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CITY of NOVI CITY COUNCIL

**Agenda Item D
3/5/2007**

SUBJECT: Approval to prepare a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant program for land acquisition of 16.2 acres (Heritage Shoppes, L.L.C. property) located adjacent to the Singh Trail property.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Department

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL *[Signature]*

EXPENDITURE REQUIRED	N/A
AMOUNT BUDGETED	N/A
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	N/A
LINE ITEM NUMBER	N/A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Department of Natural Resources recently announced that applications are available for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). The purpose of this program is to fund projects for the development of public outdoor recreation facilities and the acquisition of land for outdoor recreation and/or resource protection. This grant requires a local match of at least 25% of the total project cost. The application is due April 2, 2007.

The Heritage Shoppes property, parcel #50-22-25-301-026 is located on the north side of Nine Mile road and west of Garfield road (see map). The property is 16.2 acres and includes a core reserve wildlife habitat area, wetlands, and very high quality woodlands. Moreover, it is adjacent to the Singh trail Parkland (directly south and to the west) and is at the headwaters of the Huron River.

In 2006, City Council authorized the Department to pursue this grant opportunity but we were unsuccessful in our attempt. Since then, the Department has acquired a copy of the 2006 MNRTF grant evaluation form which will allow staff to improve our application for this grant cycle. Based upon these factors, the revised grant application should be competitively rated.

The property owners, Heritage Shoppes, LLC, have provided the City with an appraisal of the property, which sets the value at \$485,000 and a letter that indicates their willingness to submit the property for a land acquisition grant. The owners have also committed to make a land donation valued at \$160,000 (33% of the total appraised value of the property), plus an additional cash contribution of \$37,750 to the City to cover city administrative costs (if the grant is awarded) such as appraisal fees, environmental phase one assessment fees, etc. The Friends of Novi Parks will be funding a wildlife study which will help strengthen the application. The donations made by the property owners will more than cover the required 25% local match for the grant application and there will result in NO cost to the City.

If successful, the property would be added to 180 acres of parkland and another 73 acres to be dedicated by Singh Development for a 269-acre natural area. The grant application should be more competitively rated this year since the Department received a copy of the 2006 grant evaluation form.

This grant application will also be presented to the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission for consideration at the March 8th meeting. Staff recommends City Council to authorize staff to resubmit a MNRTF Grant Land Acquisition Application.

2005 Villagewood Lake/Mirage Development Land Acquisition Grant Update

On a separate matter regarding the 2005 MNRTF grant that the City received, the Department has submitted all of the necessary paperwork to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR is currently reviewing the appraisals submitted by the City. At this time, we are still on track for acquiring the property in June 2007 and completing the grant requirements by October 2007.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approval to prepare a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant program for land acquisition of 16.2 acres (Heritage Shoppes, L.L.C. property) located adjacent to the Singh Trail property

	1	2	Y	N
Mayor Landry				
Mayor Pro Tem Capello				
Council Member Gatt				
Council Member Margolis				

	1	2	Y	N
Council Member Mutch				
Council Member Nagy				
Council Member Paul				



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Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Applications Available

Contact: Linda Harlow 517-373-9125
Agency: Natural Resources

January 18, 2007

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources today announced that communities interested in applying for grants through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) to support outdoor recreation projects have until April 2, 2007 to submit their applications. There will be an Aug. 1, 2007 secondary deadline for land acquisition applications only.

The MNRTF provides funding assistance for state and local outdoor recreation needs, including land acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. This assistance is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. Both local governments and the DNR may compete for MNRTF assistance.

MNRTF-assisted land acquisitions preserve unique natural features and provide public access to natural resources. Development projects eligible under the MNRTF include waterfront parks, non-motorized trails and riverwalks, fishing and boating access sites, shooting ranges and others. The MNRTF is supported by revenues from the development of state-owned mineral resources, in particular oil and gas. Between \$25 and 35 million in MNRTF assistance is available annually.

New information for 2007 will include the Access to Recreation Initiative funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for universally accessible recreation projects, as well as new and revised criteria supporting trails and projects in urban areas.

Grant application materials can be obtained from the DNR web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants. Interested individuals also may call Grants Management at 517-373-9125, or write to: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants Management, P.O. Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909-7925.

The DNR is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural resources for current and future generations.

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors

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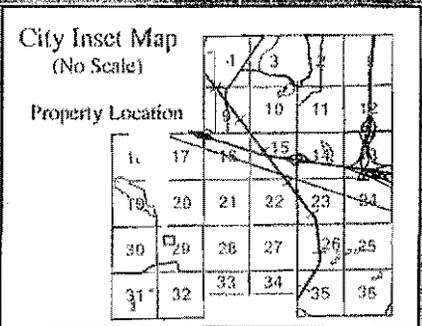
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Proposed Acquisition of the Heritage Shoppes Property
Latitude/Longitude Location Reference



Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application
City of Novi Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department



February 22, 2007
GIS Project: P/02005 Parks
MNRTE: Heritage Shoppes Acquisition (att.070.mxd)



1 INCH EQUALS 300 FEET



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GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS OFFICE
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SUITE 450
SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48034
(248) 353-1111

February 21, 2007

Mr. Randy Auler
Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry
45175 W. Ten Mile Road
Novi, MI 48375

Dear Randy,

Per our conversation, this is to confirm our willingness to participate in the City's program of expanding the park system in Novi through land acquisition funded by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

The land we discussed, parcel I.D. no. 50-22-29-326-001, recently appraised at a value of \$485,000.

We are willing to sell the property to the City of Novi, through the State of Michigan Nations Resources Trust Grant program, on the following terms:

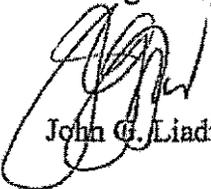
Sales Price:	\$485,000
State of Michigan Grant:	\$330,000
Personal cash donation to City of Novi From Heritage Shoppes, LLC	\$ 37,750
Land Donation Value to City of Novi	\$160,000
Total Donations:	\$197,750 (41%)
Cost to City of Novi:	\$0

We furthermore understand that it may take 12 to 18 months to secure the Grant and complete this transaction.

We are excited about this project and would like to help the City with this project.

Sincerely,

Heritage Shoppes, LLC



John G. Liadis, Trustee, Member