

America in Bloom 2023 Evaluation Report

Community: Washington, Missouri

Evaluation Dates: July 20-21, 2023



Lead Advisor: Cheryl Corson

Co-Advisor: Kirk Brown

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.

This year's program included the launch of a new evaluation report and matrix. This new evaluation provides a fresh benchmark for both long-time and first-year AIB communities. It is anticipated that the introduction of the evaluation form based on the new metrics will have different scores and overall percentages from previous years in the program. Scores received in the past should not be compared to scores received this year and moving forward as the evaluation metrics have been entirely revamped.

Evaluation Areas	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percent
Community Vitality	192.00	173.00	90.10%
Floral Impact	144.00	127.00	88.19%
Landscaped Areas	176.00	129.00	73.29%
Urban Forestry	136.00	117.00	86.02%
Environmental Initiatives	144.00	102.00	70.83%
Celebrating Heritage	136.00	97.00	71.32%
Overall Impression	152.00	115.00	75.65%
Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions	13.00	12.00	92.30%
Total Points and Percent	1093.00	872.00	79.78%
Star Rating	8		
Community Involvement Total	88	77	87.50%

Star ratings are based on overall percentage.

1 star = 0% - 9.99%

2 stars = 10% – 10.99%

3 stars = 20% – 29.99%

4 stars = 30% – 39.99%

5 stars = 40% – 49.99%

6 stars = 50% – 59.99%

7 stars = 60% – 69.99%

8 stars = 70% - 79.99%

9 stars = 80% – 89.99%

10 stars = 90% - 100%

Community representatives to receive the Evaluation Report (three minimum)

Name	Title	Email
Doug Hagedorn	Mayor	dhagedorn@washmo.gov
Wayne Dunker	Parks & Recreation Director	wdunker@washmo.gov
Dave Wehmeyer	WIB Co-Chair	wehmeyer.dave@gmail.com
Sally Bocklage	WIB Co-Chair	irishiis@yhti.net
John Steffens	WIB Committee Member	boxstuffer3@hotmail.com

GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION:

Communities are required to provide the following prior to evaluation:

- Community Profile organized to follow the criteria and metrics. For repeat communities, call out what is new and/or implemented due to advisors' recommendations.
- Evaluation Tour Itinerary with start and finish times for each day
- Community Map with community boundaries and the tour route
- Communities are responsible for addressing the metrics in the Community Profile, Evaluation Tour Itinerary, and during the Evaluation Tour.

The areas to be scored:

Advisors will review Community Profiles, Community Maps, and Evaluation Tour Itineraries to confirm the appropriateness of the areas to be evaluated and contact communities prior to the tour so adjustments can be made.

- All areas (municipal, commercial, and residential) within the boundaries of the entrant's community/municipality (except as noted below) are scored and a representative portion of all areas must be included.
- Property to be scored, whether public or private, must be subject to the codes and regulations of the entrant's community/municipality.
- When a property does not meet these requirements, but the community's volunteers significantly impact the property with labor and/or funding, then advisors may include in their scoring the property not subject to the codes and regulations of the entrant community.
- A community may request recommendations for areas toured but not scored.

Metrics are noted with unique codes based on the criteria. Ratings include:

N/A (Not Applicable): Communities should strive to implement all metrics; however, advisors will use N/A when a metric is not scorable in a community. N/A metric is not included in the point totals and does not affect percentages. Examples when N/A may apply in a metric: commercial/business areas do not exist; state or county statutes prevent implementation of a metric.

Not Started (0 points): programs or procedures are not in place.

In Progress (1-2 points): programs or procedures are developed, and a plan of action is implemented.

In Place (3-5 points): programs or procedures are utilized and beneficial.

Surpassing (6-8 points): programs or procedures are exceptional, utilized, and beneficial throughout the community.

Other:

- This Evaluation Report's scoring, general observations, and general and criteria recommendations are based upon the community's efforts including its levels of participation in, or implementation of the metrics in each of the criteria.
- Future projects and programs are not scored.
- The scoring for the seven evaluation criteria is adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the community's location. Make sure the advisors are made aware of any challenges that were faced during the year.

General Observations and Recommendations (recommendations are indicated in *italics*):

Congratulations Washington, Missouri for a fantastic display of civic pride for America in Bloom this year! Washington has participated in AIB since 2011, including hosting the national annual AIB Symposium last year, in 2022. Kudos to Washington for maintaining the event's spirit during Covid, since the Symposium would have occurred in 2020 but had to be postponed. For this reason, Washington had not had an AIB Advisor visit since 2019. It was wonderful to see all that has transpired to enliven the city during these past several challenging years.

Special thanks to the many who helped organize this year's Washington in Bloom (WIB) tour. Wayne Dunker, Parks & Recreation Director, was the main point of contact and tour leader. WIB co-chairs Dave Wehmeyer and long-time volunteer Sally Bocklage participated fully and performed countless preparations. The WIB organization is strong; other members included John Steffens, Emily Underdone, Joe Holtmeier, former Washington Mayor Sandy Lucy, John Vietmeier, and Deaneal McAfoos. Mayor Doug Hagedorn participated in many events and meetings, and generously made his staff available for presentations and interviews. Thanks to all.

The following evaluation covers many topics that make Washington special. Interestingly, the city's economic development director Darren Lamb notes that while Washington welcomes visitors warmly, it does not seek to primarily become a tourist destination. Instead, it seeks to create a stable, thriving economy by identifying and attracting a diversity of businesses to the area. This makes for a healthy employment environment and a more resilient economy. That said, the annual Washington Town & Country Fair attracts nearly 100,000 attendees and is the 3rd largest in Missouri. Another distinguishing feature of Washington is its city sales tax of 8.85% which helps fund capital projects in the Parks & Recreation Department. The most recent of these is the newly completed Agnes Nolting Aquatic Complex, which was well used this summer.

Washington's participation in America in Bloom clearly helps focus the city's efforts on the outdoor environment. We encourage the city to return next year and continue its outstanding civic efforts on behalf of residents and visitors alike.



COMMUNITY VITALITY: Policies, programs, activities, and facilities that lead to a vibrant community and promote a sense of health and well-being. Includes, but not limited to, senior and community centers, libraries, museums, arts/cultural organizations, mentoring programs, schools, faith-based organizations, parks, playgrounds, dog parks, sports fields, water activities, trails, golf courses, and other active and passive recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Not Started (N/S) 0	In Progress 1-2	In Place 3-5	Surpasses 6-8
1. Master plan is implemented for current and future public green space, growth, and enhancements.					8
2. An economic development plan is in place, implemented, and regularly evaluated.					8
3. Communication of ordinances and policies are easily accessible to businesses and residents.					8
4. Active recreation opportunities such as water sports, golf, baseball, and soccer, are available and meet the needs of the community.					8
5. Passive recreation opportunities such as hiking, nature trails, bird watching, and picnic areas are available and meet the needs of the community.					8
6. Age-appropriate play areas and equipment are ADA-compliant, conform to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and are inspected by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector.					8
7. Participation in outdoor community events such as Bike-to-Work Day, Walk to School Day, and charity 5K events, are offered throughout the year.					7
8. Public parks and green spaces are within a 10-minute walk of all neighborhoods.					8
9. Alternative transportation programs are available such as bicycle, electric scooter, car/van pools, and ride sharing.				5	
10. Seating is available near walking, exercise, playground areas, and public transportation stops.					8
11. Shade is provided for participants and spectators such as structures, shade sails, and trees.					7
12. Cultural performances/events for art, dance, theatre, music, lectures, and/or cinema meet the needs of the community.					8
13. Community celebrations and festivals are held throughout the year.					8
14. Businesses are engaged and participate in community events.					7
15. Community center is accessible and available throughout the year for all ages and abilities.				5	
16. Access to educational opportunities such as higher, adult, and vocational education is available.					7
17. Public library resources are available and accessible for all ages and abilities.					8

18. Municipal, business, and residential garden plots, rooftop gardens, community gardens, farmers markets, and/or Community Supported Agriculture are available.					7
19. Secure food distribution programs, such as food pantries and hunger relief efforts, are available and include systems to elevate under-served individuals.					7
20. Community-focused service organizations such as Rotary, Veterans, Chamber of Commerce, Scouting, and faith-based are present and active in the community.					8
21. Volunteer boards are comprised of representatives from businesses and residents.					8
22. Neighborhood organizations are in place and active.				4	
23. Volunteer programs have structure and the ability to record and track volunteer numbers and hours.					6
24. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community.					7
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percent
1. Community Vitality	192		173		90.10%

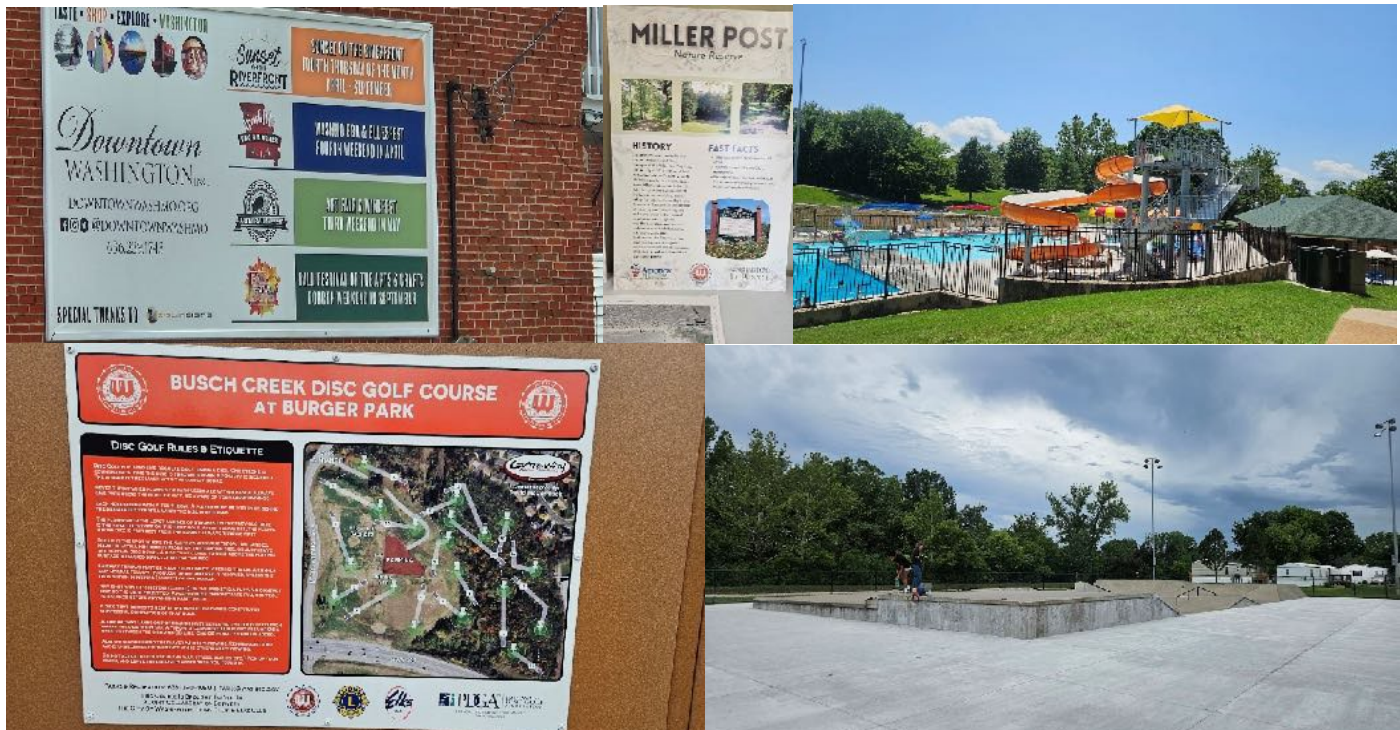
Community Vitality Recommendations:

Washington demonstrates its vitality with the improvements made since its last evaluation in 2019. Members of the AIB committee, city administration officials, service club representatives, and neighborhood volunteers all speak to the heart of the successful programs that make this community come alive! Visiting the new sites since the last evaluation confirms the power behind written programs and publicly available maps, events calendars, and resources. The city's robust, multi-level website, <https://washmo.gov/>, is a one-stop information aggregator for every category and community office that AIB evaluates. The visitor friendly/public facing website, <https://www.visitwashmo.com/>, responds to both residents' and tours' favorite searches. They are both optimized and easily searchable. Washington In Bloom has a colorful Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonInBloom/>



Can category-killing, information overload be improved? Certainly.

Add a Top 20 (or 30 or 40...) Answers to Most Asked Questions tab to the Visit Washington site. Identify how people come to the site and attract them with the questions they most need answered. Share across all media.



America in Bloom/Washington In Bloom tab on the government site is an excellent start. Links to the Management Plans and important gardening Tips & Information are virtually unprecedented in communities of similar size. The site's format does not lend itself to color photographs. For Washington In Bloom, the subject is all about vision and color! Can photographs from WIB be linked to additional interior pages? The Advisors loved the concept of identifying all this year's color plants. Print a QR code that links to this information and add as signage to each of the containers.



The link to 2023's color program is lovely! Again, it's a beautiful graphic with major impact. <https://washmo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/AIB-2023-Colors.pdf> Please add the Latin binomial nomenclature as well as the patent/trademark holder and/or producing company. All the information should be linked to the national brands used in the planting. Discuss benefits of including this plant. Include any related pollinator/beneficial insect information.

Grow the Washington In Bloom Facebook audience by posting more original content—with more color. Increase outreach by adding "How to," "When to," and "Why" posts. Cross-pollinate with the Franklin County Master Gardeners FB page (they have 100 followers that would help!) or any regional Garden Clubs.

Add a vetted Speakers Bureau list that would be useful to any community groups looking for programming. Grow a list of topics over a full range of Washmo.gov departments. So much to talk about and so many ideas to share!

Washington In Bloom needs to own its unique URL. Design a website for it. Draft a strategic plan and write a site map. Emphasize color, seasonal information, garden-of-the-month winners, people and places, and answer the question: Why garden in WashMO? Share the site with community stakeholders. Update with regular video clips and/or information text. Link everything to everywhere inside and outside the community and focus on travel, tourism, quality of life. Own the brand! Add a volunteer tab with a specific list of opportunities, time requirements, seasonality, and educational/health benefits. Grow more gardeners!

In addition to the Garden of the Month, officially recognize outstanding gardeners, outstanding plant (this week, this month, this year...), terrific volunteers, open gardens, and unique garden stops on the road. Add signage to the newest garden street.

The city has an admirable Master Plan in place for public green space, growth, and enhancements as well as

extensive economic development plans. *Can a comprehensive independent audit of all these programs increase efficiency, add mission, and sync timelines to the short- and long-term view?*

The Advisors were impressed with the effort made in all the parks and public facilities to be ADA-compliant. *Develop more ways to communicate the public face of this commitment. Add appropriate signage. Promote lifestyle enhancement.*



The city maintains a list of improvements specifically designed for Boy Scouts to target as Eagle Scout projects. One such achievement is a garden next to the annual fair stage. *Washington In Bloom can identify beautification projects that may be undertaken by individuals or groups. This adds a layer of volunteerism to the spirit of gardening in the community.*

Finally, the Advisors would like to extend their thanks for a superior itinerary that allowed them to experience so much of what is new and vital within this community. The list of accomplishments will be further highlighted as the rest of this narrative unfolds. In its entirety, know that the work Washington does to further the connection of lifestyle with abundant nature is profoundly moving.

FLORAL IMPACT: Strategic design, use, installation, and maintenance of floral displays and seasonal accents for beautification, including but not limited to annuals, perennials, bulbs, tropical plants, flowering topiaries, colorful foliage, and cultivated and native plants for season-round interest for displays in containers, hanging baskets, window boxes, raised planters, trellises, and in-ground plantings.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Not Started (N/S) 0	In Progress 1-2	In Place 3-5	Surpasses 6-8
1. Plan developed each season for procurement, scheduling, planting, and maintenance of seasonal flower and holiday displays.					6
2. Plant combinations are properly selected for location and environmental conditions, create visual interest, provide dramatic effect, and appear coordinated.					8
3. In-ground flower displays are designed with mature plant heights, color, and texture in mind. Plants are healthy, robust, and floriferous.					7
4. Hanging baskets and containers are in use, scaled to their surroundings, and have suitable plants that are robust and floriferous.					8
5. Floral displays such as flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, and mosaics are located throughout the community.					8
6. Creative use of flowers such as flower towers, topiaries, logo displays, rotating baskets, and official town flower is used and appealing.					7
7. Demonstration/display gardens with labeled flowers are available and promoted to the public.				3	
8. Training programs for proper floral display care and maintenance are available for seasonal staff and volunteers conducted by qualified personnel.					6
9. Effective information and education about selection and care of flowers for beautification is available to the public.					8
10. Efforts are in place to educate and raise the public awareness of the importance of flowers in the landscape.					8
11. Programs to educate, encourage, and expand the understanding of the role and importance of pollinator and ecological habitats are available.					6
12. Efficient water-wise strategies are in use, such as drought-resistant plants, use of gray water, and timing of irrigation.				5	
13. Regular pruning, dead-heading, weeding, removal, and replacement of dead plants is conducted on public and private properties.					8
14. Appropriate fertilization procedures are implemented and effective.					8
15. The community utilizes the expertise of growers, garden centers, county extension, and/or city departments to create and implement floral enhancements.					8
16. Recognition programs are in place for attractive displays created by businesses and residents.					8

17. Volunteers, including businesses and residents, participate in the design, planting, and care of flower displays.					7
18. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community.					8
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percent
2. Floral Impact	144		127		88.19%

Floral Impact Recommendations:

Flowers are in power in Washington. Washington In Bloom creates visual impact to improve quality of life within the community and for visitors from around the world. Take a deep breath and dive into the experience that refreshes any weary traveler. A lot of plants and people have been added to the tour since the community last participated in 2019.



The Franklin County Country Club is new to the AIB tour this year. Dave Wehmeyer is WIB Co-chair and Superintendent of Gardens at the County Club. The grounds around the club house are open to public viewing and full of all the latest trends in power plants, textures, riotous color, and mass. Across the fairways, Dave is cultivating acres of no-mow strips and pollinator habitats. Each of the course tees has a pollinator garden planted around the tee marking. On the back nine, he is even tending a vineyard. Nothing distracts from the unifying concept of making this course a cultural reset for groundskeepers and turf tenders. The vista is a spectacular one! This is Washington's spot for BED PLANTINGS and FLOWER WRITING!

Introduce a WIB Garden Tour or Garden Walk. One sure reception spot is the group of Club House gardens at the Country Club. More people need to see these wonderfully floriferous places.

Identify these pollinator habitats and the low-mow strips with more specific signage. Explain the reasons why this view is preferred over our historic concept of a mowed lawn. Don't be shy about having this course listed with as many of the country's associations that recognize or map butterfly/pollinator/native/cultural landscapes and trail. An especially poignant one for listing and posting this year would have the gardens added to the Rosalyn Carter National Butterfly Trail. <https://rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org/>



All America Selections can be found at two public sites and in several private gardens around the city. The best showcase of the new varieties can be found along the entry drive to the Country Club Clubhouse.



The other site is next to the Library. This is a small area that delivers a major impression. The private gardens that were also cultivating trials show the extent that seeds can travel throughout a community that shares in the art and practice of gardening.



Continue both AAS Trial gardens. They are perfect for their individual spaces. If necessary, choose the larger demonstration beds at the Country Club to continue. Please make certain that AAS provides an appropriate number of markers that include all the varieties being tested. These markers were lacking in the golf course garden.

There is a pollinator garden with containers next to the library. Design signage to tie into a school-age educational program. With the AAS garden just around the corner, plan to vary the program to age groups. Give age-appropriate garden tours of the entire site and talk about the value of natural ecology in an urban environment. Include an introduction to the tree canopy programming throughout the city!



Containers with this year's plant design seem to be everywhere. They are well-watered, incredibly maintained and groomed, and obviously planted with successional blooming planned throughout the season. They were spectacular for the Advisor tour. Provide signage for these containers that identify the WIB program. Use a digital marker previously discussed for plant ID. Provide the plant names and local availability (when possible) as well as the national brand of trademarks/patents. Recognize the WIB program for the amazing job of community improvement and beautification it successfully produces.

WIB has gardens worth touring. Organize a Historic Garden Tour using Buffalo Garden Walks as a project stimulus. <https://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/garden-walk-buffalo/> The fact that it has become America's largest private garden tour is due to the vitality and resilience of plants that thrive in USDA Hardiness Zone 6a—the same as

Washington. Book a trip for the committee to attend the 2024 event where more than 300 homes and private spaces are open for anyone of the general public who stops and wants to view gardens. Maps are provided in print and on virtual demand.



Create a Garden Festival over a weekend that includes a marketplace, guest speakers from across the nation and throughout the levels of the green industry. Include representatives from the companies who own trademarks/patents on the plants in the containers. Encourage social media influencers to attend or invite them to speak about their passionate project. Identify the best-selling garden book of the season and invite the author to sit and sign copies. Organize a trade show that includes local vendors of garden-themed merchandise. The best time of year to act as host for this new event is just after Labor Day. The gardens still look beautiful. An indoor venue is more available. Speakers are looking to get back on the trail and people are dreaming of next year's garden. Onward!

LANDSCAPED AREAS: Strategic design, use, installation, and maintenance of the managed landscape. This includes hardscape features, cultivated and native trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, vines, succulents, edibles, evergreen topiaries, turf, groundcovers, and pollinator-friendly plant material.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Not Started (N/S) 0	In Progress 1-2	In Place 3-5	Surpasses 6-8
1. Comprehensive plan to identify, protect, restore, and maintain natural areas (e.g., removal of invasives, no-mow areas planted with native grasses and wildflowers, succession tree plantings).					8
2. Communication of ordinances and policies are easily accessible to businesses and residents.				5	
3. Management plan developed for procurement, scheduling, planting, and maintenance of public landscaped areas.					8
4. Qualified landscape personnel or experienced contractors are available to design, install, and maintain public landscape sites.					8
5. Training programs conducted for proper landscape display care and maintenance are available for staff and volunteers.					7
6. City landscape ordinance requires specifications for landscaping and maintenance for new and improved residential, commercial, and public development.			2		
7. Landscape displays enhance community entryways.					7
8. Landscaping found throughout the community including public areas, parks, gateways, and key buildings.					7
9. Appropriate plants are selected for location, environmental conditions, and impact.					7
10. Best practices are implemented for proper maintenance, pruning, removal, and replacement of dead and overgrown plants.					7
11. Action plan developed and implemented for the identification and management of invasive plants.			2		
12. Strategies developed to monitor and manage diseases and pests and communicated to the public.			2		
13. Best practices are used to manage lawn and turf areas, including mowing, edging, watering, weeding, and replacement of dead material.				5	
14. Lawn and turf areas display health and vigor.					8
15. Mulch from renewable and sustainable sources is appropriately used by municipality and available to residents.					7
16. Landscapes provide a sense of place and identity to the community and are preserved and well maintained.					7
17. Effective use of naturalization, xeriscaping, and suitable plant varieties to enhance such features as traffic calming, bank stabilization, and water management.				4	

18. Innovative plans of action are used in the community, such as strategies for lower maintenance, rain gardens in parking lots, sensory gardens at playgrounds, and meditative gardens at health centers.				4	
19. Residential landscaping provides streetscape appeal and reflects community value in landscaping.				4	
20. School garden programs are in place and incorporated into the curriculum for multiple grade levels.					6
21. Volunteers assist in design, installation, and/or care of public landscaped areas.					8
22. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community.					6
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percent
3. Landscaped Areas	176		129		73.29%

Landscaped Areas Recommendations:

Beautifully landscaped areas in Washington may be found just about everywhere and are a defining city feature. Some areas such as Lafayette Plaza Park benefit from volunteer care measured in decades, not years. Landscaped streetscapes link civic spaces together like pearls on a string. These include the new Riverfront playground at Rennick Riverfront Park, the new West Riverfront Trail, the newly renovated Waterworks Building, Freight and Passenger Depot buildings, Farmer's Market, Library, City Hall and more. All these benefit from extensive volunteer care by Washington in Bloom, the Garden Club, and other civic groups in addition to the city's highly trained Parks Department.

City parks, recreation areas, and trails account for about 580 acres, impressive for a city the size of Washington. The city's Parks Department, headed by Wayne Dunker, is trained and deeply committed to landscape management, attentive to ecology, forestry, and aesthetics. Their now-famous watering truck is but one example of their dedicated and creative staff. The verdant landscape connecting the Main Park Pavilion with the new playground below and the new Agnes Nolting Aquatic Complex is a true oasis in the city.



Franklin Country Club is a private, 18-hole golf course with dining and pool facilities that has recently been transformed under the horticultural leadership of Washington in Bloom co-chair Dave Wehmeyer. Dave's local horticultural career extends over 30 years. In less than three years, he has transformed the grounds from a golf course with some plants, into a lush botanical garden in which people golf. There is even a fledgling vineyard on the property. This outstanding project deserves to be published in a national golf magazine. *We recommend pitching this story idea to prominent national golf magazine editors.*



WIB co-chair, Franklin County Country Club horticulturalist Dave Wehmeyer

Washington is also successful at attracting new industry, and in many areas new development in town is underway. Downtown condos are now renovated and occupied, and more are under construction. Further new residential and commercial development is coming, which is great for the economy. Currently, there are no city ordinances requiring planting for new or renovated residential or commercial development.

We recommend that the city review model ordinances requiring landscaped areas on new or substantially renovated private property. Have stakeholders review options and create an ordinance that may be incorporated into the building permit review process requiring trees and landscaped areas.

One model program is Washington, DC's Green Area Ratio program. While DC is a larger city, this program is a model since it requires that some horticultural expert, whether a landscape architect or horticulturalist, produce the plan (not a civil engineer), and that the plants must be evaluated one year after planting and replaced if necessary. See: <https://doee.dc.gov/service/green-area-ratio-overview>.

West Riverfront Trail is newly opened. It is a tremendous addition to the downtown riverfront landscape. Since it is brand new, it will surely develop further in years to come. One thorny issue, no pun intended, is the presence of invasive plants, trees, and vines throughout the area. It is a daunting task to inventory, map, and manage this large and wild landscape. Given its adjacency to the Missouri River, landscape restoration here would yield benefits far downstream from Washington and could serve as a model for other communities between Washington and St. Louis.

We recommend the city research funding options for the identification, mapping, and treatment of invasive plants on West Riverfront Trail. Such a project exceeds the staffing levels and probably training of the Parks Department and of Washington in Bloom. Some resources may be available, similar to iMap Invasives, <https://www.imapinvasives.org/why-imapinvasives>. The Army Corps of Engineers or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency may have funding opportunities. So too, may the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (<https://www.mo.gov/government/guide-to-missouris-government/department-of-natural-resources/>) and the Missouri Botanical Gardens' Sustainability staff (<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/sustainability/sustainability/about-sustainability>).

Rennick Riverfront Park is a huge draw for Washington. It is the main Missouri Riverfront access and has huge historic significance because of the Lewis and Clark trail. Daily use and large event staging draw visitors well beyond boaters and anglers. Its landscape condition does not yet live up to its potential. The area was ravaged by flooding in the 1990s and flooding remains a threat. The flagpole and boat launch areas have the potential for becoming models for climate resilient landscape design, with the attention of the right professional team. So too, the landscape areas uphill from the boat club docks, now the entry to the West Riverfront Trail.

We recommend the city consider outsourcing the landscape design of the boat launch/flagpole/connecting landscape to the new trail to a professional team experienced in this level of riparian and recreational design. Make this space a model of resilient design and a calling card for Washington. It can be beautiful yet resilient. As with the invasive plants on the adjacent trail, high level funding opportunities likely exist for the design and implementation of such a prominent riverfront connector. The U.S. Department of Transportation may be of help here, given the area's rail connection.





URBAN FORESTRY: Strategic design, use, installation, and maintenance of trees on public and private lands.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Not Started (N/S) 0	In Progress 1-2	In Place 3-5	Surpasses 6-8
1. Certified municipal personnel or trained arborist/urban forester actively manages the urban forest.					8
2. Tree board and/or department is available and interacts with the community.					7
3. Strategic plan addresses the role urban forest initiatives play in the green infrastructure of the community.					7
4. Municipal ordinances enacted and enforced for tree planting and preservation on public and private property, including new construction projects.			2		
5. Policy enacted and enforced that includes performance requirements to meet the minimum crown canopy and succession planting.		N/S			
6. The municipality is an active member in urban forestry organizations, such as Tree City USA and state agencies.					8
7. Best practices are used for appropriate selection and diversity of tree species, proper spacing, and planting depth.					8
8. Best practices are used to manage tree health and public safety.					8
9. Ordinance enacted and enforced for the handling and removal of damaged, dying, or dead trees on public and private property.	N/A				
10. Communication of ordinances and policies are easily accessible to businesses and residents.					7
11. Effective communication is available to the public of recommended trees, proper planting, "Right Tree in the Right Place," mulching, placement and spacing, and maintenance.					8
12. Policies are implemented and education is available for the safe participation by volunteers in planting trees on public properties.					7
13. Tree programs exist that highlight and honor historic trees.					7
14. Innovative programs in place to increase, support, promote, and protect trees, such as civic native tree nursery, repurposing fallen trees, managing destructive pests, and urban orchards.					8
15. Ongoing urban forest tree care training in place for staff and community volunteers.					8
16. Policies are implemented for the protection of historic trees located on public and private properties.	N/A				
17. Public sites such as arboretums, parks, and cemeteries have tree identification labels and descriptive signage.					8

18. Efforts are in place to educate and raise the public awareness of the importance of urban forestry.					8
19. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community.					8
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percent
4. Urban Forestry	136		117		86.02%

Urban Forestry Recommendations:



One of the first things visitors will notice about Washington is the presence of healthy trees - in parks, on Main Street, along the Missouri River, and in private homes. Many homes in several city neighborhoods are sheltered by outstanding legacy trees in the front and back yards. Washington cares about its trees, and considerable time and resources are devoted to preserving this valuable resource.

The city employs a full-time, International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist, rare for this AIB population category. The volunteer Washington Urban Forestry Council (WUFC) supplements city staff efforts. Its stated goal is to, “promote and protect a healthy tree infrastructure and encourage the use of native plants in the city of Washington through education, grants, and community involvement.” (<https://washmo.gov/home-1/city-departments/parks-and-recreation/>).

Washington in Bloom members are active on the WUFC, stating that, “we’re more than just flowers.”

Washington has been recognized for an impressive 18 continuous years as a Tree City USA (<https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/#recognizedSection>). This status makes Washington eligible for additional grant opportunities.



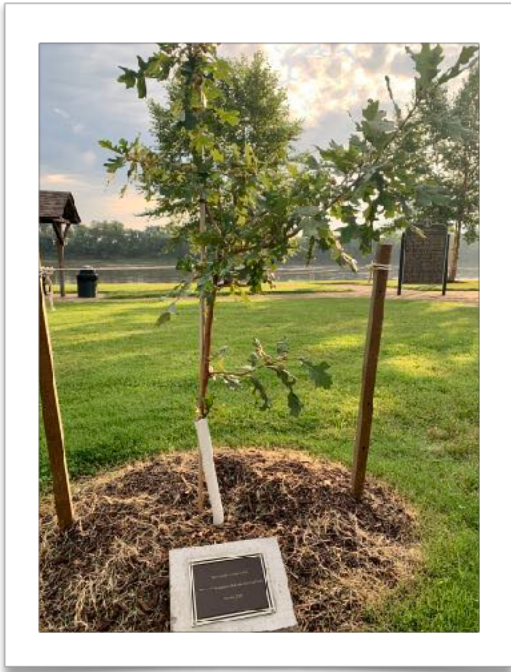
In 2007 and again in 2018, Washington outsourced a professional tree inventory and assessment, for which it received additional state and federal funding. In 2018, 2,707 trees in parks and public facilities were surveyed in order to understand species composition and tree conditions and provide maintenance recommendations. The survey noted that the city’s trees rank in the GOOD category. In response to the data, the city has committed to increasing its tree canopy to amplify all the environmental and public health benefits trees provide.

In 2013, Washington released its first Tree Management Plan. That year, the Parks and Recreation Department, with the help of the WUFC, developed a “Suggested Tree List for the City of Washington.” The manual guides the city and residents in the selection and use of preferred tree species. The revised manual will be released in fall 2023.

In 2014, Washington released an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan, notable because it was an early response to this devastating infestation. As with the tree list and management plan, all information is easily found on the city’s website ([link above](#)).

In 2022 and 2023 the WUFC worked with residents of First Parkway to remove 22 diseased Pin Oaks from the neighborhood median. The group met with residents in a public forum to hear the types of new trees residents would like to see planted. WUFC educated residents on the negative effects of planting another monoculture of

trees. In January 2023 the Pin Oaks were removed and by April new trees were planted by City staff. This was truly a group project and a great educational opportunity for the WUFC.

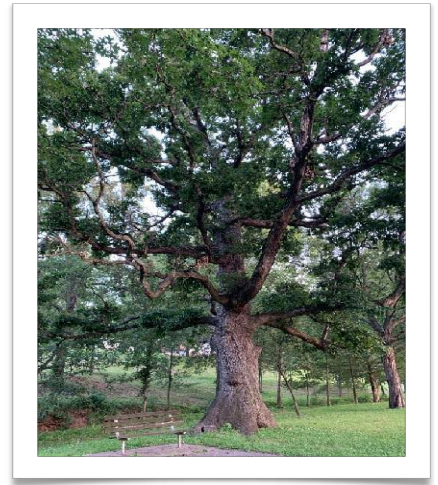


In 2022 the WUFC acquired and planted a clone of the Missouri State Champion McBaine Bur Oak Tree at Riverfront Park. The tree has a plaque commemorating the planting for all to see.

Whether at Arbor Day tree plantings, Farmer's Market tree giveaways, new and renovated city parks or on private property, Washington's trees are an enduring city legacy that will uplift the community for many years to come.

Here are a few recommendations relative to the city's already successful urban forestry practices:

1. *Institute, by ordinance or policy, the city's authority to remove dead trees or dangerous dead branches on private property that overhand public space, such as roads and walkways. If funding is an issue, enable the city to notify the property owner that they must address the issue. If the property owner does not take action within some time frame, the city may perform the work and add some appropriate cost to the property owner's tax assessment.*
2. *Use the percentage of canopy cover in the city's most recent tree survey as a data point against which to assess the city's annual tree planting regime. When large storms or tornadoes occur, correlate the damage to this data in order to assess the number of trees required for replanting to meet or exceed the current percentage in order to meet the established goal.*
3. *Institute tree protections for legacy trees on public and private lands. There are many majestic trees downtown on private property that deserve protection. There are many municipal models of how this may be done. The Arbor Day Foundation provides this document on various tree protection ordinances: <https://www.arborday.org/trees/bulletins/coordinators/resources/pdfs/031.pdf>.*



ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES: Environmental and sustainable leadership, policies, plans, and programs for water, resource conservation; pollution control; trash, recycling, and reuse; climate change issues, green Infrastructure, and alternative energy resources.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Not Started (N/S) 0	In Progress 1-2	In Place 3-5	Surpasses 6-8
1. Environmental Boards are active and effective.					6
2. Appropriate green infrastructure policies and techniques are used to reduce storm water run-off pollution, such as bio-swales, rain gardens, and permeable materials.					6
3. Communication of ordinances and policies are easily accessible to businesses and residents.				5	
4. The municipality has a Sustainability Action Plan that is accessible, reviewed annually, and promotes water conservation, alternative energy use, and responsible land management.					8
5. Municipal employees and volunteers receive year-round training on environmental initiatives.					7
6. Public awareness strategies regarding environmental issues are implemented and effective, such as the 3 Rs, Earth Day events, pollution prevention, "leave no trace" signs, landfill reduction, and community clean-up days.					7
7. Green infrastructure and natural asset inventory mapping and information systems are implemented and regularly updated.					7
8. Management strategies implemented for the effective adaptive reuse of buildings, structures, and land.					8
9. Incentives are available for home and business energy audits, solar energy, and water conservation.	N/A				
10. Water conservation measures are used throughout the community.				3	
11. The municipality uses electric/alternative fuel vehicles in their fleet.	N/A				
12. Electric vehicle charging stations are located throughout the community.			2		
13. Residential and business curbside or collection sites available for trash, recyclables, and compostable collection.					8
14. Recycling and trash containers are available and present themselves together in public areas with consistent labeling.					8
15. Events and sites are available for drop-off of hazardous, household, electronics, and difficult-to-recycle items.				5	
16. Reuse opportunities are available such as clothing, books, household goods, resale shops, and equipment repair initiatives.				5	
17. Prepared food waste collection system is available and used by businesses.		N/S			

18. Educational programs for all ages are available and promoted for the use of environmental initiatives such as rain barrels, backyard habitats, pollinator gardens, rain gardens, solitary bee hotels, xeriscaping, chemical reduction, water conservation, and green business practices.				5	
19. School/youth programs and events encourage involvement in environmental initiatives, and participants are recognized for their efforts and achievements.				5	
20. Policies, procedures, and educational programs address light pollution.	N/A				
21. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community.					7
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percent
5. Environmental Initiatives	144		102		70.83%

Environmental Initiatives Recommendations:

Congratulations are due to Washington's environmental awareness and action plans. As noted in the AIB 2023 Community Profile, many initiatives are ongoing relative to most aspects of city management. These include ordinances for stormwater management for new development relative to the city's Phase II Stormwater Management Plan. This responds to state requirements from the Department of Natural Resources.



Other more routine aspects of environmental action include things like fishing line recycling, yard waste and Christmas tree recycling into mulch, curbside recycling, and large trash pick-up twice annually.

City Hall now has new energy efficient windows, and other city buildings have new LED lightbulbs, so facilities management is providing leadership on its energy efficiency that will extend to the community with repeated, targeted messaging. The city owns its own landfill and waste transfer station, which provides certain benefits.

In alternate years, a statewide clean-up called River Relief takes place involving all manner of volunteer groups.

The Parks and Recreation Department is guided by its 2012 Environmental Resource & Environmental Management Plan (<https://washmo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Natural-Resource-Environmental-Management-Plan.pdf>).

We recommend this plan be regularly updated to include new environmental threats and new management methodologies. The environment is rapidly changing; a five-year update seems prudent. Suggestions may be accumulated and evaluated for final action on this cycle. In this way, successes and failures may be tracked and noted. This information may prove useful in grant funding requests.

With respect to stormwater management and public outreach, there is always more that may be done. Sometimes communities keep stormwater issues separate from landscape issues, leaving some educational opportunities on the table. One community that may be helpful to study is Annapolis, Maryland, in the highly compromised Chesapeake Bay watershed. This small city has exemplary stormwater management and outreach. Here is their web page showing their outreach: <https://washmo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Natural-Resource-Environmental-Management-Plan.pdf>.

We recommend Washington consider implementation of stormwater conservation incentives in the form of either or both, rebates for installing practices such as rain barrels, rain gardens, or permeable paving, or tax incentives for the same. Annapolis has such a program, and it has proven successful.

Just as the mural off Main Street illustrates Washington's history and resources, stormwater best practices may also illustrate leadership and the immediate connection to the Missouri River. One such opportunity exists in the public parking lot adjacent to Lafayette Plaza on 2nd Street.

We recommend the city install permeable asphalt on this parking surface as a demonstration project, complete with educational signage. This site is adjacent to the beautiful garden club-maintained corner lot, so it is already a notable demonstration plot. Because the river is in view from this site, the connection between permeable paving and runoff reduction, infiltration, and water quality improvement is immediate.

Here is information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on permeable paving, including permeable asphalt: <https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-permeable-pavement>.

Washington is doing well on many environmental fronts. Since it is on the Missouri River, beyond recycling materials that are difficult to recycle or are infrequently recycled, one initiative would be to reduce the city's consumption of single use plastics in the first place. Such a reduction could come in many forms: the city agencies taking the lead by example, the city agencies could take the lead plus institute bans on certain plastics used in commerce, such as styrofoam for take-out containers. There are many examples of this nationwide, at state, county, and municipal levels. An article, "Styrofoam Bans in America," summarizes the trend (<https://pos.toasttab.com/blog/on-the-line/styrofoam-ban>). Furthermore, this article links to a listing of suitable alternatives to styrofoam, compiled by the small city of Tacoma Park, Maryland: <https://documents-takomapark.s3.amazonaws.com/public-works/polystyrene-ban/PW-20150624-product-and-cost-list.pdf>.

We recommend Washington move toward a ban on single use plastics at the municipal level, by reviewing other municipal bans or taxes, involving environmental citizens groups and council members, and raising awareness in a politically astute fashion.

Finally, given the plethora of environmental jobs coming into prominence or already existing, we recommend that the city and/or high school, with involvement from Washington in Bloom, institute an environmental career fair for youth and young adults. Such a fair could engage the next generation in jobs that may keep them in the area after graduating high school, and further develop the many excellent initiatives already underway in Washington.

CELEBRATING HERITAGE: Recognition, designation, protection, commemoration, and celebration of historical, cultural, natural, agricultural, and industrial resources.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Not Started (N/S) 0	In Progress 1-2	In Place 3-5	Surpasses 6-8
1. Historic Preservation, Historic Society, and Architectural Review Board are active and effective.					7
2. Historic Preservation ordinances are enacted, enforced, and effectively provide commercial and residential designation, guidance, and protection.					7
3. Communication of ordinances, policies, and restoration resources are easily accessible to businesses and residents.					7
4. Incentives are offered to promote property preservation such as tax credits, waived permit fees, eased setbacks, and rebates.		N/S			
5. Natural and agricultural areas are designated, identified, and protected.				5	
6. Historic districts, neighborhoods, structures, and events are identified and designated.					8
7. Cemeteries, monuments, and historical plaques are in place and well maintained.					8
8. Archives, artifacts, and community records are collected, properly stored and preserved, and catalogued.				5	
9. Oral histories are collected, properly stored and preserved, catalogued, and utilized.				3	
10. Historical museums and interpretive displays are available and maintained.					6
11. Community heritage and diversity are promoted through websites, publications, tours, interpretive signage, mobile apps, and educational programs for all ages.				5	
12. Programs are in place for the purchase, installation, and long-term maintenance of memorial features such as benches, trees, brick pathways, and lamp posts.					6
13. Programs are available to bring history to life, such theater dramas, reenactments, historic characters at public events.					6
14. Historical programs are in place to encourage youth involvement, such as classes and tours available to multiple age levels.					6
15. Parades, festivals, events, and programs are held to commemorate the community's heritage, culture, and diversity.					6
16. Volunteers or staff are properly trained and participate in maintaining historical sites, records, artifacts, and structures.					6
17. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community.					6
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percent
6. Celebrating Heritage	136		97		71.32%

Celebrating Heritage Recommendations:

Washington celebrates heritage at almost every intersection and along busy entry highways. The signage program for historic structures, city parks, amenities, and sponsorships is amazing. The visual coordination is commendable.

The Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) has installed plaques on historic downtown buildings. *Create an interactive map of the downtown. Add overlays that include permanent markers for all the historic houses, museums, gardens, WIB plantings, etc. Expand to include venues from the existing online calendar of both regular and seasonal events. Expand the map to include the river front park, walking trails, parks, and sports amenities that can be used by residents and visitors. This map can be a perfect collaboration of all the stakeholders in the community. Ideally, it would appear under a Visit tab on multiple Washington-related websites.*

Create unique walking tours that feature major points of interest and/or history. Use historical interpreters to lead the tour and capture their stories on an audio component of the map. Hear from Lewis and Clark, the users of Missouri Meerschaums, and people who moved West on the wagons, boats, and trains.



Since our last visit, the caboose has been repainted, WashMO On the Go officially opened and with Washington Station Ax Throwing across the street from Missouri Meerschaum Pipe Co. There is a new children's playground in addition to a plethora of restaurants in a district that is all part of Riverfront Park.

Create more opportunities for educational programs to describe the unique combination of place and history in this park. Plant more shrubs with multiple seasons of color and interest. Add to the existing tree canopy. Enshrine the historic trees in this area.



Please add a story and a tour about the “Magic Man With the Watering Can” who travels over highways and streams of Washington on his quest to provide color and life to the people who choose to live here. He and his vehicle are amazing. Raise the awareness of this man’s mission to those communities who would choose to follow this brilliant example and produce these incredible results!



Deaneal Marie MacAfoos is a member of the WIB Committee. She started an historic improvement project that changed a neighborhood. Her residential neighborhood has two rows of houses divided by an alley from which homeowners access their separate garages. Her double door garage entry needed painting. But white wasn’t going to be good enough. She repainted the doors with a language of flowers. When the neighbors saw her new language, everyone wanted to have her speak to their garages and back entries. Finally, everyone started to plant flower gardens. This allowed the doors to speak to the gardens, and all the neighbors to understand that their language was unique in the city. *This new language is a little bit like talking about rocket science. Once one country talks in spaceship, other countries want their own astronauts to speak in spaceships. This neighborhood illustration of the beauty that can be created with first inspiration then perspiration needs to become a roll-out pattern for neighborhoods everywhere. Write it up. Submit it. Get it published—locally, regionally, state-wide, and nationally. Then open it to fellow gardeners everywhere. Put this alley on the map!*



OVERALL IMPRESSION: Adequate and effective amenities are provided and in good condition. The community is welcoming, attractive, and leaves a positive impression.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Not Started (N/S) 0	In Progress 1-2	In Place 3-5	Surpasses 6-8
1. Signage ordinances are enacted and enforced, such as for temporary stake signs, billboards, and permanent signs for businesses.				3	
2. Ordinances are enacted and enforced to address issues such as overgrown lots, abandoned vehicles, unscreened dumpsters, public nuisances, unregulated garage sales, and empty storefront windows.				4	
3. Code enforcement/compliance officer is on the municipal staff and all codes are enforced.				4	
4. Communication of ordinances and policies are easily accessible to businesses and residents.				4	
5. Community infrastructure is in good condition to include but not limited to roadways, road shoulders, curbs, corner pads, medians, sidewalks, railroad crossings, sewers, transformers, and utility poles.					8
6. Community amenities are in good condition, such as signs, site furnishings, public restrooms, water features, lamp posts, benches, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles, crosswalks/pavement markings, containers, planters, and cigarette receptacles.					8
7. Residential, municipal, and business structures are in good condition, including but not limited to buildings, decks, and patios, related to lack of vandalism, graffiti, broken windows, peeling or faded paint, and rust.					8
8. First impressions are positive in residential, business, and municipal areas. Condition of buildings, grounds, and yards are neat and in order.					8
9. Pet waste policies are posted and enforced, and pet clean-up stations are available and stocked throughout the community.				5	
10. Programs exist and are effective to address graffiti, litter, and nuisance areas.				5	
11. Ample parking with good lighting is available throughout the community.				5	
12. Non-plant seasonal decorations are used in key areas.				5	
13. ADA standards are implemented throughout the community, such as public buildings, parking, sidewalks, public transportation, and trails.					6
14. Gateway entry features exist and are prominent, welcoming, and maintained.					7
15. Wayfinding signage is visible, attractive, and in appropriate locations throughout the community.					7
16. Public art features such as banners, murals, and statues are used, attractive, and in effective locations throughout in the community.					7

17. Community is welcoming and promotes inclusivity such as cultural, ethnic, faith, age, and orientation.					7
18. Volunteers participate in community improvement initiatives, such as Adopt-A-Spot, Habitat for Humanity, River Sweep, home repair programs, disaster relief, and clean-up days.					7
19. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community.					7
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percent
7. Overall Impression	152		115		75.65%

Overall Impression Recommendations:

One's first impression of downtown Washington is that people here care about the public face of their community. From abundant floral planter and hanging basket displays, clean streets, informative wayfinding signage, professional quality murals, and a riverfront full of places to exercise, relax, shop, and dine, this city welcomes visitors and residents with a smile.

It seems as if people at all levels take personal responsibility for their city. Early on the first morning of our visit, a woman got out of her car that was stopped at a red light in front of our vehicle. It was former Mayor Sandy Lucy, grabbing a stray piece of litter from the road. The afternoon before our site visit, a man was seen leaf blowing mulch off the sidewalk on Front Street. That turned out to be the Parks & Recreation Director, Wayne Dunker.

Washington has a very longstanding volunteer network. There are public spaces that have seen over 50 years of volunteer care from the Garden Club. Washington In Bloom boasts a robust, hands-on volunteer base whose presence is felt throughout the downtown and beyond. With this support, the city offers far greater green and landscaped areas than most cities of its size.

Murals are incrementally employed as focal points throughout the city. Even an ordinary stockade fence on a residential corner lot downtown was transformed by its owners into a cheerful art statement. The artist-designed historical mural on Elm Street sets a high bar for civic art.

We recommend the city consider creating a mural program, with some sort of guidance for artists. A maintenance and repair program should be created (if not already in place) which applies to art on public and private properties. One AIB community, Punta Gorda, Florida, has a very successful mural program that may be inspirational. See, Punta Gorda Historic Mural Society (<https://puntagordamurals.org/>).

The riverfront has received much attention since the 2019 AIB Advisor visit. Many features are described in this report. Currently, the flagpole area and descent to the boat launch are a missing tooth in the riverfront experience. We understand plans are underway for its restoration. This will be a great improvement.



As part of the flagpole restoration, we recommend replacing the faded Lewis & Clark memorial sign, and, as is probably already the case, incorporating ADA access to the boat launch, flagpole area, and all signage. Create a visible distinction between vehicular and pedestrian areas with the use of different or contrasting paving, as a public safety measure.



The boat club rental area at the riverfront has been acknowledged as an area that may be improved upon. Perhaps there are steps that may be taken while the lease agreements are yet in place.

We recommend that the landscape at the top of these rental slips be improved with respect to accessible seating, tree replacement, and permeable paving of some kind. As rental slips become vacant, environmentally appropriate improvements should be implemented. The riparian area here is a wonderful environmental education opportunity.

EVALUATION TOUR PREPARATION AND ACTIONS: Community's readiness prior to and the action during the Evaluation Tour including an Informative Community Profile, preparedness prior to Advisors' arrival, and effective content during the Evaluation Tour.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Unmet (U/M) 0	Met 1
1. Community contact was available for pre-visit meeting for introductions and discussion of preparations.			1
2. Community Profile was provided to Advisors at least two weeks prior to the first official tour date.		U/M	
3. Community Profile includes contacts with emails and positions.			1
4. Community Profile from a returning community includes what is new and implemented from previous Advisors' recommendations (scored as Not Applicable for a new community).			1
5. Community Profile includes a map with tour boundaries and a daily itinerary.			1
6. Evaluation Tour provided a representative cross-section of the community.			1
7. Advisors met with elected/appointed municipal leaders and staff.			1
8. Advisors met with the business and non-profit community.			1
9. Advisors met with volunteers.			1
10. Advisors met with the media.			1
11. Advisors were asked to give a presentation.			1
12. A tour wrap-up session was conducted with a community representative.			1
13. Enough time was allotted for Advisors to work on the Evaluation Report in a quiet place with adequate Wi-Fi.			1
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percent
8. Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions	13	12	92.30%

Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions Recommendations:

Washington in Bloom, with Wayne Dunker as the lead contact, created a flawless tour experience for 2023 AIB advisors. Members opened their homes for working meetings. Transportation and lodging were well planned and comfortable. Community leaders made informative presentations. The media covered the site visit. Ample time was devoted to a productive wrap up meeting. It is hard to think of anything further to recommend.



DISCLAIMERS:

1. Communities are responsible for addressing the metrics in the Community Profile, Evaluation Tour Itinerary, and during the Evaluation Tour. Please note that the metric calculations contained herein are final, and each community is encouraged to focus on any changes during the following year's entry in the America in Bloom Level 3 program.
2. All information is given to the best of America in Bloom's knowledge and is believed to be accurate. Your conditions of use and application of recommendations and/or suggested products are beyond our control. There is no warranty expressed or implied regarding the accuracy of any given data or statements. America in Bloom specifically disclaims any responsibility or liability relating to the use of the recommendations and/or suggested products and shall under no circumstances whatsoever, be liable for any special, incidental, or consequential damages which may arise from such use.
3. Reference herein to any specific commercial products, processes, or service by trade named trademark manufacturer or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation or favoring by America in Bloom. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein shall not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes.

2023 Community Recognitions

Community name/state: Washington, Missouri

Recognized Criterion: **Urban Forestry**

Washington cares about its trees. The city employs a full-time, International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist. The volunteer Washington Urban Forestry Council supplements city staff efforts. Its stated goal is to, “promote and protect a healthy tree infrastructure and encourage the use of native plants in the city of Washington through education, grants, and community involvement.” Keep up the good work, Washington.

Noteworthy Project or Initiative: **WashMo on the Go**

WashMo On The Go now occupies the city’s renovated historic Water Works building, featuring local businesses, Washington and Missouri history, and interactive activities for kids. Downtown Washington Board Member and business owner Toni Cavin , Parks & Recreation Director Wayne Dunker, and the City of Washington helped bring this project to life.

America in Bloom
PO Box 44005 • Columbus, OH 43204 • 614-453-0744
www.AmericaInBloom.org • aib@AmericaInBloom.org