

America in Bloom 2014 EVALUATION FORM



Participant: Washington, MO

Population Category: 10,001 to 15,000

Visiting Dates: July 17 and 18, 2014

Judges: Bruce Riggs and Leslie Pittenger

America in Bloom envisions communities across the country as welcoming and vibrant places to live, work, and play – benefitting from colorful plants and trees; enjoying clean environments; celebrating heritage; and planting pride through volunteerism.

All judging criteria will be adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the participant's location.

The judges' report is based on efforts in management, planning, maintenance, improvement, and innovation of each of the following criteria:

Criteria	Actual Points	Possible Points
1. Floral Displays	151.5	175.00
2. Landscaped Areas	150	175.00
3. Urban Forestry	157.5	175.00
4. Environmental Efforts	146.5	175.00
5. Heritage Preservation	159.5	175.00
6. Overall Impression	109.5	125.00
Total	874.5	1000
%	87.45%	
Bloom Rating	5 Blooms	

Five blooms = 85% Four blooms = 72.50–84.95% Three blooms = 60.00–72.45% Two blooms = 45.00–59.95% One bloom = <45.00%

Participant representatives met: (including email)

Name: Darren Dunkle	Title: Director Parks and Rec	Email: ddunkle@ci.washington.mo.us
Name: Dave Wehmeyer	Title: WIB Co-chair	Email: dave@hillermann.com
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Name: John Steffens	Title: WIB Volunteer	Email: boxstuffer3@hotmail.com

General Comments and Suggestions:

Suggestions are indicated in italics.

We are pleased to announce you are the winner of the 10,000 to 15,000-population category! Again you have attained the highest bloom award of Five Blooms. Congratulations on your achievement of receiving this important award in 2014. Your hard work has paid off. Your Washington in Bloom committee really worked hard to put together two full days jam-packed with interesting sites and people and we really appreciate all that was done. The tours went flawlessly, were very interesting, and on schedule. We can't believe how many parks and people we got to know. It was gratifying to hear that you take the prior years' recommendations seriously and make a score sheet to work at. And it was great to see you had worked towards accomplishing as many of the recommendations as feasible considering your time and budgets. And you have your own projects to do and those of others. Rather than restate the previous years' recommendations and kudos since you have been in the program for four years we will focus on the newer project areas and give suggestions not yet made to older and newer sites.

You should consider entering into the Communities in Bloom International Competition.

(www.communitiesinbloom.ca). AIB headquarters can answer any questions you may have. Or you can contact any of the judges who have visited your city, as they know you and your community.

Your committee understands the importance of what America in Bloom is all about. It is not just about flowers but includes how a city treats the environment, its heritage, urban forestry and also how everyone...businesses, residents, and the municipality can work together to make a city better. And that is what your city is doing well but can always improve on.

You have a strong volunteer corps and a Parks and Recreation Department that does the job rather than talking about doing it. Combined, your work force accomplishes much. *The next stage is to involve more of your hundreds of businesses. Many are now participating but scores of others can still be enlisted. Look into matching grants, volunteer projects (Done In A Day endeavors are a favorite) or sponsorships such as providing bicycles to the police force for patrols.*

You have many different brochures that are informative and well written. *Consider organizing them so they have the same overall look and fit a common format.*

Each year you participate in America in Bloom you will learn new ways to help your city improve as a place to live and work. We invite your continued participation, applaud your successes and wish you the best with all your new endeavors.

Bruce Riggs and Leslie Pittenger

1. Floral Displays Flower beds, containers, baskets, window boxes. Arrangement, originality, distribution, location, diversity, balance, harmony, quality of maintenance. Use and integration of annuals, perennials, ornamental grasses, bulbs, and seasonal flowers.	Max points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Leadership and plan of action for floral displays	20	16
Concept and design, variety of plantings, overall effect	20	16.5
Maintenance and quality of displays	20	17.5
Design for all seasons	15	13
Business		
Concept and design, overall effect	15	13
Maintenance and quality of displays	15	13
Residential		
Concept and design, overall effect	15	11.5
Maintenance and quality of displays	15	13
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in design, planting, and maintenance of floral displays	20	19
Financial and in-kind contributions to floral displays	20	19
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	151.5

Comments and suggestions:



Your themed floral plantings downtown really bring life to the area around the Farmers Market and along Jefferson and Main streets. Thirty-five hanging baskets are a wonderful addition to this area and we understand next year more are planned. The very large planters near the Market were some of the best floral displays in town. *Encourage the historic downtown district businesses to add window boxes to their buildings. Provide a sample each spring and/or a class on designing window boxes at Hillermann Nursery and Florist. Consider adding black dye to the water of the small water feature near the Market. It will reduce the need to constantly clean it until you drain it in the fall.*



We were very impressed by the floral planting at the “Welcome to Washington” entrance sign on Route 100 and at the corner of International Avenue. *Consider adding similar Welcome signs at the other three main entrances and coordinate the flower designs, as what we saw was superb.*

Look into getting neighborhood associations involved with floral displays to take on the task of beautifying their neighborhoods. Then have a bloom competition amongst the different neighborhoods and make sure to have it written up in the press. The same can be said for businesses. Attractive plantings at a business have been proven to increase business.

Watering planters and baskets can be a challenge. An electric cart pulling a watering tank and pump with an easy reach hose and breaker can make it easier. Occasional fertilization can induce another flush of blooms if a time-release fertilizer put into the soil at planting time is insufficient. Have a hose long enough to reach the hanging baskets from the seat of the cart and a pump "On" button nearby. A deep cycle marine battery can power everything. Use the Washington in Bloom logo on the cart as a traveling billboard increasing awareness of your program.



Large planter at Mercy Hospital



Floral displays at Immanuel Lutheran Church

2. Landscaped Areas Overall design and suitability of landscape, turf and ground covers. Use of native plants. Overall design and suitability for location/use; good use of design principles (i.e., balance of plant material and constructed elements, harmony, color, texture, shape, etc.). Sustainability. Integration of hardscapes, lighting, site features, sculpture. Maintenance (weeds, mulching practices, edging); site rejuvenation and rehabilitation. Efforts in strategic planning. Community gardens, children’s gardens, public gardens and zoos.	Max points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Overall design and planting of landscape, turf and groundcovers	15	14
Environmental management of sports fields and turf	15	13
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	13.5
Sustainable management, naturalization and eco-design	15	14
Business		
Overall design and planting of landscape	15	11.5
Environmental management of turf and groundcovers	10	7
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	12
Residential		
Overall design and planting of landscape	15	12
Environmental management of turf and groundcovers	15	12
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	13
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in funding, planting, and maintenance of landscaped areas	15	14
Participation in future planning (committees, councils, and advisory boards.)	15	14
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	150

Comments and suggestions:



The more we saw the landscaping beds around town the more we noticed the Black-eyed Susans selected as city flower. This is a very dependable, long lasting perennial that has a lot of similar looking relatives that can be used to extend the extent of bloom. *If you were to develop a “sunflower relatives” palette of perennials you could have bloom from May through October.*

Look into purchasing what are known as Korean Chrysanthemums. They bloom later in the fall but are perennial and might survive your climate. Sometimes they are planted in mass at one specific location to get the most bang for the buck. Put them where people congregate in October.

To get better fruit set on your plantings that have attractive fruits consider enticing a honey beekeeper to place hives in your community. They could be placed in the more rural landscapes such as your land near the small golf course or in the new prairie planting along the river. Market the honey as Washington in Bloom honey made by happy bees for happy residents! Put a tag line on it saying not for out-of-towners, as it will make you want to stay in Washington!! Sell it at the fair.

Overall your community’s plantings are weed free; however, there were some streets with weeds in the cracks. We did see someone spraying for them. *Rather than spraying the weeds consider purchasing a propane torch*

setup to eradicate them. Just make sure to carry water to put out a fire if one starts!

Consider an ad hoc Weeding Wednesday group to tackle various areas needing attention. Enlist civic organizations, master gardeners and area residents to join in and make light work of weeds! Start an email list of volunteers so a schedule can be circulated to interested "weeding warriors".

The median plantings of native plants looked spectacular at the time of our visit. Consider expanding this program to other areas as monies become available.



The Rose Garden is in need of updated permanent labels for marking the varieties of roses. Consider planting additional roses there to fill out the planting bed.

Area churches sponsored some community gardens. Designate a portion of a park or a vacant lot to allocate for garden spaces for residents to rent. A water source will be needed, either rain barrels or piped water. Rent 10x10 or 10x20 plots to residents who sign a waiver and renter's agreement. Advertise at the library, senior center and apartment complexes.



The new playground at Lions Lake is the Jaycees All-abilities Park. Landscaping on the slope could include ground covers to reduce the amount of mowing necessary and insure the safety of employees while doing maintenance. Trees were placed to reduce erosion and will provide shade.



Colorful landscape by local resident



Butterfly Garden at Rawlings



Rose Garden near Angel of Hope Garden



Community Garden at 2 local churches



Native plantings at Phoenix Park

3. Urban Forestry Distribution, variety and suitability of trees; new plantings; urban tree program; qualified personnel or access to trained individual(s); inventory or database; frequency of tree surveys; care and maintenance programs; preservation of heritage trees and woodlots; scheduled succession plantings. Efforts in management, planning, maintenance, improvement, and innovation. Written policies, by-laws and regulations, long and short term plans.	Max points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Overall plan of action, tree planting programs, variety of species, inventory	20	19
Tree maintenance	15	13.5
Preservation and restoration of natural areas	15	14
Tree protection/planting regulations and by-laws	15	14
Business		
Overall planting program	20	17
Tree maintenance	15	13
Residential		
Overall planting program	20	17
Tree maintenance	15	13
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in funding, planting, and maintenance of trees	20	19.5
Volunteer involvement of youth in tree programs (i.e., Arbor Day, etc.)	20	17.5
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	157.5

Comments and suggestions:

You are doing a very good job of adding trees to your community. However, it seems that the city needs new enforceable mandatory regulations which require new housing developments and new shopping centers to plant more trees. One way to accomplish this is to require a considerable mitigation fee if planting is not done. If a fee is paid then put that money in a specific fund to plant and care for city trees. And if they plant trees, require that they are responsible for them for a period of three or four years and that they are also responsible for watering and replacing trees. Keep a returnable pro-rated deposit.



You have made a considerable investment in the plantings at the water tower and are congratulated for your efforts. However, the water tower tree plantings need better plant labels and interpretation. This could be a nice Eagle Scout project.

Consider keeping an inventory of the fauna seen at the water tower site as it matures into a green park. Involve high school students so it is on-going each year.

Your tree database needs to be brought up to date on a regular basis.

Use website <http://tree-tech.com/eve/ubb.x?s=508606541&cdra=Y> for difficult tree care questions. The link is to the website known as the “knothole”.

Congratulations on 9 years as a Tree City USA and winning the growth award in 2013! *Consider adopting the 10-20-30 rule for establishing tree diversity. The rule suggests an urban tree population should include no more than 10% of any one species, 20% of any one genus, or 30% of any family. Use the tree inventories to determine the current needs in each park and publicize needs in the paper, on the website and at local nurseries. Community education is important so that they can make educated decisions when planting trees on their property.*



The Parks Department maintains the “Tree Walk” around Lions Lake and provides educational brochures at the site. At the time of our visit the brochure box was empty. *Supply park employees with brochures to refill the box when mowing.*

A community contest was held to determine the city flower, bird and tree. The dogwood was chosen. *Cornus florida*, is a genus of about 30–60 species of woody plants in the family Cornaceae, commonly known as dogwoods. Most are deciduous trees or shrubs, but a few species are nearly herbaceous perennial subshrubs, and a few of the woody species are evergreen. Most people only think of white or pink dogwoods. *Consider using an area to plant and educate the residents and visitors on the wide variety of dogwoods.*

4. Environmental Efforts Sustainability practices. Recycling (paper, glass, metal, plastic, electronics, etc.), policies and by-laws, sustainable development strategies, waste reduction, hazardous waste minimization and collection (oil, paint, chemicals, used batteries, etc.), water quality and conservation, energy conservation, environmental cleanup activities, reducing carbon footprint, environmentally friendly transportation, LEED certification, air, noise and light pollution, rain gardens and rain barrels, composting, energy efficiency, youth programs, etc. Events such as Earth Day, Recycling Days, Bike to Work Days, etc.	Max Points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Leadership in environmental initiatives	25	22
Effective communication of environmental strategies and initiatives	25	20.5
New programs, improvement and innovation	25	22
Business		
Participation in environmental efforts	20	17
New programs, improvement and innovation	10	8
Residential		
Participation in environmental efforts	20	15.5
New programs, improvement and innovation	10	7
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in environmental efforts	20	18
Youth participation in environmental activities	20	16.5
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	146.5

Comments and suggestions:



The Missouri River floodplain restoration project has turned into a BIG success for the city and the community. The trail is 3 miles long, paved and mostly shady with parking on either end. Many people on a daily basis use this educational trek. Trees have been planted, benches installed and a tall prairie grass plantings was done in an area that wasn't being used. *The use of mycorrhizal fungi on future plantings at this site will improve the soil and increase the chances of plant survival.* Walking the trail is an educational experience packaged as exercise! Birdhouses and bat houses have been installed. Osprey sometimes known as the river hawk or fish hawk love rivers. *Find an area where the river is visible so that trail users can observe the birds and erect an osprey platform for nesting.*

The Parks and Recreation Department is a hard working group. The newest project at Phoenix Park is located behind a retail development that was required to make space for retention ponds. They worked to have the area receive the designation as a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat. Land was donated to the city and they have turned it into an eco-friendly area for wildlife and residents. The use of rocks, native plants and a nature trail will increase the educational as well as naturalized uses. Restroom facilities are available near the parking lot. *Install air dryers in the bathrooms, reducing the need for paper towels.* An Eagle Scout project has already been done to map the trail and its length. The plaque and plantings were very nice *and something similar is needed for the other entrances.*



The City of Washington has been recycling since 1995. They have just recently added shoes to the items that

can be dropped off. Shoes are part of The Shoeman Water Project, keeping shoes out of landfills and being used in developing countries to be sold and worn. Proceeds from the sales goes towards well drilling rigs and water purification systems. Washington is making a difference across the globe!



The recycling facility offers drop off for appliances and the city sponsors curbside pickup in spring and fall for these items. The hours for drop off are user friendly with 8 hours available on Saturday. Signage was located at each bin. *Signs need repainted as they have become worn over the years. Peanuts and bubble wrap were not being collected. Designate an area for drop-off and pick up so that those who need them can reuse these items.* E-waste is done two times each year. *Work with the businesses in the industrial park and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to sponsor and include other hazardous waste in the collection dates.*

The new fire department training facility is very nice. *The paper and cardboard being recycled could be used at the burn house to assist in training of the volunteers when the price goes down and it isn't profitable to sell. This would allow the citizens to actively assist in the training of fire fighters by donating paper!!*



Flagpoles and monuments were evident in many areas of the community. Lighting was predominately electric powered. *Consider using solar power to illuminate flags or upgrade the lighting to newer, energy efficient LED lights.*

Rain barrels were on display at the community garden at the Immanuel Lutheran Church but were not being used. *Enlist the master gardeners, the garden club or local nurseries to sponsor a class on making and using rain barrels. Donations of syrup barrels, which are single use, from the local Pepsi or Coke dealer and rain barrel kits are available online or at local dealers. www.EarthMinded.com has a superior water diverter kit.*

Work with the local Chamber of Commerce to inspire businesses to become LEED Certified. LEED, or Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, is a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices.

Washington is becoming a bike-able city. Bike lanes have been incorporated to the newly improved roads and trails are biker friendly. *Install bike racks throughout the city and at parks to encourage bike use.*



Aluminum cans and paper at center



Shoe drop off



Darren Dunkle explaining retention pond

5. Heritage Preservation		
Historical, natural, agricultural, and cultural heritage. Preservation and restoration of buildings, homes, churches, cemeteries; heritage sites and/or monuments; heritage parks, historical gardens and heritage trees; artifacts; historical society; heritage advisory committee, museums, archives, history books, and interpretative programs; ordinances and policies. Resource availability. Farmers markets, festivals and parades.		
Municipal		
Leadership in preservation and restoration initiatives	25	24
Legal protection of heritage sites	25	22
Resource availability for preservation and restoration	25	24
Business		
Conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of properties	15	13
Participation in and support of heritage/cultural activities	15	14
Residential		
Conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of properties	15	13.5
Participation in and support of heritage/cultural activities	15	14
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in cultural, historical, and natural heritage activities	20	19
Youth involvement in heritage activities	20	16
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	159.5



Comments and suggestions:



The Washington Historical Society has been active since 1959. They are effective in many fundraising events and provide programs that provide a living history of Washington. The most recent project is the setting of a duplicate tombstone to mark the grave of Lucinda Owens, founder of Washington. The marker is a match to the stone of William G. Owens, which was unearthed at Krog Memorial Park in 2011. A local Boy Scout selected landscaping the area as his Eagle Scout project. The finished design is stunning. The bench at the monument site is very close to the stones. *Consider moving it to the shaded area located behind the current bench site as a better place to enjoy the markers.*

Downtown Washington was one of Missouri's first Main Street Program communities. Since its membership it has grown into a thriving downtown. Activities benefit the area with festivals and special events planned often. *Promote local events through the sale of calendars designed by students. Students could interpret a scheduled event or an historic event that happened that month.*



City government is very active in protecting the historic value of downtown. The Washington Preservation Commission is in place and guarantees the compliance of construction, demolition and rehabilitation of structures in the area. They fund plaques to be placed on historically significant buildings. *A walking tour map of those buildings and plaques could be made available at the Visitors Center and Chamber of Commerce.*

The Kohmueller Farm House is being restored by Washington Preservation, Inc. The home is circa 1879 and located overlooking Lions Lake. This historic building will be an important educational tool for the schools and community. Not only is the story of the Kohmueller family interesting but the work that is being done to restore it. *Provide written information about the process of restoration and the unusual style of the home.* The property entrance gates do not now meet safety standards and will be removed and upgraded to insure that emergency equipment can reach the site. *A historical marker at the entrance with a map of the original property would assist visitors in beginning their journey back into history.*



Front Street is home to the 1924 Missouri Pacific passenger depot and the 1865 freight depot. The passenger depot is a great success story of building reuse and is now home to the Visitor's Center, the local United Way office and an art gallery. Amtrak is still using the passenger depot for passenger traffic with daily stops. One of the current benches is from the 1924 station and marked with a brass plaque. Over the years the brass has become scratched, *replace with a more durable material so that passengers will know that they are sitting in the same spots that early train passengers used.*



The Otto & Co. building is also being repurposed and renovated to become apartments, office and retail space. The fact that the building is 173 years old and remained in the family for 165 of those years is a story that needs to be told! *Work with the current owners to tell the story on a corner of the building.*

The Washington Farmers Market is a thriving building. This old building was saved from being demolished and has become the home to the Chamber of Commerce, apartments, and home of the weekly Saturday farmers market. 40+ vendors set up and are open from 8 am until 1 pm weekly. Reservations and a small fee are required to participate. The Market is also used for festivals and live music events. This venue would be the perfect location for a *Chalk festival for kids*. Visit www.chalkfestival.org to get an idea of the fun that can be had!



Lastly, you are quite aware of the importance of your historic preservation *but space and paid employees are limited and need supplementing. Work with city government, preservation committees and the historical society to address this problem and continue to plan for the future.*

6. Overall Impression Cleanliness, lack of litter and graffiti. Maintenance of public open spaces, medians and boulevard strips, streets, sidewalks, walking and biking trails, curbs, ditches, road shoulders, unattended and vacant lots, buildings, garbage receptacles; lack of weeds, dog waste policies and receptacles, notices/posters appropriately displayed, vandalism not evident. Maintenance of the hardscape: walls, lamp posts, benches, playgrounds, etc. Appropriate use and placement of graphic elements such as banners, signs and murals.	Max points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Overall cleanliness	10	9
Maintenance of public roads and shoulders	10	8
Condition of public buildings and properties	10	9
Impact of graphic elements - banners, signs, murals, etc.	10	8
Business		
Overall cleanliness	20	18
Condition of buildings and properties	20	18
Residential		
Overall cleanliness	10	8.5
Condition of buildings and properties	10	8
Community Involvement		
Participation in clean up efforts, adopt-a-spot, annual cleanup days, etc.	15	14
Recognition of volunteer efforts	10	9
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	125.00	109.5

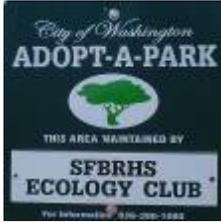
Comments and suggestions:

Washington is a city that is welcoming and growing. It is a walking and biker friendly community. There is a lot to do while participating in either mode of transportation. *Develop downloadable information on walking tours of Washington’s heritage, tree guides, native plant information and park locations and amenities.*

The use of native plantings in many areas is very attractive and will reduce maintenance for years to come. Public opinion has been mixed but the tide is turning towards favorable. *Work with local media to run a weekly column about gardening, trees, landscaping, and environmental efforts. Education of residents will improve the awareness of the benefits of what Washington in Bloom is accomplishing.*

The effort of the street department and its two street sweepers is evident. Streets are clean and sidewalks mostly weed free. *Curbs need repainting and busier city streets need centerlines. You need to remove the many layers of paint on the curbs before repainting. Residents often drive in the middle of the road making it dangerous near the parks and pool.*

City vehicles are on the move through town daily. Get the word out about Washington in Bloom by using them as traveling billboards. *Put the Washington in Bloom logo on street sweepers, city trucks and cars with magnetic signs or decals.*



Washington’s people make the difference. Volunteerism is very high and consists of individuals, churches, and local civic organizations. *Recognize the efforts of volunteers at a “planting pride” event or with a gift of bulbs to plant in the fall in their own yard or business.*

2014 marks the 175th celebration of the founding of Washington Missouri. Colorful flags were placed on utility poles throughout the town marking this achievement. There were banner poles that were not being used this year with the 175th banners. *Remove the poles leaving the brackets for future banner uses. This will help clean up the skyline.*

Benches were well maintained and in abundance in parks and trails. *Consider selling memorial benches for the downtown area where sidewalks are wider or vacant lots are available for pocket parks.*



The River is an important part of Washington’s story. *Include it in your welcome sign additions at the boat landing.*

The Parks and Recreation Department is a well-functioning group of individuals with several new projects going at any given time. The planned and needed upgrades to Phoenix Park, as well as, Burger Park would keep many departments busy for years. *Check with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Transportation and philanthropy-today@chronicle.com for possible grants available to assist in these projects. Work with city government to increase the department budget to allow the completion of projects in a timely manner.*



Street signs in Historic District



City of Washington sign



Lafayette Plaza garden



Washington in Bloom members and AIB judges

Checklist for Judges and Participants:

Yes	No	N/A	
X			Were the judges given a community profile, itinerary, and map prior to their arrival?
X			Did the itinerary provide for seeing a representative cross-section of the participant?
X			Were the guides knowledgeable about the participant and horticultural aspects?
X			Were the judges able to modify the schedule if needed?
X			Did the judges meet with the media?
X			Did the judges meet with municipal leaders?
X			Were the judges asked to give presentations?
X			Were the judges able to meet with and talk to volunteers?
X			Was enough time allotted to complete the evaluation form in a quiet place?

Comments:

DEFINITIONS

Municipal: City hall and other municipal properties, parks and open spaces, roads, roadsides, sidewalks, cemeteries, schools and sports facilities, empty lots and brownfields, libraries, hospitals, assisted living, churches, universities, and colleges

Business: Commercial and industrial sectors, shopping centers, stores, office buildings, restaurants, mixed use developments, service stations, railway and bus stations, plant nurseries/garden centers

Residential: Single family residences, condominiums, town houses, planned communities, apartment buildings, gated communities, manufactured home communities, trailer parks, residential developments, neighborhoods, graduated care facilities

Community Involvement: Volunteer efforts by individuals, clubs, youth groups, church groups, civic organizations, and social clubs for community enhancement



2014 Special Mention

Participant: Washington, MO

Landscaped Areas

The healing and reflection garden recently planted at the Mercy Hospital is a wonderful addition to the extensive array of special locations for contemplation and rejuvenation. Throughout Washington there are other secret spots such as the Angel of Hope Garden near the Kohmueller historic house or the Immanuel Lutheran Church and School Garden. We congratulate you for creating these attractive and welcoming landscapes.

Special Project or Initiative (50 words max)

The new Jaycee's All-Abilities Playground is a wonderful addition to the community. One third of the cost to build this playground was donated by the Washington Jaycees. Now special needs children can play side by side with typically developing youngsters. The attractive soft flooring and easily accessible play units are designed to let all children play safely. We applaud everyone for making this a reality.

America in Bloom ... Planting Pride in Our Communities
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