

America in Bloom 2012 EVALUATION FORM



Municipality: Washington, MO

Population Category: 13,001 – 25,000

Visiting Dates: July 16 -17, 2012

Judges Names: Evelyn Alemanni and Barbara Vincentsen

America in Bloom promotes nationwide beautification through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of flowers, plants, trees and other environment and lifestyle enhancements.

All judging criteria will be adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the municipality.

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	147.50	175.00
2. Landscaped Areas	147.00	175.00
3. Urban Forestry	139.50	175.00
4. Environmental Efforts	129.00	175.00
5. Heritage Preservation	160.50	175.00
6. Overall Impression	107.00	125.00
Total	830.50	1000
%	0.83	
Bloom Rating	4	

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%

Community representatives met: (including email)

Name: Sandy Lucy

Title: Mayor

Email: slucy@ci.washington.mo.us

Name: Sally Bocklage

Title: Washington In Bloom

Email: irishiis@yhti.net

Name: Dave Wehmeyer

Title: Hillermann's Garden Center

Email: Davewehmeyer@hillermann.com

General Comments and Suggestions:

Suggestions are indicated in italics.



Congratulations to Washington, MO on your second year of America in Bloom participation and for earning a prestigious FOUR bloom rating. You've come a long way! Through cooperation and collaboration with all sectors, Washington has been able to make amazing progress in an already wonderful city. This year's addition of strategic plans, update to the city's comprehensive plan, update to many city ordinances, and the development of parks maintenance standards demonstrates that the city has a vision of excellence for the years to come.

Each year, AIB cities raise the bar in their many efforts and projects. This year is no exception and you are certainly among the leaders.

Community involvement and volunteerism is a way of life in this town. Last year, Washington received the criteria award for Community Involvement. But this is not a town that rests on its laurels. If anything, there are more volunteers and there are even "green shirt" days when people are encouraged to wear their "We're Blooming in Washington, MO" green t-shirts. What a show of solidarity and community!



This year, the city has done the following: opened a new library which is a repurposed police station (more on this in the Landscape section), repaved many roads, installed new landscaping at the library and city hall, and started installing "smart" water meters. The German work ethic in Washington is thriving.

Kudos on your well-designed itinerary which showcased why residents stay in Washington and young people keep coming back.



Your beautiful and professionally written community profile book is over the top. We were pleased to see that you doubled the size of last year's edition and offered it for sale. *You should keep copies of it at the library, tourism center, Chamber of Commerce, and at City Hall. You might consider selling advertising in it as a fundraiser for your "bloom" efforts. Next time, it would be so helpful to add a map showing the judges route. It helps us get oriented.*



Missouri is experiencing a drought and we were told that rainfall is approximately 12" below normal for this time of year. We have taken that into consideration in the scoring.

Consider enlisting the help of local realtors in your AIB committee. More than anyone, realtors understand that aesthetic improvements to homes and even towns translate to increased value.



Now that Washington, Hermann, Kirkwood, and Webster Groves are AIB cities, you have a good start on developing a tourism route of beautiful towns. Think of other towns in between that would "connect the dots to create a delightful vacation drive."

We sincerely appreciate everyone's effort to wear a nametag as it helps the judges get to know you faster. *A small addition is to add people's affiliations to their nametags. It helps us direct questions to the right people.*



We wish you a bright and vibrant future, and look forward to your AIB participation in the years ahead.

Please note that this year's evaluation form is completely redesigned since last year and it is not practical or meaningful to compare previous scores to those on the following pages.

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	15
Concept and design, variety of plantings, overall effect	20	18
Maintenance and quality of displays	20	19
Design for all seasons	15	12.5
Business		
Concept and design, overall effect	15	8
Maintenance and quality of displays	15	13
Residential		
Concept and design, overall effect	15	11.5
Maintenance and quality of displays	15	13.5
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in design, planting, and maintenance of floral displays	20	19
Financial and in-kind contributions to floral displays	20	18
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	147.50

Comments and suggestions:

Washington is fortunate to have such a dedicated Washington in Bloom team. Many of its members are master gardeners, and the group appears to work seamlessly with the city and Hillermann’s Nursery and Garden Center. The FFA program at Washington High School with its 110 students is another bonus. A greenhouse at the school is being used by students to raise plants for display in downtown containers. FFA students also help with mulching and other planting projects. We were so pleased to see the addition of container plantings to brighten downtown. The containers at the library are especially attractive and could be used as models for the planters at businesses. Larger containers require less watering.



FFA containers downtown

Container plantings at the library

Capitalize on the excitement surrounding the selection of the city flower – the black-eyed Susan. Consider mass plantings in low-use areas of parks. Give seeds to residents. Make banners with large flower images. There are so many ways you can have fun with this.

The Presbyterian Church has planted daffodils in the shape of a cross.

We were not told about seasonal changeouts for floral displays. *If it isn't already being done, it would be nice to have spring flowers and bulbs such as tulips and daffodils to welcome the first days of spring.*



This year, the judges saw the addition of container plantings in the historic downtown area. This is the first year that they have been tried. Despite the heat and drought, the plantings looked good, and perhaps they would have been showier in better weather. The two containers at the Chamber of Commerce office are quite beautiful, and perhaps because they used larger pots and tall grasses combined with ipomea and calibrachoa, they are thriving.



The Garden Club continues to do a nice job of maintaining the flower bed at Lafayette Plaza.

Given the intense summer heat, hanging baskets might be challenging for downtown. You may want to have a pilot project at one of your hottest, windiest locations and test a variety of pots and plants next year to determine feasibility before rolling out a basket program. Be sure to use baskets with water reservoirs. You may want to visit nearby Webster Groves and speak with their horticulturist, Shawnell Faber, about her use of large tropicals in planters.



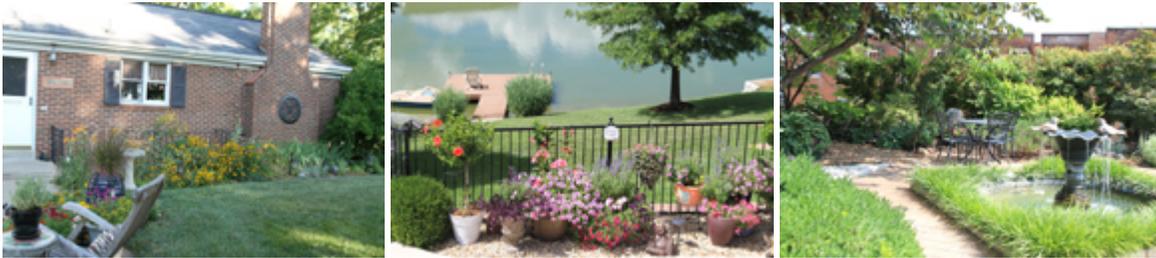
Master Gardeners have been hard at work landscaping the new library, and the judges were delighted with the wide range of plants and variety of themed gardens. Edibles have been introduced in the form of blueberries. There are already plans to add ID tags with QR codes. *It will be important to train city staff in the needs of the plants. At some point, they will need to take over maintenance of these lovely gardens.*

Hillermann's sponsors a yard of the month contest judged by Master Gardeners. A sign is placed in the recipient's front yard and the newspaper features the honoree. A nice suggestion offered by one of the honorees is to create a calendar featuring all the winners. *You could add information about what to plant when and seasonal garden tips.*

Kudos to Hillermanns for donating flower bulbs to preschool children. It's so important to engage children in gardening at an early age.



Immanuel Lutheran Church is celebrating 150 years with a brand new landscape featuring a red and white color theme.



Many residents have attractive gardens, and we would like to recognize the following:

Brick Inn Bed and Breakfast

227 High Street

331 Lake View Drive

403 High Street

1302 Karen Lane

1443 Bernard Street

416 Cedar Street

4th and Elm

108 Jefferson

77 Cedar

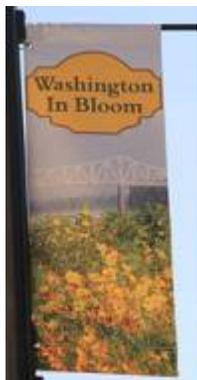
and many more.

Washington Gateway Signs are enhanced by colorful plantings created with help from the Fair queens.

2. Landscaped Areas	Max points	Actual Score
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.		
Municipal		
Overall design and planting of landscape, turf and groundcovers	15	13
Environmental management of sports fields and turf	15	13
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	13
Sustainable management, naturalization and eco-design	15	12
Business		
Overall design and planting of landscape	15	12
Environmental management of turf and groundcovers	10	7
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	13
Residential		
Overall design and planting of landscape	15	11
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	147.00

Comments and suggestions:

Due to a record setting drought, Washington's rainfall is at least 12" below normal for this time of year. Residents have managed to keep their landscapes going by carefully watering. There are lessons to be learned from weather event such as this, including the fact that the Missouri native plants, for example, at Water Tower Park and Peace Lutheran Church are doing well. *In addition, it is important to remember that a 3" layer of mulch around trees and in planting beds goes a long way to retain water. While fresh mulch applications were noticed in some parks, notably Krog Park, we were surprised that this wasn't promoted and practiced more in residential and commercial landscapes, because high quality mulch is available free at the city's recycling center.*



Kudos to the Garden Club for funding the brand new Washington in Bloom banners decorating the historic downtown area. They add a colorful element to the streetscape.

Congratulations to the following properties for their noteworthy landscapes. You are an inspiration to all who see them.

- Peace Lutheran Church
- Korean War Memorial
- Lake Washington Estates medians
- First State Commerce Bank
- The Creek Grill and Sports Bar



Commendations to the Peace Lutheran Church for setting examples of sustainable landscaping. The church is offering part of its grounds for use as a 100% organic community garden on a donation basis. The church also provides “garden mentors” to work with people who rent the eight plots. The church is also setting an example in the use of native plants and planting fruit trees in the landscape where anyone is permitted to pick the fruit. Consider expanding the fruit orchard to include many varieties of fruits and nuts that do well in your area to create a community orchard.

This is a cherished tradition in many Canadian towns and would probably be the first in Missouri. The church also has a native plant area and a small area of prairie plants to showcase that this type of planting is waterwise, low maintenance, and attractive. *There are many opportunities for additional community gardens. For example, some companies allow employees to plant vegetable gardens on their corporate campuses. There are many sites at the Heidmann Industrial Park that would be conducive. These gardens can be used as part of the companies’ wellness programs and the excess produce can be donated to a food bank. Another similar opportunity exists on the grounds of St. Francis Borgia High School.*

Another new program just under construction is the All Abilities Park, funded in part by the Jaycees for children with disabilities. What a wonderful addition to the fair grounds.

A project that will start shortly is the use of native plants in the Highway 100 medians. They will include irrigation and smart controllers to get the natives off to a good start.

Washington is blessed with the addition of Director of Parks and Recreation, Darren Dunkle. He deserves a gold star for the comprehensive maintenance plan he developed for all the parks. His forward thinking and genuine love for parks is going to result in great things for Washington. One of his ideas is to plant the right turf type for the application and to mow appropriately for the site – for example, sports turf would be mowed more frequently than turf along trails. Another goal is to replace turf on steep slopes with wildflowers. These simple initiatives will result in cost savings for labor, fuel, and equipment wear and tear. *Perhaps the savings can be used to hire a full or part-time horticulturist and/or arborist.*

One of the initiatives being considered is development of a natural playground. *Your sister city, Marbach, Germany, has a wonderful example, where the equipment is built of large logs. Field trip, anyone?*

Bexley, Ohio has discovered that by spraying a plant growth regulator on their turf that they can cut mowing to twice a summer. That results in a great savings of labor, fuel, and equipment wear and tear.

At Mercy Hospital the turf include some slopes that appear difficult to mow. *Consider replacing the turf with native wildflowers to save labor and add visual interest.*

We were not told about turf maintenance programs at the industrial parks. *These large turf areas offer opportunities for meadows and native plantings that would reduce the need for mowing.*

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	15.5
Tree maintenance	15	12.5
Preservation and restoration of natural areas	15	13
Tree protection/planting regulations and by-laws	15	10
Business		
Overall planting program	20	13
Tree maintenance	15	13
Residential		
Overall planting program	20	16
Tree maintenance	15	13
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in funding, planting, and maintenance of trees	20	16.5
Volunteer involvement of youth in tree programs (i.e., Arbor Day, etc.)	20	17
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	139.50

Comments and suggestions:

Washington is blessed with a canopy of enormous trees and good species diversity. The majority of the trees in the city, despite the drought, appear healthy and well maintained. *During this time of drought, it is important to mulch and water the trees rather than turf. Turf will come back after a good rainfall, but trees need ongoing moisture.*

We commend the Parks department for completing an inventory of their trees. This is an essential effort to be able to budget and plan for maintenance needs. Similarly, the city would benefit from an inventory of trees in public areas; i.e. tree lawns, medians, and rights of way. The good news is that by having the parks inventory done, you are probably half way to a complete inventory! *Just as you might be photographing the possessions in your home so that you can provide the insurance company with information in case of a fire or other incident, a tree inventory can help you get FEMA or other funds more quickly in case of an event such as a hurricane, tornado, or ice storm that does significant damage. This might be a good project for scouts to do in conjunction with Master Gardeners and other groups. In addition, once your database is in place, you can use i-Tree software which is free from the US Forest Service, to calculate the economic benefits of your trees.*



The mini-arboretum at Water Tower Park is a treasure and showcases a variety of native trees. The trees have been planted for three years and are growing very well. *We are somewhat concerned that they may be planted too closely given their ultimate size. You may want to assess them and move them soon if it's warranted, as moving them when they're larger will be much more difficult and expensive. Also consider underplanting with Buffalo grass and perhaps bordering the area with Missouri native*

wildflowers to reduce mowing. Although all the trees are labelled, you may want to put a map of the park online, showing the tree locations and a list of species as a quick reference.

Take advantage of the new selection of a city tree – the Dogwood. You might create an allee of dogwood trees in a park – to create a beautiful wedding setting. When you establish a dog park, well, you get the idea. You might even suggest that people buy dogwood trees for parks as memorials to their pets!



The judges were pleased to see that the Parks Department offers a tree pruning guide at their office. Additional information is available online from Missouri Extension and the University of Missouri. *It might help residents if members of the Urban Forestry Council could offer pruning demonstrations and workshops at Water Tower Park or even in the city parks. What a great opportunity to get volunteers out to help prune trees!*

Rotary Trail is another of the city's treasures. This 3-mile trail, funded by Rotary, is a popular walkway along the river and enormous trees provide shade. Commendations to the Urban Forestry Council for their efforts in succession planting. *In a few selected areas, you might want to consider removing trees to create scenic river views.*

We are pleased to see that the Parks department is working on tree standards. *As city ordinances are updated this year, we hope that you are considering policies for tree replacement, tree protection during construction, preservation of trees and woodlots during development, and a requirement for trees in parking lots.*

While the Master Gardeners and Parks staff are well versed on proper tree mulching, and trees in the parks and public properties are carefully mulched, many businesses and residents subscribe to the idea that "more is better" and continue piling mulch into "volcanoes". *Perhaps you could develop an educational doorhanger to leave on the front doors of residences and businesses where changes in mulching practices would save the life of trees.*

Consider working with Hillermann's to offer trees or other plants to students with perfect attendance. Perhaps these could be planted on school grounds.

Have elementary school children go on a "tree detective" expedition to identify tree species.

A memorial tree program is in place.

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	20
Effective communication of environmental strategies and initiatives	25	18
New programs, improvement and innovation	25	18
Business		
Participation in environmental efforts	20	15
New programs, improvement and innovation	10	6
Residential		
Participation in environmental efforts	20	12
New programs, improvement and innovation	10	6
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in environmental efforts	20	17
Youth participation in environmental activities	20	17
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	129.00

Comments and suggestions:



Like heritage preservation, caring for the environment is another way of respecting our resources while looking forward. The Rotary River Front trail manages to do both, preserving precious natural spaces with enormous old trees and a new prairie, while offering residents and visitors a beautiful space in which to walk and ride bicycles. The Trail Day, when seniors and others who ordinarily are unable to use the trail can experience it on trams, is a remarkable event that demonstrates Washington’s caring.

Commendations to the “Breathe Easy Washington” group that is lobbying to eliminate smoking in restaurants and elsewhere. This is an important healthy living initiative that has been successfully implemented in many cities.

Kudos as well to the Bank of Washington for sponsoring the “Kids Go Green” day that offered lots of environment-related activities for children. Every child received a tree.

The city is moving ahead with the installation of smart water meters, a \$5 million project which will allow the water department to track individual water use on a daily basis, making it possible to detect large leaks and notify homeowners. Drought has been a big concern this year; in fact, the area has been declared a disaster area. Because the city relies on nine 1500’ deep wells for its water, water conservation measures have not been started. *If the drought continues, the aquifer from which your water is drawn may diminish. Start water-saving measures now – including rebates for water-efficient washers and toilets, low flow shower heads, and drip irrigation. Another benefit of water conservation is the opportunity to extend the life of both your water and sewer treatment facilities.*



Congratulations on developing a trails and bikeways master plan. What a great way to encourage healthy lifestyles. As the plan is implemented, be sure to include wayfinding signs and bike racks at popular destinations such as schools, libraries, stores, public restrooms.

The city has numerous festivals, of which the largest is the 5-day Town and Country Fair, attended by ~ 100,000 people. *Consider making it a zero waste festival by requiring vendors to offer only items that can be recycled. The city of Incline Village, NV, has a trailer outfitted to support zero waste events which is loaned to any group that wants it. You can read more about their program at <http://www.tahoecan.org/wastenot-spotlight>.*

The recycling program in the City is most impressive, ranging from free curbside pickup to open drop-off and sorting at the recycling center. Schools have recycling dumpsters. Appliance and scrap metal dropoff is convenient and free of charge. The recycling center is well organized and even offers free mulch. Indeed, the operation is so efficiently run that the program realizes a significant profit at the end of the year with the average yield to the city is in the \$75K to \$100K range. *You might double check the practice of tossing refrigerators into the dumpster before emptying the Freon, as it appeared that the refrigeration coils might be damaged during dumping, allowing the Freon to escape into the atmosphere.*

Although there are currently no facilities for the collection of grease or oils, the center provides some assistance to restaurants in locating nearby facilities which do such collection. *Consider expanding this portion of the program with information on collection center data passed to applicable commercial establishments routinely.*

The Franklin County recycling center is close to Washington’s facility and pays for materials received. *Encourage people to drop off their high dollar value items at the facility where they get the most back. At least enough to cover gas for the trip out and back.*



Items being collected for recycling in the city include shoes, eyeglasses, toner and ink cartridges, and cell phones. The new Shoes program in particular is innovative, recycling used shoes to those overseas who have none.

Green waste is collected curbside and made into good quality mulch which is available free to residents. *Consider encouraging home composting to reduce truck traffic and save fuel.* Perhaps you could offer composters at cost or a discount.

Private businesses have exhibited leadership in environmentally sensitive development.

Business participation in environmental awareness through



Rotary programs and gifts has made quite a difference in Washington. The Rotary Riverfront Trail with its beautiful bike path is a case in point and is part of the bikeways master plan noted above. The proposed extension of this trail to permit connection to an extensive network of regional bike routes is most exciting.

Planned industrial development in Washington under the stewardship of the Civic Industrial Corporation and the 353 Redevelopment Corporation has served the city and its future economic expansion well. Provision of state-approved “Certified Industrial Sites” and other pro-active initiatives have assisted in providing the sustainable planned development of the industrial zone. Pride in the Sisters of Mercy Data Center, a LEEDS certified facility is palpable.

Annual clean-up days are held, and participation is reported to be high. The visible results would tend to back this report.

The city sponsors a twice-yearly e-waste collection. *You might consider partnering with a technical school or a computer club and have them recover usable parts of old computers and reassemble them into usable computers. This is being done with great success in Plymouth, Indiana, and every family is entitled to receive a free computer. This is great for families who can't afford to buy a computer for their school age children.*

Another interesting program to consider is creating a free store at the recycling center or other community gathering place where people can drop off their gently, partially, or unused items such as paint, fertilizer, school and office supplies, etc. People can come in and take whatever they need.

We were told that the city's landfill has an expected remaining life of only 7 years and that a new dump site has not yet been identified. *This needs to be a priority as siting landfills can be a long process and new landfills may be required to meet a number of new environmental regulations. Do whatever you can to reduce the waste stream now to extend the landfill's life. Look into the possibility of a vertical expansion as well.*

Currently all municipally-owned buildings will be undergoing an energy audit under a grant recently awarded to Washington. Energy saving strategies will be implemented following the findings of the audit. *We recommend that the city communicate the results of the audit and the proposed strategies for conservation which are developed. This information may have practical application for building owners in the community. Along the same lines, we recommend the city consider hybrid and/or fuel efficient vehicles be phased into the city-owned fleet as part of a planned fleet rotation.*

Transportation along the river and the railroad helped make Washington the thriving city that it has become. Public transportation options in the city today are limited. *The city might encourage development of a commuter link between residential, industrial and retail areas of the town and those of neighboring towns to provide a thrifty alternate to the single family vehicle.*

5. Heritage Preservation	Max Points	Actual Score
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	19
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	14.5
Residential		
Conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of properties	15	14
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	19
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	160.50

Comments and suggestions:

Washington shines in the area of heritage preservation. With the 175th anniversary of the city’s founding occurring in just two years, plans are already being developed for a celebration. One of the unique programs already being discussed is the addition to QR codes to historic plaques and signs. This is a great project for school classes to take on. *Once you have a list of sites that will be tagged, you can assign website copy development, photography, and even video creation to a number of high school classes.*

Another project you might consider is a “Day in the Life of Washington” book that showcases daily life as it is today... what people do... how they get the job done, etc. it will be fascinating 20 years from now to marvel at how we got the job done with “old” technology.



The entire downtown is on the National Register of Historic Places and more than 500 properties are designated. Currently plaques identifying historic sites have been designed and are being prepared and placed on buildings in the historic district. These plaques are very well done and clearly exhibit the pride Washingtonians take in their heritage.



Immanuel Lutheran Church



St. Francis Borgia Church

Throughout the town many old churches have been in continuous use for more than 100 years. One of them, Immanuel Lutheran, is celebrating its 150 years with a new sanctuary which has been beautifully designed to match the aesthetic of the original building. Church buildings once home to now relocated congregations have been successfully restored and repurposed. Two exceptional examples are the First Presbyterian Church and the AME Church, both now home to the Historic Society.



Recently, William Owens' (husband of the city's founder) tombstone has been excavated from Krog Park, cleaned and placed in its original position. Plans are to add a similar monument for his wife, Lucinda and an interpretive panel.



Nearby is the very handsome Korean War Memorial, provided in Krog Park and maintained by a local family.



This year, the city received the Great American Main St. award from the Main Street Program. The Main Street Program, Downtown Development, Inc, Historical Society, and the city work well together in an effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the historic character of the town. The city offers financial incentives for preservation and restoration, including façade grants.



Several years ago the original post office building was essentially abandoned and threatened with closure. Concerned citizens banded together, restored the building's interior and now operate a contract Postal Service in the restored site, an amazing achievement. Rental of a portion of the building to Wells Fargo helps to defray the costs associated with management of the facility.



In the Old Post Office, gallery wrap prints of old city scenes are offered for sale as a fundraiser for the Historical Society.

The Historical Society has a wonderful museum and genealogy center that is open at no cost. Membership in the organization is high, and they periodically publish a book about the families in the city. Displays within the museum are exceptionally well done – all by volunteers. Among the many successful programs run by the Society is a History Day for 4th graders with many opportunities for hands-on contact with historic music instruments, helmets, and the like. Management of historic records

and artifacts at this museum is exemplary.



Quite a few of the older buildings in the downtown have been repurposed – for example, the Bank of Washington built a new building around an existing one, staying open during construction. The new library is a fabulous reconstruction of the old police station. The old water works building is an antiques store, and the old train station (which is still in use as a train station) houses the Tourism Board and other tenants. The old downtown grocery store is now an upscale restaurant. *It might be fun to decorate it with old photos of the grocery store.* There are many more examples. *If you aren't already doing it, consider having "open door" days of heritage buildings to showcase the wonderful restoration and preservation achievements.*

The Town and Country Fair is the third largest in the county and is the major fundraiser for the city's many non-profit organizations. All the profits from the fair stay in the city and also fund Chamber of Commerce activities and pay the salary of an economic development person.



The downtown Farmer's Market, owned by the Historic Washington Corporation and leased by the city, is a singular venue for a downtown area. We understand this space was made possible by the combined efforts of the City of Washington, the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Washington Corporation. In addition to being an active and popular event center for the town, the facility generates a profit which is used to support other programs in the town. This project is a success story from beginning to end and we congratulate you on it.



The Odd Fellows cemetery is a beautiful location of peace and tranquility, well maintained, with many handsome monuments.

If it isn't already being done, elementary schools might encourage students to re-enact important events in the city's history. These could be staged on the new stage at the fairgrounds in the spring as part of History Day.

At some of the historic homes, work with the owners to plant gardens featuring heirloom plants that might have been growing when the homes were first built.

Residents who are really serious about heritage preservation can be encouraged to put deed restrictions on their properties. Perhaps the city and historical society could work on the appropriate verbiage.

6. Overall Impression	Max points	Actual Score
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.		
Municipal		
Overall cleanliness	10	9
Maintenance of public roads and shoulders	10	8.5
Condition of public buildings and properties	10	9
Impact of graphic elements - banners, signs, murals, etc.	10	8.5
Business		
Overall cleanliness	20	17
Condition of buildings and properties	20	16
Residential		
Overall cleanliness	10	8.5
Condition of buildings and properties	10	8.5
Community Involvement		
Participation in clean up efforts, adopt-a-spot, annual cleanup days, etc.	15	14
Recognition of volunteer efforts	10	8
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	125.00	107.00

Comments and suggestions:

Starting with the Welcome Washington sign surrounded by flowers, Washington makes a uniform impression of a town that is cared for. This year, most of the streets were repaved, funded by a half-cent sales tax increase. This is a wise investment, as in towns across America, public works directors have told us that nothing spurs city improvements as much as fresh paving and curbs. Once a road is repaved, adjacent property owners typically spruce up their properties.



Open spaces and public gathering areas are extremely well-maintained. Examples include the Riverfront Milemarker 68.3 plaza and dock area and the beautiful Lions Lake and Gazebo. In particular, the Lake perimeter has been recently reconstructed in the area of the gazebo and the boundary areas is very well maintained.

The city maintains the railroad tracks in the downtown area so they are weed-free. If you are currently spraying with a product such as Roundup, consider adding a pre-emergent which will prevent seeds from sprouting. Or use a product that incorporates herbicide and pre-emergent, such as Ground Clear from Ortho. *Before applying, check with a biologist to be sure that using these products close to the river will not affect the river or riparian habitat.*



Areas near the original train station are very well maintained, with handsome signage and displays.

The Garden Club has worked hard this year to select new Christmas decorations for the city. The old decorations will be sold. Commendations to the Garden Club for designing and funding the new Washington in Bloom banners installed on the street where the city hall and new library are located. *The addition of a brightly colored strip on the side of the banners would be an inexpensive addition that would make them pop.*



City and park signage is generally very good with several particularly excellent examples. Two in particular are the City of Washington Gateway sign with plantings installed by youth volunteers and the Bernie Hillermann Park sign.



The mixed use development of the riverfront in the area of the train station is proceeding well and is creating a new, attractive neighborhood of retail, residential and commercial establishments. *Consider adding landscaped areas and new lighting to the parking areas and cross streets linking this new neighborhood to the downtown area. Such treatment would be particularly beneficial to the new parking area between the historic downtown district and the river as it is highly visible from the lower elevations.*



We commend the service groups, notably the Lions, who have taken the initiative to put a fresh coat of paint on the trash barrels in Lions Park. Well done!



Residents and businesses are proud sponsors of “adopt-a-spots” around the city. Attractive signs acknowledge the adopters.

The new tennis courts and several parks feature brand new black chain link fence, and attractive choice.

Many benches have been located throughout the park areas of the city as memorials or as Eagle Scout projects. *Native*

plant material can be used to create sustainable planting areas to the rear and/or side of those benches located in areas devoid of landscape interest.

An annual cleanup day is held. Consider an annual city-wide garage sale weekend where on the first day, people can offer their surplus items for sale. On the second day, items could be available at no cost, and what's left could be picked up by Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity or similar organizations.



There are several alleys and narrow connectors running through the downtown area. While generally well-maintained, little has been done to create visual interest in these spaces. These present a great opportunity for the Garden Club, Rotary, Eagle Scout, church group or family looking to create a special outdoor space to adopt. In particular, you could consider installation of a vertical garden near a sign or sculpture. For more on vertical gardens, go to www.LiveWall.com.

Thanks to the city's forward thinking and good planning, the Missouri Department of Transportation is expediting replacement of the existing bridge across the Missouri River. When this project is complete, the River Front Trail will be linked to the Katy Trail, giving access to hundreds of miles of trails.

Checklist for Judges and Communities:

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 community?
- x Were the guides knowledgeable about the community 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:

Please be sure to include the itinerary and a list of contacts in the community profile.

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



2012 Special Mention

Municipality: Washington, MO

General description of the recognized criterion (200 words max)

Washington, MO is a model for Heritage Preservation. With more than 500 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, they have a lot of experience with preservation and restoration. This year, they received a national award for their work from Main Street. Their beautiful museum, active Historical Society, and many churches that are over 100 years old are tributes to the efforts of residents to preserve their heritage.

Special Project or Initiative (50 words max)

Under the leadership of Parks and Recreation Director Darren Dunkle, has developed an extensive book that covers the maintenance and operations plan for city parks. It includes details on scheduled maintenance for each of the city's parks, and standards for management of turf grass, trees, beautification, and even fleet management, a section on maintenance investment and renovation/refurbishment plans. This exceptional document is among the best we have seen. It will be exciting to see the difference in the parks in one to two years as a result of following these guidelines.

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