

## IRONTON, THE GATEWAY TO SOUTHERN OHIO



Typically when one thinks of a “Bloom”, one thinks of perhaps the most beautiful part of a plant. However, there is also the act of the blooming process. According to Mr. Webster, to “Bloom” is; 1) to shine with health and vigor, or 2) to grow and flourish. It is the goal of the Ironton in Bloom Project to do just that, to grow and make the City of Ironton shine through the establishment of community pride long denied the City through past devastating economic times.

As with a blooming plant, that pride began with a seed. That seed was planted by a City Councilman Randy Lilly at a time in 1999 when the City had no where to look but upward. With little or no resources and only the brooms, hoes and some bags of mulch that a small group of volunteers and groups of high school students could gather, day lilies were planted and the downtown streets were cleaned that first Saturday in May. Just as a blooming plant, that seed has now flourished and spread, ultimately leading to the Ironton in Bloom organiza-

tion now taking the lead in planting and growing pride for the City of Ironton.

The Ironton in Bloom program is now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of existence. The first year of the organization’s effort was to establish floral arrangements to compliment streetscaping improvements for the City in a principal nine block area of the downtown. For its efforts, the City of Ironton was honored with the America in Bloom award for its floral competition in 2008. The following years have not only allowed the organization to replicate the beauty of the floral arrangements of its first year, but also allowed for the growth of those arrangements and landscape areas to larger portions of the downtown including the City Fountain area, the Slagel memorial garden, the up and coming downtown Friends splash park and the four entrances of the City. The focus includes the introduction of local naturally grown plants. One highlighted activity of the organization was a “daffodil rescue” which involved saving the bulbs in a field of daffodils that were slated to be de-

stroyed because of archaeological studies and to reestablish their home at the principal interchange into the City.

The blooming process of the City of Ironton is not limited only to its plantings and floral efforts. Ironton continues to bloom in preserving its heritage through the nomination and award of its downtown as an official historic district. The City’s downtown continues to reinvent itself through the preservation and restoration efforts of three historic buildings currently underway. The City continues to bloom as it becomes a leader in preserving its environment with several brownfield cleanups, a multimillion dollar investment in improving its water and sewer system, and in its Solid Waste District taking a leadership role in the State of Ohio for its recycling efforts.

As in the blooming process of the plant generated from a seed, the City of Ironton is continuing to grow and flourish, to become healthy and vigorous.....to blossom!

## Board of Directors

### Executive Board:

Chair: Carol Allen

Co-Chair: Randy Lilly

Secretary: Viviane Vallance,

LEDC

Treasurer: Cindy Caskey, CAO

### Board of Directors:

City of Ironton Mayor

(standing seat)

Phyllis Volgares,

Downtown Committee Chair

Judy Sanders,

Residential Committee Chair

Mike Corn,

Entrance Committee Chair

Mike Caldwell, Publicity and

Marketing Committee Chair

Viviane Vallance,

Fundraising Committee Chair

Steve Call,

Travel and Tourism Committee

Chair

Garry Castle,

Design/Color Committee

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## Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

# 2010 City of Ironton, Ohio Municipal Information:

Population Category: Over 10,000

America In Bloom Participation History: 2008 Criteria  
Award for Best Floral Display

Population: 11,211

City Website: [www.ironton-ohio.com](http://www.ironton-ohio.com)

City Contact Name: Mayor Rich Blankenship

America In Bloom Committee Chair: Carol Allen, Randy  
Lilly Co-Chairs

Town Area in Square Miles: 5

Miles of Streets: 60

Acres of Active Recreation: 30

Chamber of Commerce: Lawrence County Chamber of  
Commerce

Convention and Visitors Bureau: Lawrence County Con-  
vention and Visitors Bureau

Number of Schools: 8 (Ironton Kindergarten, Kingsbury  
Elementary, Whitwell Elementary, Ironton Middle  
School, Ironton High School, St. Joe Catholic School, St.  
Lawrence Catholic School, Ohio University Southern  
Campus)

List of Civic Organizations:

Ironton In Bloom, Friends of Ironton, Ironton Art-  
ists Association, Ironton Arts Council, Garden Club,  
Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Rotary Club, Lions Club,  
Child Welfare Club, Ironton Co-Op Club, Ironton  
City Missions, St. Joe Women's Club

Number of Municipal Employees: 130

Services Provided by Municipal Government:

- Mayors Office
- Public Service Department
- Building & Code Enforcement
- Utilities Administration
- Recreation Department
- Benefits Department
- Economic Development
- Water Administration
- Water Filtration
- Water Distribution
- Waste Water Collection
- Waste Water Treatment
- Street Department
- Sanitation Department
- Flood Defense
- Health Department

- Income Tax Division
- Finance Department
- City Council
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Municipal Court

Number of Volunteers: 100+

Do You Have a Volunteer Coordinator?: No

What Volunteer Opportunities are Promoted for Civic  
Improvement: (See Community Service Article)



## Meeting Notices

*The Ironton In Bloom General Membership meets every second Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Ironton City Center.*

*The Ironton In Bloom Board of Directors meets*

*every third Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Ironton City Center.*

*All community members and interested parties are welcome to attend and give ideas on the beautification of our city.*



## A Message from Our Chair, Carol Allen



Dear America in Bloom Judges,

The city of Ironton welcomes your return to our beautiful community. We are anxious to show you both the giant steps as well as the baby steps we have taken to plant pride in Ironton since our September 2007 beginning.

Ironton was already on the move when Ironton in Bloom (IIB) was organized. Individual citizens had stepped up to provide leadership for our new Port Authority and the volunteer group, Friends of Ironton. A progressive mayor and city council were elected in 2007. Our brown fields were being cleaned up, and our citizens voted for a levy to provide new schools for students, K-12. Yet the average citizen didn't seem to notice the changes and held on to the negative attitudes long held in our town.

To encourage a new vision, Ironton in Bloom became the catalyst for belief in ourselves. This is how we accomplished this change of vision: we told the public what we were going to do, and we followed through. One hundred pole planters appeared on the downtown streets in early May, and 30 pots were placed along the three major entrances into Ironton along with 24 hanging baskets cascading with blooms. The flowers were maintained through the summer and bloomed profusely. Everyone coming into and out of Ironton could not help

but notice and appreciate the change. Our residents were encouraged to work on their own properties and a Yard of the Month contest was established from April through September. Pansies appeared in all of the pots in October, and spring came early to Ironton as their blooms returned and reached toward the sun in all of their glory! They personified Ironton. We, as a community, began to believe that we WERE special and that, working together, we could and would create a better place to live, work, and play.

During your two day visit, we plan to show you the manifestations of Ironton in Bloom. We will meet with our city leaders, community heroes, business owners, organizational movers and shakers, and the wonderful citizens of Ironton who are the heart of our community. We will share with you the steps we have taken to improve our city based on the AIB evaluations received in October, 2008 along side the vision already held by our community leaders and city government. We know you will enjoy seeing all we've planted: not only the beauty of a profusion of blooms, but the blooming of pride in our community once again!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Allen".

Carol B. Allen  
Ironton In Bloom, Chairperson

# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

The Ironton In Bloom Organization hosts a monthly "Yard of the Month" competition in the City of Ironton. This judging competition starts in April and ends in September. Yards are judged by their unique design, landscaping, floral displays, uniqueness of plants, etc. Our organization also hosts a monthly "Business of the Month" competition in the city. This judging competition lasts all year. Business are judged by their window displays, landscaping, and tidiness.



# Tidiness Efforts

## Municipal:

The city streets and curbs are maintained and cleaned by the City on a regular basis. The 2010 City Street Sweeper schedule is attached. The City maintains its administrative offices in a refurbished building downtown once occupied by J. C. Penney's.

Ironton Utility Plants (i.e. Water, Sewer and Fleet Maintenance) are located in other areas of the city.

Ironton has an annual Volunteer Day, which is now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year. This community wide event averages about 150 participants a year. The group has planted over 1000 day lilies downtown, at major city entrances and other areas in the community. The event is attended by families, individuals, civic groups, youth groups, school clubs and many others. This event



held the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of May, has grown into a countywide clean-up with over 2,000 participants. The following groups are regularly involved in maintaining tidiness and cleanliness in the city:

- St. Joseph Catholic Schools
- Sharon Baptist Church Members
- Boll's Juvenile Home Members
- Ironton Municipal Court Workers
- Ironton Moose Teen Club
- Boy Scouts of America
- Girl Scouts of America
- Friends of Ironton
- Ironton City School Students
- United Methodist Church
- First Baptist Church
- Sedgewick Methodist Church
- Ironton Rotary Club
- St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Scioto-Lawrence Solid Waste District provides recycling oppor-

tunities for paper, cardboard, plastics and metals at three locations within the city of Ironton. The recycling effort yields over 529 tons of material annually, and it continues to grow. They also provide regular litter pick up in parts of the city and county as well as for special events such as the Gus Macker Basketball Tournament and Ironton Volunteer Day.

Scioto-Lawrence Solid Waste District provides an anti-littering/recycling educational program. The community also conducts an annual Ohio River Sweep in June during which tons of trash are gathered from our riverbank.

This year Ironton In Bloom has placed (115) pole planters with petunias on city light poles. We have placed (46) 36" flower pots through out the city with various plants. We have placed several benches in the downtown to create pedestrian rest areas. Pocket parks have been created at the Rose

## Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

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Garden, Fountain Square and the new Splash Park downtown. We have coordinated placement of trash receptacles throughout the downtown area. Last year, with a group effort coordinated by Ironton In Bloom, we planted over 1,000 daffodils at the city entrance at US 52 and State Route 93.

Ironton in Bloom received a \$2500.00 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to develop a litter free downtown, park, and river front. Sixty-five litter picker uppers were given to local businesses to further engage each in more responsible care of their property including the alley behind the business. Litter bags with our logo were supplied to auto part stores, new and used car dealers and insurance agents to place in the vehicle of their clients. Do Not Litter signs were placed in all of the parks, on the river front, and at our city entrances. Five cigarette butt disposers were



placed in front of governmental agencies. In this project, we were working side by side with our businesses, municipal government, and residents.

### Commercial:

Several years ago a large portion of the commercial downtown area was reclaimed under a major urban renewal project. Today we have the "Main Street Project" in place, which will raise us to a higher level.

Success stories include the remediation of the Ironton Coke and Goldcamp Dump sites, which are completed and now in an Industrial Development stage. Several abandoned plant locations in the city limits have remediation efforts underway as "Brown Field" sites. The local hospital building has been leveled with development of a new residential area.

IIB honors local businesses as "Business of the Month" for outstanding efforts in maintaining their properties. Numerous businesses, both inside and outside the IIB beautification area, have joined our effort to enhance Ironton. Many participated through upgrades to their businesses and others by generously donating to our city wide effort.

It is apparent that IIB's efforts have motivated others.

### Private Properties:

Ironton is an old town established in 1849 due to the boom of 14 Iron Ore Furnaces, which were located in the surrounding area. We suffered through the decline of the steel industry, losing over 4,000 residents within a span of 15 years. In spite of this, the residents have maintained pride and a sense of community and have performed literally hundreds of home revitalization projects.

IIB is conducting our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual "Over The Back Yard Fence" tour as a way to promote pride in our community, plus serving as a fund raiser for the group. The local schools have helped us develop the advertising posters.

Ironton In Bloom has established and promoted a "yard of the month" to help develop interest in the community. We have found that it has been contagious.

Numerous ordinances are attached which reflect our city's effort to maintain properties at the highest levels possible.



# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

## City of Ironton 2009/2010 Street Sweeper Calendar

No street sweeping during holidays, extreme weather or mechanical failure. No makeup date. Next sweep will be on your scheduled day. Please do not park vehicles on street these days.

South 3rd. 1300 Block to 3700 Block	South 4th. 900 Block to 3000 Block plus Kemp Street	South 5th. 400 Block to 3000 Block plus Heplar & Ellison Street	South 6th. 600 Block to 3000 Block plus Spruce Street	South 7th. 400 Block to 2700 Block plus Maple & Liberty Ave
1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of month	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of month	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of month
April-07 May-05 June-02 July-07 August-04 September-01 October-06 November-03 December-01	April-01 May-06 June-03 July-01 August-05 September-02 October-07 November-04 December-02	April-02 May-07 June-04 July-02 August-06 September-03 October-01 November-05 December-03	April-03 May-01 June-05 July-03 August-07 September-04 October-02 November-06 December-04	April-04 May-02 June-06 July-04 August-01 September-05 October-03 November-07 December-05

South 8th. 300 Block to 2800 Block plus Campbell Avenue	South 9th. 300 Block to 3000 Block First Street	South 10th. 400 Block to 2800 Block plus First Street	South 11th. 2100- 2800 South 11th. 1400- 1500 South 12th. 2100- 3000 South 13th. 2600 Liberty Ave. 1600- 2000	Lorain, Clinton, Ashtabula, Wyanoke, Latonia, & McGovney Streets
2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of month	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday of month
April-14 May-12 June-09 July-14 August-11 September-08 October-13 November-10 December-08	April-08 May-13 June-10 July-08 August-12 September-09 October-14 November-11 December-09	April-09 May-14 June-11 July-09 August-13 September-10 October-08 November-12 December-10	April-10 May-08 June-12 July-10 August-14 September-11 October-09 November-13 December-11	April-11 May-09 June-13 July-11 August-08 September-12 October-10 November-14 December-12



# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

Vine, Pleasant, Jones, Scott, & Kemp Streets	Mastin, Neal, Heplar, Oak, Ellison, & Maple Streets	Pine, Spruce, Walnut, & Mulberry Streets	Chestnut, Quincy, Monroe, Madison, Jefferson, Adams & Washington Streets	Indian Hills, Ora Richey Rd., Zenith Heights, Carl Drive, Woodlawn & Scherer Rd.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of month	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of month	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of month	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of month
April-21 May-19 June-16 July-21 August-18 September-15 October-20 November-17 December-15	April-15 May-20 June-17 July-15 August-19 September-16 October-21 November-18 December-16	April-16 May-21 June-18 July-16 August-20 September-17 October-15 November-19 December-17	April-17 May-15 June-19 July-17 August-21 September-18 October-16 November-20 December-18	April-18 May-16 June-20 July-18 August-15 September-19 October-17 November-21 December-19
North 4th. 300-1200 North 5th. 200-1200 North 6th. 100-900 North 7th. 100-600 North 8th. 100-400	Railroad, Lawrence Buckhorn, Etna, He- cla Mill, Vesuvius, Mary, Hawk, Eagle, & Pearl Streets	North 2nd. 800-1300 North 3rd. 900-1300 Union, Pearl, Elm & Sycamore Streets	DOWNTOWN & HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS	COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW AREAS
4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of month	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of month	each Mon./Tues./Thurs./ Fri.	each Wednesday
April-28 May-26 June-23 July-28 August-25 September-22 October-27 November-24 December-22	April-22 May-27 June-24 July-22 August-26 September-23 October-28 November-25 December-23	April-23 May-28 June-25 July-23 August-27 September-24 October-22 November-26 December-24	2nd St N 400 - S 800 3rd St S 100 - S 1200 4th St N 200 - S 800 5th St N 100 - S 300 6th St S 100 - S 500  7th St S 100 - S 300 8th St S 100 - S 200 9th St N 100 - S 200 Railroad 2nd - 5th Center Bare Blvd- 10th  Park Bare Blvd-9th Vernon Bare Blvd- 10th Washington 2nd - 7th Adams Campbell - 4th  Jefferson 2nd - 4th  Madison 2nd - 4th Monroe 2nd - 4th Quincey 2nd - 4th	2nd St N 100 - N 2300  Means 2nd - 4th Nash 1st - 2nd Orchard 2nd - 4th 4th St N 500 - N 700 5th St N 900 - N 1200 7th St N 100 - N 500 Mill 4th - 8th Vesuvius 4th - 6th 2nd St S 100 - S 1600 3rd St S 100 - S 3700 4th St S 400 - S 1200 5th St S 400 - S 1200 5th St S 2400 - S 2600 6th St S 400 - S 1300 7th St S 2100 - S 2300 Pleasant 3rd - 12th Kemp 2nd - 12th Spruce 2nd - 10th

# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

## Ordinances Adopted to Keep Downtown Beautiful



Sponsored by: Mike Lutz  
Leo Johnson  
Chuck O'Leary

### ORDINANCE NO. 08-24

#### AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 660 SAFETY, SANITATION AND HEALTH BEING SECTION 660.16 REMOVAL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS AND LITTER OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF IRONTON, OHIO

WHEREAS, outside storage of personal property is not properly and sufficiently regulated by law in the City of Ironton; and

WHEREAS, many instances of unreasonable outside storage presently exist in the City of Ironton;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Ironton, Ohio:

Section 1. Ordinance 99-05 passed April 9, 1999 and Titled "To Establish Certain Rules and Requirements in Regard to Outdoor Storage in The City of Ironton" is hereby repealed.

Section 2. Section 616.06 of the Ironton Codified Ordinances Titled "Removal of Noxious Weeds and Litter" is hereby Amended to be "Removal of Noxious Weeds, Litter and Automobiles."

Section 3. The entire Section 616.06 of the Ironton Codified Ordinances is hereby replaced with the following:

#### Section (a) NOTICE TO CUT OR REMOVE.

- 1.) Upon written or verbal information that noxious weeds are growing on lands in the City and are about to spread or mature seeds, the Law Enforcement Officer for the City of Ironton shall have cause to investigate the information and/or complaint.

- 2.) Upon finding that noxious weeds are growing on lands in the City of Ironton and are about to spread or mature, the Law Enforcement Officer for the City of Ironton shall have cause a written notice to be served upon the owner, lessee, agent or tenant having charge of such land, notifying him or her that noxious weeds are growing on such land and that they must be cut and destroyed within five (7) days after the service of such notice.
- 3.) Upon a finding by the Law Enforcement Officer for the City of Ironton that litter has been placed on lands in the City and has not been removed, and constitutes a detriment to public health, the Law Enforcement Officer for the City of Ironton shall cause a written notice to be served upon the owner and, if different, upon the lessee, agent or tenant having charge of the littered land, notifying him or her that litter is on the land and that it must be collected and removed within five (7) days after the service of the notice.
- 4.) In residential areas, all outdoor storage of any kind, including inoperative or abandoned vehicles, shall be enclosed and obscured from view in a fenced in area and/or garage out of view from the public. The storage of standard items, such as firewood, toys, bicycles and cookout equipment, shall be exempt from the foregoing requirement.
- 5.) For purposes of this ordinance, an inoperative or abandoned vehicle shall be defined as set forth in Ohio Revised Code, Section 4513.63 (A)(B)(C)(D) and (E). The definition of an inoperative vehicle shall also include any vehicle which is not properly registered or licensed.
- 6.) The Law Enforcement Officer for the City of Ironton is hereby authorized and empowered to notify and direct any person who is responsible for outside storage that is in violation of the provisions of this ordinance to comply with the provisions hereof.
- 7.) Notice required by Section (a), 2, 3 and 4 shall be served by one of the following means:
  - 1.) The Sheriff or a Deputy of the County or an officer of the Ironton Police Department in one or more of the methods provided in the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure;
  - 2.) Certified or registered mail, overnight delivery service, hand delivery, or any other method which includes a written evidence or receipt;



- 3.) If the owner or other person having charge of the land is a nonresident of the City whose address is known, the notice shall be sent to his or her address by certified mail. If the address of the owner or other person having charge of the land is unknown, it is sufficient to publish the notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the County.
- 4.) The means provided in division (H) of Section 1701.07 of the Revised Code, if the person is a corporation.
- 5.) At the discretion of the Law Enforcement Officer for the City of Ironton, service of the foregoing notice may be accomplished by personal service.
- 6.) For purposes of this section, service is complete upon receipt of the party being served, except as provided in division (H) of Section 1701.07 of the Ohio Revised Code. If the service is attempted upon the owner, lessee, agent or tenant having charge of such land at the address contained in the Lawrence County Auditor's tax duplicate for such property, and if the notice is returned unclaimed or refused for any reason not the fault of the parties serving the notice, service is complete when first attempted.

**Section (b) NONCOMPLIANCE WITH NOTICE.**

If the owner, lessee, agent or tenant having charge of the lands mentioned in subsection (a) 2,3, and 4 hereof fails, neglects or refuses to comply with the provisions of this ordinance within five (5) days after receipt of the written notice provided for in section (a) (6) or within ten (10) days after the date of such notice in the event the same is returned to the City by the Post Office because of its inability to make delivery thereof, provided the same was properly addressed to the last known address of such person, the Law Enforcement Officer for the City of Ironton shall cause such noxious weeds to be cut and destroyed, litter removed and vehicles towed and may employ the necessary labor to perform the task. All expenses incurred shall, when approved by Council, be paid out of any money in the City treasury not otherwise appropriated. (ORC 731.53)

**Section (c) WRITTEN RETURN TO COUNTY AUDITOR; AMOUNT OF LIEN UPON.**

The Law Enforcement Officer for the City of Ironton shall make a written return to the County Auditor of his or her action under this section, with a statement of the charges for the City's services, the amount paid for the performing of such labor, the fees of the officers who made the service of the notice and return and a proper description of the premises. Such amounts, when allowed, shall be entered upon the tax duplicate, shall be a lien upon such lands from the date of the entry and shall be collected as other taxes and returned to the City with the General fund. (ORC 731.54)

**Section (d) PENALTY.**

Whoever fails to comply with notice required by this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in the amount not exceeding \$500.00. Each day such violation is committed or permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such hereunder.

**Section (e) EXCEPTIONS.**

This section does not apply to land being used under a Municipal building or construction permit or license, a Municipal permit or license, a conditional zoning permit or variance to operate a junk yard, scrap metal processing facility or similar businesses, or a permit or license issued pursuant to ORC Chapter 3734, 4737.05 to 4737.12, or Chapter 6111. (ORC 731.53)

**Section (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after the earliest period allowed by law and .

**Section (g) DEFINITIONS.**

- 1) "Litter" includes any "garbage," "refuse," and "rubbish" as defined herein and all other waste material which, if thrown or deposited as herein prohibited tends to create a danger to the public health, safety and welfare.
- 2) "Garbage" includes any putrescible animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food.
- 3) "Law Enforcement Officer" means a law enforcement officer as defined in section 2901.01 of the Ohio Revised Code, code enforcement officer, building inspector, health commissioner, or other officer authorized to enforce any code, ordinance, resolution, or regulation described in this Section of the Codified Ordinances of Ironton, Ohio.
- 4) "Refuse" includes and putrescible and nonputrescible solid wastes, including garbage, rubbish, ashes, street cleanings, dead animals, tires, and solid market and industrial waste.
- 5) "Rubbish" includes and nonputrescible solid wastes consisting of both combustible and noncombustible waste, such as paper, bottles, wire, wrappings, parts of automobiles, furniture, cardboard, cans, wood, glass, bedding, crockery and anything else of an unsightly or unsanitary nature.
- 6) "Weeds" shall be defined as noxious weeds, all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or scrubs provided; however, this term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens.

Passed this 24 day of April, 2008.

*Janet Horvath*  
Clerk of Council

*[Signature]*  
Vice-Mayor

This Ordinance is hereby 04/24/08  
 Approved  Vetoed

*[Signature]*  
Mayor



## Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

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# Environmental Efforts

### Sanitary

#### Sewer Relining Project:

Great strides have been made in the area of environmental issues since the America in Bloom judges were here in 2008.

Topping the list is a \$12 million sanitary sewer relining project expected to take one year to complete. The much needed project was started in October, 2009 and will finish this fall. A total of 60 miles of sanitary sewer will be relined using a product that is considered green material by EPA standards. This is the largest project of its kind in the nation. Five million of those funds are supported by the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The 100+ year old sanitary sewer and storm water sewer were combined when it was built and has now been mandated by the US EPA to be separated by 2014. The first stage is the relining to prevent leakage of sewerage into the ground water and allow for an uninterrupted transport of materials to reach the sewage treatment facility. Generations to come will benefit from this project by protecting the health and safety of the people of Ironton relating to cleaner ground water and flood prevention. A reliable and dependable sanitary sewer system is also attractive to potential new businesses.

#### Brownfield activity:

Remediation of a twenty + acre parcel where a 100 year old iron products plant once stood is nearing completion. The process is ongoing with clean up and removal of debris and crushing and spreading foundations that are 10 feet thick in places. This project will be completed in mid-summer. After the removal is complete, a new fence will be erected, and for at least the following year, the ground water in the location will be addressed with chemicals to ensure no further contamination will occur. Afterwards the EPA will release the property for development.

#### The Brammer Property:

This former foundry location is near Etna Street and the Ohio River on the river side of the floodwall. A \$280,000 grant from the State of Ohio was awarded for the assessment of the location, which has been completed. An EPA required four foot cap of earth will be added to the location. This property will be a site for development for high-rise housing, a park and restaurant on the beautiful Ohio River. The US Army Corps of Engineers has partnered with the City to add stone rip-rap along the river bank to prevent erosion.

#### River Valley Hospital Property:

A Clean Ohio Grant has been utilized for carefully removing all hazardous material including asbestos and hazardous waste from the hospital, and the structure has

been torn down and disposed. We have submitted a "no further action" letter to the Ohio EPA documenting the clean-up and are awaiting a final approval letter expected in June, 2010 to proceed with development and construction of proposed single family homes on the site.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Street Property:

This site was formerly occupied by the Lawrence County Garage, National Guard Armory and Lawrence County Children's Home. Through the process of assessment, it has been determined the environmental hazards are of such a nature that a developer will remediate the area. The site is approximately three acres.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> and Park Avenue:

The derelict property has been torn down, and the new construction of an Urgent Care Facility is nearly complete.

#### The Honeywell Tar Plant:

The unused property is approximately 14 acres. An agreement between the US EPA and Honeywell has been reached for clean-up to begin in 2011. The clean-up is a United States EPA Super Fund.

#### Destruction of Dilapidated Houses and Commercial Buildings:

Fifty eight structures were torn down, and properties were cleaned up during 2009. The project was the largest in recent years. The structures were both commercial and residential. Health and safety issues

## Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

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have been addressed as well as cosmetic concerns.

### New Water Storage Tank:

The city of Ironton was losing approximately 300,000 gallons of water every day due to leakage from the 100+ year old tank. The total project cost was near \$2 million. Further losses of water through leakage have been identified by cameras utilized by the sanitary sewer relining process. The previously unknown leaks are being repaired as they are identified.

### Community Efforts:

First Presbyterian Church of Ironton collects paper and cardboard for recycling from several individuals, businesses, and courthouse offices. This is an effort begun only in the last year, and they have managed to collect \$1,200 in their recycling effort to contribute to their church missions fund.

### Hazardous waste collection:

The Lawrence Scioto Solid Waste Management District (LSSWMD), under Ohio law and managed through the Lawrence County Commissioners, provides for the safe management of the solid waste generated in Lawrence and Scioto Counties. Last year, the county wide effort brought together 1005+ volunteers who collected 955 bags, 46 roll off containers, and 20 truck loads of waste. Also, 65.7 miles of highway were cleaned of litter and debris! Over 529 tons of trash were collected last year.

LSSWMD also announced this year the availability of the new **Recycling/**

**Litter Trailer** . This vehicle is now available to Lawrence and Scioto County residents and District volunteer groups who wish to have a cleanup event in their city, village or township. It is FREE of charge to any group consisting of twenty volunteers or more. The trailer is fully equipped with tools and all the necessary equipment for a successful cleanup event. They can deliver and pick up the trailer from the requested site.

The Annual River Sweep 2010 will be held Saturday, June 19, 2010. Forty-seven groups have volunteered this year with an expected 1,200-1,500 people participating. Several educational programs are ongoing from the LSSWMD. Several Ironton City Schools have recycling programs supported by the LSSWMD. The outreach activities are Head Start-12 assembly style and teacher workshops in tandem with Rumpke. The educational activities on litter prevention, beautification, and recycling also includes outreach to churches, civic groups and businesses.

### Healthy Homes Project:

Instruction and information on integrated pest management, mold, lead, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds and carbon monoxide was provided to the citizens of Ironton in a well advertised public meeting sponsored by the local Ironton Department of Health, Lawrence County Depart-



ment of Health and the Ohio Department of Health.

### Air Pollution:

City leaders are encouraging the railroad companies to reduce particulate matter from coal trains passing through the city. As a result of the city's encouragement, those companies are instituting measures to reduce air pollution from trains passing through the city.

### Comprehensive Environmental Legislation:

The Ironton City Council has passed a comprehensive Environmental Legislation. Please see attached.

### Ohio University Southern:

The community was invited by OUS on Earth Day 2010 for demonstrations and seminars. Their most recent numbers for recycling is as follows:

Co-mingled waste recycled  
6800 pounds

Non-recyclable waste collected  
9900 pounds

The percentage of total waste recycled was 41% up from 34% for the year before.

## Ironton woman named 'Recycler of the Year'

By [Teresa Moore](#) | The Tribune

Published Wednesday, February 10, 2010

A little more than a year ago, Ironton resident Betty Guthrie had an idea.

By recycling old paper and cardboard and other reusable material, she could make a little money for three mission programs at her church.

The idea was apparently a good one.

It has mushroomed over the months and now has earned her the accolades of her community.

Guthrie was given the first-ever "Kudos for Caring Recycler of the Year" award Tuesday by the Lawrence-Scioto Solid Waste Management District during a ceremony at the solid waste office on North Fifth Street.

"This is to recognize you and all your efforts in recycling," Lawrence-Scioto Solid Waste District Director Dan Palmer said. "We greatly appreciate your efforts."

Guthrie goes weekly to the Lawrence County Courthouse and to homes throughout the city, collecting recyclables that she then takes to the Rumpke, Inc., buyback facility in Hamilton Township.

The money she gets for the recyclables is then donated to First Presbyterian, which then makes donations to the Ironton City Mission, First Methodist Church Food pantry and a project to drill wells in Africa.

In the roughly 18 months she has been recycling, she has collected \$875 for the outreach projects. When asked how many pounds of material she has saved from the landfill, she said she had no idea.

"I take as much as I can get in my car," she said. Her stepson, Randy Guthrie, estimated she had recycled probably a thousand pounds of material.

Guthrie said she does not do this alone. Some members of her church help and she is thankful for it.

"It's something that's growing and growing and I enjoy doing it," she said. Then looking around the room at the reporters assembled she added modestly, "But I don't like all this publicity."

For her good deeds, Guthrie received a certificate, a blue wheeled trash can and the praise of numerous city and county leaders.

Palmer described Guthrie as "fantastic" and added, "I wish we had more people like her."



# Community Involvement

Ironton in Bloom embodies the concept of Community Involvement with a mission to plant pride in Ironton. The means to accomplish our mission is to involve our governmental entities, businesses, organizations, and residents. Our group of active members has increased from 12 to 20, and our volunteers who help on special projects has doubled. In 2009, we raised \$30,674.00 through donations. These donations were received from eight governmental units, 43 local businesses, 13 organizations, and 107 individuals. Three money raisers, a plant sale (\$780.00), a spaghetti dinner (\$950.00), and a concession stand at Rally on the River (\$320.00) provided the additional funds to reach our goal of \$34,000 needed to pay for the floral displays. A form of donation not expected when we organized was the memorial gift. Almost \$4,100 was raised in this form.

The Daffodil Rescue project involved the Ohio Department of Transportation, The Point, a local Boy Scout troop and their parents, the Murphy Construction Company, community volunteers and IIB members. Over 3,000 daffodils were rescued from The Point, an industrial park, in May 2009 by ten IIB members. They were stored on shelves with their green tops in a building at the Point and in mid-September were cleaned, boxed,

and brought to Ironton to be planted by a cadre of volunteers. A local friend of IIB donated an additional 1,000 bulbs and a small grant from Sam's Warehouse allowed us to purchase another 200 bulbs. On the last Saturday in September, on a gray and overcast day, over 30 people assembled at 8 AM along side Murphy Construction workers who brought the



generator to power the seven augers. The work began, the rains came, and three hours later, soaking wet, we had planted and fertilized 4,000 bulbs. A video has been produced and can be found on our Facebook site. This spring, as the bulbs sprouted and blossoms opened, Ironton citizens smiled and patted themselves on the backs. We are planning on setting up a location where local residents can drop off daffodil bulbs from their yards or those that were purchased to be planted in the fall of 2010.

Each of our money raisers was manned by interested community members as well as IIB members. We have never had difficulty finding individuals to help us with our projects, whether it is planting bulbs, selling plants, serving at the spaghetti lunch/dinner, hanging 115 pole planters, or manning a concession booth. The local Knights of Columbus allowed us to use their facility and prepared the food for the spaghetti dinner at no cost to us allowing us to raise almost \$1,000.

## **Municipal Sector:**

Ironton has been recognized on a national level for having the longest-running Memorial Day Parade, which draws an audience of over 10,000. In addition, this project includes dinner for past parade grand marshals, Navy Night on Thursday, and a memorial service in the cemetery on Memorial Day. A volunteer committee oversees these events. Each of the 1,000+ participants in the parade are volunteers, and over 1,000 hours are worked to keep the parade moving.

Ironton in Bloom members were very involved in this year's annual May Clean-Up Day. This program has been under the direction of IIB's co-chairman, Randy Lilly, for the last ten years. For the first time, this event turned into a County Clean-Up day with over 1,000 participants under the leadership of Dan

# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

Palmer, ILCAO Solid Waste Department. Picking up litter, weeding, mulching around trees, and planting flowers took place in Downtown Ironton. Church members cleaned up around their facilities, and residents worked on their individual properties. Ironton was shiny clean!

IIB collaborated with Ironton's ILCAO Solid Waste Department and the city schools to present the educational program "Community Pride-Littering and Recycling" to several classes of elementary students. The Solid Waste Department also conducts an annual "River Sweep", a volunteer effort of several dozen youth and adults who clean up trash along the riverfront.

Two senior citizen centers furnish meals, activities, and medical programs. AARP volunteers supply free informational medical services and tax service to these citizens as well.

Briggs Library is centrally located in Ironton with 4 branch libraries throughout the county. All offer free classes, book clubs, contests, and various activities for all ages. Both of our evening programs for the community were held in their



large meeting room free of charge.

The Juvenile Court has formed a relationship with African-American community leaders to provide worthwhile recreational and educational activities.

The city oversees both a Little League and a Soccer League, and area businesses sponsor these teams.

The city provides a convenient lot for area farmers to use as a Saturday Farmers' Market to sell their produce as well for the Garden Club's plant exchange and IIB's Plant Sale.

## Commercial Sector:

Family Fun Days are sponsored each year by the Ironton Business Association. Included in these are an Easter Egg Hunt on the court house lawn, an evening wherein candy is available for trick-or-treaters at downtown businesses (and the City Center) during Halloween, and an annual Christmas Parade. These events are co-sponsored by various civic groups.

Liebert's, the city's largest employer, contributes generously, having supplied computers to our schools, leadership for the United Way and other numerous and substantial gifts for community



growth and improvement.

Downtown businesses also spon-



sor yearly musical events that are open to the public, two being "Rock On The River" and "Zone Fest."

## Volunteer Organizations/Individuals:

Friends of Ironton is a local group that sponsors free major activities to bring new people to our community to support our local economy.

1. Gus Macker Three on Three Basketball Tournament – Mid-June – Over 120 teams register to play basketball on our downtown streets on Saturday and Sunday. Several thousand people watch their kids play basketball, eat in our restaurants, and buy items from local merchants.
2. Rally on the River – late August-motor cyclists from all over the country come to enjoy a three day weekend in Ironton. There is a poker run through the county, a Parade of Champions, two stages set up for bands, lots of vendors selling food, drinks, and motor cycling gear, and cyclist thrill show on Saturday and



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## Community Involvement (cont.)



This money for the Splash Park is basically raised by selling beer at the Big Sandy Arena in Huntington, WV whenever a musical event is scheduled. On a busy night, they may have 40 volunteers working from 6 PM – midnight or later. With fifty shows, they would work 12,000 hours. This does not include the hours it takes to publicize, organize, set-up, work, and tear down from the three events. This group was the initial group to breathe life into Ironton. They have been in existence for five years.

The Lions Club raises money for their projects by presenting a Haunted Tunnel, the original tunnel that opened up automobile traffic between Ironton on the river and the county. They run it for two nights for four weekends using a minimum of 35 volunteers for a minimum of six hours a night. This is a minimum of 1,680 hours and does not include the six people working eight hours a day (Saturday) for two months, the two security people each night the tunnel is open, and the transporting of everything to their warehouse in a member's basement. They grossed \$25,000 in October, 2009 with the proceeds being returned to the community and to purchase a seeing-eye dog for a local resident. People from all over the Tri-State continue to return to the Haunted Tunnel.

The Tiger Clan is an organization that supports the needs of Ironton students in athletic programs. This year the group spent a minimum of 1,000 hours refurbishing the

Conley Center, our basketball arena. They gave out six scholarships and over \$8,500 in scholarship money as well as supplying shoes, duffel bags, etc. to all students who needed them to participate on sports team.

The Ironton Classic is sponsored by the Ironton High School Athletic Department – 50 volunteers to publicize, organize, and run a basketball tournament out of the scope of our league. Schools came from Cincinnati, Youngstown, and Columbus, OH; Beckley, WV; Mouth of Washington, VA as well as local Ohio and Kentucky schools. Over 2,000 people watched these games the week before Christmas, eating in our restaurants, staying in local hotels, and discovering a city they had never heard of prior to this visit. Over 1000 volunteer hours made this event so successful in its second year.

The Rotary Club created the Rotary Fountain Park in the middle of our downtown area. In 2009, they purchased four large pots and four hanging baskets and repaired the brick work to bring attention to the fountain area. This spring they plan to landscape, purchase and install two benches and trash receptacles and construct a pergola with benches prior to Memorial Day. This project will require over 250 hours of work. In addition, the Rotary Club provides dictionaries to every third grader in the county (16 volunteers)! They also breakfast for the Relay for Life (8 volunteers) and host a pancake breakfast which

Sunday.  
OktoberFest – late September – Bands from Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland play German music, food and drinks are sold, dancing is enjoyed, and a community is reminded of the heritage of their ancestors.

This year The Friends are building a splash park downtown for the enjoyment of children in the Tri-State hoping to bring families from the surrounding counties to our business center and creating a pocket park for all to enjoy.



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supports their projects monetarily (30 plus volunteers).

The Ironton Child Welfare Club has donated \$1,000 toward the Skate Park, \$2,000 for two smart boards in our schools, \$700 for basketball uniforms for the Open Door School, a \$1000 scholarship to female Ohio University student, two educational programs for 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and \$2,000 and \$1,500 given to various agencies helping children. Volunteer hours for their Salad Buffet serving over 600 and the Talent Auction: 30 members working over 1200 hours.

Members of the Ironton Garden Club, the Co-op Club, and Master Gardeners have joined IIB to sit on a committee to choose a Yard of the Month award April through September. The Ironton Garden Club also plants and maintains our museum grounds, careful to make the plantings those that would have been appropriate in a garden at the time the historic house was built. Members also plant and maintain the Veterans site on the Court House Lawn, have given yearly awards for outstanding lawns for several years, and hold flower shows and contests open to the public on a regular basis.

The Ironton Artists Association is very active in providing art shows in public places such as the City Center throughout the year.

Ironton Council for the Arts has established a wonderful musical performance program providing a

minimum of six shows each year for the Tri-State. The average attendance is between 100-200 individuals. Service clubs in the community provide refreshments at each performance.

As is true of most Appalachian towns, city churches carry on many community projects that are central to the welfare of our community. These offer activities and minister to the physical needs of thousands in Ironton and the surrounding area. The Tools for School program, organized by St. Paul Lutheran Church, is a good example, seeing to the purchase and distribution of over a thousand book bags loaded with school supplies for needy students. Christmas with Dignity provides food for over 1,000 families to be enjoyed over the holidays. Food pantries are maintained by at least three city churches, holiday gifts and food are distributed by many more, and the City Mission takes care of families who have need of emergency food, shelter, or home furnishings. Mike Corn, IIB member, hosts and supervises Methodist Ministries, a program wherein members of churches from other states come here to fix up homes in need of repair. The Catholic Church/School organizes a charity street fair each year with auctions, rides, games, and music. This is completely run by volunteers over a three day span of time. Two breakfasts and a spaghetti dinner are part of this Memorial weekend homecoming. Several thousand volunteer hours are provided by over 300 volunteers. A Church Walk,

sponsored by the Historical Museum, is held in December each year wherein seven of the historic downtown churches invite the public on an illuminated winter walk from one church to another. Each church provides a short service and gives the history of their particular church. The evening culminates with refreshments at the museum.

For the last several years the Historical Society has also presented a Ghost Walk in Woodland Cemetery in the fall wherein members don authentic costumes and present short histories at the actual gravesites of notable citizens who lived in our city long ago. This is an all volunteer activity. Hundreds of people attend.

# Heritage



Recognize the important role that heritage plays as part of its redevelopment efforts. In addition to the continued implementation of Design Review Standards for the City's Downtown, the City has also worked to motivate other private sector improvements in the City

To date, six (6) business owners have taken advantage of this program. Two (2) others have expressed their intentions to proceed with improvements, and at least three (3) additional owners are giving the program serious consideration.

The City has also taken an active investment role to support the development of needed infrastructure around planned major improvement projects. Perhaps the greatest example of this investment is the commitment of nearly \$1.2 million in public funding for the continued development of a downtown area known as the Depot Square, an area in which our historic train station has been renovated into a family restaurant and an area featuring frequent downtown events, farmers markets, etc. This project is also in support of a \$1.3 million dollar public transit center currently under construction in one of the City's oldest historic buildings.

Another smaller, but no less signifi-

The City of Ironton continues to work through planning and development ideas to reinvent itself, while maintaining sensitivity to its heritage, a major asset to the Community. With the principle components of its heritage now documented, (its origination to the Ohio River, the civil war pig iron industry, rail town, connections with the Underground Railroad, and more recently, its role in national sports) the City has designed its redevelopment plans utilizing this heritage in everything from building design to tourist attractions and events. Both continued and new initiatives have been undertaken by the City, its businesses and its residents recognizing the City of Ironton's historic past and weaving it into the investments of today and plans for the future.

through its support to obtain State Historic and Department of Interior designation for most of the downtown as a certified historic district. This designation allows many building owners to take advantage of certain federal and state historic tax credits should their building be one of the contributing buildings to that district.

Another notable contribution the City has made in the past two years is the operation of a facade assistance program in conjunction with HUD funding and based upon the recommendation of a historic consultant. Under this program, the City has set aside approximately \$150,000 in funds to match property owners in a targeted area of the downtown to improve the facade of their buildings.



## Municipal Sector:

The City's fathers continue to rec-

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cant investment by the City and other public related entities, includes a \$25,000 investment along Center Street at the fringe of the downtown, where sidewalks and appropriate streestcaping will be completed to support a \$3.5 million historic restoration of the Old St. Lawrence School into an assisted living facility. The St. Lawrence School is one of the City's old historic structures.

Perhaps one of the more unique efforts to preserve the Community's heritage is that of its primary cemetery, Woodland Cemetery. In addition to the continuing effort of maintaining this cemetery as an important greenspace, events are sponsored periodically that encourage the use of that space by the community. Annually the cemetery board, along with the local historic society and other support groups, hosts a "Ghost Walk" through the cemetery. During this annual event as one travel website ([www.associatedcontent.com](http://www.associatedcontent.com)) so aptly refers, Ironton becomes a "City of the Dead". It is one time of the year in which much of the

community's past and most prominent residents return from the dead and are portrayed by live characters. During this event, one can listen to such characters as; 1) Clara Campbell, the daughter of the town's founder telling her story of how she was courted by the Arbuckle coffee

baron and won a breach of promise suit when their engagement broke off, or 2) Nanny Kelly Wright, an iron master and one of the wealthiest women in the world second only to the Queen of England at the time, telling of her travels and means of protecting her fortune, or perhaps 3) Antoinette (Teenie) Peters telling of her world experiences with the Russian Ballet and Chicago Opera. These are just a few of the historic residents who now reside at the cemetery.

Too numerous to discuss in detail, the City has worked with local historians and volunteer groups in developing marketing tools and events that highlight the City's heritage to both its residents and visitors alike. One such event includes a walking tour highlighting historical landmarks and homes focused upon the City's renowned role in the 19th

century iron industry as well as its prominence in the Underground Railroad. In addition, the Community sponsors an annual Vesuvius Furnace Festival highlighting the historical pig iron industry, which fostered much of the Union forces efforts in the Civil War. Another municipally supported effort includes the continuation of the Community's Memorial Day Parade, the oldest continuous running Memorial Parade in the nation dating back to 1868 when the holiday was known as Decoration Day. The parade is recognized by Congress as the longest running continuous Memorial Day parade in the country.

In addition to the municipal government, other public entities are also actively involved in the City's preservation efforts. The local Veterans organizations have been active to help preserve the old Memorial Hall building, one of the few remaining Civil War Grand Army of the Republic facilities in the State and Nation. Ironton City Schools, in the design of their new high school, have incorporated the use of its historic high school facade and other focal elements.



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## Heritage (cont.)



The Athletic Boosters for the City Schools continue to support the historic Tank Memorial Stadium which now houses high school football, but formerly acted as the home for the Ironton Tanks, a semi-professional football team formed in 1919. Tanks Memorial Stadium has the distinction of being one of the few remaining roofed high school football stadiums in the country. The City's parochial schools continue with a multi-year program to restore and maintain their historic structure and educational programs. Local churches continue to invest in their buildings to preserve a large number of ornate and historically significant churches which were founded as part of the original City layout by the town founders back in the 1800's.

## Commercial Sector:

The City of Ironton continues to be blessed with major joint public/private sector re-investments into some of its key historic commercial properties in its downtown and nearby areas. The St. Lawrence

O'Toole Assisted living project is one that is nearing completion. That project represents a total public/private sector investment of \$3.5 million to turn an abandoned historic school building into a 35 unit assisted living project, all completed with the maintenance of the building's historical integrity in mind.

Another, and perhaps the most notable historic restoration project, is the nearly \$8 million dollar investment now underway for the project locally known as The Lofts Project. This project represents another adaptive reuse and historic restoration of two prominent downtown buildings that have been abandoned. The project is now under renovation and will, once completed, not only support the Ironton Transit and Welcome Center, but will also support additional office space with corporate meeting rooms, two corporate loft apartment rentals, and 14 additional private loft apartment rentals. The project will also support multiple "green" features, perhaps the most prominent being a roof top garden for the project's residents, overlooking the adjacent Depot Square and the nearby Ohio River.

A more ambitious undertaking for the City and its local development partners is the restora-

tion of the historic Ro-Na Theater into a Performing Arts and Entertainment Center. This well-known downtown theater building was recently rescued from near ruin by the city. After obtaining title to the building from the former owner, the city, local development organizations, and various donors contributed funding in the amount of nearly \$250,000 to clear the building of asbestos and to replace a roof structure, which has allowed the building's structural integrity to be preserved. The Community has worked to put together a rather aggressive redevelopment plan that involves the city, local development organizations, the schools and university, and private business operators. This plan, once implemented, would allow for the complete historic restoration and operation of the theater as a performing arts center to supplement the numerous other entertainment activities that have developed in the Downtown Depot Square area. Plans have been approved by the State Historic Preservation office and applications and processes have been developed for certain key tax credits and financing compo-



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port on the Ohio River, Ironton grew rapidly, becoming the county seat of Lawrence County in 1851. The great success of the iron industry and its allied manufacturing created men and women of great wealth. The affluence of those early days has continued to be reflected in many of Ironton's homes and churches, attractive reminders of a gracious Victorian life-style. Ironton is rich in interesting buildings and churches.



these rules and regulations are difficult to enforce; however, Ironton has successfully been able to utilize them as educational tools. When combined with other incentive programs, many businesses and property owners have proceeded with reinvestment and property improvements in a manner that is considerate to preserve the heritage of the community of Ironton.

nents for this project.

## Private Citizens

Founded in 1849, the City of Ironton, Ohio was built in the heart of the Hanging Rock Region, once the largest center of pig iron production in the world. As a terminal on the Iron Railroad and as a shipping

Because the Ironton community remains blessed with a number of these historic structures that are irreplaceable, they have developed programs and policies to hopefully help maintain them, especially in a good and productive use. Samples of some of those community actions include zoning that encourages homes to be maintained as single family homes, certain tax abatement opportunities for renovations,

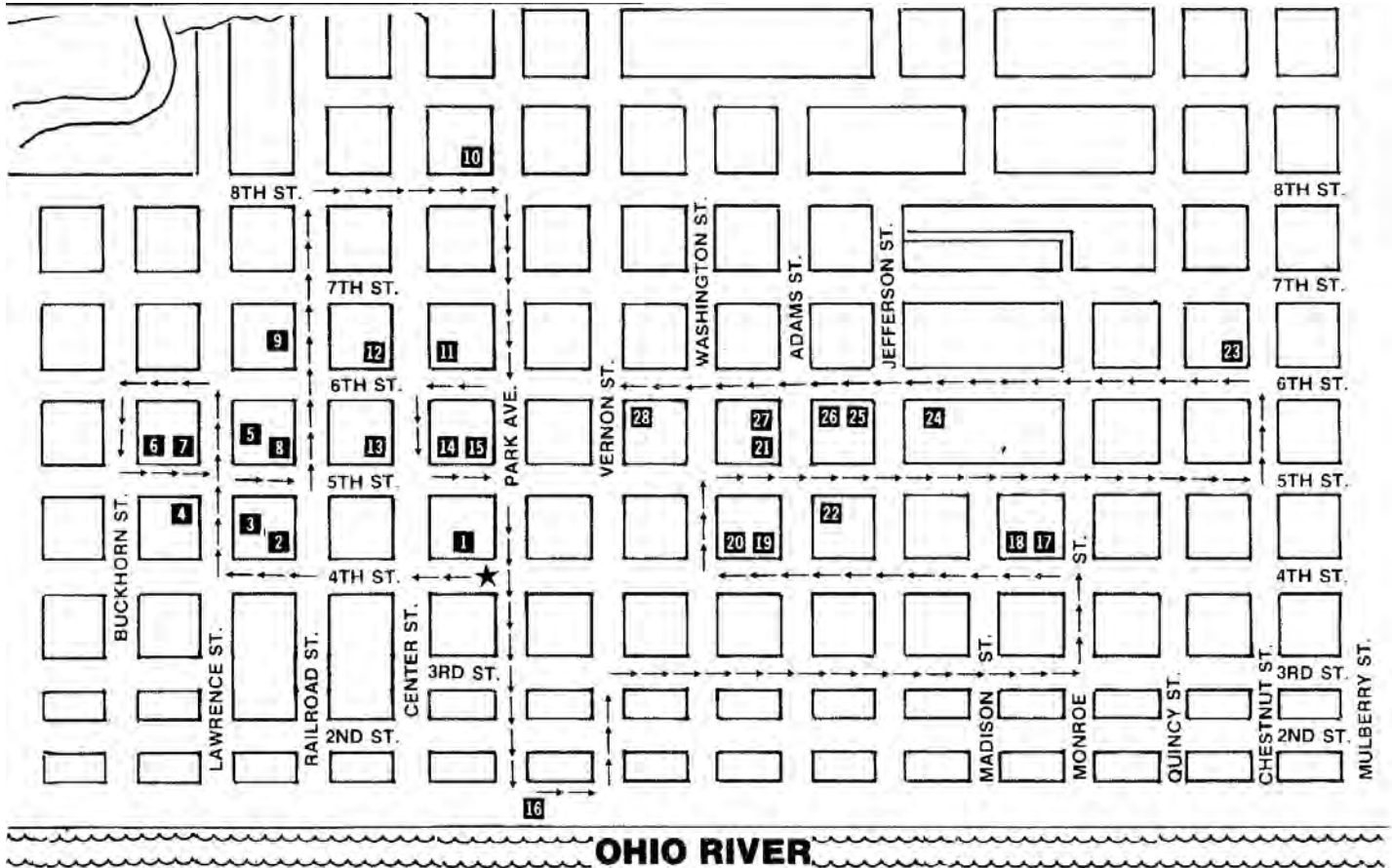


focuses on redevelopment and Brownfield reutilization verses encouragement of urban sprawl, neighborhood maintenance such as trying to stay ahead of slum and blighted structures that act as a deteriorating influence on neighborhoods, the implementation of design and review standards for work on

downtown buildings, etc. Many of

## Historic Ironton A Brief Tour of Homes and Churches

*Except where stated otherwise, homes are privately owned and are NOT open to the public.*



#1. Lawrence County Courthouse - Courthouse Square - The stone Greek Revival "County Capital" style courthouse was completed by builder J. C. Unkefer & Co. in 1907. Recent addition was added to its Fifth Street side. Legend says that a tree on the lawn was the site of Ironton's first and only hanging incident, which occurred on the night of April 2, 1869.

#2. Memorial Hall - 403 Railroad Street - Constructed in 1892 as a memorial to the GAR, the building was partially destroyed by fire in 1905. Only the tower and the stone facade remain

from the original structure. Until recently the building housed the city government offices.

#3. James Fraley /Staab House - 416 Lawrence Street - This is Ironton's oldest farm house (1835-40), built before the city was organized in 1849. This Greek Revival two story brick has "poor man's pillars" and wrought iron castings that support a porch. This wrought iron was added to give the house a "New Orleans" effect.

#4. Col. J. H. Moulton Home - 304 N. 5th Street - This 1850's 2\2 story brick Gothic Revival was the home of iron master J. H. Moulton and his wife, Elizabeth, a daughter

of Hiram Campbell. There are four chimneys and a boxed turret toward the back of the house. The main entrance door is double-leaf paneled.

#5. Brown-Botwell-Clark House - 516 Lawrence Street - The builder of this Italianate style two story brick was Captain Harry Brown, an Ohio River Packet Boat Operator. Mr. Botwell owned the first cut nail factory in the Hanging Rock Iron Region. The Clark family was related to John Campbell by marriage.

#6. The Hiram Campbell House - 321 N. 5th Street - The 1850's French 2nd Empire style mansion

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is noted for its mansard roof. Now an apartment building, it was built by Hiram Campbell, prominent iron master, state legislator, and brother of John Campbell. The home was the scene of many of the city's early social activities, including a visit from President Rutherford B. Hayes.

#7. The John Campbell House - 305 N. 5th Street - John Campbell, founder of Ironton, pioneer ironmaster, and railroad developer, built this Early Victorian brick in 1850's. An active abolitionist, (a close friend of John Rankin) he harbored and aided fugitive slaves by concealing them in two semi-concealed rooms under the hip roof of the house. It contains many original features, including an impressive solid black walnut staircase to the third floor. The bricks with which the house was built were molded and fired on the grounds from clay dug on the site. Today this 22 room house is occupied by the Ironton-Lawrence County Community Action Organization. It is open to the public during normal office hours.

#8. First United Presbyterian Church - 201 N. 5th Street-. This Richardsonian Romanesque brick was first built in 1873 and rebuilt in 1882. The present sanctuary was added in 1893. The ceiling beams are unique in that they were constructed in the manner of an inverted ship to support the roof without center columns.

#9. Lantern-Horn House - 605 Lawrence Street - This Federal-Greek Revival one story brick house was built by the Lantern family in 1857. Mrs. Lantern was a school teacher. The bricks used were produced on Lawrence

Street in the same brick-yard that manufactured those used in the Campbell House. Henry Horn, a butcher, bought the house in 1891. It has remained in the possession of his descendants until recently. It was purchased and restored by the Ironton-Lawrence County CAO and is currently the residence of the J.P. McClellan family.

#10. Oak Ridge - 101 S. 8th Street - This impressive home was built by W. C. Amos, an iron furnace man and was later owned by A. R. Johnson, a prominent Ironton attorney. The inscription at the entrance to the house recalls the old Oak Ridge Furnace. The house was a social center in the past, boasting its own third floor ballroom.

#11. St. Paul Lutheran Church - 6th and Center Streets -This carpenter Gothic one story brick was built in 1903. The German Lutherans first organized in Hanging Rock in 1844. Their first church in Ironton was built in 1859.

#12. St. Lawrence O'Toole Catholic Church - 6th and Center Streets - This T-shaped Gothic style church was dedicated in 1892. There are twin towers in the front. There are various circular and tracery stained glass windows throughout the church. The glass in each of the windows was imported from Rome. A canvas painting was done on the ceiling of the church by Obediah J. Kover at the age of 81 years. The property on which this massive church stands was given to the church by the Ohio Iron and Coal Company owned by John Campbell.

#13. First United Methodist Church - 5th and Center Streets - This Victorian Gothic brick church has an

irregular shape plan with a bell tower over the front door. Erected in 1893 to replace Spencer Chapel which was built in 1852, the original church of the Methodist congregation.

#14. The Old Post Office "Ironton City Schools" - 5th and Center Streets - This stone Second Renaissance Revival structure was completed in 1913 and served Ironton as a post office for many years. In 1969 it was given to the Ironton Board of Education for an administration building when a new post office was built on 4th and Railroad Streets.

#15. The Christ Episcopal Church - 5th & Park - This church was organized in 1854 and the present Gothic Revival structure was erected in 1896. The stone structure has various circular and tracery stained glass windows throughout the church. There are exposed beams through the ceiling of the main chapel.

#16. The Depot - Bobby Bare Boulevard & Park Avenue-. The Norfolk and Western Railroad built this freight and passenger station in 1907. The brick Neo-Classical Revival structure served Ironton industry until 1965 when train service was discontinued. Today, following remodeling, it is a restaurant.

#17. J.T. Davis House -723 S. Fourth Street - This French Second Empire three story brick was built by J.T. Davis, a dry goods store owner, in the 1860's. The mansard roof has iron cresting around the top and there is a square tower on top. The home was also occupied by Reuben Lambert, owner of the Olive Iron Furnace. It was



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also used as a "Fine Young Ladies Boarding School." The last owner Mrs. Robert Meehan McCrory passed away recently and the house is not presently occupied.

#18. Norton House - 709 S. Fourth Street - This three story frame house with curved side tower predates the founding of the city of Ironton (1849). Now vacant and in disrepair after a fire, the fine old home stands in need of renovation.

#19. Culbertson-Waldo House - 417 S. Fourth Street - This two story brick Greek Revival style house was built (1850's) by the Culbertson family who owned and operated a lumber yard in Ironton. In the center front hallway, a curved walnut staircase occupies the major portion of this area.

#20. Dempsey House - 407 S. Fourth Street - This two story Greek Revival brick house was built by Samuel Dempsey, an early settler of Ironton and associated with John Campbell the founder of Ironton. He owned an interest in the Etna and Vesuvius Furnaces and had an interest in the Iron Railroad and the Etna Iron Works. Originally the gardens of it and its neighbor, the Culbertson-Waldo House extended to Fifth Street. In excellent condition, the home is a good example of the gracious living of the pig iron era prosperity.

#21. Marting-Lowry House - 419 S. Fifth Street - This brick home was built in the early 1900's by industrialist Colonel H. A. Marting, who died before it was finished. Following his death, it was occupied by his widow, Margaret Duis Marting, and her

daughter and son-in-law, Nell and Clark Lowry. Through the years the house fell upon hard times and never became the social center for which it was intended. Restored in the early 1970's, the home has now returned to its former beauty.

#22. Bide-A-Wee - 504 S. Fifth Street- This Queen Anne two story Indiana stone random rock face was built by James Bird, Sr., who was from England and a world known ironmaster. The house is most noted as the residence of the only woman ironmaster, Mrs. Nannie Kelley Wright. She is said to have been at one time, the second richest woman in the world. She bought Bide-A-Wee in 1918, gave it its name, and remodeled it with architectural purchases from her world travels. A great entertainer, the home is designed to open the entire downstairs into a great hall for parties and dinners.

#23. Mearan House - 917 S. Sixth Street - Also a home of Nannie Kelley Wright, this house was once located across the street from its present location. While workmen labored, she entertained 50 guests at a bridge party inside during the crossing of Sixth Street. In later years it was veneered with brick and was the home of the Mearan family, prominent in Ironton's clothing business.

#24. The Bay House - 620 S. Sixth Street - Captain William Bay, who together with his brother, Captain George W. Bay, owned the celebrated steamboat Bay Lines, built this Victorian Second Empire brick in the 1880's. The house has a unique fleur de lis on the boxed tower.

#25. H.B. Wilson House - 518 S.

Sixth Street - This three story Italian Villa style house was built in the 1870's by H. B. Wilson, cashier at the First National Bank and lumberyard owner. It is said that President William McKinley gave a speech here. The structure presently houses the Tracy Brammer Funeral Home.

#26. Colonel George N. Gray House - 506 S. Sixth Street -This Victorian-Italian Villa three and one-half story brick was built by James Ferguson, but it was most noted for having been the residence of Colonel Gray, an ironmaster, whose wife Eliza Ann Humphreys was the granddaughter of the famous abolitionist John Rankin. In 1873 Rankin came to live with Mrs. Gray, remaining until his death in 1886. The structure presently houses the Lawrence County Museum and is open weekends to the public and at other times by appointment.

#27. The Wilson House - 422 S. Sixth Street - This Queen Anne two and one-half story brick is irregular in shape and a mixture of materials that make it an excellent example of the architecture of its day. It is noted for the varying shapes of its stained glass windows.

#28. First Congregational Church - Gateway Baptist Church - 310 S. Sixth Street -Called the "Church of the Ironmaster", this American Gothic style church was built in 1873 and included in its membership many prominent Irontonians. Al-tered somewhat over the years, the church is now the home of the Gateway Baptist congregation.

# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

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**John Campbell House**



**J.T. Davis House**



**Lawrence County Museum/ Colonel George N. Gray House**



**Oak Ridge House**



**Lawrence County Courthouse**



**First Presbyterian Church**

# Urban Forestry

## Municipal Sector

- **Plan of Action**

Since its inception, Ironton in Bloom has partnered with the City of Ironton to ensure the proper planting of urban street trees and shrubs throughout the downtown business district. Each year trees, flowers and shrubs are planted and manicured during the annual Volunteer Day. This event is held the first week of May and draws over 100 volunteers that include local leaders, merchants, civic groups and school clubs. In addition, great strides are being made to revitalize downtown Ironton. As part of Ironton's downtown revitalization, a new Splash Park is slated to open Memorial Weekend 2010. Not only will it feature a water playground, but it will also incorporate several trees. As the revitalization of downtown Ironton continues, so too will the planting of urban street trees.

- **Inventory, Variety of Species and Specifications, Maintenance & Planting**



Ironton has many beautiful species of trees lining its streets. The Downtown Business District, which encompasses approximately 20 city blocks, includes some of the more popular varieties such as flowering Pears and Dogwoods.



When Ironton in Bloom was initially organized, it enlisted the help of Ms. Ann Bonner, Urban Forester, to create an Inner City Tree Planting recommendation list to address the planting needs of the downtown business district. (Appendix A). All trees were selected for their durability in urban conditions, aesthetic appeal and superior structure so as to minimize conflicts with traffic, infrastructure and buildings.

Now, Ironton in Bloom plans to build on this initiative. In an effort to establish a Tree Commission that would plan, select and care for trees lining the streets of Ironton, Ironton in Bloom is actively seeking the advice and example of Adam Riehl and others at the Ohio University Southern Campus (OUS). Albert Einstein said, "Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means." Ironton in Bloom believes that by publicizing the efforts of OUS, interest will be raised and other like-minded folks will get involved. Besides this, Ironton in Bloom is using the written word to garner support. Ironton in Bloom, Residential Committee Chairwoman, Judy Sanders, often writes a guest/editorial column in the *Ironton Tribune*. In one of her many editorials printed just this spring, Ms. Sanders encouraged members of the community with knowledge of trees to come forth and spread this knowledge. Ironton in Bloom truly believes that by taking small steps, a Tree Commission can and will be established and that it

# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

will succeed in this pursuit.

Mayor Rich Blankenship has offered and continues to offer full support to Ironton in Bloom by implementing maintenance and planting policies. Proper Tree Planting (Appendix C), Proper Tree Mulching (Appendix E).



The City of Ironton has several ordinances affecting the preservation, care and maintenance of trees within the city limits. Codified Ordinance §432.22 provides in part that no person is to drive a vehicle on a tree lawn area or the curb of a street. Codified Ordinance §1020.01 requires that before a person makes any excavation in a street, alley, sidewalk, tree lawn or other municipal realty, he or she is to obtain a permit. Codified Ordinance §1022.05 explains that treelawns are the responsibility of the owner of the property abutting thereon are to be kept in repair and maintained. It further provides that no tree shall be removed without first obtaining permission from the Director. Codified Ordinance §642.06 states “no person, without privilege to do so, shall recklessly cut down, destroy, girdle, or otherwise injure a vine, bush, shrub, sapling, tree, or crop standing or growing on the land of another or upon public land”. Chapter 1224 of the Codified Ordinances sets forth subdivision regulations. As it relates to public open spaces and subdivisions, “due regard shall be shown for watercourses, historic places, large trees and other natural features that sustain property values.” Codified Ordinance §1224.04 requires that certain improvements must be made prior to plat approval for a subdivision, including but not limited to planting street trees.

Additionally, the ODOT Downtown Street Enhancement project outlines the specifics for general, materials and construction of street trees along the downtown project. (Appendix G).

- **Qualified Personnel and Training**



- **Naturalization**

The City of Ironton currently maintains three city parks and has partnered with a non-profit organization, Friends of Ironton, to establish a fourth.

In addition, along the riverfront, you will find several miles of wooded lots and beautiful trees. Residents are able to take advantage of this natural element, while fishing, boating, eating or just watching the sunset on the Ohio River.

- **Policies**



# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

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## Urban Forestry (continued)

Over the course of the last two years, Ironton in Bloom has worked collaboratively with various groups and organizations to provide training to individuals, businesses and city employees. For example, Ironton in Bloom facilitated a training session for the City Street Department Director, where the Director was educated on how to plant, maintain and prune trees.



a nicely landscaped storefront. Likewise, Cochran & Company Pools, located on South Third Street, planted several flowering Pears, on little more than sidewalk space, inviting customers to come inside.

In the spring of 2009, Woodland Cemetery embarked on a new project, planting approximately 100 ornamental trees, including Crabapples, Snow Fountain Weeping Cherries, Kwanza Cherries, Double Weeping Cherries, Yoshino Cherries, Pink Dogwoods, Red Dogwoods, White Dogwoods, Maples, and Pine tree seedlings. What a wonderful way to welcome spring and the families who have loved ones buried at the cemetery. The keepers of the cemetery are in constant contact with the nursery where the trees were purchased to guarantee that the trees bloom to their fullest potential.

Ironton City Schools continues to evolve in its appearance, but what was old is new again. The residents of Ironton insisted that the front of the old high school be preserved, maintained, and incorporated into the new high school. And, it is only fitting that they found it appropriate to save the existing, mature Black Locusts. In fact, the Black Locusts were professionally trimmed prior to construction of the new high school, and it is certainly evident this spring. Additionally, prior to the opening of the new Ironton Elementary and Middle Schools and in accordance with plans to landscape the schools, approximately twenty five trees were installed including Oaks, Sugar Maples, Red Maples, Thornless Honeylocusts, Norway Spruce and Crabapples.

## Commercial Sector – Concept, Design, Planting, Maintenance and Conservation

Tree fever is catching and it seems to be spreading. For years, many local businesses have valued a customdesigned landscape as much as they value the customers that enter their doors. Just take a look at Ohio River Bank, with its mature Magnolia, picturesque Pear, and handsome Hawthorne.

Other businesses are following suit and are efficiently using the space they have to plant trees and pride in the City of Ironton. For example, Guys Floor Covering planted several trees in an area of Ironton traditionally used as industrial property. This property was void of any ground cover. Now, when you enter Ironton from the south end of town, you are greeted with the glow of pink and red Crabapple trees, along with

## Private Properties/ Citizens – Design and Plantings,



## Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

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### Maintenance, Community Involvement in Tree Planting, Programs and Conservation

Trees and shrubs line the 73.6 miles of street that make-up the City of Ironton. A number of different species can be found throughout the community, including, Maple, Spruce, Pine, Dogwood, Weeping Willow, Buckeye, Holly, Magnolia and Cleveland Pear. More mature trees can be found lining Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Streets and make for an enjoyable Sunday drive. If a forested view is what you are seeking, cruise up to Ironton Hills and breathe in the magnificence of the trees that set the backdrop for this subdivision of Ironton.



In addition to the mature trees found throughout town, new trees are being added all the time. The citizens of Ironton are proud of their heritage and take pride in preserving this great community. Community organizations are getting involved in this endeavor too. For example, in 2009, the members of Central Christian Church lined the

boundary of their property with two dozen Dogwoods. Similarly, Boy Scout Troop 106 has made a concerted effort to plant pride and trees in Ironton. On Saturday, April 26, the Boy Scouts and their family members planted 14 Cleveland Pears around the Ironton Municipal Building to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouts in the United States. In doing so, Troop 106 is not only conserving the environment but promoting the importance of a green community.

Ironton in Bloom takes very seriously its goal to plant trees and ground cover in our tree lawns, yards, schools, and parks, to create natural air conditioning, enhance the landscaped beauty of homes and businesses, and develop a better air and water quality. To achieve this goal and to educate the community, Ironton in Bloom hosted an evening with Ann Bonner at the Briggs Lawrence County Public Library. Items discussed were how to choose, plant and prune trees.

As you can see, the residents and community organizations in Ironton appreciate the value trees add to their city's landscape.

## Boy Scout Troop to plant trees in downtown Ironton

By [Staff Report](#) | The Tribune

Published Friday, April 23, 2010

IRONTON — On Saturday, Boy Scout Troop 106 will converge on downtown Ironton in order to plant trees in the medians between the streets and sidewalks to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouts of America.



Scouts, family members and friends will join together to plant one tree for every 10 years of the Boy Scout existence in the United States.

Troop 106 will plant the trees in the area immediately surrounding the Ironton City Center.

Senior Patrol Leader Caleb Franz said, "Some of the existing trees are dead. Some tree spaces remain empty. We wanted to improve the downtown area plus celebrate our anniversary of scouting. Besides," he added with a grin, "we have a long history of going green."

BSA Troop 106 raised the necessary funds to purchase and plant a total of 14 Cleveland Pear trees along the city streets and sidewalks.

"We started out hoping for 10 trees representing one tree for every 10 years of Scouting in America, but when the citizens of Ironton found out what the boys were planning," according to David Lucas, Scoutmaster, "more enthusiasts wanted to join in and be a part of this venture."

The city has removed the old or dying trees.

Troop 106 has the proper clearance from the city mayor and council to plant the trees on city property.

"This is a special day, not only for the city but also for the Boy Scouts," added Lucas. "We proudly serve our community."

Troop 106 celebrates 62 years of service to the community and country. Central Christian Church in Ironton charters the troop.

Boys 11 years and older join Scouting to have fun, enjoy the outdoors, plus learn character, values and citizenship. Ironton mayor Rich Blankenship said, "These boys clean up after the Memorial Day Parade and after the Gus Macker.

"The City of Ironton thanks Troop 106 for their concern and service. Our City will be better because of the actions of Boy Scout Troop 106."

For more information call David Lucas at 740-533-0063 or 740-533-4577.



# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

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## Appendix A

City of Ironton  
Inner City Tree Planting Grant Planting Recommendations  
Autumn 2004  
Prepared by  
Ann Bonner  
Urban Forester  
ODNR Division of Forestry  
360 East State Street  
Athens, Ohio 45701  
740-589-9910  
ann.bonner@dnr.state.oh.us  
Celebrating 25 years of Urban Forestry

The following tree cultivars are recommended for planting in downtown planting sites where soil compaction, traffic, vandalism, pollution have negatively impacted the performance of other types of trees. The trees listed below have been used successfully in many communities. However, please remember that the success of any tree planting depends upon the individual planting site, the quality of the tree planted and its care over time.

\*All trees should be purchased from licensed nurseries and hardy in zone 5 and 6.

\*\*All trees were selected for their durability in urban conditions, aesthetic appeal and superior structure as to minimize conflicts with traffic, infrastructure and buildings.

Adams Street (no overhead wires) Sugarberry (aka hackberry)  
Red oak

Japanese pagodatree

Jefferson Street (no overhead wires) approximately 18 trees

Zelkova

Lacebark elm

Japanese pagodatree

Center

The existing trees are functioning rather well. I recommend that this area be left along except for the possible addition of a few new trees in empty planting sites. These could be ornamentals such as tree lilac, callary pear or goldenrain tree under wires or elm or sugarberry where there aren't wires.

## Depot

The goal here is to screen the railroad. Pear has been planted here. I recommend simply filling in with 4 more ornamental pear trees.

Fourth (no overhead wires)

Sugar maples in grassy areas

Thornless honeylocust or lacebark elm in front of post office

Third (no overhead wires)

thornless honeylocust

## Appendix C

### CITY OF IRONTON

#### Maintenance and Planting Procedures

#### Tree Planting

#### Select Quality Stock

Purchase trees from a reputable nursery.

Select well-trained, healthy trees with good form and labeled with their Latin names.

Make sure trees are protected during transport.

One-year guarantee is standard, but some nurseries offer 2 years.

#### Determine Planting Depth

#### Dig the hole

The wider the better

Make arrangements to haul away extra soil instead of piling it around the tree.

Remove the burlap and twine or container

Burlap wicks water away from the roots. Sure, it may eventually break down; but what about the most critical first years after transplanting when the trees need a lot of water?

Twine can girdle the tree as the trunk grows.

Inspect the roots

Check for and remove potential girdling roots.

Water

WATER, WATER, WATER

Remove tree wrap

We once thought this was for the good of the trees. It actually does little if anything to reduce sunscald and often times ends up holding in moisture.

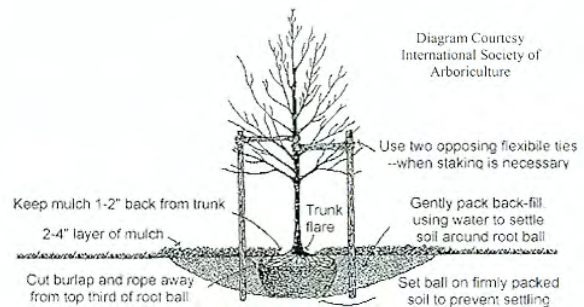
Another problem is that a lot of tree wrap is tied on with twine.

Folks often forget to take them off resulting in girdled trunks.

Stake only when necessary

Research indicates that staked trees lack the trunk strength of their unstaked counterparts. If you have good stock and the tree is planted correctly, then staking is usually unnecessary.

Trees planted in sandier soil, on windy sites, or larger trees with a heavy crown may need to be staked for 6-12 months until some roots are established.



## Appendix E



# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

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## CITY OF IRONTON

### Maintenance and Planting Procedures

#### TREE MULCHING

Determine the type of mulch: There are two basic types of mulch: Organic: derived from plant material, decompose to enrich and improve the soil. They typically contain both major and minor mineral elements essential for plant growth. Manure, sphagnum peat moss and pine needles are all examples of organic mulch. Leaves and composted yard waste – while good for soil improvement – don't score high in the longevity category. The most popular mulch for both weed control and longevity is shredded hardwood, chip, or chunk bark. Although finely ground chips are popular, look for a mulch that has a mix of large, medium, and small wood chips. This allows for better water and air movement to the soil and tree roots.

Inorganic: stone, pebbles, and plastic are types of inorganic or fabricated mulches. These are utilized mainly for color and texture changes. Like all inorganic mulches, they offer no value as breakdown products in the soil.

A relatively new inorganic product is geotextiles or landscape fabrics. These fabrics have replaced black polyethylene film as an effective weed barrier to be used under more decorative products such as stones or bark.

Determine the mulches longevity:

Longevity refers to the length of time required for a mulch to break down. Mulches that break down slowly improve the soil slowly, and don't need to be reapplied as frequently. In contrast, mulches that break down more quickly provide better soil benefits, but need to be applied more often. For sites with poor soil, choosing a mulch with shorter longevity may be the best option.

Determine when to mulch:

Once you've determined what kind of mulch to use, the next consideration is when to mulch. In Ohio, the best time to put down mulch is in the spring after the soil has warmed and begun to dry from winter rains and snow. A second application may be needed in autumn after the first frost to reduce heaving which breaks tree roots and leads to winter injury.

How deep should mulch be? The ideal depth is two to three inches. If you're using shredded hardwood mulch, lay it about four inches deep to allow for settling. Mulch laid too thickly prevents drying and leads to water-logged soil, particularly during wet seasons. Speaking of water, some people like watering down new mulch to help it stay in place, although this is not really necessary.

A common mulching myth is the belief that old mulch should be removed before adding new. Not true. Simply refresh old mulch by fluffing it up and adding enough new mulch to bring the depth back up to two inches.

Trees need water and nutrients from the soil to survive. Proper mulching helps ensure your trees have what they need to live long, healthy lives and helps beautify your yard at the same time.

## Appendix F

### City of Ironton

#### Codified Ordinance

##### 1022.05 – Trees and Shrubs on Tree Lawns

Trees and shrubs may be planted in the tree lawns of the City subject to such regulations as established by the Director of Public Works and Services, to whom the authority for supervising such plantings and types thereof is hereby granted.

Tree lawns are the responsibility of the owner of the property abutting thereon and shall be kept in repair and maintained. Responsibility includes the trimming and removal of trees and mowing grass in tree lawns.

Said maintenance shall be done to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works and Services.

No tree shall be removed without first obtaining permission from the Director.

The City shall give written notice to each property owner whose tree lawn is in need of maintenance or repair and are hereby ordered to have such work done within thirty days from notice. Upon the failure of the owner to do such repairs within the time specified, the Director is hereby authorized and directed to cause such repairs to be made and to assess the entire cost of the same against such property and cause the same to become a lien thereon and to be collected in such a manner as may be provided by law. (Ordinance 93-65. Passed 1-27-94)

# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

## Appendix G

City of Ironton  
 ODOT: Street Enhancement Project  
 Division 1000-7  
 Curbs, Sidewalk, and Streetscape

### PART 7 – STREET TREES 7.1 General

Furnish all labor, materials, equipment, and incidentals required to provide decorative Street Trees as shown and specified in the Plan Drawings. Care shall be exercised by the Contractor as not to damage the bark or roots of the trees during installation. Instructions for planting and maintaining the tree from the Nursery providing the trees shall be supplied to the Engineer before any installation of trees is performed.

### 7.2 Materials

A. Street Trees shall be Chanticleer Callery Pear or Cleveland Select Callery Pear.  
 B. All trees delivered shall be 1-1/2" stock, minimum.

### 7.3 Construction

The installation of all Street Trees shall be as follows:  
 A. After sidewalk has been poured, the Contractor shall excavate the soil located in the 4-foot by 4-foot planter opening to a depth of 30-inches. All of this soil shall be removed and disposed of according to Part Six of these Specifications.  
 B. The bottom of the planter shall be filled with six-inches of Sandy Loam Soil, approved by the Nursery providing the trees.  
 C. The tree shall be placed in the planter, water and fertilizer added, and the roots treated as recommended by the Nursery.  
 The sides of the planter shall then be filled with Sandy Loam Soil, water and fertilizer as recommended by the Nursery, and lightly compacted until the soil is within 1-inch of the top of the sidewalk and the root ball is completely covered.

The Contractor shall then fill the remainder of the planter with Cedar Bark Mulch such that it is even with the sidewalk at the edges and 1-1/2 inches above the sidewalk at the base of the tree.

The Contractor shall water the tree regularly as recommended by the Nursery and maintain the tree throughout the duration of this Contract.

Per the Warranty provisions of this Contract identified in Part Six of these Specifications, the Contractor shall provide the best care possible for the tree during the remainder of the Contract to minimize Warranty Replacement of a dead or partially dead tree within the Warranty Period.

City of Ironton Tree Project			
2nd Street	1= Sherwin Williams 2= Big Lots & Bob Lynn 2= C& S	5	Cleveland Pears
4th Street	1= 4th & Etna, Park 2= Fire Station 3= Library	6	Cleveland Pears
Railroad Street	1= Post Office 2= Amphiteater & 3 Touchless Car Wash	6	Red Oak
Center Street	2= Wall Paper & Moore 1= Out Reach Ministry 2= Wendy's 1 on 4th St./ 1 on Center	4	Cleveland Pear
Park Ave.	1= Toro Loco 1+ 6= Giovanni's 2= Elks (across street) 3= b/t 7th & 8th	13	Cleveland Pear
Washington Street	1= Library 6= Social Security Office 3= Rent to Own	10	Cleveland Pears
Vernon Street	1= Ungers	1	Cleveland Pear
Jefferson Street	1= KFC 5= AEP 10= Bob Clyse 5 by hand	16	Zelkova
Center St. Landing	9 = edges of pavement	9	Riverbirch
Bobby Bear Blvd.	3= on southside 11 on northside	14	Cleveland Pear
River Bank		300 Feet	Forsythia Bushes
Total Trees		84	
Total Bushes		300	

# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

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The Contractor shall provide the Owner with Nursery instructions for the short and long-term maintenance of the tree.

## Division 1000 - 7

### Curbs, Sidewalk, and Streetscape

The sides of the planter shall then be filled with Sandy Loam Soil, water and fertilizer as recommended by the Nursery, and lightly compacted until the soil is within 1-inch of the top of the sidewalk and the root ball is completely covered. The Contractor shall then fill the remainder of the planter with Cedar Bark Mulch such that it is even with the sidewalk at the edges and 1-1/2 inches above the sidewalk at the base of the tree.

The Contractor shall water the tree regularly as recommended by the Nursery and maintain the tree throughout the duration of this Contract.

Per the Warranty provisions of this Contract identified in Part Six of these Specifications, the Contractor shall provide the best care possible for the tree during the remainder of the Contract to minimize Warranty Replacement of a dead or partially dead tree within the Warranty Period.

The Contractor shall provide the Owner with Nursery instructions for the short and long-term maintenance of the tree.

## PART 8 – ORNAMENTAL STREET LIGHTING

### 8.1 General

Furnish all labor, materials, equipment, and incidentals required to provide Ornamental Street Lighting along the sidewalk as shown and specified in the Plan Drawings.

### 8.2 Materials

Ornament Street Lights shall be Model Number A85OPT-508BD5-5712DFP as manufactured by the Sternberg Light Company, or an approved equal. The shaft of the light shall be constructed of aluminum and the light shall be fitted with a 120-volt, 70-watt, high pressure sodium lamp. The exterior finish of the light shall be "Ironton Green." Shop Drawings shall be required on all Ornamental Street Lights and approval granted by the Project Engineer prior to delivery to the project site.

### 8.3 Construction

The contractor shall construct the Ornamental Street Light foundation as specified in the Detail section of the Plan Drawings, or as recommended by the manufacturer of the light. Should the manufacturer's foundation recommendation differ from that shown in the Plan Drawings, a Shop Drawing Submittal and Engineer's Approval shall be required before construction.

Care shall be taken by the contractor to align all conduit, reinforcing steel, and anchor bolts such that maximum contact and concrete bonding is achieved.

Conduit shall be installed such that it extends two-inches above the top of the concrete foundation. This will allow for pulling wires from the base of the light.

The base of the light shall be securely fastened to the foundation anchor bolts and the pole shall be securely fastened to the base.

The lighting element and globe shall be securely fastened and wiring connected and tested.

## Division 1000 - 8

### Curbs, Sidewalk, and Streetscape

# Landscaped Areas

Being a relatively small community and having suffered long term economic downturns of the region, developing and maintaining landscaped areas has been a challenge for the city. However, the community feels that these areas are vital in maintaining pride, a positive image, and supporting the overall economic vitality within the community. Therefore, all segments of the community have joined together to formulate what we feel is an effective landscaping strategy that is not reliant upon a large governmental workforce and budget to maintain. That strategy is inclusive of all segments of the community including governmental, commercial, and private property owners. The Ironton in Bloom initiative has strived to enhance all segments of this program as follows:

## **Municipal / Governmental Sector:**

Because Ironton is the county seat, the community reflects the presence of both County and municipal government. As a result, many of the governmental and other publicly maintained buildings provide landscaped areas available for public display. Perhaps three of the best displays include the County Courthouse lawn, the Woodland Cemetery, and the Ohio University Southern Campus, all of which represent where heritage, landscaping, turf and urban forestry all

merge. Other public facilities with landscaping displays include the Briggs public library and the Jobs and Family Services complex.

Woodland Cemetery, under new leadership in the last three years and a forward thinking Board has become an even more beautiful resting place for our loved ones. Beautiful flower beds have been planted at the entrance and in front of the office which are changed out by season. Dead trees and storm damaged branches/trees have been removed. The long entrance into the cemetery has been planted with a variety of flowering trees and pines. Although several of them died over the winter, they have been replaced this spring. Grass is cut on a regular basis and the stones and monuments are trimmed regularly. Woodland Cemetery is absolutely breathtaking during the Memorial Day weekend. Flags are placed beside the stones of all Veterans', the Veterans Overlook is prepared for the Memorial Day service led by the local veterans organizations, and residents and family members decorate the grave sites of their loved ones.

The city has also been



Ohio University Southern

active at integrating landscaping in its streetscape system. This includes everything ranging from Urban Renewal streetscape plans in the 1960's that incorporated tree medians and pedestrian malls in the Railroad Street Area, to the Downtown Streetscape Designs and Specifications that were adopted in 1990, to landscaped entrances and welcome signage at each of the principal entrances into the city. Other community organizations have partnered with the city to support their landscaping goals. As part of IIB's Daffodil Rescue, over 4000 daffodils were planted



Briggs Lawrence County Library

## Ironton In Bloom, Inc.



at the State Route 93/52 entrance. With the

opening of the new Kings Daughters Urgent Care at this entrance, more large pots will be placed along Park Avenue and planted and maintained by IIB. One of the newest landscaping developments directly resulting from the AIB evaluation is Rotary Fountain. In 2009, after consulting with city council, the Rotary Club placed four large pots around the Foun-

tain and four hanging baskets along the walkway. A large concrete bench, badly damaged by skateboarders, was removed and the area was bricked. This year they are placing two benches and trash receptacles in the park area and building a pergola with benches to create a pocket park. The rose garden at the other end of the area has been maintained by the Slagel Family in memory of the late Joan Slagel. This has transformed what was once a concrete walkway into a lovely, landscaped pedestrian mall area.

The city through a grant and private donations amounting to \$70,000, is in the process of incorporating a skate park within the Etna Street Park. They have provided not only landscaping but also a nice picnic area with park benches and trash receptacles. This will provide a wonderful place for skateboarders to craft their skills and should draw families of young people throughout the Tri-State to enjoy the amenities of the park and allow the young people a safe place to ride their boards while other family members can play basketball or play on the playground equipment.

Through the Community Development Block Grant Program, the city was able to purchase 15 Park Benches and 13 trash receptacles and some hanging baskets to enhance the city streets.



The City of Ironton, being an older heavy industrial town, is

faced with the challenges of many like communities with major closed industrial facilities that result in Superfund and Brownfield sites. The city has met this challenge head on with such projects as the redevelopment of the former Allied/Honeywell Superfund site to the now South Ironton Industrial Park, the ongoing Brownfield cleanup and redevelopment of the former Ironton Iron / Dayton Malleable Foundry, and the Ironton Riverfront. All of these projects have active cleanup plans which will result in the eventual redevelopment into new industrial, residential and recreational opportunities for the community. The closed hospital has been demolished and the entire area planted in grass. Within a year, this large vacant space will become residential building sites, badly needed in this community hemmed in by natural boundaries.

The Ironton City School System is landscaping their two new schools where courtyards have been created, older trees saved from construction bulldozers, and a green environment developed for our children. As a result of not receiving a bid for one of their older buildings no longer in use, the School system razed the building and new housing opportunities will be available on this one block area in the very near future.

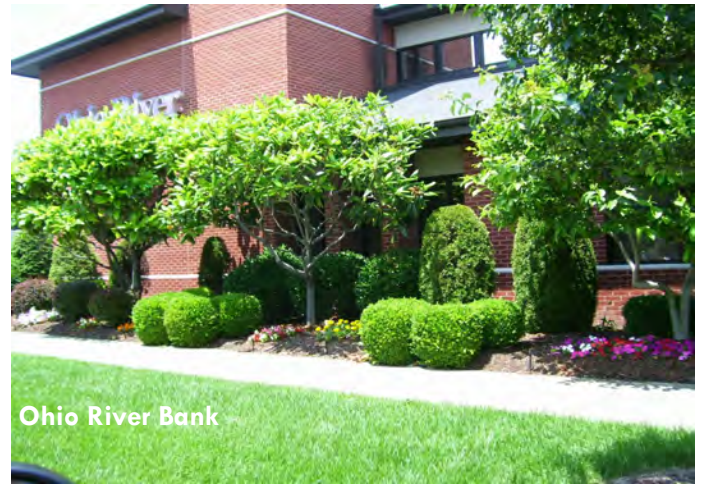
### Commercial Sector:

Much of the City of Ironton's commercial sector lies within its downtown, but it also includes key strip commercial development along its entrances at Park Avenue, South 3<sup>rd</sup>

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## Landscaped Areas (continued)



Ohio River Bank

Street and North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. One goal of the Ironton in Bloom program, over and above the floral displays of hanging baskets and strategically placed pots, is the encouragement of private commercial establishments to maintain landscaped areas as part of their entrances. This includes areas such as the entrances to the Ironton Hills Shopping Center, Rite Aid Drugs, Giovanni's, McDonalds, Liberty Federal Bank, M & M Realty and Ohio River Bank. These facilities have been active participants and supporters of the Bloom effort in the extra attention and additions that they have made to their properties as part of the effort. Other commercial establishments have also stepped forward with more urban streetscaping such as adding potted

flowers or window baskets. These include businesses such as Austyn's, Park Avenue Apartments, Scherer Mountain Insurance, Clarks BP, Henthorne's Dry Cleaners and State Farm Insurance.

Although not truly commercial in nature, area churches and schools have also contributed to the landscaping efforts. Many of these organizations not only organized student groups and members of their congregations to take on cleanup and landscaping duties supporting the City's streetscapes, but have also paid special attention to their own streetscaping. Although most have done an excellent job with streetscaping, some notable examples include the United Methodist Church, St. Joseph High School and Church, Open Door School, Quinn Chapel, etc.

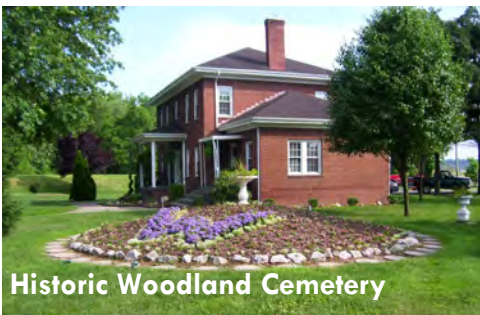
Ironton in Bloom established a Business of the Month in 2009 to recognize those businesses that have created a clean, litter-free, eye-catching space that is landscaped appropriately to its location. Four

former business owners make-up the committee who choose the winner from nominations coming from community members. The monthly winner receives an Ironton in Bloom sign to place in front of the establishment as well as having a picture appear in the local newspapers. Businesses are recognized from May – October.

## Residential/ Organizational:

In addition to Rotary Park and the addition of a skate board recreation area within Etna Park, the Friends of Ironton are building a splash park on a piece of property adjoining the future Depot Square project downtown. Once the construction of the splash park is finished in May, 2010, IIB and Maw Maw's greenhouse are partnering with the Friends to landscape this area. Upon completion, this will create another pocket park in the downtown, drawing people to the heart of the city.

Over and above public spaces, private residences have been encour-



Historic Woodland Cemetery

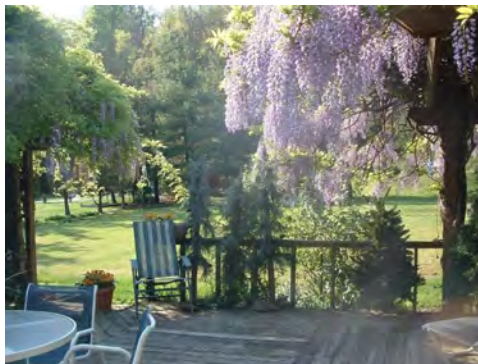
# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.



aged to take pride and ownership of landscape areas. Under the very active membership of the Ironton in Bloom's Residential Committee, there have been events held such as the Plant Exchange Day where residents bring and trade plantings for their landscaping purposes. At this event, the Master Gardeners Club members are available to talk with individuals with regards to landscaping problems and potential solutions, as well as plant recommendation and selection.

As an encouragement, recognition and awareness program, the private residential committee has also undertaken a "Yard of the Month" program. This program, runs from April through September, includes a nomination process and the involvement of garden clubs and other volunteers to review and award a "Yard of the Month" for those outstanding private residential landscapes. With the assistance of the local news media, an awareness and pride is being instilled in the community to encourage more private homeowners to become more aware and spend more time in maintaining their residential land-

scapes. This year Ironton in Bloom is sponsoring an Over the Backyard Fence tour of eight backyards in late July. As we have visited with the winners of the "Yard of the Month", it was discovered that almost all of them wanted to show us their backyards as well. This gave us the idea for a



perfect fundraiser while allowing us to invite members of the Tri-State to enjoy some of the hidden segments of our community. We are charging \$10.00 a ticket and are partnering with the Lawrence County Historical Soci-

ety and Museum where we will be serving refreshments and encouraging our visitors to view the Gray House and the period gardens planted around the museum. Ironton In Bloom partnered with Ironton's elementary, middle and high school art department to create posters for the Over the Backyard Fence tour. The young people of our community are our future!

Ironton in Bloom continues to sponsor a 5<sup>th</sup> grade litter control program provided by the Solid Waste Management system, encouraging students of all ages to help at the Community Day cleanup on May 1.





Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

# Floral Display

## Municipal Sector:

At its inception in 2008, Ironton in Bloom's (IIB) goal was to make a major

impact on both the businesses and the citizens of Ironton. Many citizens felt that when we lost our industrial base, we lost the heart of our city. We wanted this beautification project to be an important step in the realization that a town is so much more than a place to earn a living. We wanted to restore pride in our community. We began that first year by involving ourselves in the annual May Clean-Up Day. In addition to assisting with the cleaning, mulching, and tree trimming that had been a spring volunteer activity for several years, we encouraged the city to remove unsightly parking meter poles that were no longer in use and several dead trees. We chose this same day to have ready for mounting and display our contribution of 100 pole planters to be hung on the city's ornamental posts, 30 large 36-inch-in-diameter pots of assorted blooms, 30 blooming hanging baskets and several flower beds placed in the downtown area or along the city's three main entrances. Twenty-four window boxes were pre-planted and sold to local businesses which also added to the new look. This enormous effort would not have been possible if not for one of our city's engineers whose family runs a greenhouse. IIB



contracted with them for the preparation of containers, plantings, and maintenance of floral displays throughout the growing season. City Councilmen brought friends with trucks and the necessary equipment to mount the hanging pots. The mayor rolled up his sleeves and joined with volunteers in the effort to get all this accomplished in one day. A certified landscaper, Garry Castle, who sits in on most IIB meetings, was our primary advisor.

This first united effort created such an immediate and positive change that the interest and support of businesses, civic groups, and individuals has grown quickly since then, enabling us to markedly increase our floral display each year. The Rotary Club has volunteered to take on the fountain area in the middle of our downtown area, renaming it the Fountain Rotary Park. In 2009, they purchased four large pots and four hanging baskets and repaired the brick work to bring attention to the fountain area. By Memorial Day they plan to landscape, purchase, and install two benches and trash receptacles and construct a pergola with benches. This project will require over 250 hours of work.

Several citizens have asked that an IIB memorial fund be established in memory of lost loved ones. These funds have allowed us to create a Rose Garden near the end of our main street and have helped add to the large number of planters and pots we have pur-





# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.



chased for display downtown each year. With permission from the Ohio Dept. of Transportation and the help of a local scout troop, IIB planted a large daffodil bed in the field alongside the exit of St. Rt. 93 last fall, near the entrance to the city. They bloomed beautifully

this spring and we hope to involve citizens in adding more bulbs to this display in the near future.

In this our third year, the greenhouse we contract with continues to experiment with the types of flowers that grow best in different areas of the city. Both Vegetative Petunias and Supertunias have been striking in our hanging pots with every third pot a different color. A variety of blooms and vines: canna, geraniums, zinnias, marigolds,



sweet potato and other trailing vines grow in our large sidewalk pots, replaced in the fall with yellow and purple pansies which brighten our streets early in the spring before much else comes alive. The greenhouse workers water and fertilize

regularly throughout the summer to keep the plants in excellent condition.

The director of our large historic Woodland Cemetery on the edge of town does an outstanding job of overseeing the planting of flowering trees, shrubs, and flowering plants at its gated entrance. A real effort is made to maintain the large old trees throughout the cemetery and the grounds are immaculate. The Ironton School System has just completed new school buildings for all students, grades K-12; landscaping is beginning there this spring. The Ohio University Southern Campus maintains beautiful grounds and has worked

closely with IIB to coordinate some of its plantings with those along the city's streets.

## Commercial Sector:

By speaking with civic groups and by making individual contact by letter, phone, and personal visits, IIB has managed to obtain the approval and financial support of a large number of our downtown businesses. A greater effort to keep their establishments clean and attractive is apparent. Many have contributed financially. IIB cooperates with its contracted greenhouse to hold a plant sale in early May, offering plants that complement the IIB pots. Several businesses purchase these to enhance their entrances (along with residents who are also interested in matching their plantings with those in the downtown displays). Plant Sale proceeds go toward funding other IIB projects.

In 2009 IIB began a "Business of the Month" award, given monthly to a business that presents the most attractive storefront. A group of retired business owners make up the judging committee that chooses the winner of this award. The winning business is given an attractive sign to display in their window, and a photograph and brief story is placed in the newspaper by its editor, who is on the publicity committee for IIB and is very cooperative in publishing IIB activities.



# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

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## Floral Display (continued)

Friends of Ironton, another volunteer group, funded the building of a Splash Park for the children of the city. This is located in the downtown area and will be completed by the end of May. IIB consulted with them regarding landscaping and 'our' greenhouse will be doing the landscaping, making it a green and pleasant place for youth to gather.



A local businessman has furnished an empty store-front window free of charge for Ironton in Bloom to use to display information regarding IIB's various projects.

## Private Properties/Citizens:

The new mayor and city council have been willing to work closely with IIB, making both entities more aware of what can be done to improve our residential properties. City government has taken a closer look at city ordinances and has written and received a grant to tear down abandoned houses that are eyesores in some neighborhoods. The ordinance regarding the removal of unsightly items and the reasonable maintenance of grounds is also being better enforced. A local judge spearheaded a project wherein youths in our juvenile detention facilities were organized to help with city clean-up, including residential alleyways.

The editor of our local newspaper generously consented to publish a column periodically written by IIB

members. Initially these columns were written to encourage residents to take a closer look at their own properties and understand how maintenance and green-growing things can enhance the looks and value of their homes. Recent articles have concentrated on the



planting, trimming, and maintenance of decorative and shade trees. Ann Bonner, a certified tree specialist from the Ohio Division of Forestry, accepted our invitation to come and speak to residents and recreation and park employees on this subject as well. The public library donated a meeting room for this event.

This is the third year of our "Yard of the Month" contest wherein a colored photograph of the winner's yard and a short story are published in the Ironton Tribune. The winner receives an attractive sign to keep in his/her yard. All city residents are invited to submit nominations and the judging committee includes two



# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.



Master Gardeners, the Ironton Garden Club president, and a retired art teacher. Interest runs high and a total of 10-15 yards are usually nominated each month.

When AIB judges were here in 2008, they told us

that the Bloom organization in another town put door hangers on the doors of residents who had exceptional floral displays. We thought this was an excellent idea. A downtown printer volunteered to make them free of charge, using the IIB logo and printing the message "Your hard work and efforts have been noticed. Thank you for contributing to the beauty of our town." We have distributed approximately 70 of these, always writing a personal message on the back. Several citizens have shown an interest in joining IIB after having received one of our complimentary door hangers.

A Plant Exchange Day, undertaken initially by IIB, has been turned over to the area's Master Gardener's who hold the event on the Farmer's Market lot downtown each spring. IIB is also consulting with interested citizens in enlarging and improving the city's Farmer's Market.

IIB sends a letter to the 30+ churches in Ironton each spring, reminding them of their beauty and historical value and encourages them to make their grounds as 'blooming' as possible.



Others involved in residential improvement



include the town's Garden Club which plants and maintains our museum grounds, plants a Veterans flower bed on the Courthouse lawn, and offers a yearly Yard Award of their own. The Friends of Ironton help to maintain Vesuvius Lake, the state park just outside our city limits. Vesuvius Lake State Park offers a full schedule of events including wildflower walks led by park rangers. The folks at Park Avenue Apartments purchased 12 window boxes to beautify their downtown building and also planted flowers in the large urns in front of their building. Both the Senior Citizens building and our Municipal housing are well-maintained. Private citizen, Jan Johnson, maintains the flower bed at the Russell Bridge entrance.

Members of Central Christian Church have taken on the responsibility of maintaining the flower beds on Railroad Street. An Eagle Scout planted shrubs and flowers around the Post Office.

Thanks to caring citizens like these, Ironton IS in bloom!



# Turf and Ground Cover

Nestled between the Ohio River and a series of parallel ridgelines the City of Ironton occupies a compact geographic area in the most southern portion of Ohio. Most of the turf and ground cover areas are privately owned residences with balance being shared by the local school district and Ohio University, highway right of ways and earthen floodwalls/levies. Due to economic redevelopment much of the city's parkland and green space is now occupied by the aforementioned educational and industrial facilities.

The largest of all turf areas are the floodwall dikes. These structures are critical to the city's security and are aggressively maintained by the City. The City has a maintenance program to promote healthy growth of grasses on these dikes, control disruptive activities on the dikes as well as discourage boring animals from those areas. Other prominent turf areas maintained by the city include Edgewood to 9th Street, followed by Etna Street and Moulton's field (a favored sledding area), the Little League fields, and the Ironton Riverfront.

Ironton City Schools is in a building mode with a new elementary, middle school and a new high school, either recently opened or scheduled to open in the fall of 2010. Needless to say, much of the turf

at these locations is just getting established; however much of the plant materials and landscaping are in place. The plan here has been to incorporate perennial plants, bushes and shrubbery along with seasonal annuals.

With the exception of the playing field in the historic Ironton Tanks Stadium and the football practice field/track, the balance of the playing fields are less than 2 years old and in the process of being developed. Additional athletic fields, including the Ironton Little League baseball complex, Ironton Youth Soccer Association fields along with the Catholic School's soccer fields are maintained by various community organizations.

The university campus has a well maintained landscape plan complete with evergreens, perennials and annuals sprinkled in. They vary their plan seasonally with pansies in the fall and winter followed by a wide variety of summer annuals.

A community effort rescued thousands of daffodils bulbs from a construction site in May of 2009. These were transplanted last fall at the intersection of State Route 93 and 52. Other local groups have stepped forward to maintain the various entrances into the city. This effort is coupled with the Ironton In Bloom summer season endeavor.

Another positive of the city is the pride that many Irontonians have in their yardscapes and the efforts



Ironton Area Youth Soccer Organization field located on South 9th Street. This field is sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club.



Ironton Little League field in the north end of Ironton. Three individual baseball fields make up this baseball center. (Below: one of the three fields maintained by volunteers of the Ironton Little League. )



## Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

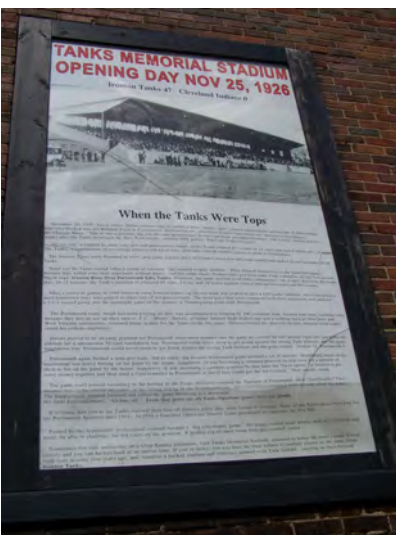


expended on their landscapes, lawns and plant materials. Perhaps the best demonstration of this pride is the “manicuring” activities of residents annu-

ally in preparation for the Memorial Day parade and the annual homecoming of many folks within the community. Also we have enacted the “Yard of the Month” program to encourage our residents to take pride in their lawns. This program runs from April through September.

Weed and pest control is determined by the various agencies and departments, but they have been and remain open to suggestions and a more natural approach. Upcoming educational seminars have been planned to move towards a more natural weed and pest control program. Due to budgetary constraints, eco friendly initiatives have been limited.

Information and suggestions regarding turf maintenance, grass and yard cutting, pest control, composting and other areas have been shared with the responsible parties.



Additionally, an Ironton In Bloom Facebook page has been created with the intention of sharing gardening tips with the community. This site has not been officially announced to the community but will shortly be deployed as part of May 2010 “Clean up Ironton” effort.

We are in the planning stages of conducting community seminars on a variety of landscape maintenance and gardening topics. Contact has been established with the local Ohio State University extension agent and a series of topics will be developed with a target startup date of summer 2010.

Ironton and Lawrence County do not have a “master gardener” program because there is no full-time agricultural agent at this time. Our Master Gardeners remain active in various garden clubs and share their knowledge at the plant exchange and through club programming as well as membership in Ironton In Bloom.

This is a work in progress, but many inroads have been made in the governmental, educational and residential community. The Ironton In Bloom group is focused and will continue to move forward with responsible sustainable gardening and yard management.





## City of Ironton's Best Practices

Best Practices generally occur when one uniquely concentrates its efforts and resources to achieve a major goal or to overcome a major obstacle. The City of Ironton's continued Downtown Revitalization Program does just that. Over the past two years, the City along with its various development organizations, civic groups and volunteers, have come together with their respective resources, have focused upon the eight (8) best practices areas of America in Bloom, and have begun addressing recommendations made for the City by the Ironton in Bloom 2008 evaluation and work plan.

The challenge faced by the City is, "How do we make the Downtown area a more desirable place that you would want to be whether you are a resident living in the downtown, an office worker working in the downtown, a shopper shopping in the downtown, or a visitor coming to the community to enjoy the downtown." As recognized from the community's 2008 site visit, some of the recommendations were that the City needed to become more pedestrian friendly by adding pocket parks, resting areas, cleaned and landscaped streets, etc. In addition, recommendations focused highly on expanding services and business opportunities while respectfully maintaining the rich heritage component to the community.

Over the past two years, major

accomplishments have been made toward these goals and many more are being planned and/or are in various stages of development. Some of the highlighted accomplishments are as follows:

- Development of the Center Street Fountain pocket park by the Ironton Rotary and Ironton In Bloom
- Development of the Rose Garden pocket park by the Slagel Family and Ironton In Bloom
- Development of the Spray Park by the Friends of Ironton, the City, and Ironton In Bloom
- Development of the Skate Park by the City Recreation Department and volunteers
- Current construction of the Ironton Transit Center and Welcome Center (Historic Berg Building restoration) by the Lawrence County Port Authority
- The acquisition, preservation, and planned restoration of the Ro-Na Theater building into an entertainment and performing arts center by the city, the Ironton Port Authority, with the support of other local development organization and volunteers
- The replacement of downtown trees by the Boys Scouts



Artist Rendering:  
Depot Square Project

- The continued cleaning, tidiness, and recycling programs, floral displays and streetscaping programs lead by the City, Ironton In Bloom, the Solid Waste Management District, and multiple volunteer organizations and individuals
- The soon to be constructed Depot Square improvements, which will feature a farmers market, outdoor staging, improved parking and streetscaping by the City and other support organizations
- The soon to be completed Ironton Lofts Project ( the historic Brumberg Building restoration) which will bring to the downtown market rate loft apartments along with corporate apartments



Artist Rendering:  
Transit Center, and Loft Apartment Building



## Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

and meeting facilities

- The preservation efforts of the old Veterans Memorial Hall by the city and the local veterans organization
- Historically designed façade improvements of multiple buildings by private building owners' investments with support of a City Façade Program

As demonstrated above, these achievements have been accomplished by focusing resources of the City as well as a lot of developing



**Before and after renovation of local restaurant, Toro Loco.**



**Ro-Na Theater Renovation Project**



**City employees helped install the new antique style clock downtown**



**Design plan for covered farmer's market area**

## Our 2009 Sponsors

### PLATINUM LEVEL:

**\$2,500.00 +**

The Huntington-Ironton  
Empowerment Zone  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
The Ironton Tribune

### GOLD LEVEL -

**\$500.00 - \$2,499.00**

Craig and Carol Allen  
Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital  
Garry and Debbie Castle  
Bob Clyde Buick-Pontiac-GMC Trucks, Inc.  
Bob and Sissy Clyde  
Lawrence/Scioto Solid Waste Management  
Co-operative Cub of Ironton  
Friends of Ironton, Inc.  
Greater Law. Co. Chamber of Commerce  
Joe Hurley Insurance Company  
Ironton Lawrence Community Action Organization  
Lawrence Economic Development Corporation  
Marathon Petroleum Company  
Frank Murphy Construction Company  
Ohio University Southern  
Park Avenue Apartments  
John Slagel  
Jan and John Wolfe

### SILVER LEVEL:

**\$101.00 - \$499.00**

Anderson & Anderson Co. LPA  
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Big G INC.  
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Central Hardwood & Furniture, Inc.  
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Tony and Ruth Crowe  
Davis Family Dentistry  
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Bill and Donna Dingus  
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Hecla Water Association  
Ironton Amvets Post 5298  
Ironton Artist Association  
Ironton Lions Club  
Ironton Council for the Arts  
Ironton Port Authority  
Knights of Columbus  
Liberty Federal Savings and Loan  
Randy and Gena Lilly  
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MSSI-Robert and David Slagel  
Ohio River Bank  
Burton and Leona Payne  
Tom and Martha Phillips  
The Printing Express  
E. L. Robinson  
Rumpke  
Perry and Jean Staley  
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Tim's News and Novelties  
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### BRONZE LEVEL:

**\$1.00 - \$100.00**

Phil and Carol Alfrey  
Brian and Judy Allen  
Allyn's Jewelers  
Alice Barber  
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Linda Barnes  
Sharon Bradshaw  
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Michael and Teresa Belcher  
Scott and Donna Bowling  
Bruce and Susan Brown  
Herald and Betty Brown  
Steve and Brandon Call  
Randy and Cindy Caskey  
Cielec, Ironton, OH - DBA McDonalds  
Charlie's Tire Sales, Inc.  
Child Welfare Club of Ironton  
James and Linda Davis  
Rod and Becky Depriest  
James and Juanita Eckles  
Don Edwards  
Walter and Mary Edwards  
Georgia M. Frazier



## Ironton In Bloom, Inc.

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Sandra Frazier  
Larry and Linda Freeman  
Daniel and Betty Gallagher  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gagai  
Ralph Gerson and Erica Ward  
Ison and Joanne Gibson  
Jane Griffith  
Guardian Industries Corp, HRD  
Guardian Automotive Plant Employees  
Mark and Deanna K. Haas  
Charles and Judy Henthorne  
Mary M. Hilton  
William Gerry Hock  
John and Rebecca Hodgson  
Robert and Ella Hamilton  
Margaret A. Henneman  
Scott and Jennifer Howard  
Butch and Lisa Huff  
Industrial Sanitation-The Slagel Family  
Iron City Hardward Co.  
Ironton Volunteer Day  
Patricia Jacques  
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Judy Kelly  
Kelly Med Care, Inc.  
Juanita Kincaid  
Thomas Kinney  
Charles and Ruth Klein  
Ralph Kline  
Chris and Jane Laber  
Kristine Large  
Clara Lilly  
Thelma Lilly  
Juanita Linn  
Tom and Tomie Lintner  
Loan Central

John and Cornelia Lutz  
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Karen McCown  
McDonald's, Ironton  
Michael and Dianne McFann  
David McGoron Family  
John and Andrea McKay  
Nick and Jean McMahan  
J. C. and Mary Medinger  
Kenneth and Richard Meyers  
Richard and Linda Meyers  
James and Patsy Miller  
Roger Morgan  
Julia Murnahan  
Doris J. Noe  
Gene and Elsie Peterson  
Mary Riley  
Mary Roberts  
Rock Hill Gardeners  
Jesse and Doris Roberts  
Herb and Mary Rose  
Sam's  
Merrill and Judy Sanders  
Mike and Rhonda Sheridan  
Roberta and John Skelly  
Don and Karen Simmons  
Harold and Wanda Spears  
Staton Reality, Alice Brown  
Symmes Creek Fishing Club  
Lois Terkhorn  
Tim's News and Novelties  
Merril and Georgia Triplett  
Troop 106 Boy Scouts-Central Christian

Troop 932 Girls Scouts-St. Law.  
Unger Shoe Store, Inc.  
Eileen Vass  
Kenneth Vessely  
Jim and Phyllis Volgares  
William Walton  
Michael and Sharon Whitehead  
Marsha Wikle  
Bill and Marsha Willan  
Bob and Carol Wood  
James and Mary Woods  
Arch Worley  
Vicki Wurtz

### **Individuals Memorialized:**

Barbara Brewster  
B. Caskey  
Dave Davis  
Oakie Ford  
Margaret Hodgson  
Kenneth Howell  
Bob Lipker  
Nancy Lyons  
The Marting Family  
Jacob Scherer  
Joan Slagel  
David Willis



# Assisted-living center set for June opening

33 jobs coming with project

By [Lori Kersey \(Contact\)](#) | The Tribune  
Published Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Work on Ironton's soon-to-be open assisted-living center should wrap up in about six weeks.

Close to Home III, located on the corner of Center and Sixth streets in the former St. Lawrence O'Toole community building, is on schedule for a mid-June opening.

"We start painting in less than three weeks," said



Sharon Hartwig, co-owner of the company.

Electrical work and the sprinkler system is almost completed. H.A. Horsten, Inc. is in charge of the renovation. Hartwig is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony for the facility's grand opening. She plans to invite city and state officials who have helped get the project off the ground.

"Without them we couldn't have done it," Hartwig said. "It's actually a project that's come to fruition with perseverance and without that community support we would have never gotten it done."

Along with becoming Ironton's only assisted-living facility, the business will also bring with it 33 jobs including cooks, cooks' assistants, housekeepers, resident assistants and an activities coordinator.

The Lawrence County Workforce Development Resource Center is in charge of hiring employees. Applications will be accepted beginning in late May.

The building will have 35 rooms, each complete with a living room area, bathroom and closet. Cable, window treatments, a refrigerator and a telephone are also included.

"These are huge units," Hartwig said. "Most facilities have 110 to 250 square foot units and these are larger than 350. That doesn't seem like much but some homes are only 1,000."

"It is not the size of house they're used to but to some of them, it could be larger than their apartment."

Because of the complexity of turning the historic building into an assisted living facility, H. A. Dorsten, Inc. is planning to submit an application for the ABC Excellence in Construction Award.

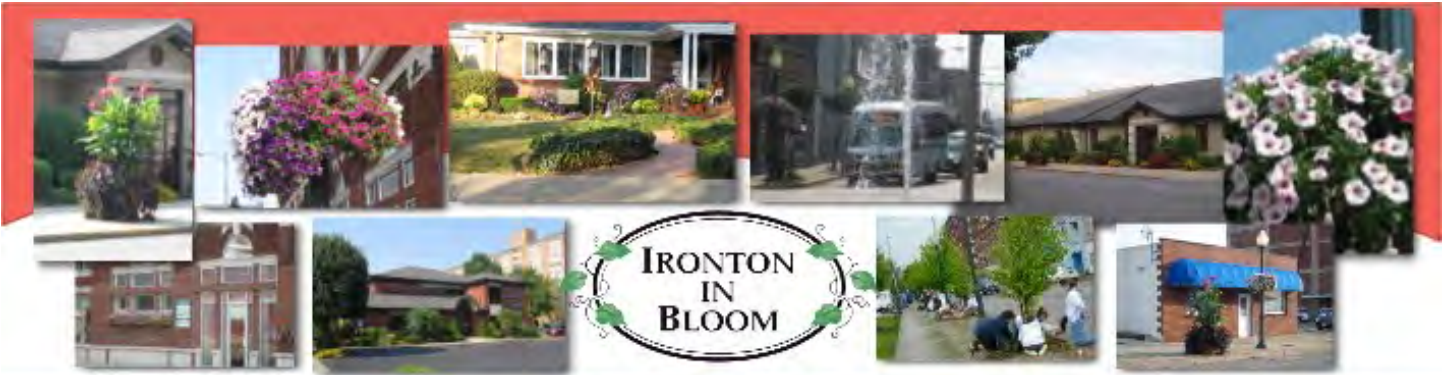
The award is presented on both a state and national level.

"This is a good example of what could be done with a building that people were going to tear down," Hartwig said. "We're just glad we're able to restore it and it's not really a restoration. It's just putting it to use."

# Ironton In Bloom, Inc.



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**IRONTON IN BLOOM ~ Ironton, Ohio**