



2008 EVALUATION FORM

Municipality: Ironton, Ohio

Population Category: 10,001 – 15,000

Bloom Rating: 3

The municipality will be judged based on efforts in management, planning, maintenance, improvement, and innovation of the following:

Yellow fields are automatically calculated – please do not type in them. To update a field, put the cursor in the cell and press F9. To update calculations in the entire document, press CTRL-A, then press F9.)

Category	Points	Possible points
1. Tidiness effort	100	125
2. Environmental Effort	95	125
3. Community Involvement	109	125
4. Heritage	97	125
5. Urban Forestry	67	125
6. Landscaped Areas	91	125
7. Floral Display	110	125
8. Turf and Ground Cover Areas	84	125
Total	753	1000
%	0.753%	
Bloom rating	3	

Municipality's representatives met:

- Rich Blankenship-Mayor
- Kathy Elam, City of Ironton Financial Dept
- Dr. Bill Dingus, Chamber of Commerce, Exec. Director
- Bill Dickens, Ironton Port Authority
- Mike Pemberton-City of Ironton
- Dean Nance, Supt. of Ironton City Schools
- Carol Allen - Ironton In Bloom Committee
- Cindy Caskey- Ironton In Bloom Committee
- Viviane Vallance- Ironton In Bloom Committee
- Randy Lilly- Ironton In Bloom Committee
- Katrina Keith- Ironton In Bloom Committee
- Dr. Bill Willan – Dean, OUS
- Mark Lutz –HIS- Tank Memorial Stadium
- Adam Rieh, Physical Director –OUS University
- Tiffany Hackworth -OUS students
- April Pemberton-OUS students

Jennifer Queen-OUS students
Jeremy Flieman-OUS students
Mike Payne-OUS students
John Slagel
Rob Slagel and family
Clark Collins – Court Workers
,Rob VanKeuren– Court Workers
J. D. Gore– Court Workers
Dan Palmer – ILCA0
Joe Unger –Historical Museum
Lori Shafer –Historical Museum
Kay Rader – Nannie Kellie Wright portrayal
Virginia Bryant- Museum's historical society
Friends of Ironton
Joyce Lynd –Community Celebration
LEDC workers –Community Celebration
Nataniel Kline –Community Celebration
Gina Lilly –Community Celebration
Managers of Woodland Cemetery –
Jim and Phyllis Volgares
Mike Caldwell (Ironton Tribune),

Judges

Norm Kleber

Darlene Blake

Visiting date July 11 & 12, 2008

All judging criteria will be adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the municipality. Some criteria may not be applicable.

General Comments and Suggestions:

Ironton is a community with a rich heritage rebounding from an era that did not prepare them for what they have experienced. Instead of lying down and giving up, Ironton is determined to recreate its image while not forgetting the rich heritage and the hard work that preceded this generation.

The judges feel that in such a short time, Ironton is well on its way to bringing the community into a new future. The simple addition of incorporating floral displays has set the tone for future achievements. Congratulations to the mayor and the community for wanting to improve your and your children's way of life. We thank the city of Ironton for its genuine hospitality during our visit. Carol Allen is a treasure for your community and is responsible for moving forward with Ironton's beautification efforts.

The Ironton-Lawrence County Community Action Organization was created in 1975 and is anchored at the John Campbell Memorial Home. By pooling resources and following one agenda, Ironton can become a "Must See Location." *The judges suggest that all future projects within the city be reviewed by the commission so that future projects will be in harmony with one another.*

With all the renovations scheduled, please keep in mind that the number one question to ask when an architect is starting a renovation project downtown is, "How old are the brick paver streets?" Then follow up with the second question, "How old is the infrastructure below street level?" *Sewer, water, gas, electric, and communications can be installed in the sidewalk area, causing minimal damage to the original brick paver streets.*

Consider searching out young painters who would be up to the challenge of re-painting the riverside levy wall to mirror the downtown buildings behind it.

Also consider some shrubs or perennials to spell out IRONTON between the river and the levy wall.

The media coverage that Ironton receives is priceless. Great job in having press opportunities and thank you to the media for printing Ironton's stories.

Suggestions are indicated in italics.

Coordinator's Signature

Norm Kleber

I. Tidiness Effort Green spaces, medians and boulevard strips, streets, sidewalks, curbs, ditches, road shoulders, signage (in good repair, sufficient, etc.), scrap yards, unattended and vacant lots, buildings, garbage receptacles and disposal, lack of weeds and noxious weeds, litter, dog fouling, notices/posters, graffiti, vandalism, general maintenance of the hardscape (such as lamp posts, benches, etc.).	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Actual Score
Municipal Sector					
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	11	15	19	23	19
Maintenance of public roads and shoulders	12	15	18	21	18
Condition of buildings	5	7	9	11	8
Volunteer efforts	2	4	6	8	7
Commercial Sector					
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	9	12	15	18	12
Condition of buildings	7	9	11	13	10
Private properties/Citizens					
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	9	12	15	18	16
Condition of buildings	7	9	11	13	10
Total					100
POSSIBLE POINTS (Adjust field if point splitting is necessary)					125

Municipal

Ironton has stepped up to the plate to revitalize the community. Uniform codes were developed and accepted by the citizens to make the city sparkle. Ironton has proven that leading by example works! Great job! While the downtown business district revitalization plan is developing, *keep in mind that you could create a great "Walking Flow" for all residents and visitors to navigate.*

The judges suggest you create recycle/rubbish containers to be properly distributed. The judges also suggest that more "Pedestrian Rest Areas" be provided in the downtown area.

The addition of the street sweeper and the citywide schedule for it is spectacular.

The judges suggest that the Public Works Dept send an inspector around the city, especially in the downtown area, to look for items in need of repair, such as broken electric sockets at the base of light poles. These are potential hazards for children.

The same inspector can look for low trees that need trimming and branches that block stop signs. Reviewing the landscape architect's plan prior to final approval can avoid these issues.

The street signs are of different styles, heights, and locations throughout the city. *Consider going down river to Aurora, Indiana, to review the new 3M street signs in Victorian borders. Consider adopting something similar*

Partnering with the ILCO Solid Waste Department, the City of Ironton sponsored a clean up

week to remove tons of unwanted or abandoned items.

Commercial

The Main Street Project has given Ironton new life.

Many businesses both in and out of the main street area joined with Ironton In Bloom to beautify the city.

The judges suggest that the current businesses act as a committee to finalize a list of the types of other businesses will complement the "New Ironton."

Some of the alleyways are littered with debris near the containers. *The judges suggest that tall enough foliage be planted as a screen to all these areas.*

Residential

Over 200 volunteers participated in the 9th Annual Volunteer Day to clean up and prepare the city for the "grand opening" of the new floral display containers. You did a great job.

The residential areas are neat and trim. *The judges believe that because of this, you should create a seasonal "Tour of Neighborhoods."*

TIDINESS EFFORT TOTAL: 100/125

2. Environmental Effort Sustainable development: Policies and by-laws, waste reduction, sanitary landfill, hazardous waste collection (oil, paint, chemicals, used batteries, etc), sewage disposal, transfer/recycle stations, recycling (paper, glass, metal, plastic, electronics, etc), composting, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), water source and conservation, naturalization, air quality issues, environmental clean up activities, controlled burns, environmentally friendly transportation.	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Actual Score
Municipal Sector					
Environmental services (waste handling, water treatment, air, etc.)	7	11	15	19	14
Incentive programs, training and information programs	7	9	11	13	9
Integrated pest management - timing, policy, by-laws	8	10	12	14	10
New programs - improvement and innovation	6	7	8	9	7
Commercial Sector					
Participation in the environmental effort	8	11	14	17	12
New programs - improvement and innovation	8	11	14	17	12
Private Properties/Citizens					
Participation in the environmental effort	9	12	15	18	15
Support/direction to municipality	9	12	15	18	16
Total (the field automatically calculates – do not type in it)					95
POSSIBLE POINTS (Adjust field if point splitting is necessary)					125

Municipal

The state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant is proof of the commitment to give the community “Nothing but the best!” With the best treatment system, you must consider that the original 100+ year old system leading to the treatment plant should also be upgraded. ***The judges believe that you could also focus on updating the original underground infrastructure with the streetscape planning.***

Encouraging a company to set up shop in Ironton and manufacture wind turbine devices in one of the vacant factories could make Ironton the American center of the newest technology.

Classes could be given to understand the positives of recycling household waste and yard waste.

The LSSWD district provides anti-litter and environmental training to local school children.

Commercial

The clean-up and re-use of the commercial “Brown Fields” is commendable.

Local businesses dispose of hazardous wastes responsibly through the LSSWD clean up drive.

Use of LED year round lighting to the historic downtown rooftop structures could enhance the attractive architecture and the entire revitalization effort.

Use of more recycle containers would be a plus in the downtown business center.

The LSSWD is partnering with a local store to develop a program to accept old analog TVs when the broadcasting signals change in 2009.

Residential

The residents are using the recycle program offered them.

Annually members of the community participate in the "Ohio River Sweep" to collect tons of litter from riverfront properties.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORT TOTAL: 95/125

3. Community Involvement Citizen's involvement in projects for the betterment and enjoyment of the entire community; AIB committee, horticulture/garden clubs, 4-H, school children, seniors, service groups, etc.; volunteers involved in long and short term projects & recreational programs (e.g., Family Day, Clean-Up Day, etc.).	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Actual Score
Municipal Sector					
Support for volunteer activities	13	17	21	25	23
Information and education programs	9	12	15	18	16
Improvement and innovation	6	8	10	12	12
Commercial Sector					
Involvement in community	5	10	15	20	14
Sponsorship of programs/activities	3	7	11	15	11
Private Properties/Citizens					
Involvement in community	5	10	15	20	18
Service groups/society sponsorships	3	7	11	15	15
Total (the field automatically calculates – do not type in it)					109
POSSIBLE POINTS (Adjust field if point splitting is necessary)					125

Municipal

The mayor is commended for the support of allowing the citizens of Ironton to band together and "Create a Better Tomorrow, Today!"

The use of the new city center is a great beginning for community gatherings. *The judges recommend that you create two or three more gathering places to handle smaller audiences. This way, you can accommodate multiple venues at the same time, two areas can be based in the downtown area and two others on opposite ends of the city.*

The city supports dozens of community organizations that all create a higher quality of life for the residents.

The judges suggest that all the Service Groups get together and create fundraising calendars for the next year using the gathering spaces.

Commercial

The commercial businesses support the city. They are to be commended for their generous contributions to the Ironton in Bloom initiative.

Several Family Fun Days throughout the year and two musical events sponsored by commercial businesses bring a sense of community to Ironton's residents.

The Liebert Corporation has donated generously to projects that include the school system, renovation of Tanks Stadium, and many community growth and improvement projects.

The judges suggest that when a function does occupy downtown, that you stay open for business. Try opening later that day.

Residential

There are many active service groups, church groups and volunteers that play a vital role in the community with their support of numerous programs.

The Master Gardeners organized a Plant Exchange Day that was a huge success with residents.

Assistance is given to seniors and disabled with their gardening and property maintenance needs. *The judges suggest that tall planting beds be created for the seniors to garden easier.*

Encourage the young citizens to create and manage future projects. "Today's Youth are Tomorrows Leaders!"

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TOTAL: 109/125

4. Heritage Museums, archives, history books & interpretative programs; policies & by-laws; resource availability; preservation & restoration of buildings, homes, churches, cemeteries; heritage sites and/or monuments; heritage parks, gardens & trees; artifacts; historical society; heritage advisory committee, etc.	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Actual Score
Municipal Sector					
Preservation and restoration programs	10	15	20	25	20
Information programs	7	11	15	19	12
New programs and incentives	5	8	11	14	11
Commercial Sector					
Conservation and restoration of properties	5	9	13	17	12
Participation in heritage activities	3	5	7	9	7
New programs, innovative ideas	2	4	6	8	4
Private Properties/Citizens					
Preservation and restoration of private properties	9	12	15	18	17
Participation in community projects and programs	9	11	13	15	14
Total (the field automatically calculates – do not type in it. Put cursor in cell and press F9 to recalculate)					97
POSSIBLE POINTS (Adjust field if point splitting is necessary)					125

Municipal

Ironton is a historic gem. From the civil war pig iron to current projects, the downtown renovations have brought the city back to life. Many structures are on the historic registry. This history is documented at the Hamner Room at Briggs Public Library, the County Museum in the Colonel George N. Gray Home, through the National Historic Registry, and is lived daily by the residents.

The city has taken many actions to preserve and promote many historic preservation initiatives.

The city planned, applied for funding, contracted with an historic consultant service, and sponsored programs that provide both architectural design services and cost sharing for downtown building owners to undertake downtown façade improvements, with the goal of being designated in the National Historic Register.

The city is commended for the renovation project in progress on the Ro-Na Theater.

The judges suggest a multitude of "Pocket Programs" created by different groups to have as fundraisers monthly. This will create tourism.

The judges suggest that the person answering the phone in the tourism office be the one appointed to attend the Bus Tour Convention. They are the voice that tour operators and visitors associate with. They can be your best Ironton Cheerleader at these types of events.

Commercial

The community is lucky to have a commercial sector that is active in restoration and development projects. The projects are too numerous to mention individually, but when completed will be a joy for all.

The downtown commercial district looks as if it was still back in the early 40's. The foundation is there, so only do slight alterations to keep them that way. The challenge now is to find occupancy.

The judges suggest that you call Eureka Springs, Arkansas to work with artists to enjoy many of the downtown structures as a second home.

Residential

The walking tours of residential areas and other historic structures are great. Congratulations!

There is a wealth of wonderful architecture in the homes built during the boomtown days. Homeowners are commended for maintaining these historic structures beautifully.

The judges encourage the residents to renovate additional period homes.

The judges recommend that homeowners renovating period homes use recycled materials stripped from other dismantled period homes.

HERITAGE TOTAL:	97/125
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5. Urban Forestry Written policies, by-laws & regulations, long & short term plans; distribution, variety & suitability of trees; new plantings; urban tree program; qualified personnel or access to trained individual(s); inventory or database; frequency of surveys; care & maintenance programs; preservation of heritage trees & woodlots; scheduled succession plantings.	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Actual Score
Municipal Sector					
Plan of action, planting program	3	5	7	9	5
Inventory, variety of species	2	4	6	8	4
Specifications - maintenance and planting	3	6	9	12	6
Naturalization, preservation of woodlots	2	4	6	8	4
Policies, regulations/by-laws	3	6	9	12	3
Qualified personnel and training	3	5	7	9	3
Commercial Sector					
Concept, design, planting	3	5	7	9	4
Maintenance	3	6	9	12	5
Conservation	3	5	7	9	3
Private Properties/Citizens					
Design and plantings	4	8	12	16	12
Maintenance	3	6	9	12	10
Community involvement in tree planting programs and conservation	3	5	7	9	8
Total (the field automatically calculates – do not type in it)					67
POSSIBLE POINTS (Adjust field if point splitting is necessary)					125

Municipal

The City of Ironton partners with the Ironton in Bloom committee to ensure the proper planting of urban street trees and shrubs throughout the downtown business district.

The judges suggest not having trees block store fronts, street lights or traffic signals.

The judges suggest planting more mature trees like a Green Pillar Oak .

With the help of Ann Bonner, Urban Forester, an Inner City Tree Planting recommendation list was created. The city with the assistance of the ODNR Forestry Division's Inner City Tree Planting Grant planted an additional 84 trees in the downtown business district and 30 forsythia bushes along the riverfront. An inventory of these plantings was created. *We recommend making a complete vegetation inventory for the city. This could possibly be done through the use of university interns. Contact Greendale, Wisconsin or Echo, Oregon to save steps in accomplishing this.*

Creating a plan to incorporate a certain percentage of trees to any new project is suggested. A plan to revitalize the tree canopy is advised.

We recommend exploring how to become a Tree City USA City.

We commend Mayor Rich Blankenship for supporting tree maintenance and planting policies.
A seminar could be conducted to show homeowners the proper planting and pruning procedures so trees, when mature, are not in the way of utilities.

We recommend the addition of a qualified arborist to the city team.

Commercial

The judges suggest a business initiative to donate and plant a tree in the residential areas. This will foster good will and support from the residents.

Residential

Most of the mature tree canopy that the judges observed shaded the power lines and not the homes..

Homeowners are encouraged to plant trees that will provide energy usage reduction.

URBAN FORESTRY TOTAL:	67/125
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6. Landscaped Areas Overall design & suitability for location/use; native & introduced materials; good use of design principles (i.e., balance of plant material & constructed elements, (harmony, color, texture, shape, etc.); tasteful integration of hardscapes; lighting; art elements; high standards of maintenance (no weeds, good mulching practices, clean edges); site rejuvenation & rehabilitation.	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Actual Score
<i>Municipal Sector</i>					
Plan of action, distribution through community	3	6	9	12	10
Concept and design	3	6	9	12	9
Specifications – maintenance and planting, variety of species	4	8	12	16	10
Sustainable development, naturalization and eco-design	2	4	6	8	4
Site rejuvenation and rehabilitation	2	4	6	8	7
Qualified personnel and training	3	5	7	9	5
<i>Commercial Sector</i>					
Concept, design, planting	4	6	8	10	7
Maintenance	4	6	8	10	7
Rejuvenation and rehabilitation, naturalization and eco-design	3	5	7	9	4
<i>Private Properties/Citizens</i>					
Design and planting	6	8	10	12	11
Maintenance	4	6	8	10	8
Involvement in development and maintenance of public areas	3	5	7	9	9
<i>Total (the field automatically calculates – do not type in it)</i>					91
<i>POSSIBLE POINTS (Adjust field if point splitting is necessary)</i>					125

Municipal

The City of Ironton is applauded for integrating landscaping into its streetscape system.

Many landscape projects have been started to improve the downtown area. ***Coordinating future projects to be consistent within a master landscape plan or guidelines, will make all future projects more successful.***

The ordinances in force are not specific to help the city when going out to bid for revitalization projects. Until you organize the ordinance, ask the following questions before giving anyone the “Go ahead” on any project. ***When an architect offers a style of streetlight, ask the question of “How will the light be disbursed?” When they place the lights ask, “How will the mature trees affect the light?” When they want to place trees or lights ask, “How will that affect the entrance to the business in front of it?” and finally ask “If you are going to plant trees, why can’t you use a species that grows upright quickly OR plant a mature tree?”***

Conduct classes for residents on the proper planting procedures for landscaping and flower beds.

Native plantings could be planned for all areas near the Levy wall areas.

Commercial

The commercial businesses are applauded for adding their own pots and hangers to complement the IIB floral display initiative, to compensate for not having a natural area that can be landscaped.

While entering the downtown sector, the judges noticed the effort to create landscaped areas in front of some locations. Landscaping does not mean turf & trees. The addition of the flower pots is landscaping.

The judges suggest that all businesses look at ways to landscape around the flower pots in their area and create a balanced display or pedestrian rest area.

Churches and schools have organized several landscape improvement projects.

Residential

Residents take pride in their landscaped areas.

The Plant Exchange Day enables residents to bring and trade plantings for landscaping purposes.

The Yard of the Month program recognizes residents for their landscape improvement efforts. This has motivated many residents to make improvements. Congratulations for a successful program.

*The mayor could possibly extend the Yard of the Month program to have a winner in each Ward every month to keep the program rolling.
Attend classes on proper planting procedures.*

LANDSCAPED AREAS TOTAL: 91/125

7. Floral Displays Arrangement, originality, distribution, location, diversity, balance, harmony, high quality maintenance, flower beds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets, window boxes, good use and integration of annuals, perennials, bulbs, and ornamental grasses.	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Actual Score
Municipal Sector					
Plan of action, distribution through community	5	9	13	17	17
Concept and design and/or eco-design	4	8	12	16	13
Types of plantings and variety of species	7	9	11	13	11
Maintenance/quality	5	10	15	20	18
Qualified personnel and training	3	5	7	9	6
Commercial Sector					
Concept and design	2	4	6	8	6
Plantings	2	4	6	8	6
Maintenance	2	4	6	8	7
Private Properties/Citizens					
Design and plantings	2	4	6	8	8
Maintenance	3	5	7	9	9
Involvement in development and maintenance of public areas	3	5	7	9	9
Total (the field automatically calculates – do not type in it)					110
POSSIBLE POINTS (Adjust field if point splitting is necessary)					125

Municipal

The initiative to use flowers to create the awareness of “Move Forward Ironton” definitely worked. It is the type of virus you definitely do not want to find a cure for! Don’t stop there! The city identified numerous city locations in need of color and cleaned up the spaces in preparation for the plantings.

Create year round events with different floral themes to keep the interest and visitors flocking to your fine city.

Use different floral displays during the year to capture the seasons.

Possibly, the use of moisture Manager Product such as H3O could save water and labor costs and keep water in the root zone of the plant.

Commercial

The downtown businesses have supported the beautification program with open arms and financial support. Kudos to all!

The additional floral displays by individual business owners complement and enhance the IIB beautification blitz.

The judges suggest that some downtown merchants could enhance the floral displays around their businesses if in fact; they do not have a floral display around.

The schools and churches jumped on the bandwagon with colorful floral displays.

Park Avenue Apartments purchased 12 window boxes to beautify their buildings. Renters are encouraged to plant around their units.

Residential

The residents added landscaping and started minor home improvements. A few baskets and planters have blossomed to homeowners trying to out-do their neighbors displays.

In order to get an even larger participation effort by the residents, conduct classes on the proper planting procedures for beds.

The local Garden Club plants the Veteran's flowerbed and at the Lawrence County Historical Museum. Thank you.

Jan Johnson is applauded for maintaining the flower beds at the Russell Bridge entrance, the Central Christian Church and on Railroad Street.

FLORAL DISPLAYS TOTAL:	110/125
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8. Turf and Ground Cover Areas Quality of turf as well as use of naturalization, ground covers and wildflowers; good turf management practices (maintenance, mowing height/frequency, use of Integrated Pest Management [IPM], fertilization program, irrigation, water restrictions, etc.); sport fields, athletic parks, and other active & passive recreation areas maintained to appropriate specifications.	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Actual Score
Municipal Sector					
Plan of action - distribution of turf areas and ground covers	3	6	9	12	6
Concept and eco-design	2	4	6	8	4
Diversity of species, type of plantings	2	4	6	8	4
Quality of maintenance	4	8	12	16	12
Turf management/Integrated pest management (IPM)	4	7	10	13	9
Site naturalization and rehabilitation	2	3	4	5	3
Qualified personnel and training	3	5	7	9	7
Information and education programs	3	5	7	9	5
Commercial Sector					
Concept and types of covers	2	4	6	8	6
Maintenance	3	6	9	12	9
Site naturalization and rehabilitation	3	5	7	9	6
Private Properties/Citizens					
Design of turf and ground cover areas	2	4	6	8	7
Maintenance	2	4	6	8	6
Total (the field automatically calculates – do not type in it)					84
POSSIBLE POINTS (Adjust field if point splitting is necessary)					125

Municipal

The turf in and around the schools and common areas needs some work. Granted it was summer, but, *if the grass would be kept at 3.5" it would shade itself, strengthen the root zone, and minimize the cutting times, watering, and reduce weed germination.*

Possibly, the use of moisture Manager Product such as H3O could save water and labor costs and keep water in the root zone of the plant.

The judges suggest that city use mulch blades and cut a different direction each week.

Commercial

Consider alternative low maintenance grasses, such as Zoysia or Buffalo grass in the newer developments for natural grasses

Consider installing "Roof Top" turf areas for better insulating factors.

Residential

A majority of homes take pride in their lawns.

The judges suggest that residents use mulch blades and set mower on highest settings cutting a different direction each week.

Conduct classes for residents on the proper maintenance procedures of turf.

TURF AND GROUND COVER AREAS TOTAL	84/125
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Questions on organization:

Yes No N/A

- Were the judges provided with the completed 'Municipal Information Form' prior to their arrival?
- Was there an initial orientation meeting with introductions?
- Was this with the mayor and/or members of council?
- or the AIB committee?
- Were the judges given a schedule and map of tour at first meeting?
- Did the itinerary provide for seeing about 80 percent of the community?
- Was the guide knowledgeable about the community and horticultural aspects?
- Were the judges able to ask questions and modify the schedule if they felt there was not enough time spent on a judging criteria?
- Did the judges meet with the media?
- Were the judges asked to give presentations?
- Were the judges able to meet with and talk to volunteers?
- Was enough time allotted to view the community?
- Was enough time allotted to complete the evaluation forms in a quiet place?
- Were the judges given an opportunity to contact the next municipality?

DEFINITIONS

-- **Municipality/Public properties:** Parks and open spaces, roads, roadsides, sidewalks, cemeteries, schools and sports facilities, empty lots and brownfields. (*Municipal employees*). Includes -- **Institutional:** hospitals, churches, military bases, assisted living, universities & colleges

-- **Commercial Sector:** shopping centers, stores, office buildings, restaurants, service stations, railway and bus stations (*Owners/staff*). Includes - **Industrial:** refineries, chemical and manufacturing plants, mining, etc.

-- **Private properties/Citizens:** Residences, condominiums, town houses, planned communities, apartment buildings, gated communities, manufactured home communities



2008 Special Mention

Municipality: Ironton, Ohio

Population Category: 10,001 – 15,000

Criteria Being Recognized: Floral Displays

Bloom Rating: 3

General description of the special mention

After a visit to Gallipolis and with the suggestion of Bob's Market, Ironton entered America in Bloom.

Like all of us as we grow older, sometimes we need to make some dramatic changes to revitalize ourselves and capture the attention of others. One day the wonderful old historic community of Ironton after several decades of decline said to itself, "Its time to bloom again." And blooming beautiful it is!

The Ironton In Bloom committee in harmony with the municipal leadership, civic minded organizations, businesses and individuals has revitalized the spirits and interest of everyone who lives or visits the community with a bold splash of living color. Ironton's spectacular floral displays make you smile and feel beautiful.

Special Project or Initiative

Energetic and motivated groups have raised the money to purchase and fill 100 pole planters to place on the city's ornamental posts downtown. Ironton's three major entrances are adorned with 30 large 36" diameter pots of flowers, 30 hanging baskets and several flowerbeds.

The desire to beautify has spread to include a public and private cleanup effort. Residents got on the bandwagon by maintaining, improving and increasing the floral displays throughout all neighborhoods.

Congratulations Ironton, you are truly "In Bloom!"

America in Bloom ... Planting Pride in Our Communities
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