America in Bloom
2016 EVALUATION REPORT

Community: Edmonston, Maryland
Population Category: Under 3,000
Evaluation Dates: July 11 -12, 2016

Judges: Bruce Riggs and Douglas Airhart

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	121.00
2. Landscaped Areas	175.00	128.00
3. Urban Forestry	175.00	112.50
4. Environmental Efforts	175.00	129.00
5. Heritage Preservation	175.00	110.00
6. Overall Impression	125.00	88.50
Total	**1000**	**689.00**
%	**68.9%**	
Bloom Rating	**Three Blooms**	

Five blooms = 85% Four blooms = 72.50–84.95% Three blooms = 60.00–72.45% Two blooms = 45.00–59.95% One bloom = <45.00%
(Do not type in pink fields. To update calculations in the entire document, choose Select All, then press F9. This does not work on some Apple products. Some PCs use a different key combination – for example – FN+F9.)

Community representatives to receive the Evaluation Report:

Name: Tracy Grant	Title: Mayor	Email: tfarrish@edmonstonmd.gov
Name: Rod Barnes	Title: Town Administrator	Email:rbarnes@edmonstonmd.gov
Name: Kim Knox	Title: PTCHP Program Coord.	Email:placematterspgc@gmail.com

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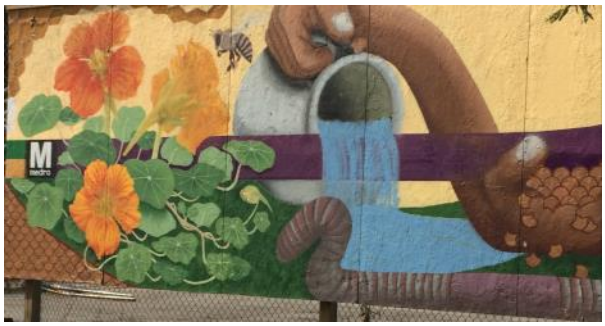
General Observations and Recommendations:

Recommendations are indicated in italics.

Edmonston, Maryland, is a community along the Anacostia River, which is an upriver tributary of the Potomac River that flows into the Chesapeake Bay. The community, a suburb of Washington D. C., functions as a commuter town and an independent city of 1488 residents as of the 2010 census. Ethnic diversity is one of its strengths. According to officials, this community is comprised of roughly 48% Hispanic, 32% African American, 16% Caucasian, and 2% Asian residents.



Edmonston has participated in America in Bloom since 2015 and was honored with the Environmental Efforts Criteria Award that year. We are pleased to recognize that Edmonston is even more attractive and liveable this year. You have worked very hard to accomplish your goals, continue to make improvements and come up with additional ideas to make your city stronger.

Since the community was formed in 1924 from nearby cities and is in Prince George County of Maryland, it has a jurisdictional oversight maze complicated by the National Park System, watershed domains, and infrastructure and community border anomalies. That said, the city has developed many partnerships with these entities to accomplish its goals of improving the community. When searching for funding for its projects, Edmonston must work with various agencies, matching the city's goals with the funding source. Edmonston's governing council and mayor, police and friends have worked this maze carefully to best advantage but are hampered by the bureaucracy of the aforementioned various agencies.

The town has an annual budget for FY2015-16 of $1,461,920. Prudent expenditures are essential and it appears that priorities for the multiple aspects of the AIB program are in place. Grant writing is an essential need and grants determine the ability to expand on areas which enhance and bring amenities to the community. One such example is the grant received to create a small community garden. Built this spring, it sports a beautiful series of raised beds, small fruit trees, and a fence to protect the area from deer and varmints. A sizeable elevated water tank is used to water the plantings by the people who have rented beds in which to garden. Compost bins are planned and will be added along with additional beds as needed. The site was exhibiting some very healthy plantings. *We suggest you add additional planting beds and make plans to create other community gardens in abandoned lots or open spaces as needed. Put one person in charge of all the gardens to make it easier to organize.*

The city currently gives some plants to community members to plant in their yards or in designated areas. *To enhance the visual impact of the 380 residents' yards, apartments and local businesses, we suggest a "seed give away" of some easily grown annuals such as zinnia, marigolds, calendula, black-eyed Susan's, or celosia.*

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Do not limit the "seed give away" to this small list but consider what someone could easily grow. Some seed companies donate last year's seed for programs such as we suggest, so begin contacting some companies soon to either get a great price or free gift. Provide planting instructions and stage a small community contest next year to recognize which sites have the best displays. Give out plaques or paper awards dated by year so next year the contestants will try again.

Many people work very hard to make Edmonston a liveable city. We applaud your efforts and encourage you to keep up the work and continue to expand on the AIB theme of planting pride. Your enhancements do make a big difference in both residents' and visitors' lives and we congratulate everyone for all they do. We encourage you to build on your successes.

Your current Green Team is an effective group of "mover-and-shaker" doers with a leader. However, we suggest you c*onsider assigning one person to spearhead each of the evaluated criteria, so responsibility is more distributed. Have the leaders enlist others to work toward unifying the three sectors of the program, namely the municipality, the businesses and the residents.*

You are doing a very good job and we congratulate you on your past successes. We thank you for all you did to make us feel so welcome and for taking so much time to show us many of your city highlights. Visit the AIB website at www.americainbloom.org to access webinars, resources and the current news. We invite you continue to participate in America in Bloom in the future.

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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	15
Concept and design, variety of plantings, overall effect	20	14
Maintenance and quality of displays	20	14.5
Design for all seasons	15	10
Business		
Concept and design, overall effect	15	10.5
Maintenance and quality of displays	15	10
Residential		
Concept and design, overall effect	15	10.5
Maintenance and quality of displays	15	10
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in design, planting, and maintenance of floral displays	20	12.5
Financial and in-kind contributions to floral displays	20	14
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	**175.00**	**121.00**

Observations and Recommendations:

Floral displays were prominent at the entry signs and at the town hall. The sizes of the containers were not overly large and thus the plantings were attractive *but could be made more impressive if larger containers were used*. A contractor for the city maintains the plantings and does landscaping for the city as well. We saw some excellent residential examples of various floral presentations - potted, boxed, planted in ground, at most of the sites we toured. The unique use of highway barricades by Metro Paving Company at their entry drives, main offices steps and along their back warehouse wall was particularly impressive. These large and heavy concrete planters were painted, filled with flowers and also served as barricades. We visited the headquarters and the company owners graciously offered some barricades to be used as planters by the city as needed.

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One resident in particular had unique raised vegetable beds using painted recycled pallets and used construction webbing to prevent cats from digging in the beds. Some of the residences were attractively planted with annuals, had a very obvious 'we care' look and the plantings were beautiful and vibrant with floral displays. *That said, there is the need for many other residences and businesses to increase the planting of floral displays. Consider distributing packets of colorful annual flower seeds to businesses and residents. This will encourage more floral displays throughout town.* As one neighbor adds attractive flowers others will see the difference they make and add plantings. *Then start a floral display competition for both residents and businesses. Present awards, place signage announcing award winners and make sure these efforts are recognized.*

At the Community Forklift repurposing not for profit center the entrance was decorated with a small pyramid of various pastel colored toilet bowls planted with floriferous annuals. The nearby artists' shop had also used repurposed items to attract attention. *The artistic use of discarded material to serve a useful purpose is an excellent way to stage floral displays inexpensively.* As noted last year by AIB judges, the Sunoco station plantings were eye catching despite extensive road construction, providing an attractive spot in an otherwise stark situation.

Consider adding colorful annuals to the community garden surround to make it more visually attractive.

Mention was made that there were going to be hanging baskets and banners added to Decatur Street light poles. *Continue to ensure all baskets and containers added to the displays are sizeable enough to not need repeated watering.* A larger container is easier to maintain. *Fertilize regularly with a "Bloom Booster" formula to ensure continuous blooms and make sure a pelleted time-release fertilizer is incorporated in the soil mixture at planting, or applied as top-dress after establishment to provide for continuous growth.*

The community was highly cooperative in preparing for our visit, everyone being involved or at least knowledgeable about floral displays and the other categories of evaluation.

We recommend flyers be distributed so all homeowners become more aware of the AIB program and the benefits of participation and how to become part of your Green Team. Consider inserting the flyers into utility bill envelopes (if used) as one-quarter page inserts describing the program and the date AIB judges will be in the community.

The summer plantings about town were at their peak during our visit and will need to be readied for fall and winter displays. Add evergreens for winter and cool weather crops such as pansies for the fall. Make sure they are watered regularly as there is a tendency to neglect fall and winter planters.

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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	12
Environmental management of sports fields and turf	15	11.5
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	12.5
Sustainable management, naturalization and eco-design	15	11.5
Business		
Overall design and planting of landscape	15	11
Management of turf and groundcovers	10	6.5
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	11
Residential		
Overall design and planting of landscape	15	10.5
Management of turf and groundcovers	15	10
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	10
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement, i.e. garden clubs, neighborhood groups, Master Gardeners and University extension, in funding, planting, and maintenance of landscaped areas	15	10.5
Participation in future planning (committees, councils, and advisory boards.)	15	11
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	**175.00**	**128.00**

Observations and Recommendations:

The areas landscaped by the municipality and homeowners were somewhat impressive but *overall need to be expanded. Consider adding additional hydrangeas to the ones planted in the parking area at City Hall.* We noticed that there was space for several more.

The city has only two properties to oversee and an outside contractor maintained them nicely. The two city employees also care for a number of hanging baskets, watering recently planted trees and maintaining some of the planting beds as needed in addition to their regular duties. *A diversity of plants should be placed appropriately around the foundations of the two city buildings. Consider hiring the Love and Carrots Landscaping Company to plant these areas.*

We were pleased to hear that University of Maryland College Station students are involved in community service projects such as tidying the landscape. *This might be expanded to add residential homes that are somewhat derelict. Fraternities and sororities often are looking for such tasks and should be contacted to see if*

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they can be of assistance.

Municipal turf looks fine and the contractor is mowing it at the prescribed height. *You should consider a checklist of maintenance needs. Make sure the contactor provides information about any chemicals used, as the areas are public spaces. Where there are soccer and baseball fields consider regular aeration and top dressing with compost or good topsoil.* If you do set up a formal soccer league as mentioned, you will have to be careful the fields do not become overused for games and practice. *A formal agreement will need to be developed with teams. Schedules must consider field maintenance to ensure quality turf and the budget will need to reflect the additional care.*

Consider establishing a landscape committee to help oversee roadsides, municipal lands, and invasive weeds. It is much better to remove weeds before they become too prevalent; it is the most cost effective way.

Your community garden is wonderful. *However, plots need to be planted and not left dormant or weedy. Plot holders need to be told that they are required to keep the space in vegetable and flower production and not left untended. Try to involve more youth. If you find that beds are open you can "plant a row for the hungry".* The Garden Writers Association sponsors such a program and their website provides information. www.gwa.org. *Area churches might also be interested in taking advantage of open plots for members of their congregations and should be contacted.*

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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	14.5
Tree maintenance	15	10
Preservation and restoration of natural areas	15	11
Tree protection/planting regulations and by-laws	15	9.5
Business		
Overall planting program	20	13
Tree maintenance	15	9
Residential		
Overall planting program	20	11
Tree maintenance	15	8
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in funding, planting, and maintenance of trees (i.e. Tree City USA)	20	14.5
Volunteer involvement of youth in tree programs (i.e., Arbor Day, etc.)	20	12
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	**175.00**	**112.50**

Observations and Recommendations:

Congratulations on your Tree City USA designation. This shows you have a commitment to urban forestry and the community is allocating resources to this important project. We thought the idea of planting fruit trees in various locations was a fine idea. *However, you need to monitor whether the fruits are being used and are not attracting vermin. You might also consider planting such pollinator trees as Basswood and Sourwood (Oxydendron) as both produce copious amounts of nectar and pollen for bees.*

The two large oaks on the corner of Decatur and 51st Street should be properly identified and given recognition. We noticed a number of significant trees throughout your community and they should be identified and noted on a tree walk. At Community Forklift, *the repurposed milled trees (urban wood) feature is considered Urban Forestry and is a great way to keep the wood from being chipped or trashed.*

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Your community needs strict guidelines to care for your street trees and trees under utility and power lines. We suggest you do an inventory so you know what trees you have, know what needs to be replaced, and know what maintenance requirements are needed. Consider using iTree, a free program that some communities have used. You can also hire tree companies such as Davey to undertake such a project. Once you know what you need to do you can then create a budget for accomplishing your goals. This can then also serve as a basis for seeking grants for funding of your tree program.

Your community's trees are a valuable resource. They provide needed shade, keep the environment cooler and reduce water runoff. Soil compaction by construction and vehicles can damage trees. *Regulations need to be put in place to protect trees. Detailed planting instructions and rules should be available for contractors to follow. The compliance officer needs to have regulations in place that protect the welfare of the trees especially the roots from compaction by vehicles.*

Once a tree is planted it needs to be watered on a regular basis, especially for the first few years. Gator bags, when used properly, provide a steady drip of water to the root area and should be budgeted into all tree plantings. It is also possible to use a 5-gallon bucket and put a few very small holes in the bottom to allow for the water inside to leak out. Staff or volunteers who water need to understand that the root area needs to be soaked at least once a week, even after leaves fall until the ground freezes.

Some other tree varieties to consider are golden raintree, yellowwood, and some of the larger magnolia species.

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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	18
Effective communication of environmental strategies and initiatives	25	19.5
New programs, improvement and innovation	25	19.5
Business		
Participation in environmental efforts	20	15
New programs, improvement and innovation	10	7
Residential		
Participation in environmental efforts	20	12.5
New programs, improvement and innovation	10	6.5
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in environmental efforts	20	16
Youth participation in environmental activities	20	15
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	**175.00**	**129.00**

Observations and Recommendations:

We were very impressed by the Community Forklift repurposing facility that reuses and makes available once used and not used materials for purchase or sometimes for free. It is a true recycling center. The inspection of used stoves prior to reselling adds the assurance that they are in fine working condition. It was especially nice to hear that this facility was able to make the "brown field" they are situated on a useful site again. We applaud everyone for this program.

Your new matched recycling containers were eye catching.

Your commitment to recycling is a great way to work with your sister port towns on a worthy environmentally positive program and should be used as a stepping-stone for partnering on additional like programs. If the county is not already doing it *we suggest you add the pickup of dried paints, caustic chemicals, unused herbicides and fungicides, and electronics such as computers and televisions to your program.*

Composting is an easy way to recycle organic materials. *The community needs to be the leader on this endeavor by establishing a small organic recycling area at city hall and the Community Center and to provide*

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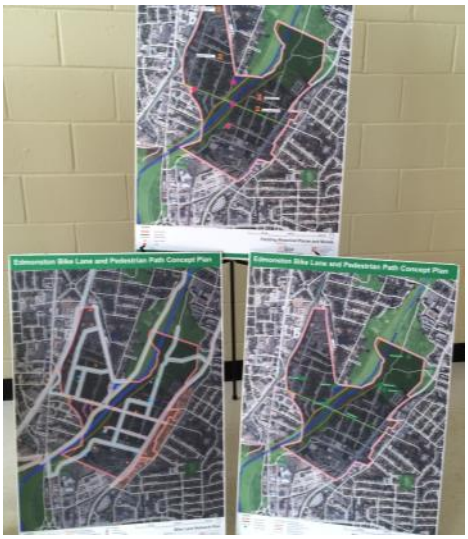
information to residents and businesses on how to do it properly. We recommend you prepare flyers to show how it is done and distribute them citywide. At the Community Garden build a replicable composting series of bins and also demonstrate that homeowners can easily recycle small limbs and twigs using the Hugelkultur (www.richsoil.com/hugelkulture) method of burying them, covering them with soil and planting on them. We suggest you advocate that when mowing lawns the chopped leaf and grass clippings remain to naturally decompose and recycle.

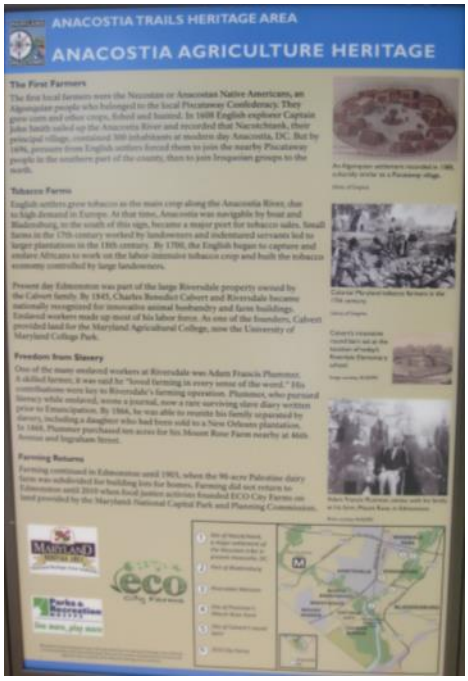
Rain barrels reduce rain runoff and capture valuable water for use later. *We suggest you install them on city buildings and use the water on landscapes planted around the buildings. Consider developing a program to provide water barrels to residents for free or for a subsidized cost.*

The recently installed LED street lights on Decatur Avenue looked useful and will reduce energy costs. *Whenever possible change municipal lighting to LED. Contact the local electrical utility to see if they can offer discounted bulbs and programs that collect and/or replace energy consuming appliances such as refrigerators and televisions for your residents and businesses.*

Your program that had students mapping storm drains was a great idea. *Consider other programs to inventory city assets or needs. They might inventory bus stops and the need for benches, curbs that need replacing, signs that need straightening or locations where litter or graffiti is in need of removal. Your business district needs to be enlightened on recycling and energy conservation. Possibly an intern or student or city staff member can survey the businesses to see what they need.*

The posters displaying aspects of the proposed Bike Lanes promises a great environmental improvement for your community. Keep up the good work!





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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	15.5
Legal protection of heritage sites	25	12.5
Resource availability for preservation and restoration	25	13.5
Business		
Conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of properties	15	11
Participation in and support of heritage/cultural activities	15	10.5
Residential		
Conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of properties	15	10
Participation in and support of heritage/cultural activities	15	9.5
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in cultural, historical, and natural heritage activities	20	15
Youth involvement in heritage activities	20	12.5
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	**175.00**	**110.00**

Observations and Recommendations:

Edmonston is in a very historical area of the United States and its rich history needs to be better communicated. *Consider creating a time line of the area and add significant dates about the city. Although the city was not established until the 1920s, much had taken place that affected the development of the city before that time.* The rivers, roads and railroads had a major effect on the way the city now functions. Place this timeline in various locations around town such as on the new trail along the Anacostia River, at City Hall and on your website. Add the details of the history of farming/Anacostia agricultural heritage signage so others better understand the importance of agriculture for the area.

The Mayors' Wall of Honor at City Hall should be further developed. Abstracts about each person should be posted along with their photographs and a request for information should be made to local residents and area historical societies. If there are relatives extant, add information about them to tie it all together to current times.

The Plummer story is very interesting and needs to be better told. Currently the story is included with Black History month activities. *Assemble as much information as possible and feature his family on interpretive panels along the bike trail, on your website, and in other locations in Edmonston tied to the family.*

The Anacostia River has had a major effect on the creation of the city and the lives of the generations of residents who call Edmonston home. The Anacostia River Water Trail is a jewel. *Storyboards depicting this rich history should be placed about town to bring awareness to the importance of this historic river on the town.*

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This information should be added to the city website and the community profile for America in Bloom.

As you research the history of the community, consider adding historical markers, landmark status, and walking tours to explain the story. We understand that the bike/walking trail will have interpretation but more will make the community stronger. Signage (funded by the Anacostia Heritage Trails Association) explaining the history of the Edmonston Terrace brick houses will be a noteworthy addition.

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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	7
Condition of public buildings and properties	10	8
Impact of graphic elements - banners, wayfinding signs, murals, etc.	10	8
Business		
Overall cleanliness	20	14
Condition of buildings and properties	20	14
Residential		
Overall cleanliness	10	6
Condition of buildings and properties	10	6
Community Involvement		
Participation in clean-up efforts, adopt-a-spot, annual cleanup days, etc.	15	10
Recognition of volunteer efforts	10	6.5
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	**125.00**	**88.50**

Observations and Recommendations:

The community was prepared for our visit and had worked hard to remove any litter and graffiti that may have been present before our arrival. They even rented a street sweeper to clean streets and are investigating the regular renting of it for the future. There are banners planned for Decatur streets and future developments planned for Crittenden Street. These will add to the 'we care' look and provide a community feeling to these avenues, which in addition to being two of the main streets in town are also part of the state highway. They are also redeveloping these areas in the most environmentally positive ways.

In the short time we were in the community a number of people checked on us to make sure everything was going well. We felt that they were really concerned about us, that they were representing the community which they were overseeing and that they really cared. People looked after each other, especially one very independent child who followed us by bicycle as we visited the city. They cared about him, were concerned about his welfare, and earnestly tried to help him.

The Community Forklift repurposing facility often donated items to those who could not afford to buy what they needed. We were very touched to hear this news. The End Time Harvest Ministries works closely with youth to increase the school graduation rate, improve health and prevent obesity and empowers students with leadership and character skills. This group has positively impacted the lives of hundreds of youth and families in the county and specifically Edmonston. They also partner with many other entities that support these goals. *The Adopt-a-Spot program has been very successful in helping to improve many locations and*

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might be something Edmonston should consider. Students, seniors, businesses and the churches should be solicited.

The Eco City Farms project supplies quality food to the farmers markets, shareholders and those in need. Great job.

We visited two locations where there were attractive murals. *Consider adding a history mural to the recreation center either inside or outside. Contact the area high school art teachers or solicit local artists. Create an inventory of all the interpretive signage, art, wall murals and items of historic value for residents and visitors to view. Put the inventory on the city website.*

Some residences needed attention and might be able to be easily fixed with a little effort. *Consider establishing a lending library of tools. The Community Forklift might be able to supply some and others might be secured as a donation from hardware stores or big box stores. Possibly use an abandoned home that the city has taken over to house them and have a 'librarian' loan out the tools making sure they are returned for others to use. The code enforcement officer might be able to oversee this with a volunteer, as they know what needs to be fixed.*

We were not sure there is an active Chamber of Commerce group. *If so, involve them in the business area along Ingraham Street. If there is no C of C, then organize the Ingraham businesses to work towards making their area more attractive. Possibly the Metro Paving Company owners might be of assistance.*

It is easy to give "We Notice You Care" awards. *Consider developing some for elected officials and city staff to distribute. Make sure to date them so they become more desirable each year.*

The work planned for Crittenden Street promises to change the neighborhood. Before it all begins *consider formally asking the homeowners to develop their own rain gardens, add rain barrels and plant floral displays and landscaping on their properties.*

There were a few America in Bloom signs about the community but *consider adding more informational signage about AIB so the program is in the limelight and more people will become involved. The Green Team has made a great start but more volunteers should be enlisted to make the various jobs easier. Put one person in charge of each of the evaluated criteria.*

The code and ordinances listed on the city website would benefit some revamping. As an example, 5-4 Bee Keeping is counter to the theme of Pollinator Gardens you advocate. At 9-12 under Landscaping you list the requirement of planting a Japanese cherry tree. This should not be as restrictive or should be enforced, as we did not see that many cherry trees planted. You should also consider adding an amount of money to be held in escrow for those trees that were planted as required by your ordinances. The money should be refunded only after two or three years if the planted trees survive. Under 9-13 Parking, add that the use of water permeable paving is encouraged to prevent water runoff. Likewise under 9-16, water runoff needs to be amended to encourage the use of rain gardens rather than specifying that water be directed to a sewage system.

FYI the free weatherization link on the city website is defunct and should be removed.

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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.)
X			Was there a wrap-up session at the end of the tour?

Comments:

The two new posters displayed at the recreation center during our visit were attractive and informative.

Consider developing them as enticement features for Realtors servicing your community.

<u>DEFINITIONS</u> (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

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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.

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2016 Special Mentions
2016 Community Recognitions

Community: Edmonston, Maryland

Recognized Criterion: **Landscaped Areas**

Edmonston has its first community garden and plans to create several more as funding permits. Raised beds are filled with quality soil and subscribers who registered with the city-sponsored program planted seedlings and some seeds. Donated seedlings and plants were supplied by the landscape firm Love and Carrots. John Johnson, Town Council member for Ward 2 and Green Team member, has personally taken on the responsibility of community garden coordinator while he maintains his own plot and assists novice gardeners. A large gravity-fed watering tank is kept full by the city. A new fence surrounds the planting beds and edible fruit trees are growing. More trees are planned for the perimeter spaces. The beds looked filled with fruits and vegetables and there was a healthy competition on which beds had the best results.

Noteworthy Project or Initiative: Love and Carrots

Love and Carrots is a business that provides gardening assistance to people who would like to have an organic vegetable garden in their community, yard, or patio. They produce seedlings and plants and provide seeds to add to the gardens and places they oversee. In Edmonston, they gave plant materials and expertise to help the community garden become established. The business is located in Edmonston and it also provides employment and garden supervision to help others grow quality vegetables. They freely provide their expertise to the community.

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