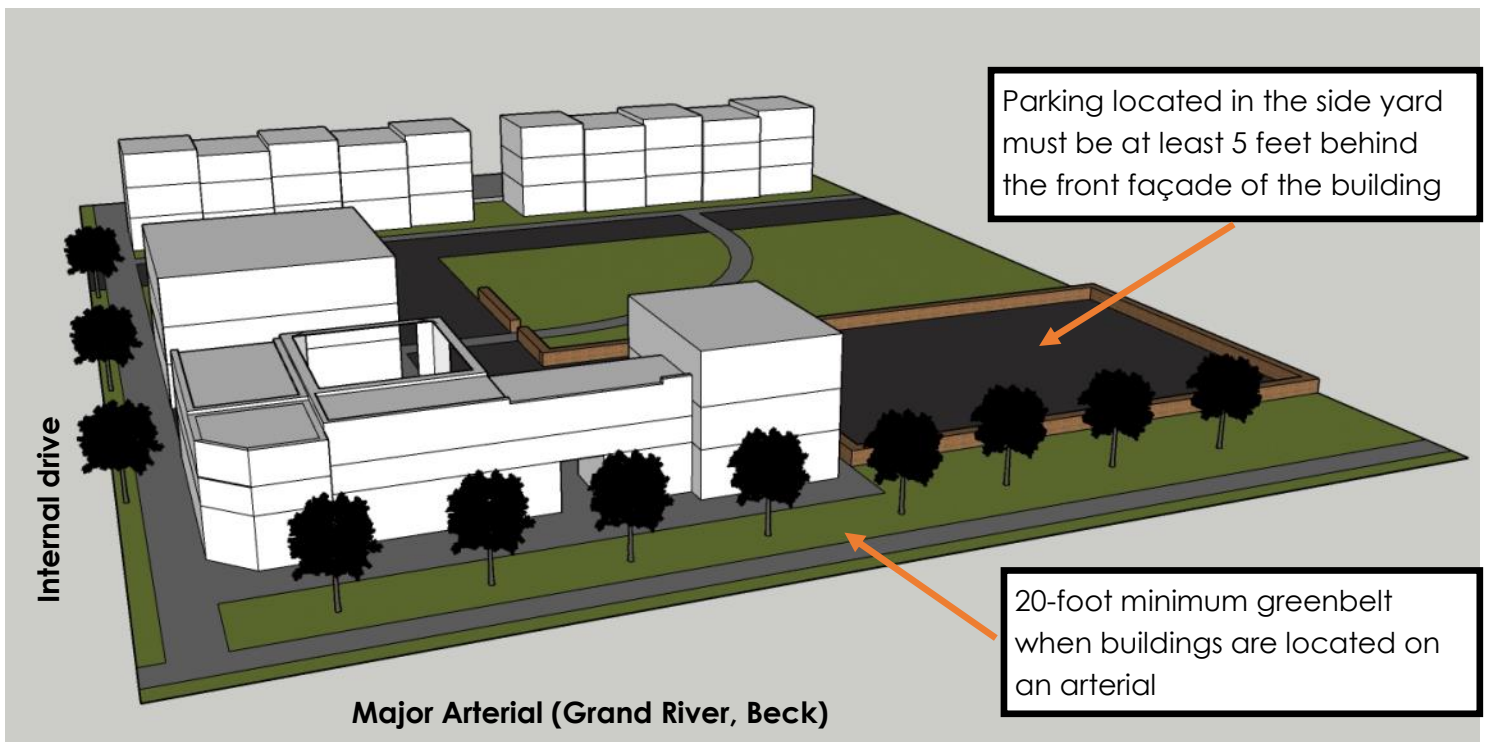


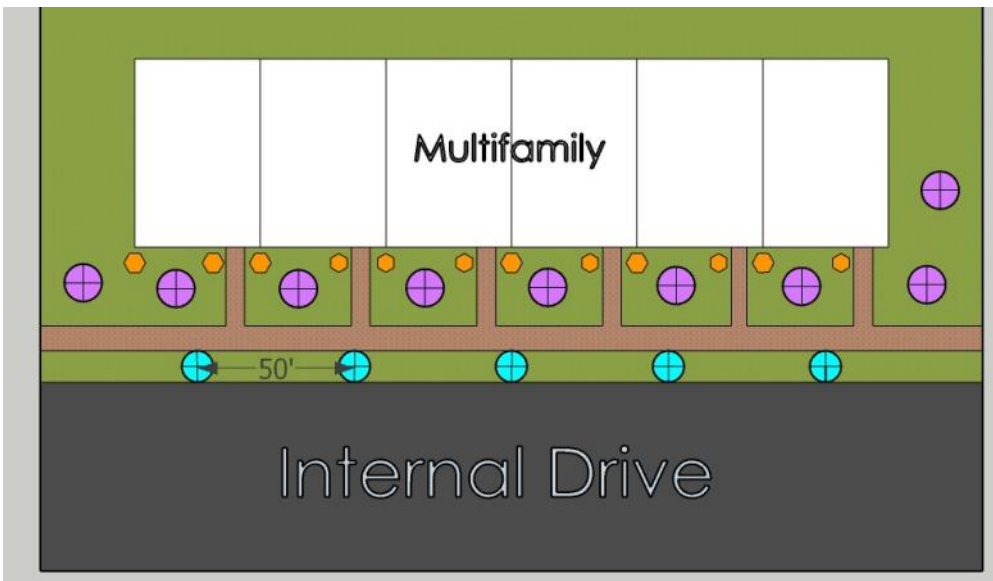
Figure E31: model showing some new landscaping standards for City West

Greenbelt on an arterial (Grand River, Beck)

The greenbelt must meet a minimum 10 foot requirement if adjacent to parking and a 20 foot requirement if not adjacent to parking. See Figure E31 above. Even spacing of canopy and subcanopy trees is required. See Table 3.34.6.E Landscaping Requirements for Mixed Use/Commercial Buildings in the ordinance text for more detail.

E. Recommended Design Guidelines

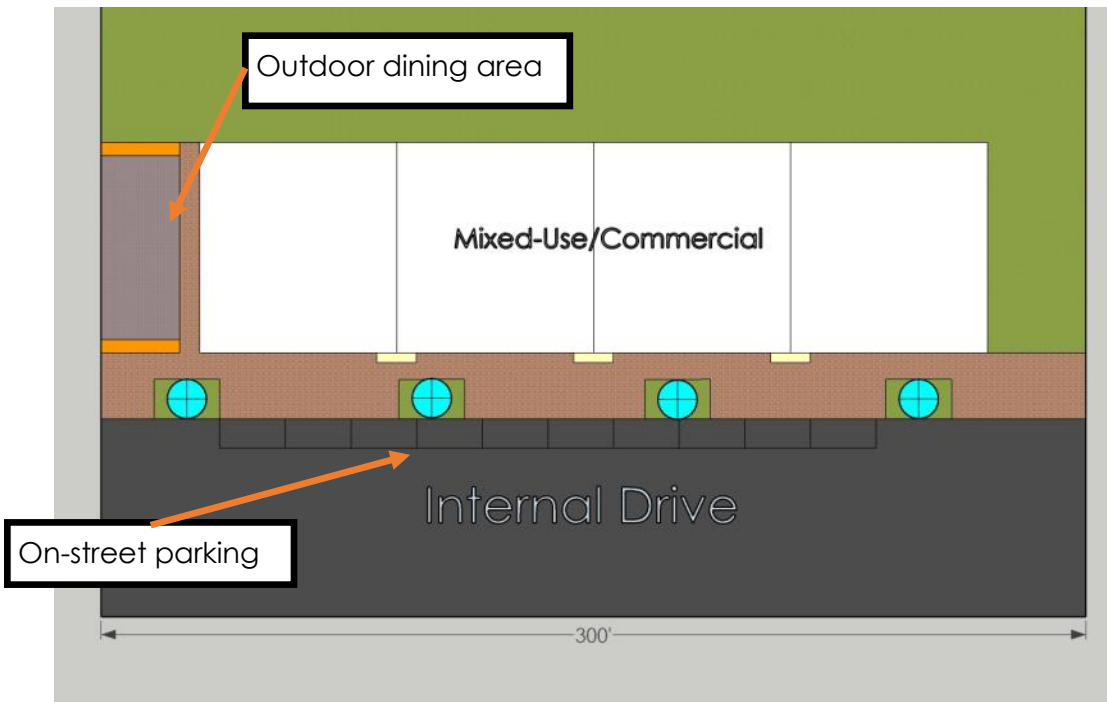
E.10 — Landscaping



For buildings that are standalone multifamily uses, the tree count will be based on the number of first livable floor units at **1.5 trees per unit**, in addition to **2 shrubs per first floor unit**. Interior street trees shall be placed **one per 50 linear feet**.

- 6 units x 1.5 trees/unit = 9 trees
- 6 units x 2 shrubs/unit = 12 shrubs
- Canopy trees every 50 linear feet, evenly spaced

Figure E32: landscaping standards model for multifamily



Commercial standalone buildings or mixed-use buildings with commercial on the first floor in City West have more urban landscaping standards than other similar uses throughout the City. For internal drives, there shall be **1 canopy tree per 75 linear feet**, spaced not closer than 25 feet apart from each other and planted in silva cells or equivalent substitutes to ensure tree health.

Figure E33: landscaping standards model for mixed-use/commercial

- Canopy trees every 75 linear feet, spaced not closer than 25 feet
- 60% of periphery landscaped for outdoor dining area (permanent beds or movable planters)
- If sidewalk 12 ft or wider, 15% of building frontage shall have foundation landscaping 2-3 feet deep

2016 MASTER PLAN FOR LAND USE

EXCERPT

2016 Master Plan Goals

1. **Quality and variety of housing.** The City of Novi is known for its high-quality residential neighborhoods and should strive to ensure the availability of a wide range of attractive housing choices that are protected from noise, traffic, and other impacts of non-residential development. Encourage the development of neighborhood open space and neighborhood commercial goods and services to minimize motorized travel.
2. **Community identity.** The City's identity is largely based on its high-quality residential neighborhoods and schools, destination retail and convention space, and its parks. The City should supplement that identity by enhancing the preservation of the City's historic resources and expansion of its cultural opportunities. New development of land should continue to be of high-quality design and materials.
3. **Environmental stewardship.** The City of Novi is significantly enhanced by the preservation of natural resources in both residential and non-residential areas. Maintain public and private stewardship of the natural environment through the preservation of open space, protection of woodlands and wetlands, and utilization of low-impact development techniques.
4. **Infrastructure.** Invest wisely into the ongoing maintenance and improvements to existing infrastructure, including utilities and the transportation network. Ensure that new development minimizes the demands placed on the City's existing infrastructure. Support the City's entire transportation network through the development and enhancement of non-motorized transportation facilities and amenities.
5. **Economic development.** The City's developed land, infrastructure, and natural resources are interconnected and collectively impact the daily lives of the City's residents and business owners. The City should strive to maintain the balance between the economy, the environment, and the community to ensure sustainable development that meets the needs of today while ensuring that the needs of future generations can be met.

Objectives

Objectives are grouped by general goal. In many cases, the objectives align with more than one goal. In the Implementation chapter, these alignments are provided as cross-references.

General Goal: Quality and Variety of Housing

1. **Southwest Quadrant.** Maintain the semi-rural character of the southwest quadrant of the City that is created by low-density residential development and undeveloped land.
2. **Twelve Mile-Napier-Wixom Roads Study Area.** Develop the Twelve Mile, Napier, and Wixom Roads Study Area, as identified in the 2008 Master Plan, with a mix of residential, educational, and commercial uses in an aesthetically pleasing manner that is compatible with neighboring land uses and complements the natural environment.
3. **Provide residential developments that support healthy lifestyles.** Ensure the provision of neighborhood open space within residential developments.
4. **Safe housing and neighborhoods.** Enhance the City of Novi's identity as an attractive community in which to live by maintaining structurally safe and attractive housing choices and safe neighborhoods.
5. **Maintain existing housing stock and related infrastructure.**
6. **Provide a wide range of housing options.** Attract new residents to the City by providing a full range of quality housing opportunities that meet the housing needs of all demographic groups including but not limited to singles, couples, first time home buyers, families and the elderly.

General Goal: Economic Development / Community Identity

7. **I-96/Novi Road Study Area.** Develop the I-96/Novi Road Study Area in a manner that reflects the importance of this important gateway to the City in terms of its location, visibility, and economic generation. Mitigate impacts to the City's infrastructure. (See page 125)
8. **City West/Grand River & Beck Road.** Develop the City West/Grand River Avenue and Beck Road area in a manner that supports and complements neighboring areas. (See page 126)

9. **Pavilion Shore Village.** Develop a cohesive mixed use village that complements the surrounding neighborhood. (See page 112)
10. **The Anglin Property.** Foster development of a mixed-use district that complements Novi Town Center. (See page 118)

General Goal: Community Identity

11. **Maintain quality architecture and design throughout the City.** Set high standards and promote good examples for use of public property through the City's actions.
12. **Create a stronger cultural presence and identity for the City by working with the Novi Historical Commission and other groups to preserve historic structures and creating gathering places for residents and community activity.**

General Goal: Environmental Stewardship

13. **Protect and maintain the City's woodlands, wetlands, water features, and open space.**
14. **Increase recreational opportunities in the City.**
15. **Encourage energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable development through raising awareness and standards that support best practices.**

General Goal: Infrastructure

16. **Provide and maintain adequate water and sewer service for the City's needs.**
17. **Provide and maintain adequate transportation facilities for the City's needs.** Address vehicular and non-motorized transportation facilities.

General Goal: Economic Development

18. **Retain and support the growth of existing businesses and attract new businesses to the City of Novi.**

General Goal: Economic Development / Community Identity

19. **Ensure compatibility between residential and non-residential developments.**

Future Land Use Descriptions

The **Future Land Use Map FLU-1** is shown on page 47. Land use designation descriptions modified in this 2016 Master Plan Update are indicated in **green text and are referenced in the overall Map FLU-6 at the end of this chapter.**

Single-Family Residential

This land use is designated for single-family detached residential. The recommended density or the number of dwellings per acre varies throughout the City. Higher density residential land use is designated in areas that transition to commercial or light industrial developments. Refer to the **Residential Density Map FLU-2** for specific density recommendations. **The property now developed as Berkshire Pointe has been changed from a designation of Community Commercial to Single-Family Residential.**

Manufactured Home Residential

This land use is designated for housing within a manufactured housing community, created according to the regulations in the Manufactured home Commission Act. Housing in these areas is manufactured in a factory, brought to the site, and in most cases placed on property leased from a park operator.

Multiple-Family Residential

This land use is designated for multiple-family residential dwellings in a variety of settings, ranging from two-family dwellings to low-rise and high-rise apartment complexes. Refer to the Residential Density Map for specific density recommendations.

Suburban Low Rise

This land use is designated for suburban low rise uses including attached single-family residential, multiple-family residential, institutional and office uses when developed under a set of use and design guidelines to keep the residential character of the area and minimize the effect that the transitional uses would have on nearby single-family residential properties.

Community Office

This land use is designated for small- and medium-scale office uses that primarily serve the residents of the City. The area may also include facilities for human care and indoor or outdoor recreation.

Office Commercial

This land use is designated for a variety of medium-scale and large-scale general and medical office buildings or complexes with limited personal service and retail uses. The area may also include facilities for human care, hotels, motels, higher education and indoor or outdoor recreation.

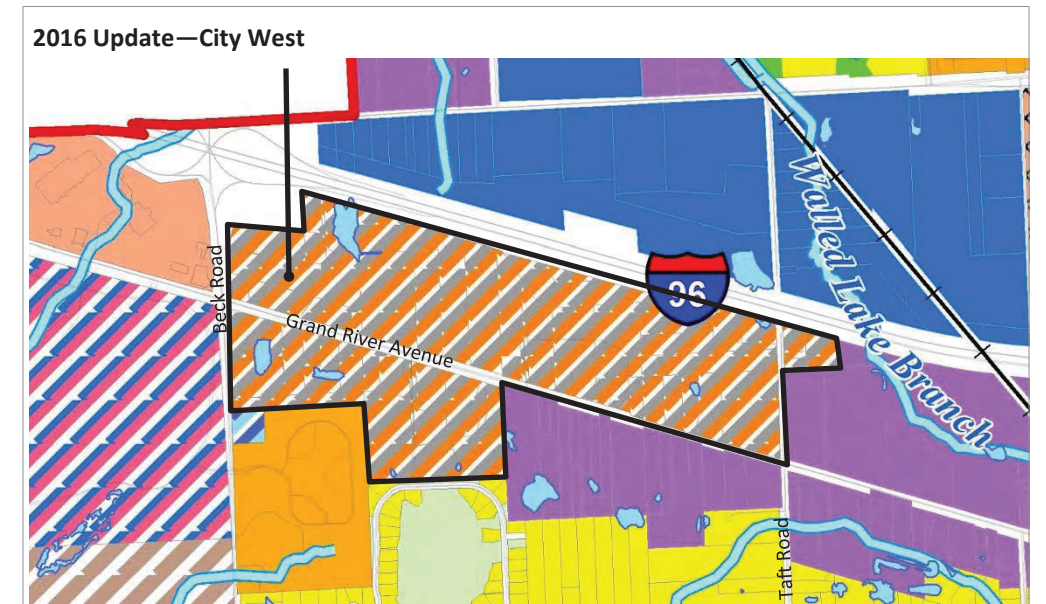
Office, Research, Development and Technology

This land use is designated for a variety of medium-scale and large-scale general and medical office buildings or complexes and research, development and technology facilities, with or without related manufacturing or warehouse facilities. The area may also include facilities for office, research and development support services, human care, hotels, motels, higher education and indoor or outdoor recreation. **In addition, this designation incorporates the former Office, Research, Development, and Technology with Retail Service Overlay (see text that follows) that may allow a limited amount of retail services in appropriate locations to serve the employees and visitors of these use areas, including but not limited to fuel stations, car washes, restaurants (including drive-through) and convenience stores as implemented through the Zoning Ordinance.**

Office, Research, Development and Technology with Retail Service Overlay—Deleted (2016 update) This land is now a part of the City West land use planning category.

City West (2016 update)

This land use is designated to accommodate a mix of uses in a dense, walkable setting. It is anticipated that this area will attract young professionals and empty nesters looking for more dense housing options along with vibrant retail, restaurant, entertainment, and office uses. Typical building heights will range from two to five stories. Additional building height, up to ten stories, is envisioned along the I-96 frontage. This may require structured parking and enhanced pedestrian linkages will be important. A system of local and collector streets will be established to connect sites and provide additional parking. Ground floor retail, restaurant, and entertainment uses are envisioned throughout the area, and should be included in structured parking to maintain an interesting, continuous street life for pedestrians.



Local Commercial

This land use is designated for convenience shopping for residents within nearby neighborhoods. It includes retail, personal service establishments, and small offices.

In order to provide for a greater variety of housing types, the 2016 Master Plan update provides seven notable changes to the residential density map. These changes are highlighted on **Residential Density Update Map FLU-3** on the following page.

1. **Pavilion Shore Village.** This area, located at Thirteen Mile and Old Novi, is envisioned to accommodate medium-density residential and commercial development and is further described in the Redevelopment Strategies chapter.
2. **Twelve Mile/Meadowbrook.** Density increased from 0.8 to 2.5 dwelling units per acre at the northeast corner of Twelve Mile Road and Meadowbrook Road due to a recent development proposal project that aligns with the City of Novi housing goals and objectives. The residential development plans to support healthy lifestyles by setting aside open space for a trail head, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and a small park, while incorporating natural features with wetland enhancement and a context-sensitive greenbelt along Meadowbrook Road.
3. **PD2.** Not included on the 2004 density map, this area is planned for 20.7 units per acre to permit development that complements the high-intensity commercial uses nearby.
4. **Berkshire Pointe.** This area was once designated for commercial use and has been added to the residential density map to reflect rezoning and development that occurred after the previous plan.



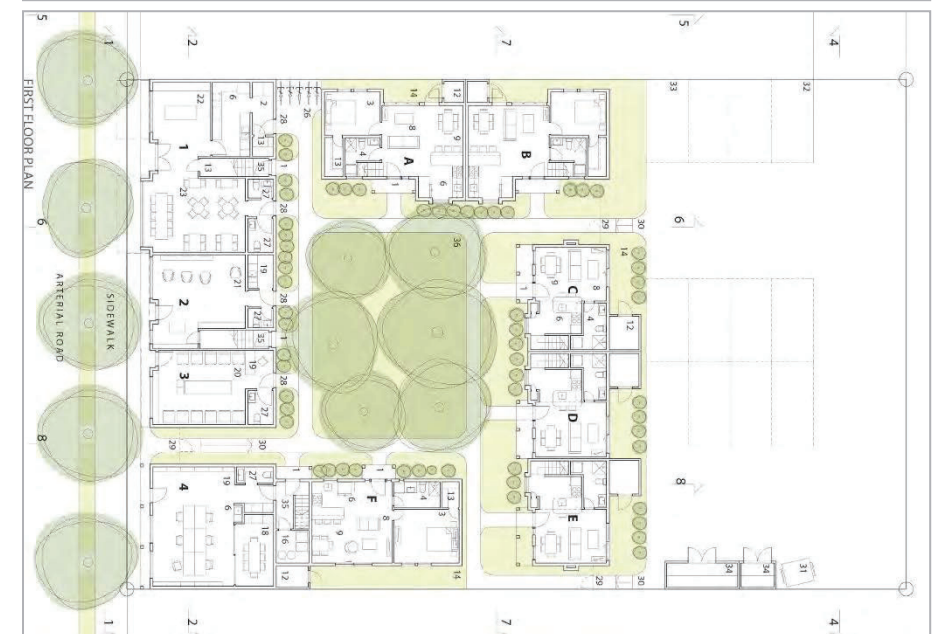
Dense and walkable with access to nearby amenities, Mainstreet Village is an example of Missing Middle housing in Novi.

5. **City West.** The future land use designation City West provides for mixed use development, including a high residential density of 20 dwellings/acre south of Grand River and 30 dwellings/acre north of Grand River near the freeway. This density accommodates the proposed mix of uses including residential in a dense and walkable setting. This area is further described in the Redevelopment Strategies chapter.
6. **TC Commercial and TC Gateway.** Changes to the residential density map reflect the recommendations of the 2014 Town Center Area Study, which calls for dense multiple-family housing in the form of loft-style condominiums, townhouses, or mixed use of commercial, office, and residential buildings. The study also recommended consideration of residential uses on the first floor and live-work buildings in the Town Center.
7. **Nine Mile/Novi Road (northeast corner).** The density of this corner has been increased from 7.3 units per acre to match the adjacent density of 9.3 dwellings per acre.

As noted in the Build-Out Analysis and the **Residential Density Update Map FLU-3** (see following page), high density mixed use areas such as City West and TC Gateway are planned to permit concentrated density in selected locations, but there is a limit to the number of new units based on infrastructure limitations and City policy. See page 49 for residential unit limits in mixed use areas.



The existing Hyatt Place hotel at the Suburban Collection Showplace is similar in scale and impact on utility service as many of the use options proposed for the interstate-adjacent portion of City West.



Images above: This courtyard development with adjacent live-work units designed by Niko Tiula won Opticos Design's Michigan Missing Middle Housing design competition in 2015. It offers higher density and mixed use at a modest scale.

Redevelopment Site 2: City West

Grand River Avenue between Taft and Beck includes the Suburban Collection Showplace, a convention center that plans to expand with additional convention space and an entertainment venue. Other development in this section of the Grand River Corridor is a mix of commercial, office, and industrial uses. Many sites are underutilized, disused, or vacant. This area offers the potential for the creation of a prominent new district combining entertainment, convention, commercial, office, and residential uses in a cohesive, high-density, walkable pattern. Structured parking and diagonal on-street parking along circulation roads will help to reduce the amount of land devoted solely to pavement. This plan envisions three to five story buildings for most of the area, while buildings with frontage on I-96 may rise as high as ten stories.

Components of the District

Residential Uses

The residential components of City West should provide unique housing types, with an emphasis on types currently undersupplied in the City. In general, residential uses will be located above commercial uses, and all residential north of Grand River should be on the second floor or higher. Some ground floor residential uses such as row houses may be appropriate south of Grand River on the edge of the district as a transition to nearby neighborhoods. Live-work units may be an appropriate use as well, particularly if City West develops as an arts and entertainment district. Microapartments (small efficiency units) and small one-bedroom units may be an appropriate and viable development model for this area, especially given the needs of frequent business travelers and temporary residents at nearby Providence Park Hospital.

Commercial, Restaurant and Entertainment Uses

The district is envisioned as a distinct neighborhood as well as a complement to major nearby uses such as the Suburban Collection Showplace and the hospital. Commercial uses in this area could include specialty retail or a cluster of similar uses, such as high-fashion stores or art galleries, in addition to uses that serve nearby residents. Personal service uses would likely constitute a portion of the overall commercial picture in City West. Creating a vibrant restaurant and entertainment scene that spills into outdoor patios and open spaces, is a major goal of this redevelopment strategy.

Office Uses

Office uses in City West should be mostly limited to upper floors and, in vertically mixed buildings, may serve as a transition from retail and restaurant uses on lower levels to residential uses above.



Above, left: Map of City West land use planning area, including footprints of existing buildings. The largest building, at center, is the Suburban Collection Showplace, which is planning to expand. Above, right (clockwise from upper left): public art and gathering space amid high density mixed development in Asheville, NC; high quality building materials and ornamental landscaping in West Bloomfield, MI; finished alley with small retail use in Fort Collins, CO; public plaza and dense, mixed development in Princeton, NJ

Character of Development & Placemaking

For City West to become a true district, development must follow a unified approach. This could be achieved through the development of design standards or a form-based code to establish district-wide standards for building massing and location, streetscape, and public spaces. Building materials, landscaping, lighting, public furniture, and signage can all be addressed in standards for City West. These standards could also establish sub-districts (for instance, north of Grand River versus south of Grand River). To the extent possible, utilities should be buried.

The planned development of the City West district should include a mix of public plazas and parks that provide gathering places, as well as wide sidewalks that can accommodate outdoor dining. Programming of public spaces is encouraged to promote placemaking and strengthen the identity of the district.

Transportation

City West should be a walkable district that accommodates all road users and provides connections to Novi's existing and planned non-motorized pathways. Parking should be a mix of on-street spaces, small surface lots in side and rear yards, and, where density supports the investment, structures. Parking structures may stand alone or be integrated into other buildings, but in all cases, they should be designed to the same standards as other buildings in the district. Ground floor liner uses should be incorporated where possible. Parking plans should consider emerging trends in the automotive market such as the rapidly growing number of plug-in vehicles on the road, as well as the growth of car-sharing.

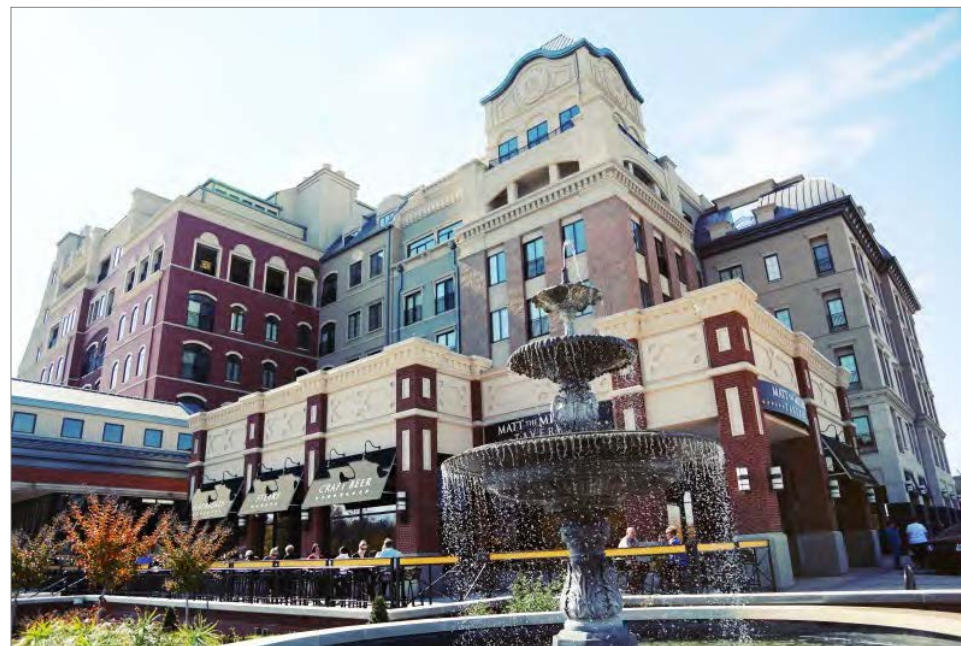
Walkability should be aided by compact development and frequent crossing locations on all internal streets, as well as signal protection at major intersections. Bicycle parking should be provided throughout the district, and sheltered where possible. Finally, if developed to its full potential, City West, with support from the hospital, could play a powerful role in the future development of mass transit on Grand River Avenue, serving as the westernmost destination point for bus rapid transit (BRT). The City should work with its neighbors to determine the feasibility of mass transit to serve the greater corridor and provide expanded mobility options for residents. The cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills have incorporated the potential for BRT along Grand River into their long-range plans.



Source: Roark Premier Team



Source: Elvert Barnes, Wikimedia Commons



Source: Carmel City Center



Source: Central Coast Low Impact Development Initiative

Clockwise from top left: Event in public space, North Hills development, Raleigh, NC, which includes a mix of low-profile buildings and taller structures, including a ten-story hotel; Main North in downtown Royal Oak, MI, is a ten-story mixed-use development with associated structured parking next to two movie theaters; Bioretention swale in Paso Robles, CA, which accomplishes some filtering of runoff before it enters the stormwater system; Carmel City Center in Carmel, IN, is a mixed use development located near the city's downtown Arts & Design District and was developed as part of Carmel's Range Line Road Corridor Plan; Arlington, VA's Pentagon Row project mixes commercial and residential uses around planned, multi-use public spaces.

Sustainability

The development of a new district presents a prime opportunity to consider development from a holistic standpoint. Development of City West should consider mitigating stormwater runoff through bioretention systems such as rain gardens and bioswales, and alleviating concentration of runoff through the use of permeable pavement. Should

development proceed in a coordinated fashion, the City and its partners may consider pursuing LEED-ND certification through the United States Green Building Council; this certification not only provides confirmation that developers have adhered to sustainable development practices, but also serves as a marketing tool for the district. Landscaping with native plants, incorporation of alternative energy systems such as solar collectors or

geothermal heat pumps into building designs, accommodations for electric vehicles, bicycle facilities, and, ultimately, integration with mass transit are all steps that can be taken to build a district that adheres in the long term to basic principles of environmental sustainability. When well-implemented, these measures can also help to limit certain long-term operational costs.



Above: Conceptual rendering of potential development of City West. This image is intended to show building massing, including one ten-story building, and provide an example of how buildings might interact with sidewalks and other public spaces. On-street parking spaces line every block, and most parking is concentrated in structures to the right of the image. Frequent programming of public spaces is encouraged

Development of the District

To facilitate and guide development of the City West district, development of a new zoning classification will be necessary. Form-based standards for the district should be considered as one method of achieving the desired development pattern. The district would likely be more effective if adopted as a stand-alone district rather than as an overlay to existing zoning.



Above: Image, based on development in St. Charles, Missouri, showing the type of streetscape that might characterize City West, along with the three-to-five story buildings envisioned for most of the area north of Grand River. Ground floor retail, space-efficient diagonal parking spaces, and upper floors devoted to office and residential uses combine with an aesthetically pleasing public realm to create a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly district that feels like a cohesive neighborhood.

LANDSCAPING STANDARDS EXCERPT

minimize paved areas and other run-off areas, and to maximize the areas devoted to attractively designed and well-maintained landscapes.

2. Landscape Plan Required. A landscape plan shall be submitted for:

- any new commercial or residential development
- any addition to an existing building that is equal to or greater than a 25% percent increase in the overall square footage of the building or 400 square feet, whichever is less.
- Any increase to an existing parking lot of 10 spaces or more (or equivalent area), or 10% of the existing paved area, whichever is less.

With the exception of Section 5.5.3.F, Individual (Non-Subdivision/Non-Site Condominium) Single-Family Street Tree Requirements, an owner of a single-family home-site shall not be required to comply with the provisions of this section.

All landscape plans shall be prepared in accordance with the requirements of this Ordinance and the requirements of the City of Novi "Landscape Design Manual," as adopted by the City Council by resolution and which may similarly be amended by Council resolution from time to time.

General Landscape Notes:

- For all numerical calculations, round the required square feet or number of plants to the nearest whole number
- Trees are to be located at least 10 feet away from utility structures including catch basins and manholes, and should be at least 5 feet away from underground utility lines whenever possible.
- Plantings may be in formal or informal arrangements

3. Landscape Requirements.

A. Residential Adjacent to Non-Residential

- i. Intent. To make provision for a visual buffer strip in each zoning and use classification when a non-residential use abuts or is adjacent to any residential zoning district.
- ii. Requirements for Obscuring Landscaped Earth Berms and Walls. In all locations where non-residential uses abut or are adjacent to any residential district (RA, R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, RT, RM-1, RM-2, MH and any TC district where developed for residential purposes), an obscuring landscaped earth berm and plantings, as described, shall be proposed, installed and maintained in connection with any development or use identified below. *See below.*

Use Abutting Residential	Required Berm or Wall Height
New Multi-family residential or Mobile Home adjacent to SF residential	6 ft. to 8 ft. high
Parking	4 ft. 6 in. to 6 ft. high
Special Land Use (churches, schools, nursery schools, day care centers, uses where special land use approval is required)	4 ft. 6 in. to 6 ft. high
Office Service/Tech, R&D	4 ft. 6 in. to 6 ft. high
Commercial	6 ft. to 8 ft. high
EXPO, EXO district	8 ft. to 10 ft. high
Conference	8 ft. to 10 ft. high
Freeway Service	8 ft. to 10 ft. high
Town Center (Non-residential use) ¹	6 ft. high wall
Industrial (I-1 and I-2 districts)	10-15 ft. ht. berm, 6 ft. crest width, 80% winter/90% summer opacity (See Section 3.14.5.C and E)
Auto Wash, Drive-In Restaurants, Service Stations, and Planned Commercial Centers and Regional Shopping Centers	10 ft. to 15 ft. high wall or landscaped berm with 6 foot wide crest
Hospital-Ambulance and Delivery Areas	6 ft. high
Utility Buildings, Stations, and/or Substations	6 ft. high

1: Applies when residential sections of TC or TC-1 abut non-residential uses within the same development or other adjacent TC or TC-1 developments' non-residential sections.

- iii. **Exceptions.** Obscuring landscaped berms and walls are not required to *separate identically zoned uses or where uses* are separated by a street, road, highway, freeway or railroad.
- iv. **Placement.** The berm or wall is required to be on the property seeking approval. The berm may be placed upon the adjacent residential property in order to provide continuity with an adjoining berm. In that case, a recorded permanent easement and a maintenance agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney will be required from the adjacent property owner.
- v. **Berm Requirements.** The obscuring berm requirements are as follows:

- a. The berm height shall be measured as follows:
- (1) The berm height, as specified in the Residential Adjacent to Non-Residential Berm Requirement Chart (Table 5.5.3.A.ii), shall be analyzed from the following locations, and the final measurement of the berm shall be made from that location which results in the maximum screening:
 - [i] The first floor elevations of the closest adjacent principal structures;
 - [ii] The first floor elevations of the uses requiring screening;
 - [iii] The elevations of the parking lots closest to the property line when only the parking area requires screening; or
 - [iv] The elevation of the nearest property line.

Where a range of height is stated for a use on the Chart, the basic berm height shall be deemed to be the lower measurement, with approving body of the City having the discretion to increase the height up to the higher measurement based upon an application of the following considerations on the non-residential property: intensity of use; noise generation customarily associated with the use; height and aesthetic appearance of buildings and structures; topography; distance of buildings, structures and activities from the common property line; and the extent of disharmony with the adjoining residential use as a result of other considerations.

- (2) The site plan shall include the first floor elevation of the nearest principal structures of the adjacent site's property lines.
- (3) Where the applicant demonstrates, and the Planning Commission finds, that practical difficulties would result from the strict application of berm height standards, as required herein, the Planning Commission may reduce the height of the berm, or eliminate the berm, and may approve an alternate plan which includes landscape treatment or a wall (subject to Section 5.5.3.A.vi below), or a combination of the two, provided that the approved alternate plan achieves adequate noise attenuation and obscuring screening. The Planning Commission may also reduce the height of the berm, or eliminate the berm, where it determines that an alternative design utilizing landscaping or other materials, including a wall subject to Section 5.5.3.A.vi below, provides adequate and effective noise attenuation and screening, or where such alternative design provides

a substantial aesthetic or site design benefit while still providing for noise attenuation and screening to the extent reasonably practicable. The intent of this section is not to encourage and allow elimination or reduction of berm height for the sake of convenience or cost savings, but rather to allow reasonable development while achieving design excellence not otherwise possible under these requirements.

- b. The berm shall be natural in appearance and have overlapping and undulating changes in elevation, both horizontally and vertically, without compromising the minimum height requirement and/or intent of the berm. Where a range of height is stated on the Chart for a use, and the approving body determines berm height based upon the criteria specified in sub-paragraph v.(a), above, the height of the undulations on the berm shall be determined by the approving body as part of site plan approval, taking into consideration the location of improvements and activities to be screened, and the criteria in sub-paragraph v.(a), above.
- c. The obscuring berm shall have no greater than a maximum slope of 33 percent. (3 feet of horizontal plane for each 1 foot of vertical height.) More gradual slopes are strongly encouraged.
- d. Plants shall be specified for any "no mow" areas.
- e. The crest of the obscuring berm shall have a nearly flat horizontal area of at least five (5) feet in width, unless otherwise specified in the previous Berm Requirement Chart.
- f. The required earth berm shall be located at the lot line, except where such location would interfere with underground utilities or drainage.
- g. Where an existing or proposed parking or vehicular use area abuts an existing berm or wall or other durable landscape barrier on an abutting property, said existing landscaping may be used to satisfy the landscape requirements of this part of Section 5.5, provided that it meets all applicable noise attenuation and obscuring screening standards of this Section, and provided that the existing berm, wall, or other durable landscape barrier is required to be maintained consistent with the terms of this section of the ordinance and consistent with the approved site plan. Where the existing berm, wall, or other durable landscape barrier is not otherwise required to be maintained in connection with the adjacent property, the applicant shall be responsible for such maintenance and shall obtain and record a permanent easement and maintenance agreement from the adjoining property owner in a form approved by the City Attorney, making provision for such maintenance.

- h. Where a property has already been lawfully developed for one of the uses listed in the Residential Adjacent to Non-Residential Berm Requirement Chart (Table 5.5.3.A.ii), adjacent residential property which subsequently develops shall provide and maintain the necessary berm.
 - i. See Landscape Design Manual for additional requirements.
- vi. Wall Requirements.
- a. Freestanding walls shall have all exterior sides constructed of face brick or stone with a suitable cap, and the interior constructed of masonry or reinforced concrete. The Planning Commission may consider materials of equal durability and aesthetic quality.
 - b. Walls shall be designed to resist the pressure of the retained material, including live, dead and environmental loads to which they may be subject. Foundations shall be designed to prevent movement due to frost action and a suitable drainage system shall be provided to assure stability. Walls that are 4 feet or greater in height shall be designed and sealed by a professional design or structural engineer. Walls shall not cause flooding or impound water at any time and are subject to Final Site Plan review. (See Design and Construction Standards, Chapter 11, Novi Code of Ordinances).
 - c. All other obscuring conditions of this subsection and the Landscape Design Manual must be met.
 - d. Timber, boulder, and interlocking concrete masonry unit (CMU) retaining walls are permitted as alternatives to poured-in-place retaining walls for the purpose of terracing, with the provision that they meet commonly accepted practices for construction and reinforcement as required.
- vii. Waiver of Landscaped Berm or Wall for Preservation of Wooded Area.

The Planning Commission may waive the requirement for an earth berm or obscuring wall adjacent to a residential use district when the proposed development includes the retention of an existing regulated or non-regulated wooded area adjacent to the residential district, or when an existing regulated or non-regulated wooded area is preserved on the adjacent residential property. In either case, the owners of all such area(s), including the owners of the adjacent residential property, shall provide a permanent preservation easement, including requirements for perpetual maintenance and replacement of woodland features, in recordable form acceptable to the City Attorney for such wooded area, and provided all the following conditions are met:

**PLANNING COMMISSION
EXCERPT FROM MINUTES
MAY 10, 2023**

In the matter of 22585 Evergreen Court Woodland Permit, motion to approve Woodland Use Permit, PBR23-0107, for the removal of eleven regulated woodland trees within an area mapped as City Regulated Woodland at 22535 Evergreen Court for the construction of a single-family residence. The approval is subject to on-site tree replacements to the extent possible and payment into the City's Tree Fund for any outstanding Woodland Replacement Credits, along with any other conditions as listed in the Woodland Consultant's review letter.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE WOODLAND USE PERMIT PBR23-0107 MOVED BY MEMBER AVDOULOS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER LYNCH.

Motion carried 7-0.

2. CITY WEST TEXT AMENDMENT 18.296

Public hearing of the staff-initiated request for Planning Commission's recommendation to City Council regarding Text Amendment 18.296 in order to create a new zoning district, CW City West, with associated changes to reference the new district as appropriate, and to amend text related to the EXO District, to reflect an underlying zoning of CW - City West.

City Planner Barb McBeth relayed that before Senior Planner Bell presents information on the draft City West Ordinance, Design Guide, and the potential rezoning of land, she would like to share a few concepts from the 2016 Master Plan for Land Use. The Chapter in the Master Plan titled Redevelopment Strategies says, "As outlined in this 2016 Master Plan Update, the City of Novi seeks to maintain its high quality single-family neighborhoods, preserve natural features, support business growth, improve traffic, and create an authentic identity. To implement this vision, three specific redevelopment sites have been identified by the City that are currently vacant or under-utilized, given their location, unique features, and size. The plan stated the redevelopment of these sites offers the opportunity to increase housing and stimulate business growth in concentrated areas of the City, allowing the rest of the City to retain its existing suburban character." Following is a summary of the three redevelopment sites.

The first redevelopment site identified in the 2016 Master Plan is located at the intersection of Old Novi Road and Thirteen Mile Road and was referred to as Pavilion Shore Village. The plan envisioned that redevelopment of this area could establish a unique sense of place by providing housing and commercial uses that are inspired by the natural and recreational features of the nearby park and lake.

Following the approval of the Master Plan, and the submittal of the developer's plans that went through the Planned Rezoning Overlay process, that area of Novi has now been redeveloped with 20 homes within the Lakeview development. Many of the new homes have a view of Walled Lake and Pavilion Shore Park as anticipated in the master plan.

The second redevelopment site identified in the Master Plan is located at the northeast corner of Grand River Avenue and Town Center Drive and has been known as "The Anglin Property." The property is approximately 10 acres in size and had been used as a car wash and garden supply yard.

Following the approval of the Master Plan, a developer presented plans for the site (and an adjacent property) to allow for redevelopment of the properties using the City's PRO process. The development is now called Sakura.

The approved plan shows an Asian-themed mixed-use development with access points off Grand River Avenue and Eleven Mile Road. The commercial portion of the project will consist of four buildings containing office, retail and restaurant spaces. Up to 132 multifamily residential rental units in 22 townhome buildings would be located on the northern portion of the site with access to Eleven Mile Road. The existing pond on the west side of the site would serve as a focal point and public gathering space, to be enhanced with Japanese-style gardens and a walkway with amenities around the perimeter. The Sakura site has been cleared and graded and the applicant is now in the final stages of site plan approval for this project.

City West is the third redevelopment site that was presented in the 2016 Master Plan and is being

presented and discussed this evening, with the goal toward implementing some more of the Master Plan's recommendations. Implementation of this recommendation is being done through the development of detailed zoning ordinance standards, and through the city-initiated rezoning of the involved property. Lindsay will provide detailed presentations regarding both matters in a few minutes, but I will share a few of the details of the Master Plan's guiding principles for City West that provided the direction for the proposed ordinance language.

The Master Plan noted that Grand River Avenue between Taft and Beck Road includes the Suburban Collection Showplace, a convention center with space to expand if needed, as well as a mix of commercial, office, and industrial uses. The Master Plan noted that many sites along this part of Grand River are underutilized, disused, or vacant, but the plan also noted that this area offers the potential for the creation of a prominent new district combining entertainment, convention, commercial, office, and residential uses in a cohesive, high-density, walkable pattern.

The Master Plan envisioned three to five story buildings for most of the area, while buildings on the north side of Grand River, with frontage on I-96 may rise as high as ten stories. While the Master Plan anticipated buildings as high as ten stories, during the evaluation and drafting of the proposed ordinance, the maximum number of stories as currently proposed will be limited to 8 stories on the north side of Grand River, and a maximum of 5 stories on the south side of Grand River. Lindsay will explain this further during her presentations.

Components of the District anticipated that the new City West district would consist of Residential Uses, as well as commercial, restaurant and entertainment uses. Townhouses may be appropriate south of Grand River on the edge of the district as a transition to nearby homes and neighborhoods. Mixed-use buildings including commercial on the first floor and residential on the second floor or higher was also anticipated for other areas of the district.

The City West district is envisioned as a distinct neighborhood as well as a complement to major nearby uses such as the Suburban Collection Showplace and the Ascension Providence Park hospital. The Master Plan notes that Commercial uses in this area could include specialty retail stores or art galleries, in addition to uses that serve nearby residents, and personal service uses. Creating a vibrant restaurant and entertainment scene that spills into outdoor patios and open spaces is a major goal of this redevelopment strategy.

Finally, the Master Plan talked about sustainability aspects within the City West District. The Master Plan notes that development of a new district presents a prime opportunity to consider development from a holistic standpoint. The development of City West should consider mitigating stormwater runoff through bioretention systems such as rain gardens and bioswales, and alleviating concentration of runoff through use of permeable pavement. As the Commission knows, the City's Wetland Ordinance and Woodland Preservation Ordinances will still apply to any developments within this new district and will be reviewed in detail along with individual site plans as those are submitted to the city for review.

Further sustainability aspects include Landscaping with native plants, incorporation of alternative energy systems such as solar collectors or geothermal heat pumps into building designs, accommodations for electric vehicles, bicycle facilities, and, ultimately, integration with mass transit. The plan noted that these are all steps that can be taken to build a district that adheres in the long term to basic principles of environmental sustainability. When well-implemented, these measures can also help to limit certain long-term operational costs.

The Planning Commission is aware that the staff and the City attorney have been working on the details of the draft ordinance and the design guide over an extended period of time, with updates provided to the Implementation Committee along the way, incorporating the committee's recommendations into subsequent drafts. We are looking forward to your comments as a part of the implementation of the recommendations of this part of the Master Plan.

Senior Planner Lindsay Bell relayed as City Planner McBeth has outlined, the 2016 Master Plan provided a clear vision for what City West could become. The challenge for staff over the last 4+ years has been to

craft an ordinance that would allow, support and encourage that vision to become a reality.

Working with the Planning Commission's Implementation Committee, and the City Attorney's office, we have developed the City West Zoning Ordinance text to provide the standards under which properties in the new district will be developed, as well as a Design Guide that offers visual examples that the Master Plan and ordinance language are working together to accomplish. The Design Guide complements the ordinance language and will be made part of the ordinance by reference. It includes background information on the area, inspiration images from around Novi and other communities, and 3D models to visually show certain requirements or suggestions. The intent is that both documents would be used in conjunction to guide development within the district. Each 3D model shown in the Design Guide is conceptual only; actual projects would need to be designed by professional architects and engineers based on specific on-the-ground information not currently available to staff.

The history and existing conditions of the proposed area to be rezoned will be presented for the Zoning Map Amendment public hearing.

As the current 2023 Master Plan update effort continues, Novi continues to grow, as evident from the 20% population growth from 2010-2020. At the recent community open houses, 74% of participants indicated the City West area should be "transformed" when given the definition "long-term and large-scale change in the appearance and function of an area with the intent for dramatic shift in use, design, and accessibility." Another 21% indicated the area should "evolve," while only 5% thought the area should be "maintained" in its current state.

The City West area provides an opportunity to expand the housing choices available for young professionals, empty nesters, and other residents who prioritize a more urban, walkable community, easy access to the highway and destinations within Novi, and entertainment opportunities. Grand River Avenue is a major corridor with greater road capacity than many areas of the city. SMART has recently released its proposed route expansion, and has proposed extending bus service along the Grand River corridor through Novi and into Wixom. One of the proposed locations for a transit stop would be within the City West area.

Over time, the City West ordinance has evolved to incorporate elements of the Town Center districts, Gateway East and the Planned Development options. We also drew from examples of mixed use districts in other communities, as well as best practices in planning guidelines.

The City West District includes a baseline level of development for principal permitted uses, which would be allowed at a similar intensity to what can currently develop in the I-1 District. At the baseline level of development, building height is limited to three stories.

The ordinance includes an optional Mixed-Use Development Option (MDO) which permits a wider range of uses and higher intensity development in order to encourage the creation of a dynamic mix of compatible uses. While the MDO provides greater flexibility in parking and landscaping, as well as setbacks and building height to allow a more urban form of development, projects will still be subject to other applicable codes and regulations of the City, including Wetland and Watercourse protection, the Woodland Ordinance, Stormwater detention standards, façade and landscape requirements, as well as lighting and noise ordinances.

Approvals of MDO projects are up to the discretion of City Council, and subject to the project meeting various criteria.

One of the project criteria to be evaluated is whether a proposed site design and layout minimizes negative impacts on existing natural features. Other criteria provide stipulations that surrounding landowners shall not be unreasonably burdened, and the proposed development is deemed to be compatible/harmonious with surrounding area.

While the proposed ordinance standards allow for greater height along the north side of Grand River for MDO projects, staff believes that most projects will have 3-5 story buildings, with additional height

potentially requested for mixed-use buildings, or for a signature office building or hotel. The maximum height is limited to eight stories in the proposed ordinance for developments on the north side of Grand River Avenue, and five stories on the south side of Grand River Avenue.

The proposed provisions permitting higher buildings involves meeting specific criteria:

- Preservation of open space (25% of site or more)
- Using sustainable building elements and design strategies (ex: LEED Best Practices)
- Allocation of units for Workforce Housing (at least 15%); or
- Lower-level parking or parking garage to limit impervious surfaces

The Grand River Avenue corridor, running from downtown Detroit all the way to Lake Michigan on the west side of the state, bisects the City West area. In this area of the city, Grand River is an auto-centric five-lane major arterial with a speed limit of 50 miles per hour. Staff would pursue funding to study alternatives for making this area safer for pedestrians and bicyclists to get between the north and south sides of the district as marked crossings are currently available only in three locations: the Grand River and Beck Road signal, the signal at the main entrance to the Suburban Showplace, and the Taft Road signal. The Design Guide provides samples of elevated pedestrian bridges and street-level crossings with a raised median as possible design options to consider, however those are not the only alternatives. Traffic calming measures may also be recommended, such as reducing the speed limit through the district.

Development in this district is required to meet specific design standards to ensure future development is cohesive and walkable. Buildings are meant to front on internal street networks rather than Grand River to create a more pedestrian-friendly development than the thoroughfare can offer. Shared off-street parking facilities are encouraged. Development projects are required to provide public plazas and open spaces for gathering.

City West is meant to have sidewalks and pathways throughout the district, providing connections to the City's non-motorized network beyond the district. The recently expanded Ascension Providence campus trail network provides miles of non-motorized opportunities, and connects to the ITC Trail. Bosco Fields park is accessible via Beck Road less than 1 mile away. The planned project to expand Beck Road between 11 Mile and Grand River includes the completion of missing sidewalk segments on the east side of Beck Road. Taft Road already includes on-road bike lanes as well as an 8-foot pathway (except for a small segment near the intersection of Taft and 10 Mile where it drops to 5 feet) on the west side of the road from Grand River to south of 9 Mile. This facility connects the City West area to several Novi schools, as well as the library and Civic Center campus. Pathways along Grand River also provide a direct connection to the Town Center area within a 1-2 mile distance.

Residential uses can be developed under the MDO, either as a stand-alone use or as part of a mixed-use project. The granting of a Mixed-Use Development Option requires review and recommendation by the Planning Commission and approval of the City Council. As part of the review and approval process, and in light of the potential additional uses and flexible building standards, the development will be subject to certain conditions, and will have to demonstrate conformance with the Design Guide adopted by the City as part of this ordinance. The MDO process is similar to the approval process for the PD-1 and PD-2 Options, with City Council authorized to grant deviations to area, bulk, yard and dimensional requirements, as well as density, if found to be an enhancement in the public interest and to not be detrimental to the natural features and resources of the affected property and surrounding area, or would enhance or preserve such natural features and resources.

The City West area south of Grand River Avenue is directly adjacent to areas designated for multi-family and single-family residential. This portion of the district is intended to provide a gradual transition to the surrounding uses, with buildings between two to five stories tall. Within 100 feet of existing single family residential areas to the south, non-residential uses are not permitted, and residential buildings are limited to 35 feet in height to ensure a proper transition and prevent undue impact on the existing neighbors. The 100-foot setback for non-residential uses is consistent with current I-1 District requirements, to insure that no new hardship is created on landowners, and adjacent residents are afforded the same protections that exist today.

Residential buildings are required to be set back a minimum 2 feet for each foot of building height. If the maximum building height of 35 feet is proposed, that structure would require a minimum 70-foot setback from the single-family district. By way of comparison with existing multiple family zoning districts in Novi, in the RM-1 and RM-2 Districts, the minimum side and rear yard setbacks are 75 feet. As a comparison, the existing Central Park Estates buildings are setback about 70 feet from the property line. The City West district also requires a 50-foot setback for any parking areas adjacent to single family zoning districts, as well as the installation of a wall or landscaped berm to provide screening. The landscape ordinance requirement for a 6 to 8 foot screening wall or berm would also apply where adjacent to single family districts.

The creation of the new district also requires some amendments to other parts of the Zoning Ordinance, especially for various Use Standards in Chapter 4, and for the sections related to the EXO Exposition Overlay District. As we are proposing to change the underlying zoning to City West, that requires changes also be made to the description and permitted uses of the EXO, and the required conditions, while still allowing the exposition facility to remain and expand, as needed.

Staff have engaged with property owners and relevant stakeholders through mail notifications, in-person meetings with developers, tenants, and landowners of all 54 parcels subject to the rezoning, and by providing a feedback form on the City website. All the responses from landowners within the district have showed positive support for the amendment to the Ordinance. Some property owners were concerned over how the change would affect a current use that would become nonconforming, but that concern was eased after explaining how nonconforming uses or structures would be permitted to continue, and even expand in a limited capacity. Some current nonconforming uses would actually become more conforming under the proposed standards, such as restaurant uses in the I-1 district.

Staff also met with representatives from the Asbury Park Homeowners Association, who shared their concerns about noise, visibility, drainage, and property values. Issues of traffic and school impacts were also raised. Staff discussed the existing City regulations related to stormwater management, wetlands and woodland protection ordinance, which all projects would be subject to, and how the new ordinance was designed to minimize impacts to the existing neighborhoods through use and height restrictions, setbacks, and buffer requirements.

Although some adjustments were made to the draft text amendment based on the feedback received, other items were left as standards that could be determined on a case-by-case basis in the MDO process -- this is where some conditions or deviations can be up to Planning Commission and City Council's discretion to allow some flexibility to accommodate site-specific circumstances if it makes sense within the context of the development, neighboring uses, and the overall intent of the district.

Since the introduction to the proposed text amendment on April 5th, staff have continued to work on the draft ordinance to make improvements. We included new landscaping standards within the Mixed-Use Development option to recognize that the more compact development style would need more urban-style landscaping. The height limits have been clarified throughout, and buildings within 200 feet of single-family residential districts are now proposed to be limited to 40 feet and will not be eligible for bonus height increases. Staff has added a requirement that applicants include a contextual plan sheet with general layout and uses within 300 feet of their property lines to illustrate a proposed project in context with its surroundings. Planning Commission will need to consider Special Land Use standards, along with other items, in making its recommendation to City Council when MDO projects are considered.

Parking requirements for residential uses, based on number of bedrooms, have been included, which are consistent with the requirements in the Town Center district. Sidewalk requirements were also expanded on. An item was added to the approval standards to require applicants to demonstrate that the proposed layout of the site is designed to minimize the negative impact on existing natural features, including woodland and wetland areas.

Staff recommends approval of the proposed text amendment and Design Guide, with any necessary modifications as it continues to move through the process, as it is in compliance with the Master Plan for Land Use, which recommends the establishment of the City West district, as a vibrant, walkable, mixed-use district.

The Planning Commission is asked to hold the public hearing on the proposed text amendments, and consider making a recommendation to the City Council on adopting the text amendment. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Chair Pehrson opened the public hearing and invited members of the audience who wished to participate in the public hearing to approach the podium.

Pat Torossian, 26165 Mandalay Circle, relayed he is on the Board of Asbury Park Homeowner's Association, and has been a resident of Novi for 35 years. The northern and northeastern border of Asbury Park adjoin the City West zoning proposal. Mr. Torossian stated he understands the proposed zoning is unique to any zoning in the City and made specifically for City West multi-use with very little concern for the residential impact. Nowhere in the City is there a multi-use impact to a residential area like this. The zoning has been in progress since 2016, and only now are residents being made aware when letters were sent to those within 300 feet of the zone. We feel this type of zoning change should have been discussed with the residents impacted by this change for their input prior to the plan being developed. The proposal shows density that is unacceptable and no regard for the wetlands. There is a very large pond to the northeast of the subdivision where all the water drains into. As each developer comes forward with a proposal, it will be evaluated for wetland and woodland impact, but that is a major source of water retention for the subdivision. You've left the responsibility protecting the surrounding area in the hands of multiple developers to do the right thing and are not protecting the residential area with the proper zoning. Residents in Asbury Park are all for progress near Grand River, but not near residential homes. It seems it's been forgotten who pays taxes and votes in this City.

Ali Ozbeki, 26484 Mandalay Court, relayed he would like to ask the Planning Commission to reflect on the Novi Road, Main Street, Fountain Walk and the Walmart shopping center developments. Although he is not sure if the current Planning Commission members were those who approved these developments, Mr. Ozbeki has lived in Novi since 1986 and all the developments he mentioned have come since then. The City of Novi will never have a downtown like Northville, Rochester Hills, Birmingham, or Plymouth. You cannot manufacture a downtown area on Grand River. The marketing brochures are excellent, but what is the rate of occupancy of restaurants, residential areas, and office space on Main Street? Restaurants continue to turn around in Fountain Walk. A self-assessment needs to be done if we are doing a good job. If not, we walk away. Now another development is being proposed which could be a vacant lot.

Rob Massard, owner of Redford Lock Security Solutions, located on Grand River, relayed he is in favor of the proposed zoning change although he is not sure how it affects an existing industrial business and questions if there are plans for sewer along Grand River.

Lynne Paul, 45761 Willingham Drive, relayed she is a former Planning Commission member and City Council member. She is very happy to see so many familiar faces and recognizes the very hard job Commissioners and Council members have to do. A lot of the Master Plan was a big question when it was looked at in 2016 and Ms. Paul can understand why. The zoning being proposed is extremely dense, it doesn't fit our City, the building height and buffers are a problem, and ordinance to protect natural resources of wetlands and woodlands is not sufficient. Ms. Paul requests that the Planning Commission considers tabling or denying it the proposed City West ordinance. Blair Bowman is a wonderful businessman; he comes to the City and asks for so much. He's been buying the property, which is his right, but we have given him so much as residents. On record, total tax abatements since 2001 was \$4,092,163. If we increase the density and the height of the buildings all we are doing is giving more money to one single developer. Are we being fair to all our businesses? Some hotels and apartments in the area might like to have the height that will be allowed. Ms. Paul would like to propose we look at the development on the highway in Royal Oak. There are beautiful brick condos, and lots of people want to funnel into that area. Like Novi, they have good schools, but our density is more controlled. The landscaping and sidewalks are beautiful, and they have done a wonderful job with amenities. Mixed use is a good idea,

not more restaurants, not more commercial. As a City, Ms. Paul proposes we look at areas that are truly in need, such as Fountain Walk and Main Street. We can do a lot more for amenities and bring people in. Ms. Paul is not against development and changes in the proposed City West district but in keeping with our Master Plan and Ordinance, not in creating a district that would be so close to Asbury Park, which is not acceptable. These are beautiful homes that we need to respect. If it was your neighborhood, or mine, Ms. Paul would be livid. Ms. Paul is here as a citizen to state this is not the development for our City. Ms. Paul would like it to look like Royal Oak or another beautiful city, not like Southfield with high rises.

Rida Salim, Mandalay Circle, relayed she is a High School student who moved to Novi about three years ago from Texas. One thing she really appreciates in Novi that she did not have back in Texas is all the greenery and nature. Everyday Ms. Salim, her friends and siblings go for bike rides, and walks around in the safety of her neighborhood. A concern with the zoning proposal is that there will be additional traffic impacting the safety of the neighborhood and disruption of the greenery that is enjoyed every day. Ms. Salim is in support of and acknowledges the benefits of this proposal for the North side of Grand River but has deep concerns about the disruption of greenery that will occur with this change as well as the safety of residents in Asbury Park. Ms. Salim urges the Planning Commission to amend the proposal, so it does not affect the south side of Grand River.

Khurram Abbas, 26508 Mandalay Court, relayed he would like to echo the concerns his neighbors have expressed. Mr. Abbas has been a Novi resident for over a decade, previously he was on the southeast side of Novi where he was in close proximity to a busy mixed commercial and dense residential area. One of the reasons Mr. Abbas moved to Asbury Park was to be surrounded by trees and wetlands while still in the Novi school district. Mr. Abbas expressed concerns with adding more dense residential areas and overcrowding the school district. The north side of Asbury Park touches the proposed City West district and Mr. Abbas has concerns about that. He is concerned about the reduction of trees and wetlands, about unsightly buildings that will be in view from the neighborhood, about the lack of buffer and noise abatement between the neighborhood and the City West district, and the possible reduction in property values. Although the replacement trees go to the tree fund, those trees won't go into the Asbury Park neighborhood; they will go elsewhere in the City which is an injustice to the Asbury Park residents. The Expo event held last year, a Monster Truck rally, impacted residents as a huge nuisance but Mr. Abbas appreciated that the owner of Suburban Showplace reached out and indicated he is willing to work with the residents in the future. Civil Engineers Mr. Abbas has spoken with have expressed concerns with water runoff from the wetlands that may become an issue for Asbury Park homes. Mr. Abbas also expressed concern with the rezoning from Light Industrial to City West as he does not think the City has the infrastructure to support it. He urges the Planning Commission to take a second look at the proposed zoning district and address some of the residents' concerns.

Swanand Dhayagude, 26348 Mandalay Circle, relayed due to the location of his home he will be most directly impacted by this zoning change and construction. He has a young family and is concerned about the noise, pollution, and any people from the multi-family that would be trespassing through the backyard, which is not appreciated. This will lead to more of that. Also, losing trees and some of the wetlands is a big concern. Mr. Dhayagude asks that the City reconsider this zoning change.

Kai Yuan, 26362 Mandalay Circle, relayed his backyard directly faces the new development. Along with all the other concerns brought forward, a major concern is all the kids in the neighborhood that bike and play together, wandering around in a very safe environment. If we cut down the trees and have a direct access to the new City center, that will really create a lot of attraction for the kids. Often time they wander off, but right now because of all the trees and wetlands, it actually protects them in a safe way, but now they can easily have access to a new world so a lot of concerns for the kids that go wander and play near there. This will also potentially bring a lot of unwanted people to the neighborhood, so there are a lot of safety concerns. Looking at the northwest side of the subdivision, there is multi-family rental property that a lot of parents chose to live in to have their children attend Novi schools. Even though they don't own their property, Mr. Yuan wants to have a voice for them because a lot of the kids there are facing the same concern with access to big parking lots and a lot of restaurants. Also, even though now there is a building beyond the backyard, there are a lot of trees screening it, with future taller buildings they will be seen from the bedroom windows. Mr. Yuan kindly suggests adjusting the zoning to make sure there are adequate trees, protective fencing or other safety measures to protect the kids from potential

dangers. Again, looking at the south side of the subdivision, there are a lot of families there that will be directly impacted. Mr. Yuan's preference is to have the City plan for adequate preparation and reduction of noise from any construction rather than hearing a lot of complaints as that would be a smoother process for everyone.

Kara Murtha, 26223 Mandalay Circle, relayed she moved here in 2012 from Florida where she lived very close to her neighbors. The reason she chose the Asbury Park neighborhood was the tall trees. Ms. Murtha grew up in New Jersey in the pine barren, so she was used to having really tall trees. Sitting in her backyard, she can hear birds, which is beautiful. Ms. Murtha implores the Planning Commissioners to come and walk the neighborhood rather than look at a piece of paper. Looking great on paper is not reality. If a five-story building is built near the back of the neighborhood, it will be hideous, and everyone will want to move out of the neighborhood. The property values will plummet. Ms. Murtha implores the Planning Commissioners to think of the impact on the community and the reason why people are attracted to Novi and its nature. Ms. Murtha had to replace 44 tree credits on her lot which was fully wooded, they were all planted back on her lot with no money donated to the tree fund. Ms. Murtha loves Novi due to its nature. She has children and does not want them to be able to walk to something that is dangerous and would never allow her children to ride their bikes to Beck Road or Grand River as it's too dangerous. Ms. Murtha asks that the security aspects of people coming in and out of her neighborhood, the views, the impact to nature, and the impact to the schools all be considered.

Surabhi Sardesai, Mandalay Circle, relayed her concerns that 75-100 feet is too close. Right now, looking out to her backyard, it is beautiful with the tall trees. Seventy-five feet is unacceptable. She pleads that this zoning change does not happen. She has two little kids who play in the backyard, it's not going to be safe. From her second floor she can basically only see trees right now and that privacy will be gone. Ms. Sardesai asks the Planning Commission to please consider cancelling the zoning change.

Haramesh, Mandalay Circle, relayed as her fellow residents have said, she would implore the City Council and Planning Commission to walk through the Asbury Park neighborhood. The reason she was convinced to move from Texas to Michigan was not the Michigan roads, it was Michigan's natural beauty. She enjoys walking in the evenings and biking with her children due to the tall trees, the wetlands, the sounds of the birds. Unfortunately, if we go through with the City West zoning, we won't see that, we will hear noise pollution and smell smoke, which will be a health risk.

A resident, no name given, relayed he has some questions about the presentation tonight. There were comparisons to other communities, and he would like to know which communities that were referenced. These are holes in the analysis because it wasn't indicated that this matches the general idea that you can pick and choose, which isn't right. That includes examples of buildings that were compared to. As far as the survey of residents that was referenced, was the target of the survey adjacent residents or the community as a whole, as he is just newly aware of this. Grand River is a unique road from beginning to end, from one side of Novi to the other, trying to develop it as a marketplace to stop doesn't make sense as it's a road frequently used to commute and avoid the freeway. As a 40-year resident of Novi, he was involved with City Council and the Planning board back in the 1980's, and was associated with an organization called PLAN - People Looking After Novi. The organization tried to make sure residents were represented. At that time, Novi was looked at as a community of residents, and didn't look to become a community like Southfield with high rise buildings. That was the intent of City Council and the Planning board at the time so it's not clear why we are trying to deviate from that, as that has been the intent of Novi all along. Notable City Council members at that time were Hugh Crawford and Nancy Cassis. What is the status of the restaurant atmosphere of Main Street, as it seems everything goes in there and dies. Why are we trying to move it somewhere else along Grand River, which is a busy road, that seems to make absolutely no sense. We keep allowing things to be built, they don't work, so we move on to another area and allow it to go there.

Beth Hinman, lives on Christina Lane, relayed she has a lot of questions about this proposal. Who is behind it, who is sponsoring it, who is pushing it, what is the benefit or reward that the Planning Commission is getting, who is the Staff we keep hearing about that is pursuing this proposal. How will additional development of a highest intensity district, with the destruction of more woodlands and wetlands and five to eight story buildings along Grand River, bring any value to the existing residents of Novi. Why is the

Planning Commission's goal to make Novi as congested and unpleasant to reside in as West Bloomfield or Southfield. Grand River doesn't need to turn into another Orchard Lake Road. She objects to this proposal - the density, congestion, the destruction of woodlands and wetlands, without any recourse. The idea of high-rise buildings will significantly degrade the overall quality of Novi. There is absolutely no added value to the existing residents of Novi. She is asking the Planning Commission to listen to the protests and concerns and for once put the needs of the residents above the developers. That hasn't happened for a long time in Novi; do the right thing for a change.

Megan Sedghi, 26529 Mandalay Circle, relayed her property is close to Eleven Mile, but she will be impacted like all the other properties in her subdivision by this development. She already can hear the highway even though she is far away from it. Reducing the green zone is not going to benefit anyone. While the presentation showed something really grand, it doesn't seem to fit with what Novi is. Novi has a small city feel, which we love. We are surrounded by trees and are family-oriented. She is hoping we are not losing sight of that when we are trying to put something out of another city into a place that may be underdeveloped. She knows we can do better than what the presentation showed. Ms. Sedghi is an architect by education and does not see how we can construct something like this on these parcels. As previously stated, there are other parcels in Novi that we started developing and somehow abandoned. Now there is someone who is trying to purchase these parcels and develop them; Ms. Sedghi thinks we should focus on the developments we started already, reduce what the presentation showed, to consider existing homeowners who will be impacted by this rezoning.

Humza Salim, 26433 Mandalay Circle, moved to Novi on January 1st, 2020, in the middle of Junior year of High School. Two months later COVID struck, and he was left alone at home. He had no friends as he had just moved. To spend time, he walked the green streets of Mandalay Circle, which was very nice. He found a lot of peace there. He and his brother played basketball every day for a few hours a day as it is a very safe neighborhood. With the introduction of this plan that won't be possible; the safety net will be gone. Now he is a Sophomore at the University of Michigan and every weekend he comes back just to have the solace again. Mr. Salim strongly recommends that this proposal not move forward.

Aaron Martinez, a 30-year resident of Novi, relayed a lot of his comments have already been stated, but he thinks we can do better than the proposal that is before the Planning Commission at this point. There are a lot of concerns in the community that still need to be addressed. A lot has been heard tonight; people are worried about what this zoning change could mean for them, and Mr. Martinez asks that the Planning Commission take this seriously. As this is considered tonight, Mr. Martinez thinks the proper step would be to table this. It could be sent back to the drawing board, we could collaborate a lot more with the residents, hear their concerns and allow those concerns to be reflected in the plans before a vote is taken.

Mark Weinbaum, is an owner of the Novi Mile, LLC parcel, which is at the northeast corner of Beck and Grand River, behind the Chase Bank, USA to Go and Starbucks. Mr. Weinbaum purchased the property over 15 years ago. He can't speak to the other parcels, or their owners, but he has always found this community to be very mindful and thoughtful about the type, nature and character of development and zoning, such that he has not developed the site in the time he has owned it. The right ideas have not come along. Mr. Weinbaum develops in Milford, Brighton, and Fenton. With all due respect to the homeowners, he hears and appreciates their comments; however, in every development he has done, he has heard the same refrain. The day after a project is completed, people are out riding their bikes and walking. The greatest pleasures of a good developer are that they develop something that is economically viable, serves the community, and is something that they can be proud of as in his particular case, this is not something they will build and leave and go off and do another thing. He is part of the southeast Michigan development community, and their reputation is very important to him. Mr. Weinbaum believes Staff has come up with a very proactive approach. He had no role in developing this, he watched from the sidelines as the Master Plan was developed in 2016-2017. He was approached recently and gave input. There are parts that could be refined further, but the idea that this is going to remain a park or forest is not realistic. There is a significant industrial area to the north of a subdivision. Mr. Weinbaum has developed a lot of industrial properties and the last thing he would want is to live south of an industrial building. There are trucks coming in and out, there is noise all hours of the day. There is a need for good quality, affordable, attainable housing in this community. He would encourage residents

to think through this. He appreciates Staff's thoughtfulness and thinks this is a good foundation for prospectively and holistically activating this whole section in a way that is going to protect the environment, retain quality woodlands and wetlands, and give an opportunity for everyone to be involved in a larger, grander plan.

Ali Ozbeki, who spoke previously, wished to add a comment. Chair Pehrson noted only one comment is permitted per resident during the public hearing. Mr. Ozbeki stated that he has a house that he would be happy to sell at a 20 percent discount of market value to Mr. Weinbaum.

Mike relayed he moved to Mandalay Circle in Novi a year ago. What drew him to Novi, as his neighbors have said, is the greenery, it's a special place. However, the writing is in front of us. What he does not like is driving down Grand River, seeing "Now Hiring" signs at places like Suburban Showplace and Kroger. There are a lot of developments that don't have staff. Day one, everything will be beautiful, there will be TV cameras and ribbon cuttings. What will happen a year down the road when the employees are not there anymore? There will be more help wanted signs, it's a vicious cycle.

David Landry, 45471 Kimberly Court, relayed he is representing members of the Joanne M. Ward trust who own the ten-acre parcel on the southeast corner of Grand River and Beck Road. The northern three acres are zoned B-3, the southern acres are zoned RA. Mr. Landry relayed the family has owned the parcel since the 1940's. Looking at a 1990 aerial, the houses and buildings shown were their family business. In fact, looking back at a 1949 aerial, the buildings shown were their family business, so they are very much invested in this property. Mr. Landry asks that the ordinance treat the southeast corner the same as the it treats the northeast corner; carve out the B-3. He has no objection to the RA piece being included in City West. This particular corner is unique in the sense there is a hospital right across the street, which is a very intense regional use. There are intense business uses to the northwest with a Home Depot along with the other businesses there. The northeast corner is carved out, with the bank and a Starbucks, a fancy gas station. This whole corner is a classic B-3 use, so he asks to be treated equally. Secondly, with respect to drive-thru uses, Mr. Landry previously drafted a letter to the Planning department and asked for it to be forwarded to the Planning Commission. He was concerned that the version of the ordinance he saw did not allow drive-thru for businesses. However, since the April 5th Planning Commission meeting, Mr. Landry is aware that the administration has amended a few things and recommended as a Special Land Use that drive-thru is included for retail, restaurant and pharmacy businesses. Mr. Landry is in support of how the Ordinance is currently worded that a drive-thru is a Special Land Use. Like all drive-thru's, there is a concern for adjacency, sound, traffic stacking, things of that nature and Special Land Use takes care of that. Mr. Landry concluded he is in support of the drive-thru aspect in the Ordinance and asks that recommendation be passed on to City Council and asks to be treated like the northeast corner with B-3 zoning.

Jeff Wainwright, 45799 Grand River, relayed that this address is his business, Paradise Park. It is a very family-based business, and he likes the idea of a lot of families and a lot of kids in the area. He wants to see the area of Grand River developed well that is west of his business. This ordinance has gone through an unbelievable amount of work to get to the point it is, and the Staff have tried to craft something that answers everybody's needs. It's never going to be perfect, but Mr. Wainwright, as an engineer, has a few suggestions that could answer some of the concerns brought up tonight. The setbacks are set in general against the residential area at 100 feet. In thinking about a setback in principle, a parking lot will not be any less attractive whether it is 25, 50 or 100 feet back. The issue can be resolved with proper berming, proper landscaping that can be added to the Ordinance. It does not need to be a 100-foot setback which is punishing to developers, who won't be able to develop at that setback distance. There are only 33 parcels in that sector, which is 133 acres, that averages 3 acres per parcel. A 100-foot setback on a 3-acre parcel makes it unbuildable. We need to give pause to that and come up with a solution for the residents when they look out their window see good landscape like what was done at Paradise Park. Mr. Wainwright compels the Planning Commission to give thought to this and send the Ordinance back for one more revision.

Megan Zatkoff, 50735 Chesapeake Drive, relayed she lives in Island Lake and wanted to bring up the issue of traffic and congestion in the area as it has not been mentioned enough. While she empathizes with the residents on Mandalay Circle and other nearby areas, traffic increasing to this area would be

detrimental to all nearby neighborhoods, down Beck Road, Wixom Road and Napier Road. They are already feeling the effects from nearby construction. That gives an idea of what would happen if this area becomes overly congested without a plan for the vehicles which typically now use Grand River as a thoroughfare. Are those vehicles going to start spilling over to Ten Mile? Where will they go when I-96 is backed up? Offer that as something else to consider, not only what do we do with the land, but what is the impact of traffic nearby.

Blair Bowman, owner of the Suburban Collection Showplace, relayed he is very proud of what he has been able to accomplish. After some assistance with tax abatements, they are one of the largest taxpayers in Novi. One thing that must be understood is this is not something that they have pushed in any way. They are certainly interested in seeing what is going to develop from this Ordinance process. If it's any consternation at all, removing the Showplace and the surrounding properties used to support it is fine, and concentrating more towards the west where the intersection and interchange is. Mr. Bowman does also represent some of the properties on the south side of Grand River and has met with the Asbury Park Homeowners' Association. He cannot commit to anything that is going to develop out of this Ordinance, he can only speak to what he would develop, and how he would develop the parcels immediately north of Asbury Park. Mr. Bowman referred to a plan that would preserve 98 percent of the wetlands, and most of the woodlands. The structures he would propose are a single-family residential townhouse style apartment community, immediately 100 feet north, but over 400 feet away would be the first three story style building. Mr. Bowman welcomes the opportunity to work with the residents only if and when we get to that point.

Andrew Mutch, 24740 Taft Road, relayed there were a few things that he recognized in going through the Ordinance that raised concerns for him. One of the things that stood out, while there have been changes since the initial draft, there are still areas where this Ordinance is deficient in comparison to comparable ordinances particularly in the area of adjacency to residential areas in terms of setbacks and buffering. For example, the building setback requirements, while they have been increased, are still less than what is required for I-1, RM-1 or RM-2 which would be a minimum of what we would want. Those building setbacks are absolute, so it's not a matter of how tall the building in RM-1 is, it's setback 75 feet. In the case of this Ordinance, if you have a building that is not as tall, you can move it closer to the property line potentially increasing the impact on adjacent residential properties. We need some clarity on what constitutes residential, as there are other uses permitted in this that are traditionally listed in residential land use category such as live-work, daycare centers, and private schools. If these are considered residential uses, then the non-residential setback does not come into play. Those uses could be a lot closer to residential property lines than otherwise might be allowed. Another area lacking compared to other zoning districts is the open space requirement. This Ordinance requires 150 square feet per unit, every other district, such as RM-1, RM-2, TC, TC-1 where we have these kinds of more urban residential areas, require 200 square feet per unit of open space. Why are we cutting back here compared to other areas in the City? Another thing that has been reflected in many of the comments tonight is the impact on natural features and resources. The Ordinance and all the material that has gone out with that talks about the importance of conservating natural resources, yet we get these concept plans that show the areas being blown away. Reading through the City West Ordinance language, there is nothing in there that protects woodlands and wetlands beyond what our Woodlands and Wetlands Ordinance does today. Mr. Mutch does not have confidence that those Ordinances would be enforced in a way that would protect those areas in a meaningful way. Mr. Mutch believes that there needs to be substantial language in the City West district if adopted, that protects those areas because that is what is being counted on to help buffer those adjoining residential areas. While berming helps, it does not replace mature trees. There is a lot more work to do with this if it goes forward, and Mr. Mutch hopes the deficient areas get addressed.

Matt Heinz, 24551 Kingspointe, relayed many of the residents have done a phenomenal job sharing their concerns, and the Staff has done a lot of work putting this plan together. One thing that has not been discussed is there is a big difference between the woodland permit that was heard prior to this which was a very specific plan, with the outcome being option A or option B to have trees replanted or not. One of the largest deficiencies of this proposal being discussed at length, is there is not much defined. There are suggestions of initiatives related to sustainability or other mentions to be environmentally friendly and energy efficient, but much of the language in the proposal is "might", "should", "mostly". If you were to

ask anyone here what this is going to look like, there would not be a clear projection. To vote on something that is not clear on what it will be could lead to a terrible mistake. This needs to be much more fleshed out and developed into a concrete plan.

Natalie Jocz, 45144 Nine Mile Road, relayed even though she lives far from the proposed City West district she has concerns as a Novi resident. The first concern being the height of the buildings, which would be taller than the local hospital or mall. It is concerning that the residents who are living nearby are not being listened to. If this were to be approved, Ms. Jocz would hate to live near a ten-story building. Another concern is talk of lowering the speed of Grand River as that is a four-lane road, in some parts five-lane. How can the speed be lowered when there is so much traffic that goes through there? As has been mentioned, we need to look at the traffic and where that flow would go. Before we do that, we really need to look in more detail at this project.

Seeing no other participants, Chair Pehrson closed the public comment. Member Lynch read the written correspondence:

- Support from Thomas Meyer
- Objection from Paulette and Louis Alioa
- Letter from David Landry representing the trust of Joanne B. Ward
- Objection from Rafael Barkas and Kasia Barkas
- Objection from Khurram Abbas
- Objection from Giles McGill
- Objection from Alex and Lisa Ljucdjonaj
- Support from Novi Mile, LLC/Mark Weinbaum
- Support from WixMix LLC, Jeffrey Heyn
- Support from Central Park, LLC/South Grand Equities, LLC/Nobe Property Group, LLC/Nobe II Property Group/Peter Scodeller
- Support from Grand Beck Venture Group, LLC/Servman, LLC/Blair Bowman
- Support from Blair Bowman
- Objection from Bijan Sedghi
- Objection from Jason Wright
- Objection from Kelly Kasper
- Objection from Annett Hoermann
- Objection from Joe and Jennifer Patton
- Objection from Michael McDougal
- Objection from Swanand Dhayagude
- Support from Mary N. Frankfurt and James M. Frankfurt
- Objection from Claire Smith
- Objection from Charles Smith
- Objection from Surabhi Sardesai
- Objection from Lauren Santeiu

Chair Pehrson closed the audience participation and turned the matter over to the Planning Commission for consideration.

Member Lynch relayed it is his understanding that Staff got the assignment four years ago to do something with the mishmash of parcels on Grand River. First, when Member Lynch first looked at this project...

Member Avdoulos offered a clarification that this is not a project or proposal, it is a rezoning of a large piece of property. We are looking at a district, and at a text amendment for the whole area. To clarify, we are not approving a specific project, as that seems to be where there is a lot of confusion.

Member Lynch relayed in terms of the rezoning, as he brought up in the past, Grand River Avenue right now is four and five lanes. His advice to City Council would be they might want to take a look at a traffic calming proposal that came up a few years ago where boulevards were put in. Similar to Van Dyke, it calmed the traffic to a point where it would be appropriate in this district. Member Lynch also relayed he had initial concerns with the proposed height. His understanding is in the Ordinance the height will be a maximum of eight stories on the north side. City Planner McBeth confirmed that a maximum of eight stories

will be allowed on the north side, only if they apply for and receive the additional bonus stories.

Member Lynch inquired as to his understanding that we are allowing vertical development to preserve more of the wetlands and woodlands. City Planner McBeth confirmed that is one of the purposes.

Member Lynch referred to the references made to Southfield, and stated we need to be careful about that, but he can only advise City Council. Novi has its own character. Something needs to be done to put uniformity there – looking at the various zones south of Grand River there are quite a few parcels that are currently zoned industrial, so if someone wanted to come in and put in, for example an extrusion business, they could.

City Planner McBeth stated that is correct, everything that is permitted in the Light Industrial district, which is the majority of the parcels on the south side, except for the residential and office to the west, could be built there under the current zoning.

Member Lynch inquired if there were industrial uses in the proposed zoning change. City Planner McBeth confirmed there are no light industrial uses included in the new Ordinance. The existing light industrial uses that are there would be grandfathered in, until they decide to move. When someone else comes to develop the property, it will be under the new Ordinance.

Member Lynch inquired as to what the current setback is on the south side of Grand River adjacent to the residential area. Senior Planner Bell relayed that in the current I-1 district nonresidential uses must be set back 100 feet. In the proposed City West district, nonresidential uses would maintain the 100-foot setback. Residential uses, like a townhouse, would be limited to 35 feet in height and for every foot of building height, the building would have to be set back two feet from the property line. Member Lynch confirmed his understanding that the new district doesn't change the current setbacks and berming, but improves it in some areas. Senior Planner Bell confirmed this what we've attempted to do.

Member Lynch inquired how many different property owners there are in the proposed district. Senior Planner Bell stated that there are 54 properties, some owners own multiple properties.

Member Lynch relayed he appreciates the work that has been done and he thinks it best overall to have an overriding zoning district although a concern was the permitted building heights. This would be a perfect opportunity to implement a traffic calming plan on Grand River, and make it more attractive, very similar to what was done on Beck Road between Five and Six Mile Roads.

Chair Pehrson added we are not suggesting any design standards other than what is in the manual. There is a hope that all the parcels will become uniform, and at some point, we address the traffic.

Member Becker relayed that our job is to listen to everyone in the City. Whenever an opinion is expressed to the Planning Commission and they do something contrary to the opinions expressed, it does not mean that they didn't listen and consider the opinions.

Member Becker referred to comments made regarding why the City does not go back and try to redevelop West Oaks or Main Street. The City doesn't develop property, and the City does not go in and help a business succeed or fail or replace a business. The City decides what business fits the zoning.

Member Becker relayed it is often remarked that one way to preserve green space and open land is to build up and not out and some of the suggestions in the proposed Ordinance would allow for that. As was pointed out, all the industrial zoned properties could take away all the trees with a parking lot and industrial building that will never look as nice as a well-done residential building. There are setbacks which allow for trees to be maintained, and probably a lot less lighting than there might be in some industrial settings. What this proposed zoning district is actually doing is trying to protect some of the features that the residents have mentioned. As Member Becker is frequently bent on asking, would the Asbury Park residents consider how many trees and wetlands were taken away to build their homes?

Member Dismondy relayed that his understanding is that the City's mission here is to activate a part of

the City that is aging. The average life of the properties along that stretch is 43 years. Industrial hasn't taken root in that corridor to date. As City employees, the staff are looking to make the City a better place and come up with progressive ideas with best practices from around the country. That's what we saw today, which was years of work to come together. Inevitably, we feel like we see it too late to have an opinion, which is what we are experiencing tonight. This wasn't done hastily by any means. There are things to it that Member Dismondy likes very much and some things that he does not think will work without further revision, namely the speed of traffic. Member Dismondy does not think he is ready to make a decision on the outcome but will wait to hear from his colleagues on the Commission.

Member Verma relayed listening to the public and in the written correspondence there are so many positives and negatives brought forth as well as ideas that have come. Member Verma would like to wait for another ten to fifteen days to combine those thoughts with what our Staff has already presented.

Member Roney relayed he has been on the Implementation Committee and has seen this for the last couple of years, and thinks it has exciting potential. It's not a proposal, we need to yet see the proposals. This is opening the possibility for developers to start talking about what they can do in that area. Member Roney likes the proposal and supports it. He appreciates Member Lynch addressing the setback concerns and is glad to hear they are not different than what they are today. He would rather have something like what this vision is than have a manufacturing plant in his backyard.

Member Avdoulos relayed this is not a project nor a proposal. It is taking an area, looking at how it is currently zoned, then thinking about what potential projects can go there and rezoning it to allow some flexibility and allow interesting projects to come in. It is up to the developers to come in and show us what they are thinking. Just like the gentleman said earlier, the woodland permit was one project that came forward on one site and asked for the removal of eleven trees. In the same way with this area, any project that comes in has to go through the planning process, has to go through site plan approval, has to follow all the ordinances, and has to maintain wetlands and woodlands. Right now, the majority of the properties are zoned residential, which means someone could put up a light industrial building that is 100 feet abutting residential.

Any project still must follow all the other requirements we have for all other projects. The concern with the height, as City Planner McBeth indicated there are requirements for that. The tallest buildings will be on the north side of Grand River. The heights on the south side of Grand River for residential are a minimum of two stories and a maximum of three stories. If there are mixed use, then four stories are permitted on the south side and five stories are permitted on the north side. These are just ideas, there are no planned projects yet.

For a frame of reference, the nearby hospital is seven stories to the top of the penthouse. It is actually closer to eight stories because hospitals are allowed a higher floor to floor height on the first couple of floors. There wouldn't be anything taller than the hospital in the City West district.

What this whole process is looking at doing is not dictating what should be built here, but allowing some flexibility for developers. At some point, these properties are going to be developed. The City wanted to put something together to help guide that so it does protect the residents who are close to Grand River. The document was driven by maintaining the wetlands and woodlands. Member Avdoulos has been on the Planning Commission long enough to see how diligent the City is to help maintain that. That is why a lot of people move to the City as has been indicated. As a resident of Novi for 30 years, Member Avdoulos has seen it develop much better than a lot of cities. This document has a lot of work put into it and is improving what we currently have on the boards. We are not saying what goes in there, we are just zoning it to give flexibility to developers who want to build there.

Chair Pehrson relayed he agrees with much of what's being said. This is to drive a conceptual idea that has to be brought forward by whomever the developers are. As mentioned, some of these properties have been sitting fallow for 43 years. This is not something that is going to happen between now and next month. There are properties that are going to have to be adjoined. All the plans brought before the Planning Commission need to go under the same scrutiny relative to all things such as setbacks and woodlands. What we are looking to do here is to create something as uniform as the Town Center when

that was developed. Most of the development will be abutting Grand River, not be sitting in the backyard of the residents. As individual projects come to the Planning Commission, they will make the hard decisions as to whether that particular application has the correct setback and intent for the given area. As has been stated, we are not building another Southfield. The max height on the north side will likely be five stories, and 35 feet on the south side. This is to create flexibility, so we can help developers come forward with their best ideas. What we are trying to do is give those who want to invest in the City of Novi the opportunity to do that within some guidelines to this specific design standard. We hear everything said about setbacks and the applicability of safety and what that means. There are certain things we have no control over, we can ask for with inside the plans certain lighting conditions, certain exit gates to prevent people from wandering into neighborhoods. Just because we vote a certain way, doesn't mean we are not listening. Chair Pehrson appreciates everyone's input and really appreciates the respect given the Planning Commission and hopes that we afforded the same to you.

Motion to recommend approval to City Council to adopt the City West district into the Zoning Ordinance made by Member Avdoulos and seconded by Member Lynch.

In the matter of Text Amendment 18.296, motion to recommend approval to City Council to adopt the City West District into the Zoning Ordinance as shown in the draft amendment for the following reasons:

- 1. The 2016 Master Plan for Land Use recommended the creation and adoption of a new zoning district for this area of the City in order to foster redevelopment of underutilized parcels, and to create a vibrant, walkable, mixed-use district,**
- 2. The Master Plan for Land Use objective to foster a favorable business climate is fulfilled by allowing more flexible development standards for a unique area of the City,**
- 3. The Master Plan for Land Use objective to support and strengthen existing businesses and attract new businesses is fulfilled by allowing existing businesses to expand and creating new development opportunities in a mixed-use environment,**
- 4. The Master Plan for Land Use objective to provide a wide range of housing options is supported as the new district allows residential use in a mixed-use setting,**
- 5. The Master Plan for Land Use objective to develop the City West/Grand River and Beck area in a manner that supports and complements neighboring areas through the use of setback and height restrictions to provide buffers to single family districts, and**
- 6. It provides an opportunity for long-standing businesses to remain at their current location.**

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE CITY WEST DISTRICT INTO THE ZONING ORDINANCE AS SHOWN ON THE DRAFT AMENDMENT MOVED BY MEMBER AVDOULOS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER LYNCH.

Motion carried 7-0.

3. CITY WEST ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.741

Public hearing of the staff-initiated request for Planning Commission's recommendation to City Council regarding the rezoning of property in Section 16, located east of Beck Road, west of Taft Road along both sides of Grand River Avenue from OS-1 (Office Service), RA (Residential Acreage), I-1 (Light Industrial), B-3 (General Business), and OST (Office Service Technology) to CW (City West). The subject properties total approximately 250 acres.

Senior Planner Lindsay Bell relayed historical photos of the area show the land was largely agricultural fields and orchards in the 1940s. When I-96 was constructed in 1957 there was a highway rest stop until the Suburban Collection Showplace was constructed in 2005 in its location. The Fairlane Motel appears to have been developed on the north side of Grand River in the 1950s, and is still open today. By the 1970s there was greater industrial activity in the area, including the Wix-Mix concrete plant, trucking operations, outdoor storage yards, various industrial buildings, and a gas station near the intersection of Beck and Grand River. Over the last 20 years many of the remaining homes and vacant structures have been torn down after falling into disrepair, and the properties have not yet redeveloped. As stated in the 2016 Master Plan, "Many sites are underutilized, disused or vacant."

**CITY COUNCIL
EXCERPT FROM MINUTES
JULY 10, 2023**

Member Smith agreed with the previous speakers. He said he works off Meadowbrook Road between 12 Mile Road and 13 Mile Road, so he has not been impacted as badly as the people between 11 Mile Road and 12 Mile Road. He said it is challenging for our people to get into work sometimes, especially this last week. He thought that anything we could do to get Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) get that watermain finished would be great.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

David Landry said he was representing the Joanne Ward Trust and he wanted to speak briefly on Item No. 2 on the Agenda, which is the proposed Zoning Map Amendment for City West. He stated the Ward Family Trust owns the property on the southeast corner of Grand River Avenue and Beck Road. Mr. Landry said the actual corner of the intersection is zoned B-3. He said his client owns three acres currently zoned B-3. He explained that south on Beck Road there are seven acres that are zoned R-A, we have no objection to the inclusion of the R-A portion. He said on the corner of Beck and Grand River on the southwest corner is Ascension Providence Hospital zoned OSC, and on the northwest corner is Home Depot Plaza zoned B-2 and on the northeast corner is a bank, zoned OSC, all commercial, it would, in his mind only be consistent to include the southeast corner and leave it as B-3. He said the intent section of the proposed City West ordinance states that the intent is to create a corridor of buildings massed along Grand River Avenue. He commented that there is nothing mass on the north side of Grand River Avenue, because there isn't, in his mind be consistent to mass buildings, it would be inconsistent, and it would just be lopsided. He said they supported City West for the seven acres to the south, but as far as the actual southeast corner, it has been zoned B-3 forever. He stated they were there to simply as the City Council for consistency purposes, it is a commercial corner, and they would ask them to leave it.

Joe Bertera, 130 Rexton, Lake Wall Subdivision, Novi. He said he has been here multiple times talking about the Lakefront Protection Ordinance. He missed the last meeting, so today he wanted to talk about the Lakefront Protection Ordinance from the City Council Minutes from 1986 which he presented on the overhead screen for the audience. He read certain sections because he was not sure what the city attorney is really telling you and what he is not telling you. He said you could see here in Ordinance No. 86-18.20 which is how this was referred to back in 1986. He read verbatim from the previous city attorney from David Freed in 1986. He said this is where several lake area residents in the audience were concerned regarding their own access to Walled Lake. He stated that the person who owned his house previously submitted a letter which he showed at a previous Council meeting, talking about his 1919 Subdivision which he also mentioned which is Lake Wall Subdivision and using our lake access lot access was given to them as part of their deed which he already brought up in other meetings, he had concerns about this Lakefront Protection Ordinance. He said Mr. Freed stated, "That this ordinance does not have any application to existing subdivisions or multiple dwellings." He said he quoted the ordinance where it indicated no parcel of land shall in the future. He noted

he could not read the rest of that because somehow the document had been lost or destroyed by the city. He commented the city attorney in 1986 said this does not apply to existing subdivisions, which is what he has been telling you for the last eight meetings that he has attended. He said the second part says Mayor Karevich stated, "that the word hereafter or something else would have to be put in the safe future development into the Lakefront Protection Ordinance which we know it is about future development", but now you are trying to say that it applies to our 104-year-old subdivision. He reiterated that we could see that the city attorney in 1986 said this does not apply to existing subdivisions. He said the mayor said we need different wording inserted into the into the ordinance stating, you know, into the future, which is exactly what he has been saying all along. He said if you fast forward to 2007, our current City Attorney, Tom Schultz, Mr. Bertera wondered what he said about this ordinance. He said the current attorney said in 2007, "to our knowledge, the City has not applied this provision to Lot 12 or similar properties around the lake whose use in development predated it." Mr. Bertera said now you have two city attorneys that said the same thing that he has been saying for eight City Council meetings.

Khurram Abbas congratulated Victor on his appointment. He said he lived in Asbury Park subdivision and was on the Asbury Park Homeowner Association. He mentioned they had many Asbury Park residents that attended the Planning Commission meeting and voiced their concerns associated with the City West zoning proposal, particularly regarding the proximity of the south part of City West. He stated the concerns range from environmental impacts to noise related concerns. He said many other residents of Novi showed up or wrote about valid concerns about the proposal in general, mostly stemming from the massive amount of development that the project incurs. He hoped to see the City Council go over the audience comments in meetings, meeting Minutes from the Planning meeting in May. He stated during the Planning Commission meeting, it did not appear to him that the Planning Commission members were well informed of what the project entails. He said they were asking a lot of vague questions during the discussions. He said some of them were somewhat receptive about the overwhelming concern from nearby residents and one more time to review the details, but still unanimously voted to recommend this proposal for approval with the City Council. He stated some of them made comments to justify the recommendation by telling them that we had to cut trees in our subdivision as report, which by the way is not true. He stated that they claim that the rezoning would be better for them without being informed on what the existing setbacks and height limits apply to the existing I-1 Light Industrial zoning that is in place right now north of their subdivision. He spoke for all the residents of Asbury Park when he said their homeowners are extremely disappointed by the Planning Commission's lack of consideration. He said they were hoping to have the Planning Commission at least advise some modifications to the proposal for the city where southside by ensuring that the setbacks and height requirements for the existing won't be retained which would be 200 feet setback and two to three story maximum for the residential units. He hoped the City Council, unlike the Planning Commission, would do the right thing and take the residents' concerns into account. He said there seems to be a growing disconnect amongst Novi residents with all the development particularly the dense residential proposals and it

would be in their best interest to address those concerns adequately before voting to approve or reject this proposal. Thank you.

Eddie Hesano said he was the proprietor of Eddie's Walled Lake and a Novi resident at 1359 East Lake Drive, Novi. He mentioned they are on the Agenda for our Firework Show, which is the Walled Lake and Novi Community Firework Show. He said this is a show for us and for our families that we can enjoy, he was very pleased that it is on the Agenda and that it will come into fruition. He said Novi is looking better and better every day, he has been here since 1995. He thought Novi was doing a spectacular job. He said he knew a lot of people that work for the City, and they are amazing. He wished he had that in his city where he worked.

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 23-07-086 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Approve Minutes of:
June 26, 2023 - Regular Meeting
- B. Enter Approval to purchase Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System (CLEMIS) and Fire Records Management System (FRMS) fees and services from Oakland County for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$61,060.
- C. Approval to purchase a 2024 Ford Expedition vehicle for the Novi Police Department from Lunghamer Ford of Owosso, LLC through the Macomb County cooperative purchasing contract, in the amount of \$61,851.
- D. Approval to award engineering services to Spalding DeDecker to evaluate the City's existing surveying benchmarks in the amount of \$27,500.
- E. Approval to award engineering design services to AECOM for the design of the southern portion of the Lakeshore Park Parking Lot Reconstruction in the amount of \$36,345.66
- F. Approval to award condition assessment services to Pure Technologies for inspection of PCCP water main, in the amount of \$61,700.
- G. Approval of a Street Light Purchase Agreement with Detroit Edison Company for the installation and ongoing operation cost of seven (7) standard streetlights at six (6) intersections along Ten Mile Road between Meadowbrook Road and Haggerty Road.
- H. Approval of request for Fireworks Permit by Eddie's Barrel of Wine to be operated by Gen-X Pyrotechnics, on Saturday, July 22nd, 2023, on Walled Lake.

- I. Approval of a Resolution to close the westbound of Grand River Avenue from Taft Road the to 46850 Grand River Avenue for the 2023 Michigan State Fair 5K Run from 7:30 AM to 9:15 AM on Saturday, September 2, 2023.
- J. Enter Executive Session immediately following the regular meeting of July 10, 2023, in the Council Annex for confidential written communication for legal counsel and to discuss Union negotiations.
- K. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1135

Roll call vote on CM 23-07-086

Yeas: Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Smith, Thomas, Gatt, Staudt

Nays: None

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

- 1. Consideration of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment 18.296 in order to establish the new City West zoning district, along with associated ordinance changes to reference the new district, and to amend text related to the EXO District, to reflect an underlying zoning of CW - City West. Establishment of the City West District was recommended by the 2016 Novi Master Plan Update to create a vibrant, walkable mixed-use district in proximity to the Suburban Collection Showplace and Ascension Providence Hospital. FIRST READING**

City Manager Cardenas stated this has been a project that has been in the works since 2016. He said as the Mayor mentioned in the reading of the motion sheet, this is the first reading. He explained the timeline that we have, and Lindsay Bell is going to present to you a comprehensive presentation on what City West is all about. He said this started back in 2016, 2017 in terms of different actions by the Planning Commission. He mentioned as stated this was to help it create a vibrant area in and around Ascension Providence Park and Suburban Collection Showplace along the stretch of Grand River from Beck Road to Taft Road. He mentioned there have been many different points that we have interacted and talked about in terms of hiring consultants, implementation of committee reviews, and it is finally coming to Council for your consideration, in two different meetings. He said there will be a Text Amendment and Zoning Map which is the item after this, again, only a first reading.

City Planner Lindsay Bell explained the 2016 Master Plan established a vision for the creation of a new district called City West. She quoted from the Master Plan "This area offers the potential for the creation of a prominent new district combining entertainment, convention, commercial, office, and residential uses in a cohesive, high-density, walkable pattern..."

Ms. Bell stated the challenge for staff over the last 4+ years has been to craft an ordinance that would allow, support, and encourage that vision to become a reality. She said it was exciting to be here with you tonight to present the results of all our efforts for your consideration. She stated they have gone through many drafts and revisions,

adapting to new strategies and learning from the application of existing districts in the City. She gave a quick context, she explained she was referring to the area along Grand River both north and south, generally east of Beck Road and west of Taft Road.

Ms. Bell stated the City West area provides an opportunity to expand the housing choices available for young professionals, empty nesters, and other residents who prioritize a more urban, walkable community, easy access to the highway and destinations within Novi, and entertainment opportunities. She said Grand River Avenue is a major corridor with greater road capacity than many areas of the city. She said SMART has recently released its proposed route expansion and has proposed extending bus service along the Grand River corridor through Novi and into Wixom. One of the proposed locations for a transit stop would be within the City West area, which makes the establishment of this district very timely.

Ms. Bell stated they have been working with the Planning Commission's Implementation Committee, and the City Attorney's office, they have developed the City West Zoning Ordinance text to provide the standards under which properties in the new district will be developed, as well as a Design Guide that offers visual examples that the Master Plan and ordinance language are working together to accomplish. She said the Design Guide complements the ordinance language and would be made part of the ordinance by reference. It includes background information on the area, inspiration images from around Novi and other communities, as well as 3D models to visually show certain requirements or suggestions. She noted the intent is that both documents would be used in conjunction to guide development, creating a structure for developers while permitting flexibility when it is determined to make sense.

Ms. Bell said for projects that are not mixed use, City West District includes a baseline level of development for principal permitted uses, which would be allowed at a similar intensity to what can currently develop in the I-1 District on the south side of Grand River. She stated the baseline level of development, building height is limited to three (3) stories. Uses permitted include office, retail, restaurants, day care centers, banks, and instructional centers.

Ms. Bell explained the proposed ordinance includes an optional Mixed-Use Development Option (MDO) if eligibility criteria are met, which permits a wider range of uses and higher intensity development to encourage the creation of a dynamic mix of compatible uses.

Ms. Bell said residential uses can be developed under the MDO, either as stand-alone use or as part of a mixed-use project. The granting of a Mixed-Use Development Option application requires review and recommendation by the Planning Commission and approval of the City Council. She said the MDO process is like the approval process for the PD-1 and PD-2 Options, with City Council discretion over deviations to area, bulk, yard, and dimensional requirements, as well as density. She noted the Planning Commission will need to consider Special Land Use standards, along with other items, in making its recommendation when MDO projects are considered.

Ms. Bell said while the MDO provides greater flexibility in parking and landscaping, as well as setbacks and building height to allow a more urban form of development, projects will still be subject to other applicable codes and regulations of the City, including Wetland and Watercourse protection, the Woodland Ordinance, Stormwater detention standards, façade, and landscape requirements, as well as lighting and noise ordinances. She stated applicants are required to demonstrate that the proposed layout of the site is designed to minimize the negative impact on existing natural features, including woodland and wetland areas.

Ms. Bell said the proposed ordinance standards allow for greater height along Grand River for MDO projects, however, staff believes that most projects will still have 3-5 story buildings, with additional height potentially requested for mixed-use buildings, or for a signature office building or hotel. She noted for areas greater than 200 feet from single-family districts, the bonus height provisions permitting higher buildings involves meeting one or more specific criteria such as providing or preserving over 25% open space, using sustainable green building elements and design strategies (ex. LEED Best Practices), allocation of units for Workforce Housing (at least 15%) or lower-level parking or parking garage to limit impervious surfaces.

Ms. Bell said the maximum height is limited to eight (8) stories or 115 feet in the proposed ordinance for developments on the north side of Grand River Avenue. This is the same height limit as currently permitted in the OST zoning district which allows building heights up to 115 feet for the area north of Grand River as all that area is within 1,200 feet of the freeway.

She stated that south of Grand River the maximum possible height is limited to 5 stories, or 70 feet. Any height increases would have to be approved by City Council.

Ms. Bell stated the City West area south of Grand River Avenue is directly adjacent to areas designated for multi-family and single-family residential. This portion of the district is intended to provide a gradual transition to the surrounding uses. Within 100 feet of single-family residential areas to the south, non-residential buildings are not permitted, and residential buildings are limited to 35 feet in height to ensure a proper transition and prevent undue impact on the existing neighbors. She said the 100-foot setback for non-residential uses is consistent with current I-1 District setback, to ensure that no new hardship is created on landowners, and adjacent residents are afforded the similar protections that exist today. She noted any building within 200 feet of single-family residential districts is proposed to be limited to 40 feet and will not be eligible for bonus height increases.

Ms. Bell said in addition to the height limits, residential buildings are required to be set back a minimum of two feet for each foot of building height. If the maximum building height of 35 feet is proposed, that structure would require a minimum 70-foot setback from the single-family district. She noted by way of comparison with multiple family zoning districts in Novi, in the RM-1 and RM-2 Districts, the minimum side and rear yard setbacks are 75 feet. She commented that the existing Central Park Estates buildings are built 70-

75 feet from the property line. She said the City West district also requires a 50-foot setback for any parking areas adjacent to single family zoning districts, as well as the installation of a wall or landscape berm to provide buffers.

Ms. Bell gave a brief re-cap: less than 50 feet from the single family residential, only residential structures less than 25 feet in height would be permitted. She noted from 50-100 feet, residential structures up to 35 feet in height and parking with screening would be permitted. She also noted from 100-200 feet from SFR, both residential and non-residential buildings could be allowed with a maximum height of 40 feet. She said over 200 feet from residential additional building height can be requested. She stated at over 500 feet, outdoor seating areas with live music can be authorized.

Ms. Bell said the City West is meant to have sidewalks and pathways throughout the district, providing connections to the City's non-motorized network. The recently expanded Ascension Providence campus trail network provides miles of non-motorized opportunities and connects to the ITC Trail. She mentioned Bosco Park is accessible via Beck Road less than 1 mile away. She stated Taft Road already includes on-road bike lanes as well as an 8-foot pathway on the west side of the road from Grand River to south of 9 Mile. She said this facility connects the City West area to several Novi schools, as well as the Library and Civic Center campus. She noted that pathways along Grand River also provide a direct connection to the Town Center area within a one to two mile distance.

Ms. Bell explained that the development in this district is required to meet specific design standards to ensure future development is cohesive and walkable. She said the buildings are meant to front on internal street networks rather than Grand River to create a more pedestrian-friendly development than the thoroughfare can offer. She noted shared off-street parking facilities are encouraged. Development projects are required to provide public plazas and open spaces for gathering. She said parking requirements for residential uses, based on the number of bedrooms, have been included, which are consistent with the requirements in the Town Center district. In summary, she stated that staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval of the proposed text amendment and Design Guide, with any necessary modifications as it continues to move through the process, as it is following the Master Plan for Land Use and forwards both economic development and housing goals of the City. She said we are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mayor Gatt thanked Ms. Bell for the very comprehensive background. He mentioned that he heard people say that this is a Council driven issue, he wondered if that is correct. Ms. Bell replied that it is a Master Plan driven issue. Mayor Gatt asked if it was true or not true that a single businessman in the city was pushing for this. Ms. Bell replied, no. He thanked her for her response. He asked Council if anyone had any questions.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said it all sounds so great. He mentioned he sat in the Master Plan meetings for probably a year, we are here now, and for some reason, there are a lot of things that have never passed his test. He said his test is a test of common sense. He

wondered if you as a staff member walked out to the property and looked at all the different angles about all the things that you were talking about. Ms. Bell said yes, she had walked through the area. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt stated he has also and under no circumstance could he see us having a five-story building on the south side of the property. He mentioned looking at the berms while walking the properties, there are so many issues that are important. He said he would like an explanation on what drove this in 2016, was this staff driven or developer driven. He would like her to give us an overview of where this came from and why, if it happened in 2016, and we are talking about in 2023.

City Planner McBeth said she would be happy to explain. She stated the Master Plan that was done for 2016, approved in 2017, had three redevelopment areas identified. She stated that is one of the goals of a Master Plan and the Redevelopment Ready Communities. She said there were three areas where the location was located, one where Sakura was approved and is about to start development, an area up by Walled Lake that was in dire need of some redevelopment, and this is the third area. She said if you look at the stretch of Grand River, and particularly the corner at Grand River and Beck, it has been underutilized in terms of an important part of the city for several years. She stated that was recognized by the staff and by the Planning commission, by our planning consultant at that time, and identified as the third kind of redevelopment area that should be focused on. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt confirmed with Ms. McBeth that his was not driven by any potential development that could not get it done there under the current circumstances. Ms. McBeth replied, no, it was not, we were not seeing a lot of development plans in that area, we haven't for the last 10 years or so.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked if they could get the map back upon the overhead that shows the property on the overhead screen. He mentioned there has been voluminous correspondence directed to the City Council and to the Planning Commission. He said one of the questions he had was regarding the area that has a large pond, under what circumstances could that be developed. Ms. McBeth said it is likely the City would request the pond remain as a natural feature, and development could occur around it. She stated with any developments, somebody might come in and say we would like to relocate that pond and put it in a different spot, so under that circumstance, it could. She said this zoning district that the staff has worked on for quite a while indicates that natural features are important in this area. She said we wouldn't be pushing the development community to respect the natural features and not develop in those areas. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said you are saying there is a potential that the pond or that wetland area could be moved somewhere else, as opposed to being left there and preserved as a permanent wetland feature. Ms. McBeth said staff would always recommend that kind of natural feature would be left in place, but if the development community sometimes says to do what they need to do, they might locate a portion of it. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said one of the things that he was going to ask was one of the modifications to the ordinance is that the exact thing cannot happen, because this is not what we really want as a community. He said he was a little shell shocked right now by what happened in Sakura, with the pond being filled in. He said he did not know how we could prevent that from happening in this situation, but it abuts properties, houses on

both that side of the street in the back and on the other side of the street. He said these are the kinds of issues that really kind of torment him and that we are trying to create something somewhere where it really is not a natural area to put something through.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked City Attorney Schultz if we were able to separate the north side from the south side. He wondered how we deal with this ordinance, or do we have to do it as one big chunk. City Attorney Schultz said no, you could separate them. He thought a surgery and thinking about it in terms of writing in the ordinance, but there is already a conceptual difference between the two in terms of height and things like that. He said if that were the direction, he thought it would be possible to do just ordinance writing wise. He said to be clear and to add on to Ms. McBeth's answer, there is nothing in this ordinance that would affect the pond one way or the other. He said that is an entire set of city ordinance that he thought Ms. McBeth was talking about the wetland ordinance that allows developers to do things that his ordinance does not make it any more or less likely to have that kind of effect. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said, or less likely, in the ordinance. Mr. Schultz said if you are focusing just sort of on this spotlight. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt commented that this area abuts residential properties. He thought that if you take that pond out in that wetland area, and move it over somewhere, where there is nothing currently, doesn't seem to him to be a good exercise in this situation. He said one of his recommendations would be to add something to the ordinance that prevented this kind of thing happening. He said we will keep talking about it, we want to preserve the woodlands and wetlands, then we talk about filling them in and moving them somewhere else. He thought this is inconsistent with when we start abutting residential property, and putting these mixed use and commercial properties, it gets a lot more complicated. He said in this situation, we are talking about the lot, a lot of the land that we have available in our city right now is really the end of the development land, the backlots. He said many of these backlots have challenges, that is the reason they are not developed. There are a lot of woodlands and wetlands in them. He did not want to create a City West ordinance that in any way encourages somebody to fill in a woodland or wetland. He preferred that we put in language that prevented that from happening. He said he was not asking you at this point, he was giving you his narrative on this. He said there are certain things that he would like to see his colleagues consider. He wondered if it was best to do it all at once. He wondered if then, we are going to have some kind of vote at this at the end of this process, moving it forward to a second reading. He asked if we could do individual things that we are looking at and get those approved and then move on the other things. City Attorney Schultz said there is not timeline here. He wondered if it is here for first reading, but like with any other ordinance, you are not obligated to approve first reading if you want to talk about it more, get your thoughts together and convey those to City Administration.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked Mr. Landry, just be clear, what properties are you asking to remain in the current zoning. He asked which one is in the B-3 zoning. Mr. Landry said currently, the property on the southeast corner is zoned B-3 and that B-3 zoning encompasses two portions of two parcels. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked for him to explain what the drawbacks of this rezoning are for your clients. Mr. Landry replied that his client owned this property, and it has been in the family since the 1940s and it was purchased

by the Ward family back then it was used for several different things. He mentioned there are certain tax reasons when you buy property. He said you can imagine what it is worth now, if somebody sold that property, there would be huge capital gains tax. He stated Mrs. Ward passed away recently. He stated if you pass the property on probate, it is a stepped-up basis. He said the family is ready to develop the property. He said the family already has a developer interested in developing the property as zoned the B-3 part as zoned B-3, he said he did not have a site plan to show you, and he did not have a specific use to show you. He said there are obvious B-3 uses, some uses that are not included within the City West and the City West ordinance does include drive through. He said they have had some conversation with the Administration on that and drive throughs included as an accessory use, but you can imagine across from a hospital, so be a perfect parcel for a 24 hour Walgreens or a CVS, but that is a particular kind of use that would be perfect at this location. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he was advised earlier today that whatever the current B-3 zoning is, it would carry on into the new zoning. He asked him if that was his understanding of it? Mr. Landry said he did not have it in front of him, but no, there are certain B-3 uses that are not carried over into the ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked if City Planner McBeth could shed some light on that.

City Planner McBeth said the B-3 district allows sort of our most intense commercial uses. She gave examples such as car washes, gas stations, used car lots, things like that, a whole variety of things that you would expect in a retail location. She said the pharmacy that we are talking about with the drive through would also be permitted in the City West ordinance as it is currently drafted. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked Mr. Landry what the discrepancy was between? He wondered why they had to hire an attorney to come to us to ask for that property to be excluded. He wondered where the confusion was. Mr. Landry said his clients are interested in developing this under B-3 with setbacks and certain things of that nature, as opposed to the proposed City West ordinance. He said a gas station is one that would not be included, they do not necessarily now, have a commitment for a gas station. He pointed out that gas stations today are not the gas stations of yesterday. He said they do not look like gas stations; they sell a lot of different products. He said that was one that he could tell you from memory that is not included in the City West ordinance.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he was going to make a recommendation and he did not know if we need an approval on this or not at this point. He said he wanted to remove the two parcels 50-22-16-151-010 and 50-22-16-151-012 from the ordinance.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

CM 23-07-087 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Gatt;

Approval to remove two parcels 50-22-16-151-010 and 50-22-16-151-012 from the proposed Zoning Map Amendment 17.741.

Member Fischer directed his question to City Attorney Schultz. He asked him if it is possible to put an overlay on these two properties and basically say, we recognize and allow you to build under the B-3 development of the B-3, but you are also eligible to develop under

the City West as well, which would actually give more opportunities in the future if they did not go down the path of what Mr. Landry was talking about, to potentially develop more in the spirit of the City West. City Attorney Schultz confirmed that he was talking about an overlay just for two pieces of property. Member Fisher said yes, that is correct. Mr. Schultz said conceptually, he would have to think about that. He was not sure he had seen anything that targeted individual properties of that size. He said he was not saying it could not happen. Member Fischer said however, there are many acres on the south side, everything is I-1 except for this one parcel, he understood the position that the Ward family is in. He was trying to get it so that we as a City would also potentially in the future have the possibility if current plans fell through that they may have something more contiguous with the eastern properties, and that is where he saw the benefit. He said he did not to pull it out, and that is why he would not support the motion as it is, he would be interested in something like that. City Attorney Schultz stated we could look at that, if it is pulled out that is an option as well. He guessed the other option is to find out from the property owner what uses they think they might want from the B-3 and pull those forward and put those in as permitted uses. He wondered if it was worthwhile to have an ordinance amendment that says, now that things are the way they are some of these uses we do not want, but we will sit down with the property owner and find out, what it is they might want. Member Fischer said he would be more hesitant to take B-3 uses and put them into the City West uses, then do some sort of overlay, if we cannot do some sort of overlay, and then he was going down the path of Mayor Pro Tem.

Member Thomas stated in the B-3 section, or that area that we saw on the map, are those the only two parcels in those areas or are there other people who may want to have the same opportunity. She thought that was a decent sized section there. She wondered if we are going to make this offering to the owner of the two parcels, is it something that makes sense for the others in that section.

City Attorney Schultz said Mr. Landry pointed out that this is a corner piece, which distinguishes it from the rest of all the properties that are depicted there. He mentioned one of the things that he didn't want to say it, it surprised him, but he thought it was interesting watching this process for the last couple of years is that you didn't have a lot of property owners who were saying we do not like it, it was gratifying to see how many property owners said, "sure, this is a good deal for us". He said we have a property owner here, who is arguing that their property is unique, because it is the corner piece a that. He said he would be worried about taking that idea and spreading it throughout the rest of the district is what he was trying to say. He thought the other properties were different.

Member Casey said she was not opposed to having the City Attorney investigate it if there is any kind of overlay that can be done. She thought we might be a little ahead of ourselves in this process because we have not talked about applying for the City West District at all yet. She mentioned neither have we talked about what parcels that might apply to, which is the next item on the Agenda. She thought from a timing perspective, we feel like we are a little out of sync in terms of holding out one specific parcel and treating it differently, potentially, without even having talked about what the City West District is going to be. Generally, do we want the City West District and then generally,

which parcels do we want to apply to. She thought from a process perspective, she felt like we are a little out of sync on that one. She said she would support the motion if it were only to ask the City Attorney to look at options for an overlay for those parcels for the B-3 specifically.

Member Smith agreed with Member Casey, he thought we are a little bit ahead of ourselves and pulling out specific things like this. He said in general; he would like to see how this whole thing plays out with the upcoming new Master Plan as well. He said he would support, asking the City Attorney to investigate that B-3 overlay.

City Attorney Schultz said on that subject, I guess he was looking at this as kind of straw votes. He said you wanted to take a vote so that we would know what the numbers were, he understood that Mr. Mayor. He stated at the end of this is was going to suggest if there especially if there are more, that we not have a motion to introduce, or approved first reading, and that however many of these straw vote indications we get this evening, which is great, that we will take that back, and we will come back with a revised version of the ordinance.

Mayor Gatt said instead of making a motion, just talk and you guys, you know the consensus up here might not be seven, but you know, we are a majority. Mr. Schultz said he thought so. Mayor Gatt said okay, then we do have a motion on the floor that we can withdraw.

Member Crawford mentioned that he had another concern. He said at the Planning Commission meeting it was brought up, and he did not know which parcels they were, but there were some parcels that if you did 100-foot setback from residential, they would be virtually undeveloped. He mentioned it was suggested that a berm and landscaping could be done instead of a 100-foot setback. He said he would like to see that investigated, and he was not sure which parcels they were, but somebody can figure that out. He thought it was next to residential.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt wondered if we are going to vote on this a straw vote or what? City Attorney Schultz said he did not know that you need to if you want to that is fine. He did not think he had to worry; we are going to take good notes. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he would withdraw the motion and go on to the next things.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt moved on to the next issue that he had and mentioned there are two sides to developing the ordinance. He said one is on the north side, which is on the north side of Grand River Avenue. The other is the south side, the south side has a current residential element to it. He said the north side, he did not have anything that he was going to propose on the north side. Getting back to the south side, he said he could not see us having five story buildings under any circumstance on the south side whether they are 20, 50 or 100. He said he would like to see us limit that to a three-floor building, so that was his first recommendation on the south side. Second, he stated having a berm requirement with landscaping so that anything that is built requires a berm with the appropriate landscaping. He said that maybe that was already included, but he wanted

to make sure that is in the ordinance. Third, he wanted to see us remove the hotel/motel from the south side as a potential use. He said one of the biggest factors with this entire issue is the idea that it is a walkable area. He stated until we get an overhead walkway between the south side and the north side, these are two distinctly very different areas. One is not going to be walking across Grand River Avenue on a regular basis to get across the street to the north side. He said he really did not think it was appropriate to put a hotel/motel in that area and he would like to see that removed as a use. He said his fourth issue is a little more controversial, was that he would like to see 100-foot setbacks, he mentioned there are probably four different opinions up here on setbacks. He said the residents have asked for 200-foot setbacks which he thought was a little unreasonable, it does not give very many options. He thought the 100-foot setback with the berm, with landscaping would provide a very safe buffer for the residential properties there. He said his fifth point had to do with again, the protection of woodlands and wetlands, and how we could incorporate into the ordinance that the current woodland and wetland that are in the City West district in some way be preserved and protected in a manner that goes beyond just our normal city ordinances, especially those that are directly abutting the residential properties. He said those are his five primary issues. He said he would like to hear what his colleagues have to say.

Member Fischer said he would like to take the same approach. He thought that the north side has less concerns, from his perspective. He said if he understood, the current OSC on the north property, the north side of Grand River that allows the eight story buildings already, he wondered if that was correct, because all the properties are within 1,200 feet of the highway. Ms. Bell replied that he was correct. Member Fischer said that what this does is limited to six, and to go eight stories, they would have to meet the special criteria. He said many times when he is talking to someone that has concerns about some of the higher heights, once he tells them that you must meet some of these sustainability goals to get those bonus heights, we are winning out in that if they can already have eight. He said now they can only have six, but they can go to eight because they are going to be LEED certified or preserve 25% of the space. He thought that was a big win on the north side for him. He said the north side, they have less issues. He said he would focus most of his comments on the south side. Member Fischer mentioned the south side and stated that he struggled with the stories because of the good benefit that he saw in pushing some of those sustainability goals. He thought if we could go to four floors with those bonus criteria, but with bigger setbacks, he thought we might be able to accomplish some good there. He said he would be willing to go up to that, but if there wasn't consensus on Council, he would be fine with sticking with three and getting rid of the bonus floors. He liked the berm requirements, and the removal of the hotel/motel. He believed there needs to be some more work on the setbacks, and he thought 100 feet is a possibility and something that could be used, but he believed it should be tied to the building height. He said he would leave it to staff to come to some ideas at what might be worthwhile over there, but what is currently being proposed is not enough. He did not think in some parcels, areas, uses and heights 100 would be enough. He would like to see that a little more stringent. He said they have already spoken about B-3, and he made his comments on that. He appreciated the comments on the protection of the woodlands and wetlands. He said process wise; he did not know that it makes complete

sense to him, and he said he would ask the city attorney. He commented that in essence, we are talking about our own mitigation ordinance at that point, are we not. He said one of these will come to us will come to the Planning Commission or City Council and we will make the decision if the mitigation is appropriate. He said if we are trying to tie future hands, we are kind of saying what we do up here as it is from a mitigation discussion perspective is moot, is that correct. He wondered if he was correct on the first part that we as a Council make the decision on the mitigation of the wetlands. City Attorney Schultz said yes, he did think that was correct. He stated he will just preview; we do have an obligation and your ordinance does treat similarly situated properties the same, so we have got an obligation under the state zoning laws to treat similarly situated properties the same. He said we will take the Mayor Pro Tem Staudt's comments to heart. He said we will have to., the way communities typically deal with wanting to preserve areas is you incentivize them not to develop it more than they might in the other parts of the city. He said we will look at the idea. He said he thought he could see where both of you were going. He stated ultimately, yes, we will be clear that you will have the authority on the mitigation and tree removals that you have elsewhere.

Member Fischer said we have chosen to look at some of the benefits and some of the ideas that a developer had by maybe putting more intense use on one area and kind of trying to preserve more areas. He said it is those situations where it is Council's judgment, and he thought it is our job as the elected officials to make those calls on the mitigation. He stated while he could think we can find a way to strengthen it, he liked the idea of kind of the residential component where the Mayor Pro Tem Staudt was going, he said he will start to feel more uncomfortable as we tie future City Council's hands from being able to make site plan decision if they are elected to do. He said that is how he was asking you to split that one. Member Fischer said overall, those are some stringent comments for him that it would take to probably get this over the finish line and vote for his approval. He said he liked the concept. He liked what the staff has done, anything to promote things like sustainable efforts, the workforce housing, there are a lot of good things in here. He said he did not want to throw the baby out with the bathwater, he did not think it is a good idea, as he has seen, proposed, by some Councilmembers and on social media, and he thought that is kind of irresponsible. He said it is their job to sit here as staff, as a Council, as a Planning Commission to hear resident comments and try to come up with something that is palatable. He stated if we cannot hit some of these criteria that he has said, and he had no problem, potentially splitting these two approving the north end and leaving most of the bottom as I-1 zoning as it currently exists.

Member Smith agreed that there is a split between the north and south of this, the south end needs to take more consideration of the residents further south. He said he would like to see overall a stronger incentive to get LEED Certification and parking structures versus giant parking lots. He stated when you look at the aerial map of that you see Suburban Collection Showplace, and it is a giant parking lot, creating a lot of issues with runoff. He said he would like to see smaller parking lots in general. He said he was not sure, maybe Ms. Bell could answer on the Workforce Housing component of that, he was not sure what that was exactly. Ms. Bell explained that we do have a definition that is proposed in the text amendment and said could read that for you if you would like.

Member Smith said sure. Ms. Bell said Workforce Housing is a residential unit for sale or for rent with combined annual rent, rental costs, or combined annual mortgage loan debt service, property taxes and required insurance that do not exceed 30% of the gross annual income of a household earning between 60% and 140% of the area median income as defined annually by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Member Smith thanked her for her explanation.

Member Smith said the other comment he had was regarding walkability. He agreed Grand River is not something you want to have people trying to cross. He said he saw in some of the material that was provided that making Grand River, doing traffic calming solutions, which he was not sure he would like to see a study how that impacts the other roads in the area. He said Grand River has a lot of traffic and if you slow that down, it is going to go somewhere. He stated that brought up the point he mentioned earlier, is that he would like to see this as how it works with the upcoming new Master Plan. He said it is a big piece of land and he wanted to see how that all works together. He thought if we could get some pedestrian bridges across Grand River, he would be in favor of that.

Member Casey said there are a couple of big issues that she would like to get a little more insight from staff on. First, as the previous speaker mentioned, travel on Grand River Avenue and the fact that it is a five-lane road, 50 miles an hour. She said we are talking about trying to put in a lot of people doing a lot of walking, can someone clue us into the conversations that were held with the County recently about some flexibility on their side and what that means. City Manager Cardenas said they had conversations with the Road Commission of Oakland County, who has oversight of that road would be who the City would have to get approval from for any kind of speed limit, or any kind of traffic calming measures He said they preliminarily were approached by staff regarding potentially mid-block crossings, and they were receptive of such calming measures as well. He said those are just preliminary communications with them about that. He said there is some leeway and some wiggle room with respect to those.

Member Casey thanked Mr. Cardenas for his explanation. She stated that this is one of those issues that she thought were going to want to move a little faster on instead of trying to wait and see how this starts to develop. She said she would really like to make sure that we are talking about what it is we would do and then have a real plan for what it would take because you know, right now we are talking about zoning, we do not have specific projects in front of us, this is not anything where we are responding to requests for development. She thought right now is the time for us to say, it is a couple of years, several years, many years, probably away from being fully built out. She said now is the time for us to start talking about what we want Grand River to be in this space so that we are not 50% built out and need to start figuring out what we want to do with Grand River. She wanted to encourage us as part of our planning to make sure that we are having forward moving conversations with the county that talk about what we expect to want to do these things, let us get some plans in place for what that would start to look like. She stated that would be her first recommendation.

Member Casey said secondly, she is going to move us on to the water system, because we did get a memo relating to the water system and pressure and what expected uses are going to be. She wondered if we could get a little bit of insight on infrastructure needs. She said once we get this district, assuming it passes, and everything happens, once this district starts getting built up, what kind of expectations do we have? What kind of timing are we talking about for some of the changes? DPW Director Herczeg thought we were talking about a couple different projects in the memo, one is the 8 Mile loop and the secondary one would be the City West improvements, which are some pumping stations, some other water main improvements that have been in the Master Plan on and off for years based on development. He said we are discussing the 8 Mile loop, and based on density, based on our usage, in year one of next year's budget, the other plans be implemented later. Member Casey thought that was helpful, because she thought that is also one of the things, we want to make sure we are thinking of before we get fully developed in the space, what we will need to plan for, because none of these are going to be small projects. Mr. Herczeg said they are decent sized projects.

Member Casey said she was going to talk about walkability and walkability is great when we run them on east west, but the means of getting people across Grand River, north, south. She said as much as we are talking to the county, about traffic calming, mid-block crossing, etc., she wanted to make sure that we are also considering and planning for if a pedestrian bridge is going to be the right means for us to get people across the street as well. She was going to tie all of those together. Moving on to residential, she thought, we are all saying very similar things up here as relates to the north, south is very different from the south side. She stated, much like some of the previous speakers she did go through the neighborhood over the weekend and really got a sense for how things are laid out. She thought that the berm that we have in place against the I-1 with the building that exists today on Heyn Drive was a nice look. She was concerned with a couple of different housing units on the corners of the curb on Mandalay Circle, for whom even a 100-foot setback is going to be problematic for them. She said she knew we have differences in opinions on the setback against residential. She said for her, the larger the better, so she did not think 100-foot is big enough, especially for those corner houses, they are going to have the strongest impact on both sides. She would like to see us look at the potential of a 200-foot setback. She agreed that having berms and trees, we have 80% opacity for the winter, which is a normal part of our requirements. She thought the berms in here she believed were a 10-foot berm plus the landscaping trees, so she asked Ms. Bell if she was correct. Ms. Bell replied were industrial abuts residential, it is 10 feet. Member Casey asked if we were keeping that same requirement in the CW. Ms. Bell said she would have to investigate it, it may be slightly different. Member Casey said she would encourage us to make sure that we are looking again at the tallest possible berm, otherwise she will start talking about the trees, and she did not want to get into that space at all.

Member Casey appreciated the perspective that Mayor Pro Tem Staudt raised as it relates to the woodlands and wetlands, there is a lot of great screening for the residents on the east side, that she would like us to be as firm as strong as we can be in what we can require from a woodlands protection because we have a strong Woodlands

Protection Ordinance. She said there are people who have different opinions about whether it is strong enough, but she thought in this instance, we want to do everything we can to keep as many of those trees as possible. She wanted to make sure that we put as much strength behind the requirements to keep as many of the trees as possible, and to keep as many of the regulated trees as possible, make sure we do that. She stated she would like to see it similar for the wetlands as well, because with the existing ordinance for wetlands, developers can and have requested to move wetlands and that has passed. She said whatever we can do to strengthen that.

Member Casey said her final comment for the evening was to thank City Attorney Schultz for his advice to us to have our first round of conversation and look to bring back changes in another first reading. She said she would have made the motion to postpone or table the first reading to get our chances for us to get this conversation out, because this has been a four-year process for many. She commented that she should have thanked City Staff and the Planning Commission, who did all the hard work, this is the first chance that we have had to look at this. She said this behooves us to give staff as much feedback as possible. She thought this would give them a reasonable amount of time to absorb that feedback, make their changes, make the recommendations before we even start talking about looking at first reading. She stated as much as she thought she heard earlier that we were going to see this again quickly this month, she was happy to have us have the conversation of the table to provide direction and give staff a chance to give us a more formalized first reading.

Member Thomas stated that a lot of what she cared about has already been brought up. She agreed with Member Casey on the setbacks. She knew there was going to be some disagreement about that, but she thought in some of those instances your home was very close to the line. She was not sure that 100 feet was sufficient. She thought that they needed that space available there. She said we mentioned that specific pond, that these natural features that people's homes abut, and they are necessary for not just keeping the wildlife there and having beautiful homes, but just keeping our nice neighborhood and our community vibrant. She said it was a bit of a concern when we talked about let's do everything, we could save one pond. She said she would like to make sure that every resident who is facing similar instances has those same benefits of having people fighting for those items. She didn't think that they should have to come to Council every time that they want to fight for those items. She mentioned this ordinance may not be the place for it because we have woodlands and we have wetland ordinances today, but often those are moved and changed. She thought perhaps that is something that we need to look at is strengthening the woodlands and wetlands ordinances to that people do not have to be in fear that these are too weak, and the properties that they are on that are protected properties are going to be so easily moved. She said, but again, we are talking about this property. She was in full agreement with the rest of the City Council on those ponds, and making sure that we did everything we could to try to keep those natural wetlands there in that place. She agreed with everyone. She agreed the north side of the street is not as much of a big deal, there are not many homes there, they are not going to be negatively impacted, you have a lot of it directly next to the expressway.

Member Thomas said she had one final thing regarding walkability. She did have concerns about the walkability of Grand River, she would not want to walk with her child down Grand River because of the traffic that is currently there. She thought that if you try to mitigate that traffic, the people must go somewhere, just means our roads are already overloaded, they are too small for the traffic that we have today, and it would make it difficult for everyone to get places, which is very frustrating. She noted that Grand River is one of the places where you can move quickly to get in and out of places. She wanted to make sure that whatever is by Grand River, that we have sufficient setbacks from Grand River and protection to keep people from getting injured on Grand River. She mentioned that as it is today, there should be no foot traffic on Grand River, it is problematic. She stated that trying to find ways however that is to mitigate that and whether it is having crosswalks going over the street, a way to make that safe, it just doesn't seem like a place that should be walked. She stated Grand River does not seem like a place where people should be walking, this is from the Master Plan from 2016. She said currently we are in the middle of having a Master Plan done, she felt like we should probably wait on the rezoning until the new Master Plan is complete, that was her perspective.

Mayor Gatt said he agreed with almost everything that was said up here. He reiterated that we as a Council had talked about hotels on the south side of Grand River Avenue and we rejected it then and we can reject it again. He said Grand River Avenue is a wicked Road, very difficult and very unsafe to cross on foot. He said cars, trucks, and semi-trucks are going 50 miles per hour and you know when the sun goes down, you cannot see. He said they talked about a pedestrian overpass he would like us to consider, or somebody consider a pedestrian underpass, something in the weather in Michigan, you know for four or five months out of the year, an overpass could be nasty walking up there, an underpass would be more conducive for handicapped people, conducive for older people and he thought safer.

Mayor Gatt mentioned the setbacks and that 100-feet and 200-feet were mentioned. He thought this was a resident driven issue and he did not know if one size would fit all. He thought maybe we could come up with something where somebody said about the corner houses, maybe 100 feet is not good for them, and might be good for others. She said it was something that he thought the staff should look at and come back with some options. He said three stories, four stories, if he lived on the south side, and somebody wanted to build a four or five story building, he would be very upset. He said he would like to keep it at three stories, somebody earlier mentioned four stories, maybe depending on where it is. He did want to reiterate also that it has been said more than once. Mayor Gatt noted this is not a Council driven issue. He said it is not a one businessman driven issue. He said a former council person was talking about how this is going to really help one person in the community and that we have already helped that person a lot. He stated that is just completely 100% untrue. He said this is something the planning people, the Master Plan people have come up with, and it has taken years and years, from there to here.

Member Fischer said he would like to give staff some opportunity to comment on the walkability, a lot of people have really gone after that as one of the fallacies of this plan that they may consider the four years of work because it is just not walkable. He said one counter he had to that is, why did the city spend probably a couple hundred thousand of dollars or a million dollars to put sidewalks all the way up and down Grand River Avenue between Taft and Beck, which we already have there, which he has walked on and he felt very safe doing the whole thing. He said it is really about the cross ability. He said he could imagine that if this district were to come to fruition, we probably would not just have one stoplight between Beck and Taft as well, maybe there would be a couple with crosswalks. He wanted to give you the opportunity to tell us a little about your vision of the walkability from a staff perspective. He said that is one thing that he thought has probably gotten an unfair shake, mostly on social media. He said he did not think the staff had an opportunity to comment on that, especially in relation to some of the comments he just made.

City Planner Bell thanked Member Fischer. She stated our vision would be that there are internal street networks that create the walkability, where you are walking from thing to thing, not along Grand River Avenue necessarily. She said we would like to see a crossing of Grand River. She knew that the 2016 Master Plan had a planned road here along the north side to kind of create a bit of a ring road. Member Fischer asked if that was where the cement plant is. Ms. Bell said the City Gate Road that comes up between Starbucks and the Tim Hortons, that would continue further east and then down and meet up with Grand River, so possibly a stoplight there. She stated that obviously, involvement with the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC). She said that might be where the future connection could be for both pedestrians and cars, but really, it is the internal street networks that we are seeing as more the walkable pedestrian focused areas.

Member Fischer said he thought some of the intentions underlying all of this, there are some good intentions there between the walkability of those things. He thought that either marketing or promoting a little more of the idea of the internal not necessarily the crossing, is the walkable element within those different parcels. He said he thought maybe concrete plans, he believed that this just might help tell the story of what is taking place. He thought staff has gotten an unfair shake on some of the walkability comment.

Member Crawford mentioned the setbacks, he would love to see 100, 200, or 500-foot setbacks when it is next to residential. However, he said that is not always practical, nor is it fair to the property owners who own property north of the residential subdivisions. He said he would like to see some sort of recommendation for berms, landscaping, whatever allows those properties north of the residential to be able to develop, we cannot take up a third or half of their property. He said he did not know which parcels they were, and he did not know how far they went. He said we need to address that and not penalize them with 100-foot or 200-foot setback. He believed there were other alternatives. He said it is important that they are not taken out of the picture with kind of development.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he started this with a discussion of some of the issues and we have hashed it out. He hoped the residents had seen that. He said this is a Council, it

came prepared, we have done our research, we read all the correspondence, he got some correspondence today that was sent to the Planning Commission from an attorney from a Homeowner's Association. He said they read everything, they listen to everyone, but we talk on the record. He said sometimes that is a difficult thing to understand about government, but we certainly have empathy for your issues, but we have empathy for the people who own the property. He said we are trying to find a nice balance, something that is fair. He thought they had a robust and excellent conversation.

Mayor Gatt asked City Manager Cardenas if he was prepared to bring this back with a new first reading soon. Mr. Cardenas replied yes.

2. Consideration of Zoning Map Amendment 18.741 to rezone approximately 250 acres of property located north and south of Grand River Avenue, east of Beck Road and west of Taft Road, from B-3 General Business, I-1 Light Industrial, RA Residential Acreage, OS-1 Office Service, and OST Office Service Technology to CW City West District. FIRST READING

POSTPONED

CM 23-07-088

Moved by Staudt, seconded by Crawford; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To postpone the approval of Zoning Map Amendment 18.741 to rezone approximately 250 acres of property located north and south of Grand River Avenue, east of Beck Road and west of Taft Road, from B-3 General Business, I-1 Light Industrial, RA Residential Acreage, OS-1 Office Service, and OST Office Service Technology to CW City West District. FIRST READING

Roll call vote on CM 23-07-088

**Yeas: Crawford, Fischer, Smith, Thomas, Gatt,
Staudt, Casey**

Nays: None

3. Consideration of Approval of Change Order No. 1 to Mattioli Cement Company, Inc. for the 2023 Neighborhood Road Program – Concrete Streets in the amount of \$337,104.25.

CM 23-07-089

Moved by Crawford, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Change Order No. 1 to Mattioli Cement Company, Inc. for the 2023 Neighborhood Road Program – Concrete Streets in the amount of \$337,104.25.

Roll call vote on CM 23-07-089

**Yeas: Fischer, Smith, Thomas, Gatt, Staudt,
Casey, Crawford,**

Nays: None