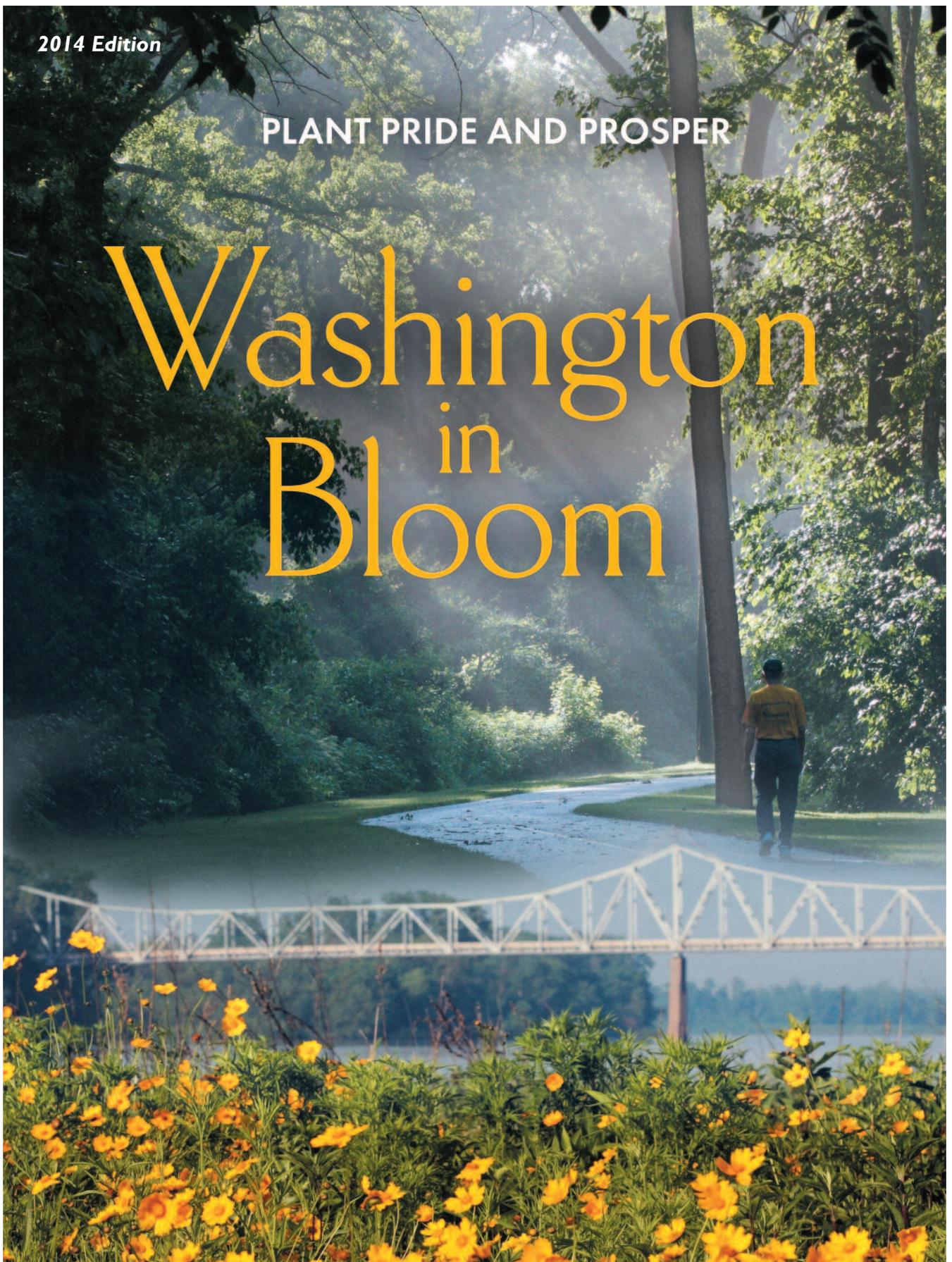


2014 Edition

PLANT PRIDE AND PROSPER

Washington in Bloom



AMERICA IN BLOOM

community profile book

Washington, Missouri
Spring 2014



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MUNICIPAL INFORMATION here are the facts



Population	13,982
City Website	www.ci.washington.mo.us
City Contact Names	Mayor Sandy Lucy and Darren Dunkle
AIB Committee Co-Chair Contacts	Dave Wehmeyer and Sally Bocklage
Town Area in Square Miles	13.12 sq. miles
Area of Active Recreation	228 acres
Area of Passive Recreation	207 acres
Do you have a Volunteer Coordinator?	No

The America in Bloom program has enriched the spirit of "planting pride" in the community of Washington. As a result, residents, business owners, service organizations and city leaders have become unified in their interest and efforts to beautify our fair city. The book writing process achieved a compilation and recognition of the many remarkable facets which make up the City of Washington. Area cities have taken note and word has spread to neighboring towns somewhat like the precious beautiful, little wave petunia. The America in Bloom process has generated an even greater appreciation for beautifying our growing and flourishing community.

WASHINGTON

a little introduction to our city

Washington, Missouri, located on the southern bank of the Missouri River, in the curve where the great river reaches the most southern point in its course, has an unusual and significant point in Missouri history.

Early inhabitants of Washington were pioneers from Virginia. Daniel Boone and his followers from Kentucky settled across the river. Lewis and Clark, on their celebrated journey, passed through what is now Washington as they began their exploration into the great Northwest.

As a result of a good boat-landing site, Washington was foreseen as the most promising river port for the county. William G. Owens bought the ferry, and the land around it, and laid out a town in 1828. After his death in 1834, his wife

Lucinda Owens and son-in-law, John F. Mense continued the project. Lucinda Owens officially founded Washington on May 29, 1839. A charter was granted to the town by the State Legislature on February 15, 1841. In 1989, much of the downtown area was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Here in the river hills, which reminded them of Rhineland, German immigrants came and resettled themselves in harmony with the earlier American pioneers, giving the community a distinctive German influence. These first citizens of Washington were farmers and craftsmen. Proud and industrious, the German settlers provided a foundation for a community that is now the largest city in Franklin County, which is the fourth largest

**first
citizens
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farmers
and
craftsmen**

county geographically in the State of Missouri.

Washington is a third-class city duly organized under Missouri State laws, with a Mayor/Council form of government. The Council consists of eight members and a mayor who are selected by city voters on a non-partisan basis. The City Administrator is appointed by the Council and is responsible for day-to-day operations of the city.

The City of Washington is located about 55 miles west of St. Louis. There are two Missouri State Highways, Highway 100 and Highway 47, which intersect within the city limits. Construction converting Missouri State Highway 100 to four lanes from 1-44 to Highway 47 in Washington began

in 2008 and was completed in July 2010. This expansion was possible through cooperation between the city and MODOT. The citizens passed a transportation sales tax which allowed the project to be completed YEARS before it would have



been on MODOT's schedule. This cooperative effort continued in 2013 with the extension of the four lane Highway 100 improvement to west of High Street. Census figures for the City in 2010 were 13,982, while some current estimations approach 15,000.

The City of Washington provides its citizens with typical services, such as street maintenance and construction, police and fire protection, code enforcement, engineering and planning, facilities inspections and parks and recreation. These services are financed from general revenues of the city. Washington provides water, sewer, and sanitation services derived from revenues or user fees. Ameren MO supplies the city with electricity and Missouri Natural Gas provides gas service. The Missouri Public Service Commission regulates these companies.

Washington now serves a shopping population of over 150,000. With more than 300 retail stores, it is the largest shopping center between St. Louis and Jefferson City. Approximately 65 industries are located in Washington, employing an estimated 6,000 - 7,000 people. The City has a growing visitor industry, attracted by the boat access to the Missouri River, historical buildings, and wineries located in the general area.

The Washington Regional Airport is located in Warren County, approximately two-and-a-half miles north of Washington on Missouri State Highway 47. A \$7 million expansion project was completed by the City of Washington over an eleven month period. The ribbon cutting for the newly completed runway

social and educational opportunities abound

was held on October 1, 2005. The new runway is 5,000 ft. long and 75 ft. wide and is capable of easily handling most corporate jet aircraft. The airport is home base for 40 airplanes. Facilities include four hangars, a maintenance building, and a main administration building. Services at the airport consist of fueling, aircraft services, and local and international charter. An Automated Weather Observation System became operational in July 2008.

serves a shopping population of over 150,000



In the more than 170 years after its founding, the city has become a remarkable mixture of industries, churches and schools, clubs and other social groups. It has two large medical facilities and a hospital affiliated with a major St. Louis hospital. Visitors can travel into downtown via the Amtrak rail system or, by water, at the Missouri River public access. There are four radio stations and a twice-weekly newspaper. In addition, the cable television company carries a local channel broadcast from East Central College. Additional radio and television services are available from the St. Louis area.

The Washington City Library completed a \$3.1 million renovation and expansion project in April 2012. In order to serve more individuals, there is now a co-operative agreement between all branches of the Scenic Regional Library to share the same software. This will dramatically increase the network of information to each facility and enable all library patrons to receive free library cards.

The Washington School District, with approximately 4300 students, operates eight elementary schools, one middle school, and a high school for the city and the surrounding area. There are also four private and parochial grade schools and a 600

WASHINGTON cont'd

a little introduction to our city

student parochial high school. Four Rivers Career Center provides technical training, and college level courses are available from nearby East Central College, as well as numerous universities in the St. Louis area.

Within thirty miles of Washington there are several places where residents can gather information and ideas about native plants. These include the Shaw Nature Reserve (a branch of the Missouri Botanical Gardens), Earth's Classroom (a non-profit environmental learning center) and several state parks (Meramac State Park, Robertsville State Park, Babler Memorial State Park, and Busch Wildlife Reserve).

Mercy Hospital, located in Washington, has been serving area residents since 1926. As part of the Sisters of Mercy Health System, the 187 bed non-profit facility is a Level III Trauma Center that has received numerous state and national honors over the years. The hospital continues to meet the needs of

excellent healthcare services in our region

the region with departments, technologies and staff to treat heart attack and stroke patients. They also provide comprehensive cancer treatment services along with obstetric, pediatric, surgical and general medical services. The most recent milestone is a significantly expanded Emergency Department.

In July of 2012, Mercy and Patients First Healthcare integrated services, physicians and properties. The combined health care providers are now the largest employer in both Washington and Franklin County. With plans to build a new hospital before the end of the decade, Mercy will continue to serve the medical needs of not only the residents of Washington but also those living in nearby communities and the surrounding counties. Also located in the City of Washington are two long-term care facilities and three assisted living facilities with a total of 340 beds.

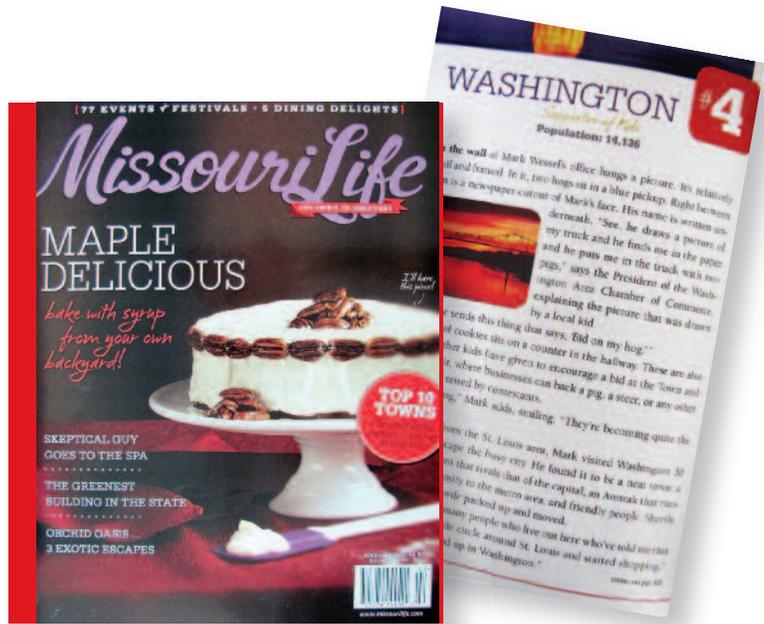


In the February 2011 issue of "Missouri Life" Washington was ranked fourth as one of the top ten towns in Missouri based on the quality of life. The Image at right is reprinted with permission. (www.MissouriLife.com.)

Washington was designated as a DREAM COMMUNITY in 2006 by then Governor Matt Blunt. This initiative helps us to more efficiently and effectively engage in downtown redevelopment and revitalization efforts. In 2011, our first year as an AIB community, we received the Community Involvement Criteria Award. 2012 brought a Four Bloom rating for our participation in the national program. A Five Bloom rating was received in 2013 along with an Outstanding Achievement Award for Urban Forestry. In 2012, Downtown Washington, Inc. was one of FIVE downtowns nationwide receiving the Great American Main Street Award at the National Main Street Conference in April. These awards bring to national

a better place to live, work and raise a family

attention what we already know...Washington is one of the best small towns in America! Washington has a unique and forward thinking approach to revitalizing and maintaining our downtown. Together we strive to make Washington a better place to live, work and raise a family.



FLORAL DISPLAY

attracting attention with colorful plants

Entering Washington from the east on Highway 100, motorists are greeted by the "Welcome to Washington" sign, a local favorite. Floral displays and plantings are changed seasonally and the area is enjoyed by visitors and residents, too.

Krog Park, the former public cemetery for Washington, is now the site of war memorials remembering the community's veterans. Plantings and park maintenance are provided by Hillermann Nursery as well as the Washington Historical Society.



An ongoing endeavor in the city's Historic District encourages businesses to have pots of flowers at their doorways to greet customers. Efforts are focused toward using standardized pots and plants.

By popular demand, local organizations and residents have provided funds to replace a hibiscus hedge at Rennick Riverfront Park. The hedge, which made a dramatic showing each

year, had been removed due to construction. Replacement plantings began in 2011, with a larger display of hibiscus planned for succeeding years. There will also be some low-growing flowers to complement the hedge.

While numerous committees have long included beautification of the city among their goals, a Beautification Board was formed in February 2012 to specifically address that topic. This twelve member committee did a great deal of research looking for new Christmas decorations to adorn the local streets

and have chosen wisely. The new purchase will be used to enhance the festive atmosphere and the old ones will be recycled by selling them. In 2013 the Parks and Recreation Department and the Washington in Bloom Committee placed 35 hanging baskets and 12 landscape planters in the historic downtown district.



The Washington Garden Club was established in 1939 and has several ongoing floral display projects. For over 20 years, the club has designed, implemented, and maintained the seasonal plantings at Lafayette Plaza.

several ongoing floral display projects

Members of this club also participate in the Town and Country Fair in several ways. One committee assists exhibitors with properly labeling their entries and answering questions, while other members judge all the categories in the horticulture division. The show includes over 700 floral as well as produce entries. More recently, the club has also included in their city beautification efforts: the flag memorial to the late Lucile Mauntel, a former garden club president and President of the National Council of State Garden Clubs; and the bridge at Lions Lake, a favorite park setting for wedding, prom and other special occasion photographs. The Garden Club hosts an annual garden tour and a fundraiser for a scholarship to a local horticultural student.

In 2011 more than fifty residents and businesses participated in Yard of the Month or Business of the Month contests sponsored by Hillermann Nursery and Florist. Garden Club members and Franklin County Master Gardeners served as judges, rating entrants on the appearances of their front yards and plantings. A garden tour of the winners and those who received honorable mention was held in June 2012. Interest in the contest is high and additional sponsors may be added.

The Tri-County Rose Society, chartered in 1991, maintains a display garden at Hillermann Nursery and provides instructional demonstrations to area residents each year on the proper care of roses. The Society also maintains a beautiful new memorial rose garden, tucked away as a sweet surprise, behind the Kohmueller House where the Lakeview Park trails meet. This is a memorial to James D. and Virginia Rose Bowen.

Curb Appeal Awards are presented by the Historic Preservation Commission acknowledging the work that local residents have done to maintain the city's historic character in their homes and landscaping.

At the VFW Home on Jefferson Street, volunteers including Franklin County Master Gardeners, the VFW and VFW auxiliary have installed and maintain plantings in an expanded flag plaza as well as an adjacent border in honor of those who served.

The Washington Public Library underwent extensive renovations and held an open house on April 15, 2012 to celebrate the official reopening of the well planned facility. The exterior boasts many new planter beds and gardens to welcome patrons. Look for the lovely native plantings, a Children's Garden for curious little ones and a Shakespeare Garden showcasing flowers he wrote about in his many works. There are evergreens, flowering ornamentals and trees intermingled throughout.



LANDSCAPED AREAS

tree, shrub and perennial plantings

In Washington, Missouri, citizens continue to build on the heritage of community involvement characteristic of this charming town settled along the Missouri River almost 200 years ago. Mother Nature has certainly set the tone for great landscaping in this area, but the human element cannot be overlooked. Washingtonians' love of landscaped areas is evident in its city parks system, in the green areas around businesses and

**many
neatly
manicured
lawns**

factories, and in the many neatly manicured lawns maintained by its citizens. This ethic of service to the community is demonstrated by the work of many service organizations and the countless

hours volunteered to develop landscape projects. The citizens of Washington reap many benefits because of this community concern and pride.

The City of Washington's landscaping efforts are highlighted in its fourteen parks and two other facilities encompassing 435

acres of land maintained by the director and staff of the Washington Parks and Recreation Department. Included in these parks are features such as athletic fields, tennis courts, a large fairgrounds, a 10 acre lake, many different asphalt walking trails, large numbers of planter beds, swimming pools, ten playground units, 11 permanent restrooms, 9 rentable shelters, and an auditorium. There is literally something for citizens of all ages and abilities to enjoy in the Washington Parks System. To manage park lands within residential areas, municipal regulations require the establishment of proper buffer areas.

**something
for citizens
of all ages
and abilities
to enjoy**

The Washington community through its many service organizations invests strongly in support of their youth. Many volunteer hours are devoted to organizing and coaching Little League sports teams not only for baseball, but soccer, football,

volleyball, and basketball as well. The Parks Department with the assistance and funding from local service organizations has developed well landscaped playing fields and concession stands for these sports.

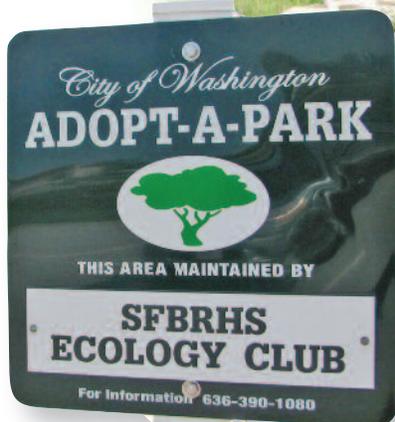




In 1989, the City of Washington residents voted to implement a half-cent sales tax for capital improvements. This sales tax is used to develop many different areas of Washington. One of the first developments was in the early 1990's when the City purchased land located on Grand Avenue which is now referred to as Jerry J. Jasper Lakeview Park. This was 41 acres of open land with a few trees. When the City began construction

for the park, one of many steps to the project included blasting of rock. Once a plan was in place as to how the land would be developed, the project of building an athletic complex began. The decision was to build a complex of four ball diamonds, as well as three soccer fields, with room for football fields in the future along with several miles of walking trails. The plan included irrigation, fencing and lighting for all the fields

**has
planted
literally
hundreds
of trees**



LANDSCAPED AREAS cont'd

tree, shrub and perennial plantings



and a concession/restroom facility for the diamonds. A few years later the Washington Soccer Association, along with the Washington Rotary Club, built the concession/restroom facility at the soccer complex. Most of the building was constructed with donated funds and all volunteer labor. The Lakeview Park Complex was dedicated on Sunday, July 17, 1994. The area now provides activities for over 2000 youth and adults through the year:

Lions Lake is the focal point of the city's Bernie E. Hillermann Park. The Lions Club initially donated the funds to construct the 10 acre lake and has assisted with the upkeep of the lake, including stabilizing the banks around the lake and installing a fountain in the center. The lake is stocked regularly with bass,

**the
lake is
stocked
regularly**

bluegill, and catfish for leisure fishing activities. The city maintains the grounds around the lake as well as a unique old gazebo which serves as a backdrop for many special event pictures. In this park is the location of the City of Washington Parks and Recreation Department. The Washington Garden Club members pro-



vided the landscaping for the nearby Lucile Mauntel Memorial Flagpole Garden and the area around the Lions Lake bridge. Other features of this park are several playground areas, asphalt walking trails, and Barklage Field which is used by many of the area youth and adults for athletic games. For many, many years the Washington Town and Country Fair has been held at the Bernie E. Hillermann Park. A new concert stage project was completed in July 2012. Many people took shelter there when the storm hit during the Fair in August 2012. Improvements to this park area, such as grandstands, exhibition and food stands, and pavilions, have been greatly funded through the proceeds from the Town and Country Fair which is

sponsored by the Washington Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce provides leadership in directing Washington's volunteerism with its 590 members and a budget of \$2 million. In putting on the third largest fair in Missouri, some 35,000 hours are volunteered from over 40 service organizations as "Volunteers Make It Happen." A revenue of over half a million dollars is shared with the community. This park, because of its facilities, is also the location of other events such as the Relay for Life, Jaycee Demo Derby and Mud Run, the 4th of July Fireworks Celebration and many other public and private activities.



The Rotary Club, along with the Kiwanis club, has funded a children's playground in the Park. The magnificent new Ronsick Park baseball facility exists because of Rotary Club funding. For many years during the fall, Ronsick Field was turned into a football field for the Washington Little League Football program. As the program grew, additional fields were needed so the football fields were constructed at the Jerry J. Jasper Lakeview Complex in 2001. In just the past few years the Washington Little League Football Organization, with donated labor, constructed the concession/restroom facility. Funds for the project were used from the half-cent sales tax. The next step planned is a pavilion just north of the concession/restroom facility. This project was completed with donated funds and labor from the football organization.



The Rennick Riverfront Park is one of the most popular parks in the City of Washington. Whether you are a boater or you just like to watch the river go by, you will enjoy this area. The boat launch is one of the nicest in the area with plenty of parking for vehicles with trailers. There is a large pavilion that can be rented for gatherings along with 2 smaller pavilions that cannot be reserved. Rennick Park is also home to the historic Washington Waterworks Building which now houses an antique shop.

LANDSCAPED AREAS cont'd

tree, shrub and perennial plantings

Adjacent to the Rennick Park is the "Rotary Riverfront Walking/Biking Trail." Working with the Washington Parks system, the Washington Rotary Club donated funds to develop this trail of approximately 3 miles along the Missouri River. The paved trail winds along the river beneath towering native trees and includes areas of native wildflower and vegetation as well as a 22 acre marsh and shrub wetland. Each June, the Rotary Club sponsors the "Riverfront Trail Rides" which features free shuttle rides along the trail for citizens who otherwise could not enjoy its scenic beauty. Over 500 people return year after



year for the much anticipated day followed with Bingo and snacks. Rotary volunteers planned and completed this trail project and continue to maintain its needs.

Krog Memorial Park was the site of a cemetery years ago. In recent years, the Washington Historical Society has been trying to locate the tombstones in the area that were not removed when the cemetery was moved to a different location. Today it is the home of the Veterans Memorial and the Korean War Memorial. The Vietnam War Memorial was erected as the culmination of a young man's Eagle Scout project. Another Eagle Scout project was responsible for putting in the fountain and landscaping at the Washington Fire Department Memorial.



One of Washington's smallest, yet most beautiful parks, is the downtown Lafayette Plaza Park. It is one of three city beautification projects which are maintained by the Washington Garden Club. Over 50 members contribute funds and volunteer their time to enhance this peaceful garden retreat within downtown Washington.

Optimist Park was developed with some of the land donated by Ray and Doris Willming. The Washington Optimist Club donated funds for the development of the park's facilities which consist of a Skate Park, a pavilion, playground area, a multipurpose court, and restroom facility. Currently the club's 64 members help to maintain this park and benefit the local Vo-Tech School through their Christmas tree sales.

The newest city park, the 20 acre Phoenix Park is located on the east end of town behind the Phoenix Development. The first phase of development included the structuring of detention and retention basins, landscaping, walking trails, bridges and parking. The second phase of the plan includes six tennis courts, pavilion, and restrooms. The third phase of the plan, which is currently underway, includes the

**newest
city park
is
Phoenix
Park**

development of a “Conceptual Improvement Plan”, landscaping and received a Missouri Department of Conservation “Community Stewardship Grant” to plant natives and enhance the Retention/Detention Areas. In 2013 landscaping included the planting of over 2,500 native plants.

The Washington Parks and Recreation Department is charged with maintaining these 435 acres of park-land. In addition to caring for the park areas, the Parks Department is responsible for mowing around the City of Washington’s water towers, well-houses and sewer lift stations. They maintain grass and flower beds around two historic train depot buildings, as well as the original pump house for Washington, the Waterworks Building. Many of these areas are covered by turf grasses that require different needs considering the site’s usage. Typically, a #5 mix seed is used on all the athletic fields. This is composed of 5 different types of seed: 20% being Pen-rye and the rest being different types of fescue. A #3 seed mix, which is 85% fescue and 15% Pen-rye is used in all other park areas. Urea based fertilizers are used, and they are put down in determined ratios and months on the athletic fields. Irrigation systems are installed in 5 of the 8 baseball fields, 3 of 6 soccer fields, and the 2 football fields with water supplied from several deep city wells. All athletic fields and the River-



front Park are aerated in the spring and fall. The Parks Department has 3 employees who are licensed pesticide applicators who spray fence lines and fields for weeds. Mowing is accomplished with three 11 foot mowers, a 52 inch zero turn mower, a 44 inch walk-behind mower, and a 20 inch Lawnboy mower. Seasonal workers trim on a daily basis and keep the sidewalks in the park edged.

Smaller in scale, but no less important, are several landscaping efforts throughout the town. Franklin County Master Gardeners have planned and planted the grounds around the old Downtown Post Office, now operating as a contract postal unit. To date, 68 plants and trees, as well as 250 bulbs have been added. An area is planned for an Historic Educa-

tional Garden which will feature plants obtained from area residents and properties that are part of the city’s history. Franklin County Master Gardeners have completed the landscaping for the newly remodeled City Library. This includes a Shakespeare Garden, a Children’s Garden, and a Native Plants of Missouri Garden. In the Lakeview Trail area, the city maintains

LANDSCAPED AREAS cont'd

tree, shrub and perennial plantings

an irrigated bed of roses. Irrigated planter beds or barrels consisting of perennials and annuals are located at the downtown parking lot at Main and Elm Streets, at Lafayette Plaza, the Lucile Mauntel Flagpole Memorial, the Krog Park War Memorials, and at the "Welcome to Washington" sign bed located at Burger Park. Landscape efforts

bump out beds around the trees

are bump out beds around the trees along Front Street and right-of-way plantings where Winter Creeper Vines are used for ground cover. The Downtown Washington organization assists the city with streetscape planning and planting, providing benches and trees along the sidewalks. Their long range plans are for enhancing downtown Washington through more "greening" and efforts of economic restructuring.



pledged a third of the cost to create an all-abilities playground

The Kiwanis Club planned and funded the toddler playground at the City Park near the municipal pool. The Washington Jaycees are addressing the need for a recreational area for special needs children. Currently there is no park of this type within Franklin County. They have pledged a third of the cost to create an all-abilities park, where children with special needs can play side by side with typically developing children. Numerous other community and service organizations are financially supporting this project. This playground encompasses a 6000 square foot area near Lions Lake, and future plans are to include a pavilion with a family restroom. Projected completion is by spring 2014.



The City of Washington has planted literally hundreds of trees in the past several years to enhance the beauty of the com-

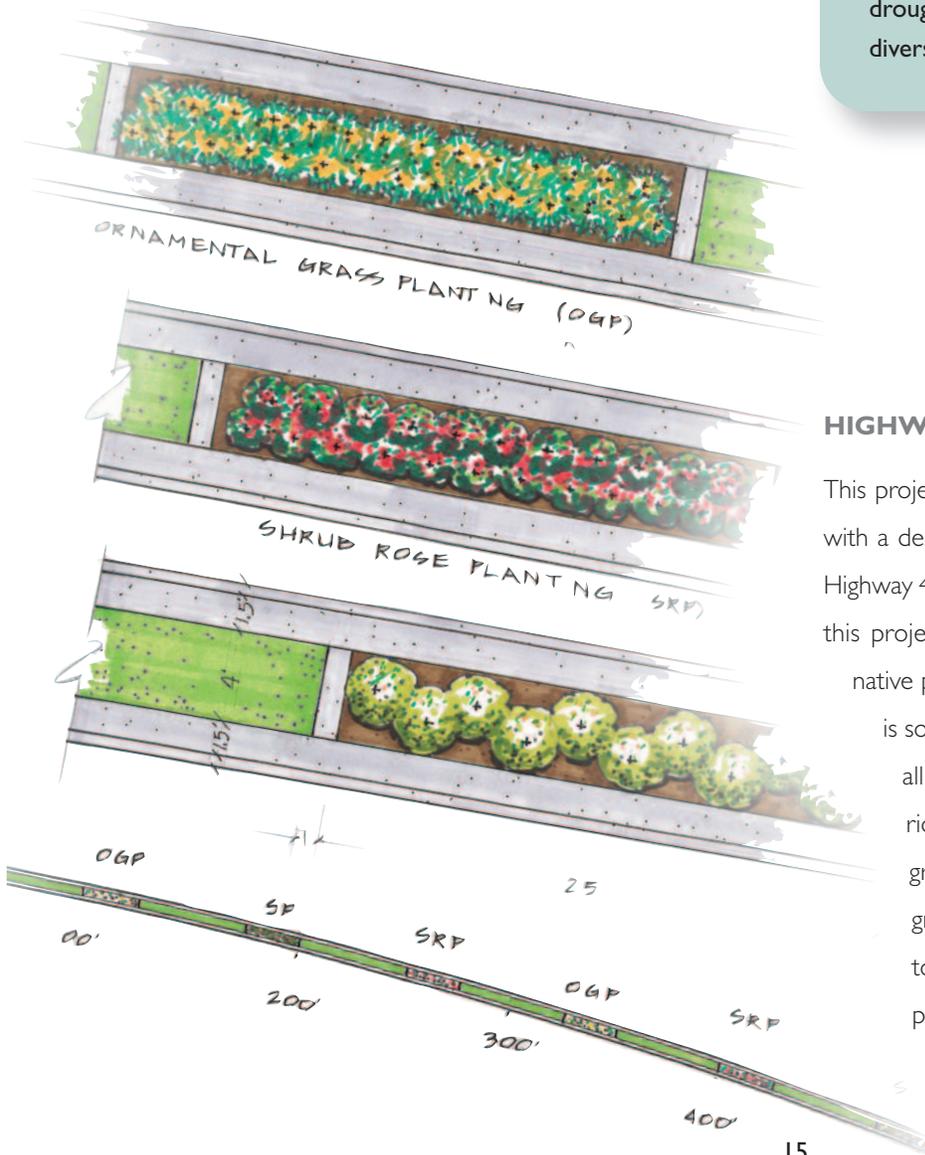
munity. The rich German heritage of Washington is evident today in the neatly landscaped municipal parks and business areas as well as the countless numbers of beautiful private lawns and gardens within the city. Working together, the city's Parks and Recreation Department along with many service organizations provide thousands of hours toward the beautification of Washington.

BEAUTIFICATION PLAN

A park visitor experiences with all his or her senses. Therefore, beautification planning should enhance desirable attributes such as great views and pleasant smells. The visual environment is of major importance to most park users. This visual experience can be enhanced by coordinating all aspects of the park development. All man-made elements should relate to the resource, either blending with it or enhancing it. As such, the City is currently developing a Beautification Plan to provide overall direction to the Parks and Recreation Department in the management of beautification and landscaped areas.

The objectives of the Parks and Recreation Beautification Plan are as follows:

- Provide landscapes for park patrons to enjoy that are sustainable in their design, construction, and maintenance practices.
- Use sustainable landscapes featuring native plants, conserve plants and trees that are native to the region.
- Protect and provide wildlife habitat and a healthy ecosystem.
- Demonstrate sustainable landscape management practices to the greater community.
- Make aesthetics and view sheds a prime consideration.
- Consider all key design issues such as: shape, color, texture, seasonal interest, growth rate, mature size, drought tolerance, native plants, Plants of Merit, plant diversity, and maintenance.



HIGHWAY 100 ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

This project includes median gateways and landscaping along with a designated bicycle route along Highway 100 between Highway 47 and Brookview Drive. As motorists enter the City this project provides a beautiful improvement with 16,146 native plantings in the medians. The Highway 100 corridor is softened with the addition of landscaped medians and all modes of traffic are able to cross and utilize the corridor in a safe manner. The City of Washington exudes great community strength with the successful award of grant funding to pursue this enhancement project. The total cost of the project is \$750,000.00 with the City's portion being \$150,000.00.

URBAN FORESTRY

community forestry program

Washington has been a Tree City USA for 9 continuous years and was the first city in Franklin County to receive that designation. To qualify, the city must have a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least two dollars per capita, and an Arbor Day observance.

For a recent Arbor Day project members of the Urban Forestry Council and volunteers planted 36 containerized trees and over 100 seedlings along the Rotary Riverfront Trail. The trees were bottomland varieties of oaks and hickories.



The City received the Rob Emmett Award of Recognition from the Missouri Department of Conservation for its dedication and commitment to community forestry. This honor was only awarded to 3 communities within Missouri in 2010.

The City applies for funding from the Missouri Department of Conservation for the Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance grants (TRIM). Having been successful with this grant

funding 5 of the last 8 years, projects have included in sequential order: complete park tree inventory and management plan, tree planting and educational brochure development,

**projects
included
complete
park tree
inventory**

priority one pruning on hazardous trees, fraxinus removals and replacement planting, and a 2 day comprehensive arboriculture training class for all parks department employees.

The Parks Department has an ongoing memorial tree program that citizens can utilize to honor their loved ones who have passed away.

For 5 years, the Parks Department included a staff member who was an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist. This resulted in the implementation of many programs that are currently used and/or being improved upon.

suggested tree list brochure available

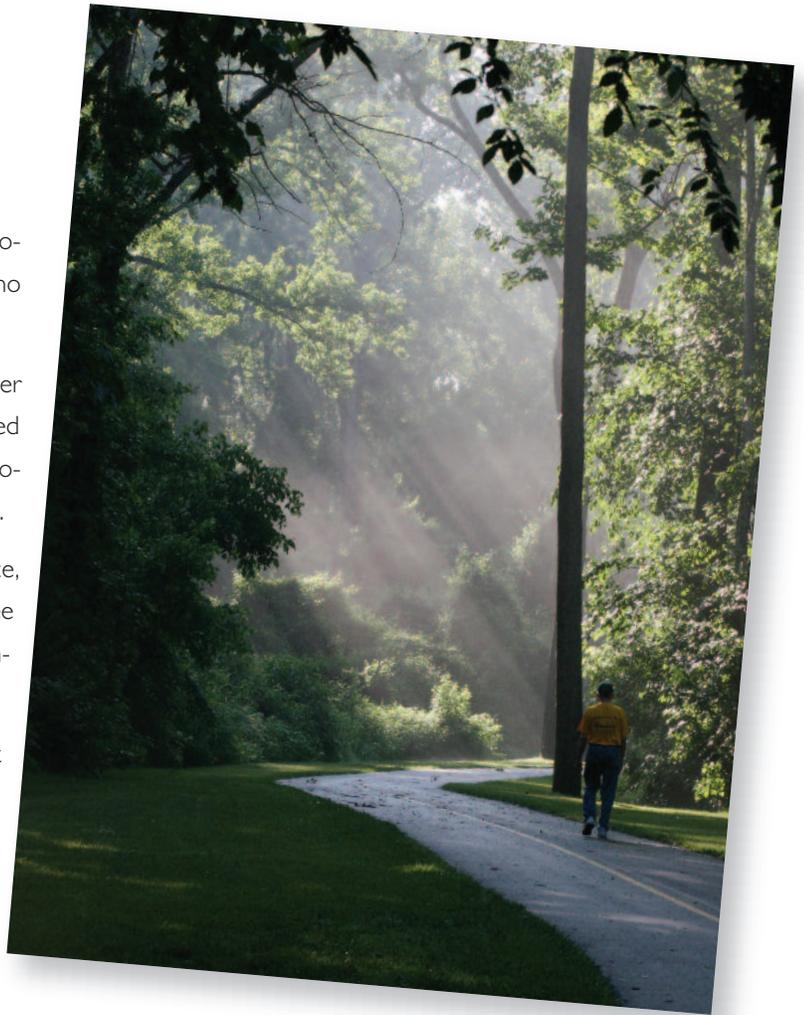
Whenever a tree requires maintenance, complete records are kept on the tree keeping software in the tree inventory/management system.

The Parks Department has 2 bucket trucks at its disposal to handle all pruning needs of the City Park trees. A stump grinder is also available for stump and root chipping whenever a tree is removed.

The Parks and Recreation Department has made a suggested tree list brochure for people of the city. The brochure is available online as well as at the Parks Department office.

Various trees throughout the Washington park system are identified with labels. The Parks Department maintains the “Tree Walk” around Lions Lake and has educational brochures available at that site as well as at the Parks office. It is also included in the supplement portion of the “Washington in Bloom” book which many have purchased. The tree walk highlights the over 40 different species of trees which are contained within the .6 mile walk around Lions Lake. This has been a great educational tool for the parks department to use for scouting groups and classrooms from the local grade schools. The tree walk makes for a perfect one hour show-and-tell highlighting the trees around Lions Lake.

The Parks Department uses gator bags on newly planted trees, when required, and has its own water tank for additional maintenance.



Citizens are able to drop off any yard clippings or tree limbs at the city composting center.

The debris that is brought in from the community is composted and then turned into mulch which is available free to the community.



URBAN FORESTRY cont'd

community forestry program

The Urban Forestry Council completed a planting project at one of the city's water tower lots. The lot was previously maintained as just a grassy area. Over the course of a 4 year time period the area has been transformed into a native Ozark planting area which has over 38 different native community plant species. All the plants are labeled and this area provides the community with real live examples of native plants that they can use in their own landscapes.



The Jefferson Street streetscape project was completed with the addition of Princeton Sentry Ginkgo Biloba trees at every intersection. The trees were chosen specifically to match the sites where they would be planted and have provided some much needed greenery and beauty to an otherwise barren streetscape.

FACILITY AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

It is generally recognized that the development of parks and recreation land and facilities has a positive influence on the local economy and quality of life. Parks and recreation assets are of public interest and proven benefits in terms of social, economic and environmental qualities.

One of the missions of the Parks and Recreation Department is to establish and maintain public policies that address parks and recreation resources within its jurisdiction. In order to consistently carry out its mission and serve the parks and recreation needs of the people, the Parks and Recreation Department is currently developing a "Facility and Land Use Management Plan" which shall be designed to aid in the development of park lands and facilities.

MAINTENANCE OPERATION STANDARDS

The success of the Parks and Recreation System is ultimately measured on the ability to provide a high level of parks operation and maintenance. To a large extent this will be governed by the ability of the city to effectively incorporate the man-

agement of the operation standards into the ongoing operations.

One of the missions of the City is to establish and maintain public policies that address parks, trails and facility maintenance operations within its jurisdiction. In order to consistently carry out its mission and serve the maintenance needs of the people, the City has developed a "Maintenance Operations



Management Strategy" to provide overall direction to the City in the management of park, trail, and facility maintenance. This plan strives to create;

- 1) Maintenance Operation Standards
- 2) Maintenance Investment Plan
- 3) Renovation/Refurbishment Investment Plan, and
- 4) A Capital Improvement Plan for the Parks and Recreation System.

serve the maintenance needs of the people

The Maintenance Operations Management Strategy addresses the general upkeep of the Parks and Recreation System, as well as determines staffing needs to adequately carry out the maintenance

operations. This strategy shall also serve the City in projecting maintenance and staffing needs in future parks projects and budgeting.

BIKABLE-WALKABLE COMMUNITY PLAN

The planning process for the City of Washington's Bikable - Walkable Community Plan was initiated in the fall of 2009 and was recently adopted by the City. This plan will become the guide for an expanded system of interconnected trails and on-street bicycle facilities – for recreation, transportation and tourism. It will be implemented over a period of time as funding opportunities for particular segments coalesce. The City will minimize demands on local funds through grants and other outside assistance. The anticipated implementation horizon is ten years.

ARBORICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SPECIFICATIONS MANUAL

In 2014 the Parks and Recreations Department developed an Arboricultural and Horticultural Specifications Manual which is a supplement to all "Tree, Landscaping, and Vegetation" Ordinances for the city of Washington. It is intended to serve as a guide for persons planting or performing work on any plant material on city-owned property or public rights-of-way.



Arbor Day Celebration

Members of the Washington Urban Forestry Council and Park Board planted this bur oak tree Tuesday, April 10, in front of the parks department building in celebration of Arbor Day. The tree was donated by Franz Meyer, a member of the Urban Forestry Council. The bur oak is one of the 20 trees planted by the parks department this month. From left are Mike Smith, Urban Forestry Council; Jim Jackson, Urban Forestry Council; Steve Ruether, park board member; Josh Pedersen, assistant parks director; Brian Boehmer, parks director; Sandi McDonald, Urban Forestry Council; John Steffens, Urban Forestry Council; and William Davit, Urban Forestry Council.

Missourian Photo.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORT

summary of environmental works

The City of Washington's water system provides quality drinking water and fire protection to the citizens of Washington. The City's water comes from nine deep ground water wells controlled by a state-of-the-art scada system, with an accumulative pumping capacity of 6.4 mgd (million gallons daily). The current average usage is 2.0 mgd. The tank storage, which consists of three water tanks, has a capacity of 2.5 million gallons. Fire protection is also an extremely important aspect of the system



which maintains over 1000 fire hydrants. The City has recently installed an automatic meter reading system which allows for billing of water usage on an actual monthly basis. This will give the city the ability to detect higher than normal water usage at a resident's property. With this the city will be able to contact them and possibly catch any leaks within the residence. Sewer charges throughout the year are based on winter water usage.

With regards to wastewater treatment, the city boasts a new 22.6 million dollar treatment facility which was completed in 2009 at 200 Kingsland Drive. The 4 mgd facility can be increased to 6 mgd to accommodate future growth. The hydraulic capacity of the new plant is 12 mgd. This facility is the first VLR® (vertical loop reactor) and the first Cannibal® solids reduction process constructed in Missouri. The new facility has an influent pump station, screening and grit chambers, vertical loop reactors, final clarifiers, ultraviolet disinfection, and sludge digestion.

At this time, the sludge cake is used as cover material at our landfill which is the most cost effective disposal method for the City. The treated/disinfected wastewater is discharged to the Missouri River. The advantages of this plant are that it is compact and can still be upgraded to accommodate future growth; and during wet weather it can handle flow up to 18 mgd with little interference to the effluent quality. Laboratory testing of the characteristics of the effluent show that BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand) and suspended solids have levels of less than 4 mg/l, well under the operating permit limit of 20/30 mg/l. Ammonia levels in the effluent are also consistently less than 0.1 mg/l. The VLR and the Cannibal® solids reduction process both work to re-



duce the amount of biosolids produced. This decreases the costs associated with the wasting, processing and disposal of biosolids.

Within the city limits, skirting the Missouri floodplain, is a paved river trail nearly three miles long for hikers, bikers, buggy pushers and wheelchair riders. Parking is available at both ends. Dogs are permitted on leash only. This trail, though mostly wooded on both sides, also features a tall grass prairie demonstration plus tree plantings from the City's Urban Forestry Council. Bat houses and bluebird houses have been installed at intervals along the route. The Rotary Riverfront Trail is used from time

to time for nature instructional purposes. Each spring the City of Washington and the Rotary Club sponsor narrated tram rides for senior citizens along the trail.

In 2013, the Parks and Recreation Department received the designation as a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat, through the National Wildlife Federation, for the certification of 8 parks.

A number of local restaurants are, not only incorporating Green Practices into their everyday operations, they are also using biodegradable packaging for to-go boxes. There is heightened awareness that consumers prefer to go green. Hillermann Nursery is a satellite collection center for the Missouri Botanical Garden plastic pot recycling program.

initial recycled items were mostly newspapers

Downtown Washington, Inc. is working out details for offering an incentive program to businesses who purchase LED lighting. Many companies are on board with this environmental effort.

Recycling in the City of Washington, Missouri began as a very small operation in the mid 1980's. It came into being as a result of the efforts of a few dedicated and staunch proponents of recycling. They approached the City of Washington Parks Commission with a request to use one of the cattle barns normally used only during the Washington Town and Country Fair. The barn was an ideal temporary location, providing space and cover for the recyclers. It was a drive-through operation, and the initial recycled items were mostly newspapers, certain plastics, and empty glass bottles. Recycling in Washington was on its way! The sponsors of the program were indeed happy with the way recycling was received by the community.

It was soon apparent that a bigger area was needed to store the materials that were being collected. The City of Washington owned property on Westlink Drive and that ten acre site would lend itself very well to an expanded recycling operation. The new recycling center was soon expanded, and the City of Washington now began a weekly curbside pickup of recyclable materials.



The list of materials that the city accepts as recyclables is extensive: glass, tin cans, aluminum cans, newspapers, magazines, corrugated cardboard, and used motor oil. Additionally, the citizens of the community can deliver tree limbs, leaves and yard debris to the recycling center on Recycle Drive. This material is then ground up into compost which is available free to residents living in the 63090 zip code. The

city also provides a twice yearly free curbside pickup of large used appliances, as well as other large qualifying items, which are then taken to the city landfill or recycling center.

Recycling has been good for the city and its residents, and the City's recycling program is the envy of others in the State of Missouri.

For public distribution the City has printed leaflets for curbside recycling (including benefits and fun facts) as well as a leaflet outlining its environmental services.

These include:

- Curbside refuse and recycling collection, rotated according to neighborhoods.
- Curbside leaf and limb pickup, rotated according to neighborhoods. (Christmas trees are also picked up.)
- Pickup of large disposable items on specified dates in April and October,
- Comprehensive recycling that accepts newspapers, corrugated cardboard, plastic and glass bottles, tin cans, aluminum cans, magazines, phone books, office paper stock, shoes, waste oil, large appliances and scrap metal plus leaves and yard debris.
- A public landfill for in-town and out-of-town residential and commercial customers. Materials not accepted include hazardous and radioactive materials, flammable and volatile substances, lead-acid batteries, and waste oil.
- Drop off E-cycle events are held in April and October, usually the second week of the month prior to our large clean up week. Residents can dispose of any electronics, phones, computers and one TV at no charge. Additional TVs have a \$15.00 charge.
- A drop off shred event for secure document destruction was free to city of Washington residents last year and hopes are to make it an annual event.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection events are held about every 6 years, if money is budgeted and approved by administration. Items collected at these events are paint, chemicals, pesticides, cleaning supplies, etc. If residents have paint to dispose of or questions on how to dispose of items they contact the Street Department.

materials that the city accepts as recyclables is extensive

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORT cont'd

summary of environmental works

Washington is now even recycling shoes. The City of Washington is proud to be the first city to form a cooperative partnership with The Shoeman Water Project. This keeps more shoes out of the landfill and gives them a second life to be sold and worn in developing countries. Proceeds generated are used to purchase well drilling rigs, water purification systems

our local school districts are going green

and other supplies to bring clean, fresh water to those in need. All we must do to participate in this worthy effort is to clean out our closets, tie or rubber band any unneeded but usable shoes and take them to the Recycling Center, the Downtown Post Office, Hillermann Nursery or to Brown's Shoe Center. The Shoeman team will begin the next step toward clean water!

Our local school districts are going green, as well. St. Francis Borgia has gone to ipads as replacements for textbooks, newsletters and memos. The students and their families are "religious" about paper recycling. The Washington School



District is going to a green system of trash collection on all ten campuses. The items will be sorted and recycled when possible. This will prevent much of the trash from going into the landfills and save the district money on trash hauling, as well. Our local office supply stores are recycling ink cartridges or refilling them to extend their use.

With support from many generous sponsors, the all-volunteer organization Missouri River Relief regularly does trash clean-ups along the river's channel and shorelines. Their "barge crew" also participates in educational programs under the leadership of Gloria Bauermeister and Mike Smith. Recruiting local help, this relief group organizes activities that take place twice a year from

does trash clean-ups along the river's channel and shorelines



the city's James E. Rennick Riverfront Park. Local quilters who value the peace, tranquility and beauty of our clean river created quilt panels of the Mighty Missouri River.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The City has developed a Natural Resource Management Plan to provide overall direction to the Parks and Recreation Department. This plan strives to balance the objectives of providing for recreation in all park areas while responsibly managing natural resources such as vegetation, wildlife habitat, soil, water and energy. This plan provides sound direction in the maintenance of parks and public landscaped areas to ensure optimum benefits to the environment and the community.

This management plan provides strategic direction as follows:

- Assessment of current conditions
- Goals and Objectives
- Procedures and Guidelines that enable the Parks and Recreation Department to protect, preserve and enhance natural resources

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The City has also developed an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM), which is a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical and chemical methods. That will minimize the effects on the environment, and minimize health risks, while considering budgetary restrictions. The Parks and Recreation Department will follow this plan, which outlines how both passive and active modes of maintenance are vital to the preservation of any environment.

PARKS STORM WATER OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM PLAN

In 2014 the Parks and Recreation Department developed a Storm Water Operations and Maintenance Program Plan to prevent pollution, to safeguard the environment for the health and benefit of all Washington employees, residents and visitors.



The objectives of the Parks and Recreation Department's IPM program are as follows:

- To protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community
- To provide efficient cost effective maintenance of the City's park resources, which includes non-chemical controls whenever possible
- To design new and renovate existing landscape areas that suit site conditions with sustainable maintenance practices, thus providing a comprehensive stewardship of parks and natural resources
- To restore, create and protect environmentally valuable areas such as wetlands and riparian areas, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat, forests, and meadow areas.

HERITAGE

preserving our past for future generations



WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

The Society was founded in 1959 and, since 1995, has made its home in the historic Presbyterian Church building in downtown Washington. The building houses an extensive museum highlighting Washington's colorful history with both permanent and rotating exhibits. Many unique businesses are featured, including the *first* Busch Brewery (est. 1854, *before* the St. Louis brewery of the same name), Schwarzer Zither Factory (1866) and the Missouri Meerschaum Corn Cob Pipe Factory (1868).

An average of 3,000 visitors are drawn to the museum every year. In addition to the exhibits, a favorite program is "Evening at the Museum", which is held monthly and addresses topics of local interest. The Society has expanded to include the neighboring historic AME Church and an old fire station. The Firehouse Museum features a collection of lovingly restored antique fire trucks and equipment and vintage automobiles. The vehicles are proudly displayed in parades. A printable walking tour of Historic Washington is available on their web site (www.washmohistorical.org).

The museum is a favorite destination of school children from the sur-

rounding area. As an extension of these on-site visits, there are a series of "Traveling Trunks" containing local historic items and lessons teachers may check out for use in their classrooms. There are also a number of adults who conduct programs in the schools portraying local figures such as Daniel Boone and Lucinda Owens.

Social gatherings are held quarterly for society members and include two events specifi-

**fire trucks
and
equipment
lovingly
restored**



cally for fundraising purposes. The appropriately named "January Dinner" is a semi-formal affair which includes a meal, silent auction of antique and collectable items, and guest speakers who portray themselves as costumed characters significant to local history. Characters have included the founder of Washington, Lucinda Owens, world famous zither maker Franz Schwarzer, beer baron John B. Bush and even the infamous serial killer Bertha Gifford, who resided in nearby Catawissa. The Fall Fund-Raiser is held to benefit the Washington Historical Society Foundation. Established just a few years ago, the



Foundation is meant to eventually provide monies to ensure the continued operation of the museum well into the future. Fall events have included "An Antebellum Evening" held at the historic Lucinda Owens home, pig roasts followed by tours of historic downtown buildings and a vintage fashion show spotlighting men's and ladies' fashion trends spanning more than a century.

A major goal of the society is community outreach; and several annual programs provide an avenue through which participants can not only have fun, but learn about local history. The Washington on Wheels or "WOW" Tour, Odd Fellows Cemetery Tour and the Ghost Tour offer vignettes of history unique to Washington through a venue of outdoor fun. Members are frequently called upon to provide programs for local civic organizations, school children, scouts, senior citizens and other groups.

The museum shares space with the Four Rivers Genealogical Library. Volunteers man the library and devote many hours to preserving and making their resources available to the public, including the Kiel File, a unique collection of local history which



effort to restore dignity and beauty to cemeteries which had, over the years, fallen victim to the ravages of nature, neglect after family members no longer remained to tend them, and in some cases, vandalism. The Society's objective is "to locate, research and restore historic cemeteries in Franklin County". This includes cleaning and restoring individual headstones, as well as improving cemetery grounds.

These dedicated men and women have toiled in frigid weather, as well as the broiling sun, in these pursuits. In 2011, the tombstone of William G. Owens, husband of Washington's founder Lucinda Owens, was unearthed at Krog Memorial Park during excavations to better document burials at the site of the former Bassora Cemetery. In 2012, the monument was re-erected in that location and the Washington Historical Society raised funds for a duplicate tombstone to mark the grave of Lucinda Owens. This monument has been erected and is adorned with beautiful landscaping done for an Eagle Scout project. The memorial was officially dedicated on May 25, 2014 during celebrations of Washington's 175th Anniversary.

Cemetery Society members were thrilled to be a part of this major project honoring Washington's founder. They had diligently researched the park site as well as old files to determine Lucinda's exact burial site, assuming it was next to her husband's grave. Indeed, a bill in Lucinda's 153 year old probate file indicated that she was placed in a metallic casket! A high powered metal detector owned by a society member quickly located a large metal object, nearly six feet in length and two feet wide, at the precise location.

William G. Owens, the first Franklin County Clerk, and his wife, Lucinda, had purchased the land in what is now downtown Washington and had laid out plots for a town when Mr. Owens was murdered in 1834.

He was scheduled to testify in a case of theft by forgery. The night before the trial, he was taking care of business relating to his property which was where Washington is now located. While riding his mule back to their home in Union, he was ambushed and shot, dying instantly. A suspect was taken into custody and held for a time. However, the man escaped from the makeshift prison and was never brought to justice.

Mrs. Owens continued with the plans and became the official founder of the City of Washington on May 29, 1839.

covers over fifty years of Franklin County history (1875-1925).

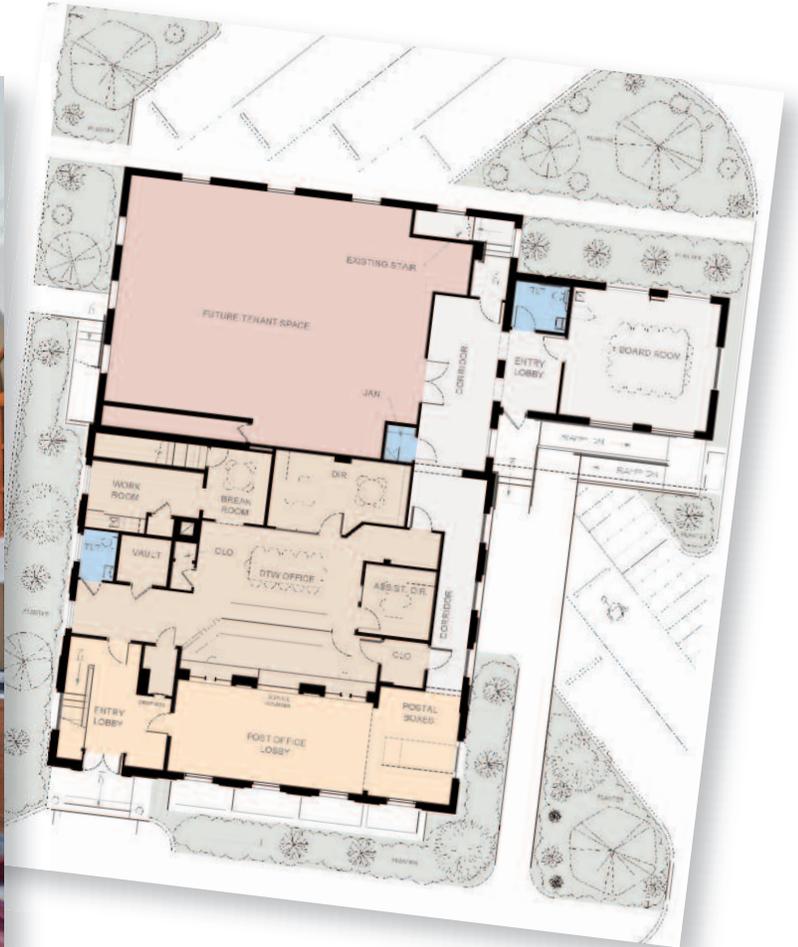
FRANKLIN COUNTY CEMETERY SOCIETY

The Franklin County Cemetery Society (cemeterysociety.org) was formed by a preservation-minded group of historians in June of 2006 in an



HERITAGE cont'd

preserving our past for future generations



DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON, INC.

Downtown Washington, Inc. became one of Missouri's first five pilot Main Street Programs in 1989. Since then, with a membership of over 100 businesses, they have proceeded with their goal of revitalizing the downtown area. Logging some 11,000 hours a year, they work on activities that benefit the downtown area and the citizens of Washington. Specifically, they have helped bring new businesses and more jobs to the downtown area. Since 2003, \$3.8 million in new construction and \$22 million in building rehabilitation has occurred. Downtown Washington, Inc. hosts events which bring citizens together and promote the heritage of the area. These include: "Sunset on the Riverfront" a family event with food and musical entertainment once a month during summer; the "Main Street BBQ & BluesFest" in April, the "Art Fair & Wine-

Fest" in May, the "Chili Cook-Off" and the "Fall Festival of the Arts & Crafts" in September, a "Pumpkin Palooza" in October, and holiday events in November and December.



WASHINGTON PRESERVATION COMMISSION

In May 2006, an ordinance was passed by City Council establishing a mapped design review area in the downtown. The Commission conducts mandatory reviews/voluntary compliance of construction, demolition and rehabilitation of private structures and public infrastructures within the Downtown Historic Review Area.

The members are appointed by the mayor and a City Council Liaison is assigned to the group. This group has funded plaques placed on both private and city owned buildings in the downtown area which are historically significant.

In cooperation with the City of Washington Engineering Department and the DREAM (Downtown Revitalization & Economic Assistance for MO) Initiative, the Commission



The Commission also recognizes rehabilitation work on significant properties within the historic areas through a Curb Appeal Award Program. A traveling sign recognizes the property honored. Within the downtown area, Washington has four National Register Historic Districts.

a vibrant reminder of the town's past

The Washington Historic Preservation Commission has been promoting the importance of Historic Preservation since

1986. The City of Washington is rich in history and has six historic districts and over thirty individually listed sites on the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings in the six districts and the individual listings together add up to more than four hundred fifty structures.

CITY OF WASHINGTON

The City owns and maintains several historic buildings. City Hall dates from 1924 and has always housed City offices. During its history it has also housed the City library and the police department. In the past 30 years, two major renovations of the building have added handicapped accessibility (ADA compliant) and

new Council chambers and a municipal courtroom. However, the historic building facing Jefferson Street, a vibrant reminder of the town's past, remains basically unchanged except for new, safer steps leading to the front door.



sponsored a Design Handbook for Buildings in downtown Washington. This valuable resource provides property owners, contractors and developers with useful information on preserving and respecting the heritage properties within our historic districts.

HERITAGE cont'd

preserving our past for future generations

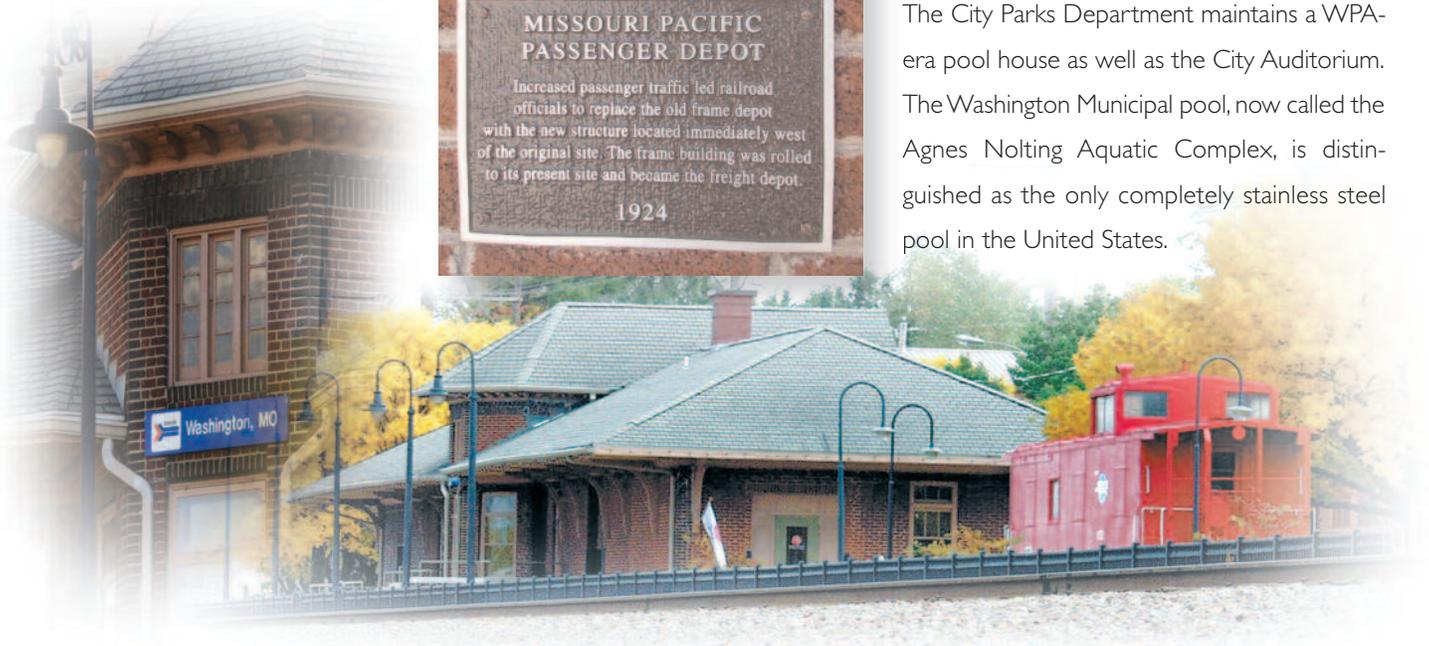
There are two buildings on Front Street recognizing Washington's link with the railroad. A freight depot, dating from 1865 and the oldest frame depot west of the Mississippi River, is leased by the City to a local business. The 1924 train depot served as a passenger station from that time until passenger trains stopped serving Washington in the early 1970s. After standing empty for years, it was brought back to life and now serves as an Amtrak station, one of the busiest on the River Runner route. Several of the original waiting room benches serve travelers today, as they have for almost 90 years! The building also holds the Washington Visitor's Center, manned by volunteers and staff and funded by a bed tax through the Tourism Committee and the Chamber. The west end of the building is the home of the United Way Office and there is an art gallery in the east end.

Another structure facing Front Street is the grand old Waterworks building, dating from 1887-88. Water was pumped from the Missouri River to a limestone cave across the street, which served as a settling basin for the river water. It was then pumped by steam engine to consumers in the downtown area. The water superintendent and his family lived



above the pump housing, maintaining the pump and its related equipment. The City currently leases the building to an antique store. It sits farther from the river these days, and the Riverfront Park now surrounds the old building.

The City Parks Department maintains a WPA-era pool house as well as the City Auditorium. The Washington Municipal pool, now called the Agnes Nolting Aquatic Complex, is distinguished as the only completely stainless steel pool in the United States.



In 1990, Washington officials signed a Sister City pact in Germany with Marbach am Neckar officials. Marbach, a lovely city about the same size as our city, also has the commonality of being in an agricultural area and is surrounded by vineyards.

signed a Sister City pact in Germany with Marbach

Also like Washington, Marbach is a clean, beautiful town with many opportunities for the enjoyment of flowers and trees by townspeople and visitors.

The year 2010 marked the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the pact in Germany. Every year since the original signing, high school students from both cities have been exchanged and the students stay in the homes of host families. Many close and lasting student and adult friendships have been formed as a result of visits back and forth.



A contingent of Marbach visitors came to Washington in 2011 to celebrate the twentieth year anniversary of the signing of the pact on our soil. We were given a tree by them as a symbol of our lasting and growing friendship. The tree was planted in the Riverfront Park.

Again in 2012, a group of Washingtonians visited Marbach. Representatives included Mayor Sandy Lucy and her husband, Gary, as well as many from our Volunteer Fire Department.



OVERALL IMPRESSION

maintenance and upkeep of the community

Washington is a precious gem nestled in the heartland of our great nation. The city has an exceptional number of attributes in the thread that makes up the happiness and contentment

a precious gem nestled in the heartland

of her inhabitants and its many visitors. In 2011, "Missouri Life" magazine ranked Washington fourth as one of the "Top Ten Towns in the State" based on quality of life. In 2012, Downtown

Washington, Inc. was one of FIVE downtowns nationwide receiving the Great American Main Street Award. It is a place that would well hold up under scrutiny of comparison to any town of its size in the country.

The downtown area is pleasantly level with excellent sidewalks, driving surfaces, and plenty of very convenient street parking as well as safe parking lots.

The streets are always clean and the storefront windows are exceptionally well decorated for every holiday and season. From spring-blooming trees, shrubs and flowers in containers to the lighted wreaths along the main streets in winter and the Christmas season, it is always a thrill to be in this "Norman Rockwellesque" downtown. The Washington Parks Department, Washington Garden Club and the local Master Gardeners are indefatigable in their efforts to maintain and create natural beauty in town.

people of every age are drawn to the grassy park and banks

Washington's riverfront has the advantage of sitting high enough above the waterline that there is never the danger of flooding the businesses. Rennick Riverfront Park, with its large pavilion, is a delightful magnet for special events or family picnics. At any time of day, people of every age are drawn to the grassy park and banks to just watch the lazy flow of the muddy river and enjoy the roar of the trains going by from a safe distance. The trains bring smiles of delight to the faces of everyone from the seniors to the toddlers. Many times--and at every time of year--the parking lots facing the river are host to people, as often alone as with others, sitting in their cars having a cup of coffee or eating a sack lunch while watching the water flow, the boats being launched, and the many types of birds over the water and shoreline.

There are many pleasant walkways around Washington and myriad opportunities for outdoor and indoor recreation and exercise. All venues are exceptionally well maintained for safety and pleasure.

There are a wide variety of shops including resale shops that people love to browse. There are excellent restaurants from



which locals and visitors can choose which offer both old-town mystique as well as delicious food.

Just a short drive away from town and you are in undulating hills of grass, farmland and woodland. There are many, many varieties of flowering and deciduous trees and evergreens.

For a nature lover--and who isn't--there are continuous opportunities for breathtaking sunrises and sunsets, rainbows and blue skies over the river, lakes and parks.

Washington holds many special events which are planned for the safety of all ages as well as for their enjoyment. One always feels safe on our streets and in our parks, knowing how rare crime is here, as well as knowing that in any type of emergency there will be more than enough helping hands stepping up.

In addition to concerned, involved citizenry, we are blessed with prize-winning law enforcement, fire and rescue services, medical facilities and excellent healthcare professionals.

We have an outstanding library and school system, including vocational schools and a two-year college nearby. The spiritual well-being of our citizens is also "in Good Hands".

The Washington Historical Society, the Photojournalism Hall of Fame and other organizations are painstaking and tire-

less in their efforts of researching and preserving history and in educating the public. Many activities are offered for learning about our histories and heritages in a very fun and agreeable way.

Of course the inhabitants of a town are its lifeblood! A person having lived in or visited other parts of the country can

readily see that Washington people are exceeded by none in their industriousness. They keep the properties neat and in good repair. Many of the public and private yards and gardens are showplaces which provide enjoyment to all who pass.

The Washington people are also unequalled in their volunteerism. Most people (and their numbers are huge) who are involved in the many public activities for entertainment are working as volunteers. This includes, but is in no way limited to the annual, nationally recognized, Town & Country Fair planned and presented by the Chamber of Commerce.



OVERALL IMPRESSION cont'd

maintenance and upkeep of the community

Whenever the call goes out for help, private individuals and their families, as well as their churches and the many local civic organizations step up.

The population of Washington is small enough to be friendly and large enough to be diverse. The "old timers" provide the thread of continuity and the "new comers" add their energy

and ideas to help keep the town growing and progressing. This is a town where even the young people come back after higher education to work and raise their families.

Now here is the rest of the story; all about the maintenance and upkeep of the community.

The City of Washington collects refuse and recycling curbside weekly. Residents and

businesses can also drop off items such as paper, glass, metal, plastics, cardboard, shoes, waste oil, scrap metal and large appliances at the city owned Recycling Center at no charge. Each year in April and October the city sponsors big trash pickup week. Residents are encouraged to clean up and maintain their properties and can set out large, bulky items for pick up. The city holds an e-cycle collection event in April and October allowing residents to dispose of electronics including computers, monitors, TV's and anything that has an electrical cord. Last year the City of Washington held a free shred event for secure document destruction and hopes to make this an annual program. Typically every 5-6 years the city hosts a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event to ensure that these items are disposed of properly. Items collected include paint, chemicals, pesticides, cleaning supplies and various hazardous wastes.

The city provides curbside leaf and limb pick up on a rotating schedule. This service is provided all year long and includes Christmas trees. Residents can also take their yard waste to the Recycling Center. Free mulch is available to city residents and can be loaded onto vehicles at no cost.

A city ordinance requires property owners to keep homes, businesses and vacant lots maintained and mowed. If the owners take no action after notification, the Street Department cleans it up and bills them for the work. A lien is also put on the property.

The city has two street sweepers out on a daily basis, weather permitting. Streets are swept at least four times per year with streets in the downtown area being swept weekly. Snow removal is provided around the clock to ensure the streets are passable and safe. The Street Department also patches potholes and cleans storm drains of debris on a weekly basis. Part time help is hired in the summer months to spray weeds along all city streets and sidewalks throughout town. Painting and routine maintenance is

curbside leaf and limb pick up provided all year

small enough to be friendly and large enough to be diverse



also a top priority. All bridges and drainage ways are cleaned and inspected three times a year to make sure they are flowing properly.

painting and routine maintenance are a top priority

Street name and directional signs are installed or replaced as needed to keep them in compliance with the Uniform Traffic Control Manual. Graffiti is removed when reported by the Police Department.

The Engineering Department budgets money annually for repairs and overlays of city streets, sidewalks and curb improvements. Handicap ramps are installed when needed. The city also has a hazardous sidewalk program.

The Parks Department takes care of 435 acres of park land and has 5.45 miles of walking and biking trails throughout the city. All city right of way grassy areas are cut every two weeks during the peak growing season. There is a dog play area at Burger Park and the city has identified and dedicated a site for a future Dog Park. Doggie waste bags are located along all trail systems. The Parks Department is currently working on an all Abilities Park located east of the Kohmueller Homestead along South Lakeshore Drive near Lions Lake. The park will feature playground equipment for children with special needs but will be

features flower pots, banners and hanging baskets in the downtown area

open to children of all abilities.

Banners and flower baskets have been installed along the main thoroughfares in the downtown area.

Downtown Washington, Inc. sponsors a clean-up day in the downtown area to promote community involvement and is encouraging property owners in the downtown area to develop a community garden.

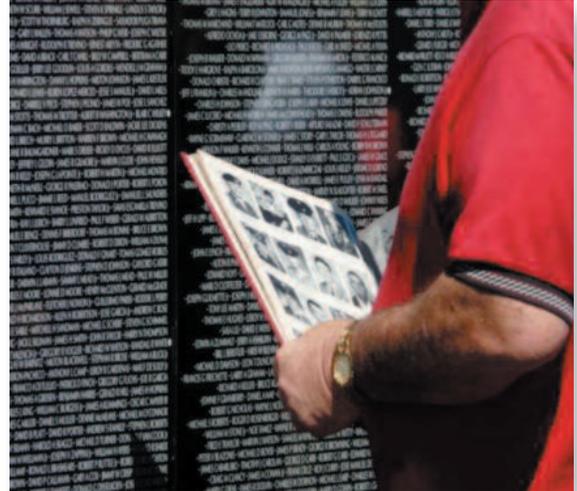


BEST IDEA

an honorable welcome home

THE MOVING WALL - AN HONORABLE WELCOME HOME

What a great idea. Let's give them the welcome home they deserve. Whether we were in favor of the Vietnam War or not, our soldiers deserve better than they got. So why not give it to them now, an idea that was thought of at the VFW for their upcoming 75th anniversary of their organization in Washington MO. The idea behind bringing The Moving Wall to Washington, MO was to honor, respect, and remember the members of the armed forces who lost their lives and those



who were missing in action in the Vietnam War as a tribute to their courage and unselfish devotion to the United States of America. It also is to remember those who returned from Vietnam, sometimes to an indifferent or hostile American public.

Visiting the wall is a way to finally welcome home Vietnam Veterans.

This event is in memory of the 25 local service members whose names appear on The Moving Wall and the 2.7 million men and woman who served in the U.S. Military in Vietnam. There are 58,282 names listed on the polished black wall that paid the ultimate price. Of these, approximately 1,300 are still unaccounted for prisoner of war and missing in action. The department of defense gave 1959 as the year of the first American casualties but later learned the first casualty was in 1956. May 15th 1975 was the last date of an American casualty.

The Moving Wall is a 50% scaled replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC. It was built as the first memorial to bring to the people. Since the debut of The Moving Wall October 1984 through September 19, 2013, when it was here in Washington, MO it had visited 1,304 communities.

The wonderful thing about Washington, MO if you come up with a great idea there will be citizens to step up and run with it. That was the



case with The Friends of Vietnam Veterans. This is a group that was formed in August 2012, and included not only VFW members but people who have the desire to make things right. Working with the city of Washington and surrounding communities as well as an overwhelming amount of volunteers

and sponsors made this idea a reality. The honorable Mayor Sandy Lucy is quoted "Washington is a very special community when it comes to recognizing those who have served in the military. In fact, we love our veterans and are always looking for another opportunity to show our appreciation for their great sacrifice." With well over 13,000 visitors to The Moving Wall we not only welcomed them home but showed them how much we care. Remember there are no noble wars, just noble warriors. God Bless our community and America.

**volunteers
and sponsors
made this
idea a reality**



We hope you
enjoyed
walking
through
Washington
with us!

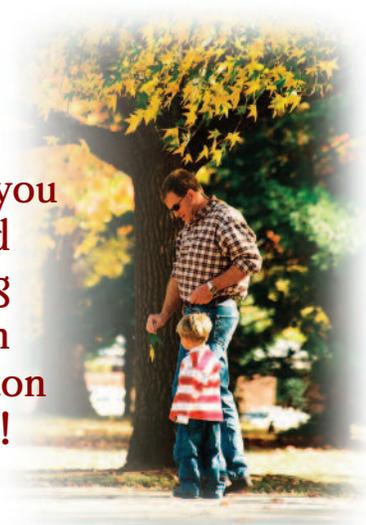


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a proud display of our beautiful city

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