

# America in Bloom 2015 EVALUATION FORM



**Participant:** Washington, MO

**Population Category:** Circle of Champions – Mid-Sized

**Visiting Dates:** July 16-17, 2015

**Judges:** Bill Hahn, Ed Hooker III

*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	152.5	175.00
2. Landscaped Areas	150.5	175.00
3. Urban Forestry	157	175.00
4. Environmental Efforts	147	175.00
5. Heritage Preservation	160	175.00
6. Overall Impression	112.5	125.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>879.5</b>	<b>1000</b>
%	<b>87.95</b>	
<b>Bloom Rating</b>	<b>5</b>	

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: Sandy Lucy	Title: Mayor	Email: <a href="mailto:slucy@ci.washington.mo.us">slucy@ci.washington.mo.us</a>
Name: Darren Dunkle	Title: Director Parks & Rec	Email: <a href="mailto:ddunkle@ci.washington.mo.us">ddunkle@ci.washington.mo.us</a>
Name: Sally Bocklage	Title: Co-Chair WIB	Email: <a href="mailto:irishiis@yhti.net">irishiis@yhti.net</a>

## General Comments and Suggestions:

*Suggestions are indicated in italics.*

Congratulations for participating in the inaugural **Circle of Champions** judging category. Your past commitment to excellence and community pride has earned you the privilege to peer with other champion cities functioning at an elevated level of performance as well as judging scrutiny. Thank you for accepting the greater challenge of the Circle of Champions, and planting pride in your community.

Also, thank you for your fifth entry in the America in Bloom program, which exhibits your commitment to excellence in community spirit and quality of life. We celebrate your Outstanding Achievement Award for Community Involvement in 2011, Urban Forestry in 2013 and 2014, and then winning your Population Category in 2014! In addition, you've earned 5 blooms three years consecutively, and the right to compete in this elite group of peers. Commendations for your steady progress.



We applaud your stellar efforts of building the All Abilities Playground, totally in-house. This one stop fun lot for all has a clean soft surface and has become the city's most visited playground. The nearby Angel of Hope Garden is a shady, quiet site for contemplation and solace in loss. Engraved bricks memorialize loved ones while benches and buffered seclusion offer privacy for the user.

Your culture of excellence blossoms as we observed and heard of your quality public and private schools and career center, the great health care available as well as a local fair,

held at the fairgrounds within the city.

Access to the Missouri River is a tremendous asset *that should be further explored and exploited in positive ways, drawing residents and visitors from the downtown to the water's edge with signage and visual references.* The Riverfront Management Plan addresses the bottomland outside of the downtown. Our compliments for moving in the direction of gaining control of the invasive species vines along the river. Establishment of a native plant habitat accessible to the public is heartily supported. Some of the objectives have been partially implemented, *so we encourage you to follow through with the trail development to generate interest for resuming the work.*



The interpretive signage commemorating the Lewis and Clark Expedition was a great find. *Artist Gary Lucy's work should be further utilized to develop more of the local history theme. In addition, period lighting, trees and some landscape beds would all add ambience to the area near the Amtrak Station.*

The Beautification Board, a committee of twelve, deals with other aesthetic pursuits such as Christmas lights and other seasonal amenities besides flowers.

Heartfelt thanks for warmly hosting us during our tour. Washington is truly a welcoming community

and we hope you'll continue to participate in America in Bloom.

<b>1. Floral Displays</b> 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, tropical plants, and seasonal flowers that provide year-round interest.	<b>Max points</b>	<b>Actual Score</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
Leadership and plan of action for floral displays	20	16.5
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
<b>Business</b>		
Concept and design, overall effect	15	13
Maintenance and quality of displays	15	13
<b>Residential</b>		
Concept and design, overall effect	15	12
Maintenance and quality of displays	15	13
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Volunteer involvement in design, planting, and maintenance of floral displays	20	19
Financial and in-kind contributions to floral displays	20	19
<b>Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>152.5</b>

The gateway at Highway 100 is well set in generous color and foliage, visible from a distance and legible at highway speeds, adequate to view, consider and turn off; to answer the warm welcome offered. The proper use of aesthetics - color, texture, form and framing - is utilized and combined to transform the “Show Me” mentality into “See what you’re missing!”



Washington’s gateway sits with open arms and announces welcome friends. *We suggest extending the welcome into other seasons with spring bulbs, fall annuals like kale and pansies (if not already in the mix) and framing background shrubs that flower in fall or winter (like witchhazel or Golden Glory dogwood) or dark foliated background shrubs to make the annual color stand out even better.*

We didn’t notice any signage or welcome at the riverfront, by the Amtrak Station. *Here’s a prompt to the Beautification Board and administration to muse the possibility of a welcome in flowers, flowering shrubs or a mural to announce arrival from the river. The right backdrop, slope or building may become a great canvas to paint.*

Washington says it with flowers in many ways. The Black-eyed Susan was chosen as the city flower by school children. The occasion was educational as the children learned how to vote during the process. We applaud that you

added 57 hanging baskets and 47 large pots in the downtown historic district. They look great and are wonderful additions to the downtown. Flower color can and does inspire.

In fact, the Parks Department has designed and fabricated a truck-mounted system for watering hanging baskets and curb-side pots/beds. It fits a snow plow mount and can be hydraulically operated by one driver/operator to conserve labor, time and water, eliminating sole purpose vehicles and time-consuming set up. *Patent this inspired innovation! Since you have streamlined this operation, additional baskets along the riverfront could be added. Try the pole clasp type of basket for a larger, vandal resistant solution.*

Many partners contribute to color the environs of Washington. The Garden Club, established in 1939, has designed, planted and maintained floral displays at Lafayette Plaza for 20 years. Commendations! Members also promote floral displays in the private sector by labeling and judging the 700 floral and horticultural entries at the local Town and Country Fair. The Garden Club also sponsors a garden tour which funds a scholarship for a local horticulture student.



Hillermann Nursery and Florist is another valued partner who sponsors the Yard and Business of the Month contests, judged by Garden Club members and Franklin County Master Gardeners. A tour of the winners and honorable mentions follows.

The Tri-County Rose Society maintains a display garden at Hillermann Nursery and educates residents on rose culture and care. The Society also maintains a memorial rose garden behind the Kohmueller House, where the Lakeview Trails meet.

The beds around the library literally light up with annual flower color as well as perennials and flowering shrubs. Thanks to the great partnering between the Parks Department and plantsman extraordinaire, Dave Wehmeyer, of Hillerman Nursery. The beds danced between two criteria (floral and landscape) almost seamlessly. The shrub crepe myrtles were especially colorful. This same minuet, but with other dancers, was observed at many other public and private gardens around town. *Should three to four seasons of interest not be already incorporated into these gardens we suggest moving in that direction with an array of spring bulbs, fall annuals and winter interest with winter flowering shrubs and perennials such as witchhazels and hellebores.*

Washington has much to crow about, so crow we must, of the synergy between the parks staff, Hillermann's Nursery, the Master Gardeners, Garden Club, Tri-County Rose Society, volunteers and residents who color up for the garden contests. The resulting floral promenade marches on in Washington, Missouri! *We recommend you engage the younger generations to ensure that this synergy continues.*

<b>2. Landscaped Areas</b> 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. Maintenance (weeds, mulching practices, edging). Site rejuvenation and rehabilitation. Efforts in strategic planning. Community gardens, children’s gardens, healing gardens, Audubon and other specialty public gardens and zoos.	Max points	Actual Score
<b>Municipal</b>		
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
<b>Business</b>		
Overall design and planting of landscape	15	12
Management of turf and groundcovers	10	7
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	12.5
<b>Residential</b>		
Overall design and planting of landscape	15	12
Management of turf and groundcovers	15	12
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	12.5
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Volunteer involvement, i.e. garden clubs, neighborhood groups, Master Gardeners and University extension, in funding, planting, and maintenance of landscaped areas	15	14
Participation in future planning (committees, councils, and advisory boards.)	15	14
<b>Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>150.5</b>



Washington’s landscapes are testament to municipal staff and leadership and the many service organizations and partners who contribute funding, volunteers and sweat equity. Eighteen sites encompassing 532 acres and 16 parks adorn the city with pastoral scenes; playable turf and pleasing vistas as well as well-kept active sports facilities.

Compliments are offered for the diverse variety of shrubs and ornamental trees in your municipal landscapes. These areas are real head turners and contribute wonderfully to the beauty of the community.

The Steffens residence was chock-full of interesting

specimens of shrubs and groundcovers. Thanks John and Tessie, for the breakfast meeting, tour of the gardens and Mike Smith for time spent discussing work on the riverside trail.



Phoenix Park is of interest for its landscape, as 5000 native plants have been planted to date. This donated parcel functions as a series of detention basins to clean and cool runoff from the adjacent retail parking lot. It is a refreshing natural area buffered from the street-level bustle by a bank, due to its lower elevation.

The sign and planting were an Eagle Scout project. The park is very well done; both in design and installation.

More than just pretty, landscape plants, ornamental grasses, perennials and groundcovers are the work horses of the landscape. This criterion should be approached with a **form follows function** mentality, rather than from an aesthetics first perspective.

Landscape design is a process of identifying site problems and then finding sustainable aesthetic solutions. *The purpose of this suggestion is for education of new employees, seasonal or public informational leaflets offered at public places like city hall, the library, or as stuffers in utility bills. By offering practical and useful instructions Washington can expect a better informed public which is more inclined to create sustainable solutions on their properties, as well as volunteer for public projects.*

With the exception of the large scale detention project at Phoenix Park, we didn't see or hear anything about rain barrels, rain gardens or bioswales for residential or street use while on tour. *More than fads, these are items in your toolbox for solving landscape problems, conserving water and returning water to our lakes and streams as cleaner and cooler runoff; ultimately protecting aquatic species and habitat, as well as recharging our aquifers. Bioswales can be utilized effectively for erodible areas, wet weather springs, seepage on hillsides as well as all the typical applications. If your engineers and consultants aren't suggesting these solutions to you, educate yourselves and them on how the city could save substantial costs on streets projects by reducing sewer piping when utilizing creative street design such as Green Streets. Check out <http://lowimpactdevelopment.org/greestreets/>. Since you're a river town, at least garner more points for returning cleaner, cooler water for downstream users and aquatic habitat, but we think you'll see the value of the information on the subject.*

The concept of urban orchards is gaining vogue for empty lots waiting for development or co-mingled with community gardens or senior centers. *This concept can be useful when partnering with schools, senior centers and other youth organizations, creating outdoor classrooms that utilize the experience and need of seniors for purpose, as well as the vigor of youth and their need to engage with nature. The synergy can be contagious, while the produce can be used to supply food pantries or for teaching nutrition and culinary pursuits. Many fruits can be grown organically without pesticides, using biological controls. Visit <http://www.theurbanorchardproject.org/about-us> and other sites for more info.*

*Coupling this with the form follows function concept can give you a site with, for example, buffering visual blight, framing vistas, or creating outdoor rooms utilizing upright fruiting varieties or espaliered trees as walls. Strawberries as groundcover and a mix of fruiting shrubs massed or hedge rowed to separate use spaces can*

*control pedestrian traffic or create a maze, for starters. Dream and let your creative tendencies flow. Creativity breeds wonder!*

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 and green buffer zones; scheduled succession plantings. Efforts in management, planning, maintenance, improvement, and innovation. Written policies, bylaws and regulations, long- and short-term plans.	Max points	Actual Score
<b>Municipal</b>		
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
<b>Business</b>		
Overall planting program	20	17
Tree maintenance	15	13
<b>Residential</b>		
Overall planting program	20	17
Tree maintenance	15	13
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Volunteer involvement in funding, planting, and maintenance of trees (i.e. Tree City USA)	20	19
Volunteer involvement of youth in tree programs (i.e., Arbor Day, etc.)	20	17.5
<b>Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>157</b>



Congratulations on your accomplishments in urban forestry! With able leadership at the helm of the Parks Department, educated, certified staff and great partners, good results have grown. Ten years a Tree City USA, Washington has also received growth awards the past couple of years – Kudos! The well planned Phoenix Park, with multi-level retention ponds to filter stormwater from the adjacent retail parking, is planted with appropriate native species for the task, along with an intriguing trail system. First and Third Parkways are great examples of shady, walkable canopied streets, while the Miller-Post Nature Preserve is a secluded respite

with awesome large trees. *This preserve could be the making of an interpretive center.* The Maintenance Operations Standards and Arboricultural and Horticultural Specifications Manual, along with the Tree, Landscaping and Vegetation Ordinances combine to provide direction to the planting and maintenance operations necessary to promote a high quality of life for Washington residents.



The Water Tower Native Planting is a great use of a typically awkward site. The larger trees will eventually buffer the tower, plus the labeled trees will provide the residents educational opportunities to make wise choices for their own properties. *Find or create a labeling system that isn't damaging to the trees or easily vandalized. Perhaps a color code can be linked to either a site handout that identifies the species by color, or a system that utilizes a QR code and Smartphone. In addition, create a meandering trail system with woodchips to direct users through the site. This site is also worthy of a pronounced entrance.*

The Miller-Post Nature Preserve beckons as an interpretive center. *Exploit the very large pin oak over the cabin as an educational opportunity for an outdoor classroom for visiting schools or other groups, but take measures to protect the whole root system from damage by soil compaction caused by foot traffic or construction. Be creative with this as well; as it's a jewel waiting to be discovered.*



The Odd Fellows Cemetery was an educational experience for us due to the age of the head stones as well as the columbarium. It was observed that the trees were few and aging. In fact, the white cedars are among the largest we've seen anywhere. *The remnant maple alee at the entrance should be restored by planting additional sugar maples in the empty sites. The balance of the tree planting should be diversified with other species to avoid a monoculture and resultant problems.* Restoring the tree canopy along the roadways will promote walkers and interest in site and organization.

Increasing the urban tree canopy (UTC) was mentioned by Mike Smith who leads Washington in Bloom's urban forestry efforts. *This is a worthy goal that should be pursued now, rather than when issues arise that make it difficult to accomplish. Development and attrition are constantly taking their toll on the UTC for fairly obvious reasons. Developers typically take out more than they plant, and loss by attrition is a constant.* The national average UTC for cities is 40%. The higher the percentage corresponds with higher quality of life for both human and animal habitat. Benefits include: better air and water quality, less particulate in the immediate atmosphere, less solar reflection and heat sump (resulting in lower temperatures), wind reduction, more stored carbon and a more aesthetic and walkable city. The big picture is that it really makes sense. Foresighted administrations will not ignore this issue. *If your tree and development ordinances do not currently preserve trees, adding that language can limit UTC loss.*

It was observed that trees were removed on the street along the riverfront, by the Amtrak station. *Replacement of diverse species, small to medium sized trees is suggested to return the elements of shade, human scale (trees act as a point of reference for people), aesthetics and climate modification.*

Most municipalities do not have a tree loss recovery system, whereby tree damage caused by auto, utility, vandalism, advertisers or contractor damages is recovered. *A simple system can be instituted that allows recovery and will help fund tree planting and maintenance operations. Have the proper authorities report tree, shrub or turf damage by adding them to each accident report. Other non-accident damage can be observed by vigilant arborists and residents and then reported to the Parks Department. These reports are forwarded to the arborists, who use the International Society of Arboriculture formula and info to appraise the damage. The appraisals are forwarded to the authorities for pursuing, as they would for other property damage – light poles, fire hydrants, guard rails, signs, etc. Check out [www.isa.org](http://www.isa.org) or contact us for more info.*

4. Environmental Efforts Sustainability practices. Recycling (paper, glass, metal, plastic, electronics, clothing, 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
<b>Municipal</b>		
Leadership in environmental initiatives	25	22
Effective communication of environmental strategies and initiatives	25	20.5
New programs, improvement and innovation	25	22
<b>Business</b>		
Participation in environmental efforts	20	17
New programs, improvement and innovation	10	8
<b>Residential</b>		
Participation in environmental efforts	20	15.5
New programs, improvement and innovation	10	7.5
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Volunteer involvement in environmental efforts	20	18
Youth participation in environmental activities	20	16.5
<b>Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>147</b>



The 10-acre municipal recycling facility on Westlink Drive allows the City of Washington to provide award-winning recycling services to the residents. Residents and businesses alike have rallied around the city’s recycling efforts. Daily, materials including glass, cardboard, newspaper, plastic and aluminum are collected, processed, and transported to market. Other less frequent events collect large appliances, household hazardous waste and “green waste” – organics. Last year the judges recommended that Washington compile data on percentages of recycling vs. tonnage collected. *This important recommendation is being repeated, as these types of statistics can be valuable in applying for grant*

*funding to improve/update/expand recycling activities.*



The Shoeman Water Project is an innovative program that Washington has adopted to expand its recycling efforts. Used shoes are collected and refurbished in the US, and are sent to developing countries where they are sold for pennies on the dollar. Proceeds are then used to purchase well drilling equipment and water purification systems to provide healthy drinking water. Four sites around town, including the downtown post office, provide drop off locations for this great program. Since 2008, the program has kept an estimated 3 million pairs of shoes out of landfills and helped provide systems to deliver clean water to more than 210,000 people around the world. *Similar to the “ship in a bottle” exercise, school children could be encouraged to include their school contact information with their donated shoes, and work with the recipients on the other end to provide updates on the progress that the students helped support.*

As the need for energy production increases globally, and the costs associated with production and distribution continue to rise, energy conservation will continue to be at the forefront of environmental issues. Across the country, municipalities are faced with the challenges of how to reduce their carbon footprint while maintaining a level of safety and security with street lighting, traffic signals, and police and public works vehicle fleets. *Consider trading out light vehicles such as code enforcement and parking enforcement gas-burning vehicles with new electric cars such as the Nissan Leaf or the Chevy Volt.* Some states even provide grants for replacement municipal vehicles through their Departments of Environment. The Missouri Dept. of Environment Division of Energy has a low-interest loan program to assist consumers and communities in funding energy retrofit projects. Visit <https://energy.mo.gov/energy/communities/assistance-programs/energy-loan-program> for more information. Showing the residents of Washington that electric vehicles are affordable and reliable will encourage private investment in the technology. *Consider providing electric vehicle charging stations in public parking lots to promote the new technology.*

Many municipalities across the country are implementing energy retrofits to increase the energy efficiency of city-owned structures. *When considering renovations or improvements to municipal structures, consider incorporating “green” ideas such as LED lights, solar panels for heating water, and timers/motion sensors on lighting fixtures to reduce energy consumption.*

<b>5. Heritage Preservation</b> Historical, natural, agricultural, and cultural heritage. Preservation and restoration of buildings, homes, churches, cemeteries; heritage sites and/or monuments; heritage parks, historical gardens; artifacts; historical society; heritage advisory committee, museums, archives, history books, and interpretative programs; ordinances and policies. Resource availability. Farmers markets, festivals and parades.	<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Actual Score</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
Leadership in preservation and restoration initiatives	25	24
Legal protection of heritage sites	25	22
Resource availability for preservation and restoration	25	24
<b>Business</b>		
Conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of properties	15	13.5
Participation in and support of heritage/cultural activities	15	14
<b>Residential</b>		
Conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of properties	15	13.5
Participation in and support of heritage/cultural activities	15	14
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Volunteer involvement in cultural, historical, and natural heritage activities	20	19
Youth involvement in heritage activities	20	16
<b>Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>160</b>



Washington, Missouri was one of the first American cities west of the Mississippi River. A large sign in the Washington Museum proclaims “The River is Why We Are Here.” Situated on the banks of the Missouri River, the town thrived during the days of river commerce, and up from the water’s edge sprang warehouses, hotels, restaurants, grand residences and churches. From its founding in 1839 on a 50-acre parcel, the town has grown to its present size of approximately 13 square miles. Early settlers of German descent chose Washington after fleeing religious and political persecution in Europe. German surnames such as Kohmueller, Zither and Otto are intertwined in the town’s history.

The story of heroine Lucinda Owens is one of bravery and fortitude. In 1831, she and her husband William Owens purchased almost 300 acres of land at the present day location of Washington. In 1834, Owens was murdered leaving Lucinda with six children and all of the acreage tied up in probate court. In 1839, she was able to get court permission to sell 50 acres at auction at a purchase price of \$1210. On May 29, 1839, Lucinda Owens was finally able to file the necessary plat to lawfully create the city of Washington. The story of this pioneer family lives on today in the interpretive tours given at the Owens House. The stately two story brick residence Lucinda had constructed in 1838 still occupies a majestic setting on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River. Current

owners and stewards of the property graciously open their home on occasion and direct tours in period costume. For Washington's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, great efforts were made to ensure Owens descendants were involved in the celebrations. *We recommend celebrating Women's Equality Day in August by developing a module for school-aged girls to relate the story of Lucinda Owens into the state history curriculum to encourage girls to realize that nothing is impossible with enough determination and perseverance.*

The Washington Museum, operated by the Washington Historical Society, is a great example of adaptive reuse. The former Presbyterian Church is home to a collection of exhibits that chronicle the history of the community. A genealogy research library is also located in the museum, and open to the public. Visitors get a real sense of the development of Washington through well-prepared exhibits on everything from commerce to manufacturing to agriculture. The Historical Society published a 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book – "Washington, MO; 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1839-2014)" as part of the septaquinquacentennial celebration. Also, history and urban forestry intertwined as the city announced a plan to plant 175 new trees throughout city park systems. *The museum could develop a traveling trunk exhibit that could be used by local school children during Missouri Day in October. The trunks could have example of early manufacturing, period fashion, even replicas of archaeological finds from the area. The Kansas Historical Society has an excellent program that could serve as a model. Visit <http://www.kshs.org/p/traveling-resource-trunks/14969> for more information.*



Washington boasts the distinction as being one of Missouri's first five National Main Street pilot programs during the heyday of the Main Street movement. The current program evolved from a movement begun in 1973 to encourage retail to remain in downtown instead of relocating to suburban strip malls. When state funding ended for the Missouri Main Street Program in 2003, communities like Washington understood the importance of the program and continued their efforts focusing on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Four Point Approach to Revitalization of historic downtowns. In 2012, Washington won the prestigious Great American

Main Street Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Downtown Washington has a wealth of intact historic structures dating from the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many of these structures originally featured cast iron balconies. Only a few of these still exist today, but are excellent examples of architectural metalwork. *We recommend the Historical Society conduct a survey of remaining balconies, including historic photo research of missing balconies, and develop an exhibit highlighting the research.*

The Washington Historic Preservation Commission presides over the Downtown Washington Historic District and the John B. Busch Historic District which includes over 100 contributing properties. Washington boasts more than 450 protected properties within its city limits. Protection and preservation of these important culturally and historically significant properties allows Washington the ability to retain its historic character and charm.

The Historical Society has developed an architectural scavenger hunt designed for both children and adults that encourages exploration and investigation of the architecturally-significant downtown. *This program could*



*be expanded to include the explanation of architectural styles using examples found in Washington, and how they relate to the original builders.*



*One final suggestion would be to pursue the renovation of the historic Calvin Theater. Many communities around the country have successfully restored theaters from this era. Community Theater, or even small-scale first run movies could be featured, while returning an important and iconic historic building to service for the community. Successful examples can be found in Winter Garden, FL and Junction City, KS.*



<b>6. Overall Impression</b> 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 sculpture, wayfinding signs, graphic elements such as banners, signs and murals.	<b>Max points</b>	<b>Actual Score</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
Overall cleanliness	10	9.25
Maintenance of public roads and shoulders	10	8.5
Condition of public buildings and properties	10	9
Impact of graphic elements - banners, wayfinding signs, murals, etc.	10	8.5
<b>Business</b>		
Overall cleanliness	20	18.5
Condition of buildings and properties	20	18.5
<b>Residential</b>		
Overall cleanliness	10	8.5
Condition of buildings and properties	10	8.5
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Participation in clean-up efforts, adopt-a-spot, annual cleanup days, etc.	15	14
Recognition of volunteer efforts	10	9.25
<b>Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)</b>	<b>125.00</b>	<b>112.5</b>



Washington, Missouri leaves a lasting positive and pleasant overall impression on visitors and residents alike. The city’s heritage is intertwined with 21<sup>st</sup> century amenities. Public-private partnerships come together to support common efforts of environmental initiatives, community improvement and celebration of heritage. From the uncommonly good gateway on Highway 100, to the very walkable First and Third Parkways, to the inviting and pastoral parks, there is delight at every turn. The generously landscaped downtown and municipal buildings and the pleasing architecture of the residential neighborhoods are exceptional. The private gardens, farmer’s market, the historical buildings and memorials provide so much visual interest. The museums provide

connections to the past, and the awe of the Missouri River is ever present in the background. Washington implores, beckons... come!



A river town from 1830 until railroads pushed west, *Washington could recapture some of that era utilizing public art in the landscape, such as sculptures and murals, period fixtures like light poles and benches, along with interpretive signage, and sustainable hard surfacing. Dreaming big, one could easily envision paddle wheelers and locomotives spilling out of the museums, becoming almost life-size, to revitalize the riverfront.* This may be a vision the administration should consider and pass to the Beautification Board for further ponder.



Clean and presentable across all three sectors, Washingtonians clearly take a great amount of pride in their city. Indeed, the romance of a community lies not only in the nuance of natural beauty, geographic features or built amenities, but contributing to the charm is the tone set by the leaders and general population alike. The warm welcomes, genuine humility, sincere work ethic, and personal comradery and partnerships forged for tasks at hand. **“True community” happens when real people meet real needs in the context of common ground.** Our compliments are given for reaching this summit.



A brief mention of the historic buildings is made to encourage tours and educational outreaches. Just to touch on a few we thought notable, *the Post Office tour generated much architectural interest, and Zachariah Foss House should be added to any tours when completed.* Founder’s House and Kohmueller House are integral to understanding the history of the community. Very educational and satisfying presentations were enjoyed at both locations.

The riverfront area is an area of great interest and *deserves revisiting to realize more tourism, potential economic development and historical, educational pursuits. Seizing on the Daniel Boone connection is a concept worth further development.*

The Lewis and Clark paintings were of excellent quality and historical significance. *We felt this notable work is worthy of a bigger canvas and we suggest murals be considered as part of a Riverfront District.* Recognizing this is a sizable endeavour that may take years to complete, we suggest *shorter term solutions like Washington signage visible from the river, murals, trees and landscape beds that will welcome Amtrak visitors and boaters alike.*

## 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?

### 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



## 2015 Special Mentions

**Participant:** Washington, MO

### **Recognized Criterion: Urban Forestry**

Congratulations for your accomplishments in urban forestry! With able leadership at the helm of the Parks Department, educated and certified staff and great partners, you have grown good results. For ten years Washington has been named a Tree City USA and received growth awards the past couple of years – Kudos! The well planned Phoenix Park, with multi-level retention ponds to filter stormwater from the adjacent retail parking, is planted with appropriate native species for the task, along with an intriguing trail system. First and 3<sup>rd</sup> Parkways are great examples of shady, walkable canopied streets, while the Miller-Post Nature Preserve is a secluded respite with awesome large trees and the making of an interpretive center. The Maintenance Operations Standards and Arboricultural and Horticultural Specifications Manual, along with the Tree, Landscaping and Vegetation Ordinances combine to provide direction to the planting and maintenance operations necessary to promote a high quality of life for Washington residents.

### **Special Project or Initiative: Design and Fabrication of an Innovative Watering Truck**

The Washington Parks Department has designed and fabricated a truck-mounted system for watering hanging baskets and curbside pots and beds. It fits a snow plow mount and can be hydraulically operated by one driver/operator to conserve labor, time and water, eliminating sole purpose vehicles and time consuming set up. Patent this innovation!

America in Bloom ... Planting Pride in Our Communities  
2130 Stella Court, Columbus, OH 43215 • (614) 453-0744 • Fax (614) 487-1216  
[www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org) • [aib@americainbloom.org](mailto:aib@americainbloom.org)