America in Bloom 2025 Evaluation Report

Community: Edmonston, MD
Evaluation Dates: July 24, 2025

Lead Advisor: Jack Clasen
Co-Advisor: Millie Murphree

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.

Evaluation Areas	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percent
Community Vitality	128.00	103.00	80.46%
Floral Impact	96.00	70.00	72.91%
Landscaped Areas	96.00	67.00	69.79%
Urban Forestry	104.00	76.00	73.07%
Environmental Initiatives	152.00	123.00	80.92%
Celebrating Heritage	112.00	73.00	65.17%
Overall Impression	112.00	93.00	83.03%
Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions	14.00	14.00	100.00%
Total Points and Percent	814.00	619.00	76.04%
Star Rating		8	
Community Involvement Total	64	40	62.50%

Star ratings are based on overall percentage.

1 star = 0% - 9.99% **2 stars = 10% – 19.99%** **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**
Tracy R. Gant	Mayor	tgant@edmonstonmd.gov
Rodney Barnes	Town Administrator	rbarnes@edmonstonmd.gov
Ed Hooker III	Volunteer	Edhooker@yahoo.com

GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION:

Communities are required to provide the following prior to evaluation:

- Community Profile is 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):

Edmonston is a small town with big ideas. The town is always looking for opportunities to improve. The town takes advantage of the many grant opportunities through the state of Maryland, Prince George's County, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and other entities that greatly expand the financial resources of a small middle-income community.

Town government is very involved in the well-being of the residents. There are numerous events where Mayor Gant is actively involved and visible to everyone in the community. For example, handing out gifts during the holiday caravan. The town Manager, Rod Barnes, takes personal interest in many residents and goes out of his way to help them by looking for available resources. Diversity and inclusion are not just words on paper, but actively developed through engagement and public art, such as the new mural near the levee.

Edmonston is a member of the Port Towns community. The four communities work together on projects and grant requests. There is also a Port Towns Sector Plan for the four communities that was adopted in 2009 and updated on a regular basis.

Great attention to detail. The photo below shows the attractive landscape around the Veteran's Memorial sign.

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. An economic development plan is in place and implemented. It includes the direction for short- and long-term economic growth, and programs to improve the economy. It is regularly evaluated, measured, and/or reevaluated.					6
2. Communication of ordinances and policies pertaining to Community Vitality are easily accessible. Topics include, but are not limited to, culture, education, government, recreation, and technology. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall, library, and social media.					7
3. Master plan exists for current and/or future public green space. Growth, enhancements, and/or protection of undeveloped areas are included. It is reviewed and routinely updated.				5	
4. Public parks and/or green spaces are available. Properties may include pocket, school, neighborhood, city, county, state, and national parks and green spaces. Parks and green spaces meet the needs of the community and are clean, maintained, welcoming, and utilized.					7
5. Active and/or passive recreation opportunities are available and meet the needs of the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, water sports, golf, baseball, pickleball, skiing, soccer, hiking, nature trails, bird watching, picnic areas, and fishing. Year-round programs are available.					7
6. Seating is available near walking, exercise, playground areas, and/or public transportation stops. The seating and area are clean and accessible.					6
7. Shade is provided for participants and/or spectators at cultural and sporting events. Structures include, but are not limited to, shade sails, dugouts, pergolas, arbors, and trees. Structures are maintained and inspected for safety.				5	
8. Community gathering space is available. The space is accessible and used throughout the year for all ages and abilities. Examples include, but are not limited to, community center, senior center, YMCA, faith-based gathering places, libraries, and town hall.					7

9. Age- and ability-appropriate play areas are accessible. Equipment is ADA-compliant and/or inspected by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector.					7
10. Active outdoor community events are offered throughout the year. Examples include, but are not limited to, Bike-to-Work Day, Walk to School Day, and 5K events.					6
11. Community celebrations and/or cultural performances meet the needs of the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, festivals, art, dance, theatre, music, and cinema.					8
12. Secure food programs are available. Examples include, but are not limited to, hunger relief efforts, food pantries, garden plots, rooftop gardens, community gardens, farmers markets, and Community Supported Agriculture.					8
13. Alternative transportation programs are available. Transportation is available in all areas of the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, bicycle/scooter rental, car/van pools, public transportation, and/or ride sharing to all areas of the city.					7
14. Safety policies, programs, and/or services are in place. Examples include, but are not limited to, police, fire, emergency medical services, community health, crime prevention, homeland security, gang prevention, traffic, homelessness, civil and human rights. Information is easily accessible and communicated.					6
15. Youth-focused programs are in place for multiple ages and/or abilities. Examples include, but are not limited to, sports, gardening, clubs, and lectures					6
16. Non-municipal volunteer boards are active and/or comprised of representatives from business and residents. Examples include, but are not limited to, In Bloom committee, Rotary, Veterans, Chamber of Commerce, Scouting, HOAs, and faith-based organizations.				5	
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
1. Community Vitality	128		103		80.46%

Community Vitality Recommendations:

Edmonston is a vibrant community with a full calendar of events for everyone to enjoy. The quarterly Newsletter lists numerous activities and events as well as photos from recent events, environmental tips, calls for volunteers, and much more. Everything that is planned is so well organized and executed, with attention to detail, it is a model for communities throughout the country, whether large or small. Below are just a few examples of the quality projects around town.

Attractive pocket park – The Zen Garden.

One of the festive bicycle sculptures

Many communities form an "in-bloom" committee to not only develop a long-term plan for implementing recommendations from America In Bloom and other sources, but to have a succession plan for when the current leaders retire. *Consider forming an America In Bloom committee with a vice-chair who would be in line to take over leadership in maintaining a high quality of life in Edmonston.*

Other communities in the region might already have 1 or 5 K walks or races, but *there might be an opportunity for Edmonston to have an event on Earth Day or other days during the year.*

Prince George's County has a County Extension office with many resources available to communities. *Consider setting up a meeting with County Extension to see what they offer and how they can help, either Edmonston alone or with the other Port Town communities.*

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. Plant combinations are carefully selected for location and environmental conditions. The combinations create visual interest, provide dramatic effects, and appear coordinated. Routine maintenance is evident.					8
2. In-ground flower displays are designed with mature plant heights, color, and texture in mind. Plants are healthy, robust, and floriferous. Routine maintenance is evident.					7
3. Containers and/or hanging baskets are in use, scaled to their surroundings, and have suitable plants. Plantings are robust, floriferous, and provide a dramatic effect. Routine maintenance is evident.					7
4. Floral displays are located throughout the community. Displays are well maintained and attractive. Examples include, but are not limited to, flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, topiaries, and/or mosaics are located throughout the community.					8
5. Regular pruning, deadheading, weeding, removal, and/or replacement of dead plants is conducted on public properties.					7
6. Demonstration/display gardens are available. Plants are labeled. The garden is promoted to the public. Garden is available for events to residents and businesses.				4	
7. Efficient water-wise strategies are in use. Examples include, but are not limited to, drought-resistant plants, use of gray water, and timing of irrigation. Strategies are easily accessible and communicated. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall, library, and social media.				5	
8. Appropriate fertilization (chemical and/or non-chemical) procedures for municipal, parks, and/or school properties are implemented. The procedures produce effective results. Educational information about fertilization is communicated. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall, library, and social media.				4	

9. Training programs for proper floral displays care and maintenance are offered to seasonal staff and/or volunteers. Training is conducted by Master Gardeners, County Extension, local garden centers, state agencies, and/or contractors.				5	
10. Efforts are in place to educate and raise public awareness of the importance of flowers in the landscape. Educational information about the selection and care of flowers for beautification is available and communicated to the public. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall, library, and social media.					6
11. Recognition programs are in place monthly, quarterly, and/or annually for attractive displays created by businesses and/or residents.					6
12. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments in the community's floral displays. Routine opportunities present themselves to residents and/or businesses to get involved.				3	
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
2. Floral Impact	96		70		72.91%

Floral Impact Recommendations:
Edmonston celebrates communities, organizations, and individuals by elevating their surroundings with vibrant, sustainable, and purposeful blooms. We love that Edmonston is working with a local nursery to obtain plants at discounted prices. We also love that you have dedicated gardeners like your Master Gardeners. *We recommend growing these relationships. Consider providing a scholarship to a resident for the Master Gardener training that can lead projects in Edmonston for their volunteer hours. Part of this can include training with County Extension Agents. With your amazing youth and your school garden programs, a junior Master Gardening program would be an appropriate addition and an investment in future blooms!*

Your 90 rain gardens showcase native plants like echinacea and ornamental grasses. We loved that these are mapped, and more are in the works! These gardens are designed for pollinator support, stormwater management, and seasonal color. *Consider adding additional pollinators as well as edibles and host plants like milkweed for butterflies. Try succession planning to allow for continuous blooming. Signage that denotes the area as a "rain garden" with a QR code included to educate the public on the what and the how would be a great addition as well as labeling the plants in each rain garden.*

https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-03/RainGardenFactSheet_0371.pdf

A team of volunteers has done a beautiful job of strategically placing large planters around the town. Many pots were part of a salvage project and were acquired for free. Some are baskets and some are included as part of the

bicycle art around Edmonston. The containers are full, lush, and colorful, bringing bold texture and artistic flair to Edmonston's landscape. Pots have thrillers, fillers, and spillers, adding pops of color everywhere they are needed! Floral displays and seasonal accents include annuals, perennials, bulbs, tropicals, colorful foliage, cultivated and native plants for year-round seasonal interest. Regular maintenance is evidenced in their uniformity making for a cohesive and impactful presentation. *Recommendations include succession plantings for floral displays, incorporating herbs, dwarf fruit trees, and vegetables into pots or decorative beds. Balcony or porch containers as well as hanging baskets with tomatoes, peppers, and strawberries can provide nectar for pollinators and can also serve as a demonstration for homeowners. Integrate houseplants and flowering edibles to extend bloom and pollen availability. Examples could include basil, chives, lavender, citrus plants, and aloe. These will also add texture and fragrance. Encourage eco-conscious care practices like composting plant debris and mulching for moisture retention.*

Encourage the community to deadhead for you and to keep the seeds for personal use. Communicate this with attractive signage or QR codes. This would help lower maintenance. Recruit a volunteer to start a seed library and promote seed swaps. This promotes sustainability. Encouragement of planting the town "flower" in home gardens will contribute to continuity.

Starting a community garden club could also be fun and educational for community residents who might not be up for the rigor of the Master Gardener program but still provide a group of volunteers.

Edmonston's Little
Free Library

Your homeowners really pack a powerful bloom punch. Keep up the fantastic work!

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. Action plan developed and implemented for proper maintenance, pruning, removal, and/or replacement of dead and overgrown plants. Best practices are utilized.					6
2. Plan developed each season for procurement, scheduling, planting, and/or maintenance of flowers and/or landscapes.					6
3. Landscape ordinances and/or policies are in place. City landscape ordinance requires specifications for landscaping and maintenance for new and improved residential, commercial, and public development. Ordinances and/or policies are easily accessible.					6
4. Landscaping is found throughout the community including public areas, parks, gateways, and/or key buildings. Landscape displays are selected for location, environmental conditions, and/or impact. Attractive designs are utilized and well maintained. Landscapes serve as focal areas in the community.					8
5. Landscape displays enhance community entryways. The use of trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, signage, hardscapes, and/or lighting create a welcome display. The displays are attractive and/or well maintained.					7
6. Residential landscapes provide streetscape appeal and reflect community value in landscaping. They are neat, attractive, and well maintained.					6
7. Effective use of naturalization, xeriscaping, rain gardens, and/or suitable plant varieties to enhance such features as traffic calming, bank stabilization, and water management. Displays are well maintained.					7
8. Lawn and turf areas display health and vigor. Procedures and practices, such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and/or permaculture, are used to manage lawn and turf areas, including mowing, edging, watering, and/or weeding.				5	
9. Procedures in place to monitor and/or manage diseases and/or pests in the landscape. Pertinent information is available and/or communicated to the public. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall, library, and social media.					6

10. Qualified landscape personnel and/or experienced contractors are available to design, install, source, and/or maintain public landscape floral and landscape sites. Additional support provided by growers, garden centers, County Extension, and/or city departments are utilized to create and implement municipal floral and landscape displays.					7
11. Training programs for proper landscape display care and maintenance are available for seasonal staff and/or volunteers. Examples include, but are not limited to, Master Gardeners, County Extension, local garden centers, state agencies, and contractors.		N/S			
12. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community in the landscape displays. Volunteers from businesses, residents, schools, and/or organizations participate in the design, planting, and/or care of floral and landscape displays.				3	
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
3. Landscaped Areas	96		67		69.79%

Landscaped Areas Recommendations:

The landscaped areas in Edmonston mirror the floral impact, creating a welcoming and enchanting atmosphere full of color and charm. These areas are well-planned and well-maintained.

We recommend adding topics like soil testing and building rain barrels to your training programs for 2025-26. Soil testing – even when using bagged soil – is an important component to the success of growing healthy trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables – everything. Then, amend accordingly. Be sure to conduct soil tests yearly. Your local cooperative or Extension office and Master Gardeners can help with this. Consider organic material such as composted manure (cow) or cold manure such as sheep, rabbit, or goat. Use this as an educational opportunity for teaching your community how to read soil tests and fertilizer labels. QR codes can he added to plant labels for residents wanting more information.

We recommend adding more rain barrels so rainwater can be harvested and to promote conservation. Rain barrels also serve as a great demonstration tool to educate and to highlight Edmonston's conservation ideals. The water captured could be used for gardens and the rain barrels could serve as an example for residents to learn the value of using rain barrels.

https://extension.umn.edu/water-wisely-start-your-own-backyard/rain-barrels

Programs on backyard composting would further the recycling efforts already in place and could further empower residents.

https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/landscaping/backyard-composting/

Have Blooms leaders participate in programs to learn new trends in design and maintenance of landscape beds. Invite guest speakers to programs. This could be a good time to work with the local nursery owners to present information on what plants are working the best for landscape beds, how to maintain a landscape design, and how to incorporate edibles into landscapes. This is an excellent opportunity for your Master Gardeners to pass along their expertise to residents. Don't forget to include the local County Extension agents in the education process.

Controlling pests is an important issue for having vibrant landscapes. Minimizing the use of pesticides and chemicals is important for the protection of the environment. We always encourage using natural ways of controlling pests. Consider asking EcoFarms to orchestrate a project highlighting trap cropping.

https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/pests-and-diseases/pests/trap-cropping/

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. The municipal plan addresses the role urban forest initiatives play in the green infrastructure of the community. Policy is enacted and enforced that includes performance requirements to meet the minimum crown canopy and/or succession planting.					7
2. Efforts are in place to educate and raise the public awareness of the importance of urban forestry. Examples include, but are not limited to, the use of print, videos, websites, apps, and social media.					7
3. Municipal ordinance enacted and enforced for tree planting and/or preservation. Ordinance addresses the handling and removal of damaged, dying, or dead trees. Ordinance includes public property, private property, and new construction projects. Communication of ordinances and policies are easily accessible.					7
4. Tree board and/or department is available, active, and/or interact with the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, tree planting events, addressing safety concerns, education, and making recommendations to municipality.					6
5. Certified municipal personnel, trained arborist, urban forester, and/or Department of Natural Resources (DNR) entity actively manages the urban forest. Businesses and residents are updated routinely on urban forestry matters. Information delivered via city website, paper, and social media.				5	
6. Trees are healthy and contribute to public health and wellness. Procedures are in place for the appropriate selection, diversity of tree species, proper spacing, planting depth, and/or monitoring and managing diseases and pests. Pertinent information is available and/or communicated to the public.					7
7. Policies are implemented for the protection of historic trees located on public and private properties. Tree programs exist that spotlight and honor historic trees. Trees are labeled and/or indexed. Historic trees are highlighted in a brochure and/or tree walk.					6
8. Programs in place to increase, support, promote, and/or protect trees. Examples include, but are not limited to, civic native tree nursery, repurposing fallen trees, managing destructive pests, and urban orchards.					6

9. Trees are identified in public sites such as arboretums, parks, and/or cemeteries. Examples include, but are not limited to, identification labels, descriptive signage, QR codes, kiosks, maps, apps, and brochures.				5	
10. Policies are implemented, and education is available for the safe participation by volunteers and staff in planting trees on public properties. Ongoing urban forest tree care training and educational information and/or seminars available for residents and/or businesses.				5	
11. Effective communication of recommended trees is available to the public. Topics include "Right Tree in the Right Place," mulching, placement, spacing, and/or maintenance. Examples of communication include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, library, City Hall, and social media.					6
12. The municipality is a member of urban forestry organizations, participates in programs, and/or earns designations and awards. Examples include but are not limited to Tree City USA, Arbor Day Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and regional or state agencies.					6
13. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community's urban forestry. Volunteers from businesses, residents, schools, and/or organizations participate in the design, planting, and/or care of the urban forest.				3	
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
4. Urban Forestry	104		76		73.07%

Urban Forestry Recommendations:
Edmonston also rocks with its urban forestry! The town council appointed a tree board to promote and to educate the public on tree issues with the town. The town contracts Barlett Tree Experts for arborists to assist with management of the tree canopy in Edmonston. The company identified over 500 trees since 2022 and continues to update the inventory yearly. The company also provides annual maintenance. The trees are mapped on Arborscope. Best practices are being followed. The town also has a tree ordinance that enforces tree preservation on public and/or private property. Tree signs are placed on champion trees within the community. In 2024, Edmonston was named Tree City USA for the 11th time along with being granted a Growth Award for the 2nd time. We love the brochures Edmonston's Tree Board produces to educate the community along with the Arbor Day event educating and giving away 100 trees! The urban orchard is truly on a remarkable journey, and we can't wait to see the wonderful things that come with it!

We do have a few recommendations for this category. First, always start your planting with a soil test. This will ensure the correct amendments are added at planting time to provide for the tree's needs and lead to the greatest success. Even if you plant small trees in containers and use bagged soil, conduct a soil test and note that bagged soil was used on your sample submission. This is also a very important educational component when providing community programs.

We recommend adding edibles to your choice of trees and even considering urban orchards for fresh, local food and for residents'/visitors' demonstrations. We know there is one at EcoFarms but consider adding additional ones where appropriate throughout the community. Perhaps at the new town sign that was recently erected. Provide additional education like harvesting and preserving through labeling and QR codes. Add your tree food trail to your brochures. Be sure to include when produce is ready for harvesting, how to harvest, and how to prepare or to preserve harvest.

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. Comprehensive plan to identify, protect, restore, and/or maintain natural areas. Examples include, but are not limited to, removal of invasives, no-mow areas planted with native grasses and wildflowers, and succession tree plantings.	N/A				
2. A municipal environmental plan is accessible and reviewed annually. The plan promotes water conservation, alternative energy use, food security and sustainability, carbon reduction, and/or responsible land management.					7
3. Environmental board and/or Green Team are available, active, and/or interact with the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, sustainability initiatives, events, education, and making recommendations to the municipality.				5	
4. Public awareness strategies regarding environmental issues are implemented and effective, such as the 3 Rs (reduce/recycle/reuse), Earth Day events, pollution prevention, "leave no trace," landfill reduction, and community clean-up days. Municipal employees and/or volunteers receive training on environmental initiatives and participate in events.					7
5. Communication of environmental plan and ordinances is easily accessible. Topics include sustainability, water quality, recycling, composting, reducing pesticide use, and light pollution. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall, library, and social media.					7
6. Programs to educate, encourage, and/or expand the understanding of the role and importance of pollinators and ecological habitats are available for all ages. Programs are held routinely.					6
7. Green infrastructure policies and/or techniques are used throughout the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, naturalization, xeriscaping, rain gardens, suitable plant varieties to enhance such features as traffic calming, bank stabilization, stormwater run-off, and water management.					8

8. Green infrastructure and natural asset inventory mapping are implemented. The inventory is regularly updated and includes climate, vegetation, soils, topography, wetlands, air, and/or water quality.					8
9. Home and business energy audits are available and promoted. Incentives are available and communicated for items such as solar energy, water conservation, home appliance replacement, weatherization.					6
10. Water conservation measures are used throughout the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, water-saving shower heads, full loads for dishwashers and washing machines, sink and toilet leaks, and lawn irrigation. Methods of water conservation are shared with the community through lectures, print, city website, library, City Hall, and/or social media.				4	
11. Management strategies implemented for the effective reuse/repurpose of buildings, structures, and/or land. The municipality has a reuse plan in place.					6
12. Collection is available for trash, recyclables, compostables, and food waste. Events and/or sites are offered for drop-off of hazardous, household, electronics, shredding and/or difficult-to-recycle items. Sites are available for year-round recycling.					7
13. Recycling and trash containers are available in public areas. Containers to address both recyclables and trash present themselves together. Labeling is consistent. Routine trash and recycle pickup are scheduled. Additional containers are available during special events. Events promote zero waste.					7
14. Reuse opportunities are offered. Clothing, books, household goods, resale shops, tool lending, durable medical equipment, and/or equipment repair initiatives are available for donations and/or purchase.					7
15. The municipality uses energy-efficient vehicles in its fleet for police, fire, public transit, and/or city employees. Options may include electric, fuel cell electric, plug in electric hybrid, compressed natural gas, and/or hybrid electric vehicles.					7
16. Electric vehicle charging stations are located throughout the community. Charging stations are available to city, residential, and/or visitor vehicles. 240-volt home charging outlet installation incentive is available and promoted.				5	
17. Mulch from renewable and/or sustainable sources is appropriately used by the municipality. Mulch is available for residential use.				4	

18. Educational programs for all ages are available and promote environmental initiatives such as rain barrels, backyard habitats, rain gardens, solitary bee hotels, xeriscaping, chemical reduction, water conservation, and green business practices.					7
19. Youth organizations such as Scouts, Green Teams, schools, and 4H encourage involvement in environmental initiatives. Participants are recognized for their efforts and/or achievements. Efforts are communicated to the public through social media, newsletters, city website, and other methods.					8
20. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community's environmental initiatives. Volunteers from businesses, residents, schools, and/or organizations participate in events, programs, boards, and promotions.					7
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
5. Environmental Initiatives	152		123		80.92%

Environmental Initiatives Recommendations:

Rain gardens are a useful technique for preventing stormwater from flowing directly into the sewers ending up in the streams and rivers, such as the Anacostia River. While these gardens are designed to provide an opportunity for the water to soak in and filter the rainwater, they also assist in capturing water like a rain barrel. A rain garden 20' long by 6' wide by 4" deep will hold about 300 gallons of water. A typical rain barrel holds 55 gallons of water. A yard with one rain garden and one rain barrel would capture at least 350 gallons of water per rain event. If there are 30 heavy rain events each year, then this would total 10,500 gallons of runoff that would be filtered or used and not end up in the river per household.

In Edmonston, with a current total of 90 rain gardens, the amount of water diverted from the river would be 90 gardens x 300 gallons x 30 rain events - or 810,000 gallons per year of diverted runoff, not counting any rain barrels!

Edmonston has 90 attractive, well designed rain gardens. The addition of the nine bicycle sculptures each having a basket overflowing with flowers adds a festive and colorful addition to the landscape. *Consider adding bluebird houses or butterfly houses to the rain gardens. Begin with five to ten the first year. A notice in the Edmonston newsletter calling for volunteers to build the houses is a good way to offer residents an opportunity to be involved in improving the community.*

Rain gardens are a good method of capturing and filtering stormwater, allowing the water to slowly filter into the ground instead of flowing into the storm drains and then streams and rivers. *While rain gardens are low maintenance, they do need occasional upkeep, especially when they fill up with silt and mulch. Edmonston has created many rain gardens – 90 at the last count – and it is time to consider a maintenance schedule for the existing rain gardens.*

The new compostables of food waste is off to a good start. To encourage more participation *in the Edmonston monthly newsletter provide statistics of current success and announce a town goal of increasing participation by 20% per year for the next few years.*

The established rain gardens could also be identified as pollinator gardens if more pollinator friendly plants are included in the gardens. *Consider researching a list of additional pollinator plants that can handle periods of wetness.*

The boat trip down the Anacostia River spotlighted the serious issue of single use plastic water bottles that are an important component of pollution that needs to be addressed. *The town could help with this issue by installing a water bottle refilling station at the community center.*

Through University of Maryland Extension there is a certification for residents called the “Master Naturalist Program”. The program certifies volunteers who work in natural resource conservation or interpretation. There is hands-on field work and volunteer service. *Edmonston could consider sponsoring a resident to participate in the program and provide education for Edmonston or the Port City communities.*

See Master Naturalist Program | University of Maryland Extension

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/or Architectural Review Board are available, active, and/or interact with the community. Activities/responsibilities include, but are not limited to, review proposals for construction and rehabilitation, promote historic preservation incentives, submit recommendations to National Register, and designate local historic landmarks.				3	
2. Historic Preservation ordinances are enacted and enforced. Ordinances effectively provide commercial and/or residential designation, guidance, and/or protection. Ordinances, policies, and restoration resources are available, easily accessible, and communicated.				5	
3. Historic districts, neighborhoods, structures, landmarks and/or objects are identified and/or labeled. Designation by such organizations as the Department of Archives and History and/or National Register are in place and/or in progress.				4	
4. Cemeteries and monuments are in place and well maintained. Historical plaques are used and well maintained. Examples of plaque locations include, but are not limited to, buildings, sites, residences, districts, historical events and people, and battle sites.				5	
5. Historical museums and/or interpretive displays are available and maintained. Events and educational opportunities are held for all age groups to utilize historic assets.				4	
6. Archives, artifacts, community records, and/or oral histories are collected, safely stored, preserved, and/or catalogued.				4	
7. Volunteers and/or staff are trained to maintain historical sites, archives, records, collections, artifacts, structures, and/or landscapes. Historic educators are trained to effectively communicate a community's history.				4	
8. Historic preservation incentives are available and promoted. Incentives may include but are not limited to tax credits, waived permit fees, eased setbacks, and/or rebates.				4	

9. Programs are in place for the purchase, installation, and/or long-term maintenance of memorial features. Examples include, but are not limited to, memorial benches, trees, brick pathways, and lamp posts.				4	
10. Natural and agricultural areas are identified and protected. Designation by such organizations as The Nature Conservancy, the National Park Service, Department of Natural Resources are in place and/or in progress.	N/A				
11. Parades, festivals, events, and/or programs are held to commemorate the community's heritage, culture, and/or diversity. Participants represent all segments of the community.					7
12. Programs and/or events are available to bring history to life. Examples include, but are not limited to, theater dramas, reenactments, and historic characters at public events.					7
13. Community heritage and/or cultural diversity are supported and promoted to all ages. Educational opportunities such as websites, publications, tours, interpretive signage, mobile apps, and/or programs.					8
14. Youth of all ages and abilities participate in historical programs. Examples include, but are not limited to, lectures, tours, events, reenactments, research, and reader's theater. Participants are recognized for their efforts and/or achievements.					7
15. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community's heritage preservation efforts. Volunteer representatives from businesses, residents, schools, and/or organizations participate in events, programs, boards, and promotions.					7
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
6. Celebrating Heritage	112		73		65.17%

Celebrating Heritage Recommendations:

Edmonston celebrates its heritage in many ways. The town website has a good summary of the town's history, while the 2024 town calendar featured historic photos. The Veteran's memorial includes a memorial tree.

In 2024 Edmonston celebrated their 100th anniversary of incorporation with an excellent pop-up museum at the recreation center. There is an excellent new 17-minute video on historic homes in Edmonston on You-Tube.

Outside in a protected area from the weather outside Town Hall are two very Nice murals of the town's founder, Adam Francis Plummer, while the other mural features two important Mayors from the past: Mayor B. M. McQuin and Kinjiro Matsudaira, a Japanese-American Mayor during World War II.

Edmonston works very closely with the other three Port Towns in the area. Each of the four towns has historic events to protect and celebrate. Heritage preservation in the County is under the supervision of the Prince George's County Historical Society. *With the help of PG County Historical Society, consider the creation of a Port Towns historic district.*

Edmonston grew rapidly in the early part of the 20th Century, especially during the 1920's. Many homes were built in the early 1920's using the Sears Roebuck Kit homes. Entire neighborhoods were created in a short period of time. *Consider having a summer intern research the construction periods of different streets and create an historic neighborhood with homes built 100 years ago or more.*

The Prince George's County Public Library is a focal point for the Port Towns region. *The town of Edmonston or the Port Towns together could invite a speaker from the Prince George's County Historical Society or the State of Maryland Historical Society to give a presentation on the history of the port towns at the Library.*

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. Ordinances address temporary stake signs, billboards, and/or permanent signs. Enforcement helps to reduce visual clutter and/or helps to enhance the community's identity.					6
2. Ordinances are enacted and enforced to address issues such as overgrown lots, abandoned vehicles, unscreened dumpsters, public nuisances, unregulated garage sales, building facades, and/or empty storefronts windows. Ordinances are routinely reviewed and updated as needed.					6
3. Code enforcement/compliance officer is available. Violations are detected, investigated, and/or resolved. Code enforcement includes, but is not limited to, public health, safety, consumer protection, building standards, and land use.					7
4. Communication of ordinances is easily accessible. Examples of communication include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, library, City Hall, social media, and calendar of events.					6
5. First impressions are positive in residential, business, and/or municipal areas. Properties, buildings, structures, grounds, decks, patios, and yards are neat and in order. Examples include, but are not limited to, lack of vandalism, graffiti, broken windows, peeling or faded paint, and rust. Programs exist and are effective to minimize graffiti, litter, and nuisance areas.					7
6. Community infrastructure is in good condition. Examples include, but are not limited to, roadways, road shoulders, curbs, corner pads, medians, sidewalks, railroad crossings, sewers, transformers, and/or utility poles.					7
7. Community amenities are in good condition. Examples include, but are not limited to, signs, site furnishings, public restrooms, water features, lamp posts, benches, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles, safe parking, proper lighting, crosswalks/pavement markings, containers, planters, and/or cigarette receptacles.					7
8. Community is accessible to people of all abilities. Examples include, but are not limited to, public buildings, parking, sidewalks, public transportation, playgrounds, parks, sports fields, and trails.					7

9. Wayfinding signage is visible, attractive, and in appropriate locations throughout the community. Signage adequately lists directional information and/or areas of interest.				5	
10. Public art is located throughout the community. Features such as banners, murals, and/or statues are used, attractive, and effective.					8
11. Year-round seasonal decorations are used in key areas. The decorations are well maintained and attractive. Examples include, but are not limited to, lighting, ornamental displays, wreaths, planters, luminaries, and displays in government buildings, residential homes, and storefronts.					8
12. Pet waste policies are posted and/or enforced. Pet clean-up stations are available throughout the community. Stations are monitored and stocked.					7
13. Volunteers participate in community improvement initiatives. Examples include, but are not limited to, Habitat for Humanity, home repair programs, disaster relief, and clean-up days.					6
14. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community's overall impression. Volunteers from businesses, residents, schools, and/or organizations participate in events, programs, boards, and promotions.					6
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
7. Overall Impression	112		93		83.03%

Overall Impression Recommendations:

As was previously mentioned, Edmonston is always looking for creative ways to enhance the community. The new mural facing the levee plus the recently added nine bicycle sculptures placed around town with a basket of flowers are just a few examples of creative and energizing actions to enhance the quality of life!

The numerous rain gardens (90 at last count!) are attractive as well as environmentally beneficial. *Consider adding some Bluebird houses or Butterfly houses **to a few** of the established rain gardens in town. They could be placed in the middle or around the edge. In some rain garden locations that are not close to residences, consider adding solitary bee houses as pollinators.*

The Zen Garden is a good location for a Butterfly house to compliment the peace and tranquility of the pocket park.

The current directional sign pointing to town hall is in a good location. *Consider adding a few more way-finding signs as vehicles enter the town from the west or east.*

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. Succession plans are evident.	**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.			1
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 (print, radio, tv, social media) and/or have been given media contact information.			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
14. Succession plans are evident, and next year's chair is present and participating in the tour.			1
15. CN grant project(s) are reviewed (scored as Not Applicable for a community not receiving a CN grant).	N/A		
Totals:	**Possible Points**	**Actual Points**	**Percent**
8. Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions	14	14	100.00%

Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions Recommendations:

Consider having the advisors meet with someone from the Green Team and/or the Jr Green Team.

The advisors never met anyone from the Prince George's Historical Society during the tour. Even a short 20-minute meeting might be beneficial for the advisors to learn about they how the work with communities and what they provide in the way of assistance.

DISCLAIMERS:

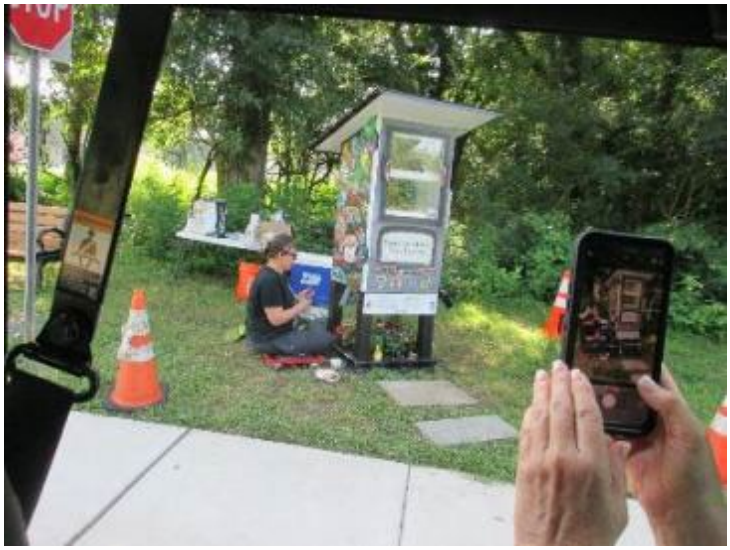
1. Communities are responsible for addressing the metrics in the Community Profile, Evaluation Tour Itinerary, and during the Evaluation Tour. Please note that the metric calculations contained herein are final, and each community is encouraged to focus on any changes during the following year's entry 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.

2025 Community Recognitions

Community name/state: **Edmonston, Maryland**

Recognized Criterion: Community Vitality

For a small town of 1,600 residents, Edmonston is always on the move creating new ways to enhance the quality of life in the town. In the past year, three major public art projects have been completed. There is a new large mural with a Hispanic theme painted on the side of a large garage facing the popular walking/biking trail on the river levee. A total of nine bicycle sculptures, with a basket overflowing with flowers have been added in strategic locations around town, and five little book libraries, each individually painted with different literary themes, and special soft lighting, have been added to major streets. Perfectly placed and beautifully done!



One of the themed Little Book Libraries is being painted.

The new mural near the bike trail.

Bicycle Sculpture

Noteworthy Project or Initiative: Nine Bicycle Sculptures
Through individual sponsorships, the town created nine bicycle sculptures with a basket overflowing with flowers that were placed strategically throughout the community.