

America in Bloom 2016 EVALUATION REPORT



Community: Washington, MO

Population Category: Circle of Champions - medium

Evaluation Dates: July 18 & 19, 2016

Judges: Leslie Pittenger and Jack Clasen

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 evaluation criteria are adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the community’s location.

This Evaluation Report is based upon your community’s efforts in each of the following criteria:

Criteria	Possible Points	Actual Points
1. Floral Displays	175.00	160.00
2. Landscaped Areas	175.00	163.00
3. Urban Forestry	175.00	152.50
4. Environmental Efforts	175.00	144.00
5. Heritage Preservation	175.00	161.50
6. Overall Impression	125.00	113.00
Total	1000	894.00
%	0.89400	
Bloom Rating	FIVE	

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 to receive the Evaluation Report:

Name: Sandy Lucy	Title: Mayor	Email: slucy@ci.washington.mo.us
Name: Darren Dunkle	Title: Director Parks & Recreation	Email: ddunkle@ci.washington.mo.us
Name: Dave Wehmeyer	Title: Co- chair WIB	Email: dave@hillermann.com

General Observations and Recommendations:

Congratulations on your five bloom rating! A well rounded program is what makes for a champion community and in 2016 Washington, Mo was that community and the winner of the Circle of Champions category in the America in Bloom 2016 national awards program. Your six years of involvement in America in Bloom have really paid off as we have witnessed when we toured your community. 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 competing in the Circle of Champions and planting pride in your community.

Washington is rich with volunteers, active civic organizations, and a city administration that understands that how we look affects how we act as a community. Mayor Sandy Lucy and husband Gary Lucy were inspired by hanging baskets on a vacation several years ago and have been strong promoters of the “in bloom” program since the start. It takes this type of leadership to make a well-rounded program.



Washington has taken the challenge of promoting native plants, wildflowers and pollinators to the next level. The medians on Highway 100 are beautifully landscaped with native plants that are salt tolerant in the winter and drought tolerant in the summer. Despite pressure from motorists they prevailed and the median project is attractive as well as serves as a natural barrier for traffic calming effects. The several parks and the library all contain landscaped floral displays rich with pollinator plants native to the area. Businesses have also risen to the challenge and extensive gardens exist at the hospital and several commercial properties.

Now that you have captured the coveted Champions of the Circle of Champions, it is time to step up your website and social media presence. *Work with the city administration and get a Washington in Bloom tab. Find a college intern to design a website that can be linked to the city website and create a Facebook page. These are important tools for reaching the next generation of volunteers. Use social media to get the word out about volunteer opportunities, special events, planting projects and all of the good works that Washington in Bloom is providing to the community.*

We express our gratitude and admiration to the dedication of the Washington in Bloom committee for their commitment to making Washington a better place to live. Thank you to Darren Dunkle, Dave Wehmeyer, Sally Bocklage, and John Steffens for a wonderful tour and making us feel welcome. We look forward to your continued participation in America in Bloom.

1. Floral Displays

Flower beds, containers, planters, baskets, window boxes, trellises. Arrangement, originality, distribution, location, diversity, balance, harmony, quality of maintenance. Use and integration of annuals, perennials, ornamental grasses, bulbs, tropical plants, and seasonal flowers and colorful foliage that provide year-round interest.	Max points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Leadership and plan of action for floral displays	20	19
Concept and design, variety of plantings, overall effect	20	18.5
Maintenance and quality of displays	20	19
Design for all seasons	15	13.5
Business		
Concept and design, overall effect	15	13
Maintenance and quality of displays	15	13
Residential		
Concept and design, overall effect	15	13
Maintenance and quality of displays	15	14
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	160.00

Observations and Recommendations:



The mix of municipal, business and civic volunteers makes for a successful floral program and Washington is blooming on every corner! The addition of large planters on Front Street in the traffic bump outs really adds color and variety to the street. The same large planters have been used in the parking lot at the farmer's market with much success for several years. Paired with the attractive hanging baskets the decision to make the investment to expand the planter program has multiple benefits, the first is a beautiful streetscape. *The public pool would be another ideal location for the large planters. The pool deck was yards of concrete and the colorful pots would add needed color and interest. These displays may even inspire pool patrons to do the same in their yard. These planters could also be a fundraising opportunity for the committee and offered to area businesses. They could be*

priced in varied sizes, planted and delivered each spring and then replanted the following spring for a yearly fee to keep the color and flower theme cohesive throughout the community.

Consider decorating the pots in the fall with a scarecrow, seasonal plants and pumpkins. This could become a contest where groups sponsor a container and create the display. Winners in different categories would be awarded a gift and recognition on the cities website under a Washington in Bloom tab. Contact Carol Allen from Ironton in Bloom for information about their successful scarecrow program. allenbrew@sbcglobal.net



The floral displays at the library and municipal complex are beautiful and expertly done by master gardeners who were earning their needed volunteer hours. These same gardeners are now, years later, maintaining, changing and improving the parking lot medians and floral beds. Each garden has a theme and currently there is a Shakespeare Garden using plants mentioned in his writings, children's garden, shade garden, scent garden with nine plants that are sensory, a wildflower garden and pollinator gardens. *Place signage in the gardens so that visitors know that they are looking at plants to be used in a shade garden, etc.* One area along the sidewalk and parking lot entrance receives a lot of salt and plants have suffered. *Contact your local extension service to find out what plants will work in this area.* AIB community Madisonville, KY has been working on a street buffer strip project and have been testing Pink Evening Primrose with success and are pleased with the blooms. *Contact Leslie Curneal, City Clerk, in Madisonville at lcurneal@madisonvillegov.com for more information.*



The newest Master Gardener project done by a Washington in Bloom (WIB) committee member is the Caboose at the Visitors Center and Amtrak train station. The perennials and annuals chosen are well placed and complement the caboose itself. The adjoining property is using the new Easy Elegance Rose and this makes a stunning section of Front Street along the Missouri River.

Washington has a strong hanging basket program that truly started the beautification efforts. The baskets contain a nice variety of plant material including begonias, petunias and spider plants for a unique and airy quality. *Consider starting the baskets in a greenhouse in early spring so that they are fuller and well established by the beginning of the summer season.*



Fundraising is always a challenge for civic organizations. Washington in Bloom is unique because it is known for the beautiful changes it has made to the community. *Consider selling bulbs to encourage residents to start the colorful show that you are known for as early as spring.*



Congratulations for having the foresight to choose a city flower, rudbeckia commonly known as the Black-eyed Susan, early in your participation with America in Bloom. This long blooming perennial is cheerful and hardy. Your floral displays are bursting with your chosen flower and their golden-yellow beauty lets you know right away that this is a project by WIB. A clump of Black-eyed Susans may become crowded over a three-year period, which necessitates dividing to ensure best blooming. *Consider selling or donating as you divide your plants to encourage their use throughout the entire community.*

2. Landscaped Areas

Overall design and suitability of landscape, turf, and ground covers. Use of native and introduced plants. Good use of design principles (i.e., balance of plant material and constructed elements, harmony, color, texture, shape, focal points, etc.). Sustainability. Integration of lighting, hardscapes, and site elements such as lamp posts, water features, drinking fountains, bicycle racks, benches, trash/recycling receptacles, etc. Maintenance (weeds, mulching practices, edging). Site rejuvenation and rehabilitation. Efforts in strategic planning. Community gardens, children’s gardens, healing gardens, pollinator gardens, Backyard Wildlife Habitat, Audubon, and other specialty 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	13.5
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	14.5
Sustainable management, naturalization and eco-design	15	14
Business		
Overall design and planting of landscape	15	14
Management of turf and groundcovers	10	9
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	14
Residential		
Overall design and planting of landscape	15	14
Management of turf and groundcovers	15	14
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	14
Community Involvement		
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
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	163.00

Observations and Recommendations:

One of the greatest challenges in Washington are the rolling hills in residential and the business sections of town. Tiered landscaping and creative use of rocks adds charm and character to the design. This is evident at Phoenix Center and Phoenix Park which has incorporated the large boulders in landscaping and at the entrance to shopping areas.



The number of pollinator gardens in Washington is astounding and you aren’t done yet! The work being done at Phoenix Park in floral displays and landscaping is incredible. The Boy Scouts have really been active in the park from designing a sign at the entrance from the residential neighborhood to sponsoring memory benches. All of these projects were done as well deserved Eagle Scout projects.

This park has more projects planned near the walking track which may include a children’s play area using a nature theme. Exciting things are still to come!



Hillermann's Nursery & Florist piloted a pollinator kit program this year to increase the number of participants in the Million Pollinator Garden challenge, a campaign to register a million public and private gardens and landscapes to support pollinators. Kits were available for purchase that included a t-shirt, pollinator plants, soil, and mulch. After planting, the purchaser is asked to take a photograph to document the garden. Hillermann's then registers the garden and provides a sign for the garden. The program was also sponsored by WIB, Washington Parks Department, and the garden club.



Two successful pollinator gardens in the businesses sector are at the Rawlings (Rawlings sporting equipment) facility and at the Mercy Hospital campus. Rawlings put in their pollinator garden in 2014 near the employees' break pavilion. The garden is flourishing and butterflies and bees continue to entertain the employees as they take a much deserved break. Mercy Hospital installed their garden this year in front of the facility on a busy corner, across from Krog Park, for all to enjoy. Mercy's garden is a Washington, MO Certified Pollinator Garden.

The Missouri Wildflowers Nursery offers a large selection of seed mixes, groundcovers, wildflowers, trees and shrubs. They offer suggestions on groupings of plants and chose these groupings on the type of animal and/or insect they will attract. Darren Dunkle and his staff have pored over the catalogs and have taken the suggestions and recommendations and put them to good use. What a great resource and well used. *Consider using more ground covers instead of turf on sloped areas of parks and public areas. This will reduce the need to mow therefore saving labor, equipment and encouraging native plants. Be mindful of pedestrian short cuts in these sloped areas and provide hardscape to protect the plantings and redirect the traffic flow!*



The Washington Garden Club is very active and has taken on many beautification projects. The spectacular floral and landscape display at Lafayette Plaza has been a continuously maintained project of the club since 1973. It has a unique bird house as an artistic accent as well as benches and shade for resting and enjoying the activities of downtown. They recently upgraded the flag pole at City Park with the city flower, native grasses, shrubbery, stepping stones and a bench. This was all done in memory of a former Washington Garden Club president who rose to national garden club fame.



There are active Master Gardener volunteers in the county who are involved in Washington in Bloom. *Consider recruiting Master Gardener volunteers to develop new ideas for beautification and help with the implementation.* This knowledgeable group is very important to a successful bloom program!

It is quite impressive that the Washington Parks Department has a regular aeration and irrigation schedule for sports fields. The sports fields appeared healthy and ready for action even in the heat of July! *Consider developing an “adopt-a-park” program for one or two parks as a pilot. Develop a contract that specifies the commitments of each party – the city and the organization – and make sure it is successful the first year before considering maintaining or expanding the program. Start small and make sure you have success!*

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, Tree City USA and their Growth Award. Efforts in management, planning, maintenance, improvement, and innovation. Written policies, bylaws and regulations, long- and short-term plans, trees on private property protected.	Max points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Overall plan of action, tree planting programs, variety of species, inventory	20	17
Tree maintenance	15	13
Preservation and restoration of natural areas	15	14
Tree protection/planting regulations and by-laws	15	14.5
Business		
Overall planting program	20	15
Tree maintenance	15	13
Residential		
Overall planting program	20	17
Tree maintenance	15	14
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in funding, planting, and maintenance of trees (i.e. Tree City USA)	20	18
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	152.50

Observations and Recommendations:

Washington has done all that is necessary for the past 11 years to be a successful Tree City USA community. Arbor Day is celebrated and it is growing each year with hundreds of tree seedlings being given away over the last few years. The Urban Forestry Council is very busy and utilizes the resources available for educational purposes that are offered by the Missouri Department of Conservation. *Consider updating the tree ordinance for commercial parking lots and new construction. Much has changed in the desired look of parking lots from a city's point of view. It is important that tree islands be included in the planning to provide shade and help with stormwater runoff. Developers are looking for the most parking spaces so specific guidelines will enhance your chances of trees lining the parking lots and at the ends of parking rows.*

Trees are a great way to bring together your oldest population and the youngest. *Consider having an Arbor Day or Earth Day celebration that pairs a senior or grandparent with an elementary-aged student. Organize an activity at an after-school program or senior living center to bring the two populations together in the planting of a tree.*



The Madison Water Tower Native Tree Planting is becoming nicely established. There are plans in the works for a PDF map of the trees planted to be added to the city website. Tree tags have been lost since installation. *Consider labeling and tagging the trees using 4 x 4 posts with signage attached at a 45-degree angle at the top to identify the tree. Including QR codes for smart phones would offer an innovative way of using modern technology to improve a visitor's experiences. Washington has very active Boy Scouts – this would make a great Eagle Scout project!* Since this area is in a residential neighborhood *consider adding picnic tables or memorial benches for residents to sit in the shade and enjoy the trees and birds. A few of the trees need limbed up and mulch around the tree bases would be a nice addition to control Bermuda grass and protect the trees from mowing damage.*



The Parks Department is very proactive in educating staff and currently has an ISA certified arborist. They use software to keep records on tree inventory and maintenance. They are responsible for the tree walk located at Lions Lake and have brochures available at the lake and offer educational walks for the local grade school and scouting troops. *Consider dividing the community up in quadrants and plan a rotating schedule of pruning and trimming. Offer young tree training and pruning classes to volunteers to assist with supervision in areas where no special equipment is needed.*

The new Miller-Post Nature Reserve is a 67-acre property donated to the city to be kept in its natural state and used as a refuge for wildlife. Guidelines have been established through a management plan and the city will have many opportunities to offer hiking trails, a nature center, and educational opportunities to visitors of the reserve. The Parks Department is committed to following the wishes of the Miller-Post family and making this a premier destination in Washington. This wooded area in the city limits is a wonderful addition to your urban forest and *should be inventoried so that you know what you are working with. While inventorying, consider updating inventory to include all parks.*

While the city is taking on more acreage the Parks and Recreation Department is understaffed. *Consider adding seasonal or part-time employees until the budget allows for additional employees to cover the increased workload.*

4. Environmental Efforts

Sustainability practices. Recycling (paper, glass, metal, plastic, electronics, clothing, etc.), transfer/recycle stations, 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, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), 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	23
Effective communication of environmental strategies and initiatives	25	22
New programs, improvement and innovation	25	18
Business		
Participation in environmental efforts	20	17
New programs, improvement and innovation	10	6
Residential		
Participation in environmental efforts	20	17
New programs, improvement and innovation	10	8
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in environmental efforts	20	17
Youth participation in environmental activities	20	16
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	144.00

Observations and Recommendations:



Recycling began small in Washington and now the list of items accepted by the recycling center is quite extensive. Curbside recycling is available for residents as well as a drop off location for appliances and large items. Leaf and tree limbs can be dropped off or picked up curbside on a rotating neighborhood schedule. The leaves and limbs are then ground into compost and free to residents to use at their homes. They will even scoop it into your truck bed! Hazardous waste collection is only done every six years. *Contact local industry to sponsor the event so that a waste collection program can become an annual event. It may need to include businesses in the entire county and be for county residents only, monitored by proof of residency. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources may be able to offer some guidance on setting up a successful program.* <https://dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/>

The city has a very large mulch/compost pile that is available to residents. The pile is quite large and *the city needs to advertise the availability of the compost pile and possibly provide an incentive for residents to use the compost. Possibly a coupon for \$10 off a purchase of \$20 or more from a few businesses in town.*

The City of Washington Summary of Services and requirements for refuse collection and curbside recycling are both very well done and updated yearly. The city does a good job of getting the word out related to the recycling

through the utility bills. *Consider including the recycling rate in the utility bill updates so that residents know that their hard work is paying off.*



The Showman Water Project collects used shoes and sells them to be distributed as affordable shoes in developing countries. The proceeds are used to provide clean, fresh water to those in need. This program gives shoes a second life and keeps them out of the landfill while helping those who don't take clean water for granted. The city should be very proud of this great partnership which is an inspiration to other communities.

Another successful program is the River Sweep sponsored by Missouri River Relief. This all volunteer effort does trash clean-up along the shorelines.

Washington is a patriotic city and has several flag poles. To promote energy savings and set the example to your residents *consider installing solar lighting. There are several types of lights available but the newest top mounted solar lights provide a good source of light and are not cumbersome when changing flags, raising and/or lowering. Contact your local electric provider to see if they would sponsor the lighting or could provide discounted fixtures.*

Living next to a major waterway such as the Missouri River makes communities mindful of the need to mitigate runoff of pollutants in to the river. The aim is to "slow, spread, and soak" – to delay or prevent storm water from going into the river. *An excellent resource to aid communities in helping to reduce storm water runoff is the book "LID – Low Impact Development" by the University of Arkansas Community Design Center. Published in 2010, the book is available from the University of Arkansas Press.*

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; historical trees, artifacts; historical society; heritage advisory committee, museums, archives, history books, land trusts/conservation easements and interpretative programs; ordinances and policies including protection of structures/sites from demolition/development. Resource availability. Farmers markets, festivals and parades.	Max Points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Leadership in preservation and restoration initiatives	25	24
Legal protection of heritage sites	25	23
Resource availability for preservation and restoration	25	24
Business		
Conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of properties	15	14
Participation in and support of heritage/cultural activities	15	14
Residential		
Conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of properties	15	14
Participation in and support of heritage/cultural activities	15	14.5
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in cultural, historical, and natural heritage activities	20	18
Youth involvement in heritage activities	20	16
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	161.50

Observations and Recommendations:

Washington is rich in history and proactive in the preservation of the many buildings and artifacts. They have established five historic districts and have a beautiful museum that houses many permanent and rotating exhibits. Mark Houseman and the historic society's 400 member volunteers have done a wonderful job preserving the colorful history of Washington.

Krog Park has a very interesting story and much credit goes to the individuals who stepped up to research, finance, and erect the markers for the city's founders. There are many historical re-enactments and events throughout the year with a very popular one being the ghost walk. *Consider creating a YouTube video of the ghost walk to promote it and a video of the history of the founders with re-enactors representing William and Lucinda Owens. This could be played at Founder's Day events, used in school history classes and available on the Washington Historical Society and City of Washington websites.*



Kohmueller House, located near Lions Lake, was originally part of a farm built by German immigrants and has a very unique design. The brick home built in 1878 has three doors into the home but no formal entry. There are several events held at this location for school children showing them how life on the farm was in the 1800s. The area is known for its clay and brick making is a popular activity. *Consider incorporating a scavenger hunt into the programing for school children so they can learn about the smokehouse, brick making and farming in the 1800s.*

There are so many historic structures and activities in Washington. A unique fundraiser for the Historical Society Museum or Washington in Bloom could be to *create a calendar of historic photos to be sold. The calendar should include the dates of important events so that the purchaser learns some history along the way. These same historic photos could be turned into placemats to be used in the restaurants and diners giving residents and tourists a glimpse of Washington in the past.*



The corn cob pipe capital of the world is Washington, MO! The displays in the headquarters are very interesting but don't get much exposure because of very limited hours. *Work with management of the pipe facility to see if a small segment of their artifacts could be loaned to the museum for a special show.*

Congratulations on being the host for the Missouri Main Street Convention this year. What a great way to show off what you have accomplished and to bring new visitors to downtown Washington!

We were fortunate to meet Andy Understall who is a contactor/developer who has taken several old buildings along Front Street and turned them into retail and residential space. He has received a Heritage Preservation Award and is a wonderful advocate of recycling, reusing, and repurposing of historic buildings. With exceptional attention to detail his work in Washington is tasteful, attractive and really enhances the look and feel of that section of the riverfront.



6. Overall Impression

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/recycling 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, public art, wayfinding signs, graphic elements such as banners, signs and murals.	Max points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Overall cleanliness	10	9
Maintenance of public roads and shoulders	10	9
Condition of public buildings and properties	10	9
Impact of graphic elements - banners, wayfinding signs, murals, etc.	10	8
Business		
Overall cleanliness	20	19
Condition of buildings and properties	20	19
Residential		
Overall cleanliness	10	9
Condition of buildings and properties	10	9
Community Involvement		
Participation in clean-up efforts, adopt-a-spot, annual cleanup days, etc.	15	13
Recognition of volunteer efforts	10	9
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	125.00	113.00

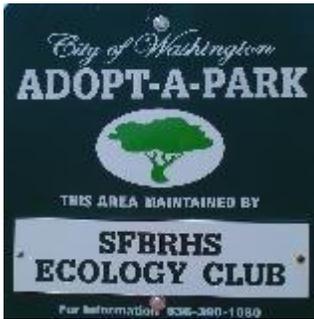
Observations and Recommendations:

Mark Twain once described the Missouri River as "too thick to drink, too thin to plow." Lewis and Clark would have agreed. On June 21, 1804, William Clark wrote: "The water we Drink, of the Common water of the missourie at this time, contains half a Comn Wine Glass of ooze or mud to every pint." Much has changed today and the Missouri River is important part of the charm of the community that sits above its banks.



Nestled in the heartland of our country, Washington is considered a gem by its residents. Beautiful parks, a flourishing downtown, clean streets, beautiful neighborhoods, boating and water sport opportunities, and naturalized areas all make it a wonderful place to visit or call home. *Consider promoting the memorial bench program to the boat landing area. This area is a natural magnet for people to sit and read, visit with neighbors, and just watch the water flow by. Additional seating could enhance the beginning of the trail head and give needed resting areas to visitors.*

There is currently a public art committee and they are drafting specifications and regulations to guarantee that the artwork placed throughout the community is pleasing. The sculpture at the public library is very interesting but not placed where it has the best exposure. *Consider moving it to the other side of the building near the street where it can be viewed while driving and upon entering the building.*



Many parks in Washington have sponsors which have shown an interest at some point of helping with the maintenance and improvements either with volunteer labor or financially. These areas have signs showing adopt-a-spot/park sponsors of specific areas but the listed sponsors are not maintaining the designated location. *Tighten the adopt-a-park program by providing a contract to be signed by the sponsoring group that spells out the duties expected and rewards for adopting. This isn't free advertising.*

Little Free Libraries are popping up in all kinds of places! We found one near the restroom/ tennis courts at Phoenix Park and another in the Amtrak Station. These libraries are stocked with donated books by volunteers and encourage reading and sharing. What a nice addition to the area.



Washington's Town and Country Fair is truly a community event. Started in 1872 this fair has seen many changes over the years but the community support and involvement has stayed strong. The five-day event is the highlight of the summer for many and an opportunity for non-profit civic organizations to raise the money needed for their projects for the entire year during this one event. The fair has stayed true to the community and offers agricultural exhibits, motor sporting events, competitions, musical entertainment, and family fun activities. What a wonderful opportunity for Washington to show off its hospitality and friendly people.

Checklist:

Yes	No	N/A	
X			Were the judges given a Community Profile, Evaluation Tour Itinerary, and map prior to their arrival?
X			Did the Evaluation Tour Itinerary provide for experiencing 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 Report in a quiet place?
X			Were you informed about pollinator gardens? How many? (Please use comments section to add details if necessary.) yes – dozens throughout the community
X			Was there a wrap-up session at the end of the tour?

Comments:

The 2016 edition of Plant Pride and Prosper – Washington in Bloom is a beautiful community profile book. We would recommend condensing it and putting more emphasis on new and innovative programs and projects that have been completed. This is a valuable tool for the judging team and is used as a reference when scoring and evaluating. We can't see everything you have accomplished so a condensed listing would be helpful.

DEFINITIONS (determined by who owns and/or manages the property)

Municipal: city hall and other municipal properties, parks and open spaces, roads, roadsides, sidewalks, public cemeteries, public schools/universities/colleges, sports facilities, empty lots and brownfields, libraries, hospitals, public railway and bus stations

Business: commercial and industrial sectors, shopping centers, stores, office buildings, restaurants, mixed use developments, service stations, private railway and bus stations, plant nurseries, garden centers, assisted living/nursing home/graduated care facilities, apartment buildings, hotels, private hospitals, churches, not for profit/civic organizations, private cemeteries, private schools/universities/colleges, residential common areas managed by associations

Residential: single family residences, town houses, individual homes in planned/gated/manufactured home communities, residential neighborhoods or developments

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



2016 Special Mentions 2016 Community Recognitions

Community: Washington, MO

Recognized Criterion: Landscaped Areas

The Parks Department and volunteers do a spectacular job of planting and maintaining landscaped areas. The selection and placement of plants adds interest to buildings, medians and parks. The landscape beds are completely weed free thanks to a Weeding Wednesday program that involves volunteers and the supervision of city staff.

They continue to install and promote the planting of pollinator gardens. The Washington in Bloom committee partners with Hillermann's Nursery which has designed a pollinator kit to assist residents with the planting of a successful garden that will attract butterflies and bees. These gardens are then registered and become part of the Million Garden Pollinator Program.

Noteworthy Project or Initiative: Landscaped area at the Caboose

The total renovation of the grounds at the caboose display near the visitors center and Amtrak station was recently complete by the Washington in Bloom volunteers in May. The landscape is tasteful, well designed and well maintained which enhances Front Street and the entire riverfront area.

America in Bloom ... Planting Pride in Our Communities
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