

America in Bloom 2022 Evaluation Report



Community: Coshocton OH

Evaluation Dates: July 25-26, 2022

Lead Advisor: Leslie Pittenger

Co-Advisor: Linda Cromer

America in Bloom envisions communities across the country as welcoming and vibrant places to live, work, and play – benefitting from colorful plants and trees; enjoying clean environments; celebrating heritage and planting pride through volunteerism.

Seven Criteria (Codes)	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage
1. Community Vitality (CV)	76.00	39.00	51.31%
2. Flowers (FL)	96.00	77.00	80.20%
3. Landscaped Areas (LA)	84.00	47.00	55.95%
4. Urban Forestry (UF)	78.00	48.00	61.53%
5. Environmental Efforts (EE)	90.00	45.00	50.00%
6. Celebrating Heritage (CH)	70.00	43.00	61.42%
7. Overall Impression (OI)	80.00	33.00	41.25%
Other			
8. Evaluation Tour Preparation & Actions (ET)	13.00	12.00	92.30%
Scoring			
Total Points and Percentage	587.00	344.00	58.60%
Star Rating	6		
Community Involvement Total	72	45	62.50%

Star ratings are based on overall percentage.

1 star = 0% - 9.99%	2 stars = 10% - 10.99%	3 stars = 20% - 29.99%	4 stars = 30% - 39.99%	5 stars = 40% - 49.99%
6 stars = 50% - 59.99%	7 stars = 60% - 69.99%	8 stars = 70% - 79.99%	9 stars = 80% - 89.99%	10 stars = 90% - 100%

Community representatives to receive the Evaluation Report (three minimum)		
Name	Title	Email
Tim France	Coshocton is Blooming	francetim55@gmail.com
Jandi Adams	Clary Gardens	director@clarygardens.org
Lanny Spaudling	Our Town Coshocton	otc.execdirector@gmail.com
Dorothy Skowrunski	Coshocton is Blooming	dskowrunski@gmail.com
Mark Mills	City of Coshocton	mark.mills@cityofcoshocton.com

GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION:

Communities are required to provide the following prior to evaluation:

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

The areas to be scored:

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

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

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

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

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

Launched (1 pt.): programs or procedures are in place but not fully realized.

Achieved (2 pts.): programs or procedures are implemented but could be improved.

Surpassing (3 pts.): programs or procedures are well-implemented.

Excelling (4 pts.): programs or procedures are exceptional.

NS (Not Scored): preset in the Advisors' Discretion metric's point box for when a score there is not appropriate.

Advisors' Discretion (N/A, 3-4 pts.): advisors may add and score an item not in the metrics. This item must be an unusual or newly implemented project, program, or initiative that can be repeated in other communities and perhaps used as a future metric.

Other:

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

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

Congratulations to Coshocton for taking its efforts to new levels as the community enters its 13th year in the America in Bloom National Awards Program and winning your population category! The community's vibrant Courthouse Square and Roscoe Village, your passion for plants, love of history and heart for community were evident throughout Coshocton.

Coshocton is a community on the move. You have worked hard to bring your city to life and the efforts are paying off. New activity downtown, renovated buildings, and new businesses are all helping to put Coshocton on the map. During our visit, we were especially impressed by Coshocton's level of volunteerism. Everywhere we traveled, we encountered volunteers' efforts in evidence - Master Gardeners tending the AAS garden, the Tree Commission's commitment to planning and planting for the future, and the Coshocton Is Blooming touch at every street corner. In addition, we were struck by the business community's support, active and energized civic organizations, and elected officials' dedication to the community's continued growth.

There are over 1,000 communities in the US with municipal wireless service. Having Wi-Fi available to all residents, citywide, is more than a public convenience. It helps cities run their infrastructure, addresses income inequality, attracts potential businesses to the city and customers to those businesses, improves public safety, and enables local governments to provide better services for their citizens and visitors to their region. While the definition of a smart city is still evolving, a few things have become clear: smart cities leverage their information technologies to provide service levels that are enhanced, increase the well-being of residents, increase sustainability, and accelerate economic development. New businesses are seeing the value of setting down roots in Coshocton and a number of downtown buildings are being renovated with new businesses moving in. *Explore the possibility of Wi-Fi availability for parks, Courthouse Square and the Art Park downtown.*

Our thanks go to Tim France, Jandi Adams, Lainie Brillhart, Debbie Wallace, Dorothy Skowrunski, Steve Fox, Tom Heading and all the CIB committee members, municipal staff, board members, home and business owners, and volunteers that worked so hard to bring together this year's Community Profile and advisors' tour.

When reviewing this year's scores, please be aware that the 2022 metrics differ from those in 2019. New metrics were added, deleted, or reworded. These changes altered the scoring and we do not recommend comparing overall scores from the previous year. Instead, we recommend looking at individual metric scores to make comparisons and determine where Coshocton has progressed and where there are opportunities for improvement.

We look forward to your return in 2023!

Our best to you,

Leslie Pittenger and Linda Cromer
2022 America in Bloom Advisors



Community Vitality (CV) Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored)					
1. COMMUNITY VITALITY (CV): policies, programs, activities, and facilities that lead to a vibrant community and a sense of well-being. Includes libraries, community centers, arts/cultural museums; and parks, playgrounds, dog parks, sports fields, water activities, trails, and other outdoor recreational opportunities	Not Applicable N/A	Not Started (0 pts)	Launched (1 pt)	Achieved (2 pts)	Surpassing (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
a. Leadership and Policy						
CV.a.01 - Municipal volunteer boards are in place and interfacing with municipality and businesses				X		
CV.a.02 - Municipality offers grants to neighborhood associations for enhancements	X					
CV.a.03 - Master plan in place for public green space and parks				X		
CV.a.04 - ADA accessibility in public areas and other programs for inclusion			X			
CV.a.05 - Promotion of alternative transportation: pedestrian, bicycling, car/van pools, and/or ride sharing				X		
b. Facilities and Events						
CV.b.01 - Outdoor recreation facilities meet community needs: parks, playgrounds, splash pads, dog parks, sports fields, sports courts, swimming pools, golf courses, kayak/canoe trails, public access to water bodies, etc.				X		
CV.b.02 - Walking, biking, and exercise trail network in place and is safe, well lit, and connects to a larger network				X		
CV.b.03 - Performances/events for art, dance, theatre, music, and/or cinema available					X	
CV.b.04 - Run/walk/bike/kayak/canoe events are held				X		
CV.b.05 - Benches and seating available near walking, exercise, and playground areas				X		
CV.b.06 - Structures, shade sails, or trees provide shade for spectators and/or participants			X			
CV.b.07 - Play areas exist, age-appropriate ranges of equipment offered, and ADA compliant and conform to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and inspected by Certified Playground Safety Inspector				X		
CV.b.08 - Public library/resources center is available for all ages and abilities						X
CV.b.09 - Community center is available				X		
CV.b.10 - Farmers' Market(s) is available				X		

c. Community Involvement						
CV.c.01 - Community gardening sites are in use	X					
CV.c.02 - Level of participation in food banks, hunger-relief, Plant a Row for the Hungry (GardenComm initiative), etc.				X		
CV.c.03 - Participation in civic events such as Bike to Work Days, Walk to School Days, etc.			X			
CV.c.04 - Voluntary (non-mandated HOA) neighborhood organizations in place	X					
CV.c.05 - Programs in place to encourage youth involvement				X		
CV.c.06 - Recognition programs for volunteers				X		
d. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note						
CV.d.01 - Advisors to enter text below		NS	NS	NS	X	
Theatre and youth programs with the arts are exceptional and offer many things for youth to learn new skills and the importance of volunteering.						
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage			
1. Community Vitality (CV)	76	39	51.31%			

Community Vitality (CV) Recommendations:

Coshocton should be proud of the level of community engagement that you are creating through a host of events and volunteer opportunities throughout the community. Because the residents care, businesses are choosing Coshocton as their home and bringing new energy and activities to the community. *We would encourage you to add to the City of Coshocton website a calendar to announce upcoming events, festivals, and opportunities to visit your thriving community.*

The revitalization of downtown by Our Town Coshocton is apparent as businesses and event coordinators choose the center of the city as their location. *Downtown is coming alive and now would be a great time to create a walking tour. Work with the Chamber of Commerce and/or the Visitor Center to get people exploring downtown. AIB community Hendersonville, North Carolina and a Girl Scout troop put together an Apple Quest, a downtown scavenger hunt, which is a great way to explore the wonders of a downtown. <https://visithendersonvillenc.org/wp-content/uploads/Apple-Quest.pdf>. Traipse is also an app that can be set up to help visitors tour your city. Something similar could work in downtown Coshocton and Roscoe Village.*



Connectivity is important for Roscoe Village and downtown Coshocton. Moving the Visitors Center to Roscoe Village has increased foot traffic and offers a starting point to get visitors into downtown. *Wayfinding signs directing visitors to destinations stating the time it would take to walk are a great way to get visitors to leave their vehicles and start moving. "It's just a 10-minute walk to ..." a nice park, a sunset viewpoint, Courthouse Square, Roscoe Village and many other locations could get people to explore all that you have to offer.*

Another way to encourage alternative travel is to offer a Loan-a-Bike program at the public library. Often the police department collects abandoned bikes. These can be repaired and given to the library to loan. The library has the borrower sign a waiver, show a valid ID and promise to return by closing. AIB community Winter Park, Florida's

public library worked with a Boy Scout on his Eagle Project to implement the program. For more information visit <https://www.winterparklibrary.org/faq/borrowing-materials-library> . By becoming more pedestrian and bicycle friendly, Coshocton will boost community vitality, public health, and safety.

Coshocton is fortunate to have Bancroft and Himebaugh Parks located in local neighborhoods which complement the much larger Lake Park. Both parks have been spruced up with murals and trees. The addition of ADA compliant equipment in both parks would complete them. *Consider adding one or two ADA accessible amenities at each of the parks. An adaptive swing, play structure, fitness equipment, and picnic tables with a poured-in-place surface would enrich the lives of those people with adaptive needs, allowing them to better access the park and facilities.* Visit: https://www.especialneeds.com/jennswing-ii-the-cubby.html?m=Configurable_Scp&92=2767&aid=137322&ne_ppc_id=824858605&qclid=EAlaIqobChMlp-iatZ7x4wIVEv7jBx0vYQY5EAQYASABEgLTWPD_BwE, https://noahsplay.com/ada-equipment/?qclid=EAlaIqobChMlp-iatZ7x4wIVEv7jBx0vYQY5EAAYAiAAEgIuk_D_BwE,

In addition to the equipment itself being accessible, the public must be able to approach, enter, and use play areas. This ADA checklist (<https://www.adachecklist.org/doc/rec/play/play.pdf>) addresses these considerations for current services and will be helpful as these parks continue to evolve.

Art is thriving in Coshocton and the advisors were pleased to see the improvements to Art Park across from the Coshocton County Courthouse. With summer movies, live music, and the brightly painted murals on the walls and sidewalk it is the incubator for art that it was intended to be for the young people of Coshocton.



Coshocton does not currently have a community garden after several unsuccessful attempts. While it is an AIB criterion, the advisors did not deduct points for this deficiency. It is better to find other means of solving the food scarcity in your community than to have a poorly used garden. The new food pantry, including a drive-thru, is going to be a wonderful addition to the community and its location will guarantee that those in need have the access to the food they need.



Coshocton's public events and amenities such as the library, walking trails, and Historic Roscoe Village, provide the community with great quality of life opportunities. StoryWalk Trail is a collaboration between Clary Gardens, Art Park, and the Coshocton Public Library. Beginning seven years ago they have provided summer programs to entice children and their parents to read while exploring the outdoors and local history.

The vitality of a community is developed and enhanced by the many volunteers that provide time, money and access to resources. *It is vitally important that all volunteers receive recognition for their contributions. Conducting an annual appreciation event is a simple way to say thanks. Incorporate the event into one of the many community celebrations that occur during the year. Seek out sponsors to provide refreshments for an event held at Clary Gardens.*



It is clear that Coshocton is a community of residents who are willing to provide the resources to make Coshocton a wonderful place to live, work and play.

Flowers Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored)					
	Not Applicable N/A	Not Started (0 pts)	Launched (1 pt)	Achieved (2 pts)	Surpassing (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
2. FLOWERS (FL): flowering annuals, perennials, bulbs, tropical plants, flowering topiaries, and colorful foliage and/or cut plant material for season-round interest for displays in containers, hanging baskets, window boxes, raised planters, trellises, and in-ground beds						
a. Leadership and Policy						
FL.a.01 - Public or private management of flower displays						X
FL.a.02 - Program to encourage, expand understanding of role and importance of pollinator habitats					X	
b. Plan of Action						
FL.b.01 - Action plan developed each season for procurement, scheduling, planting, and maintenance of flower displays						X
FL.b.02 - Recognition program(s) in place for attractive displays by businesses and/or residential				X		
FL.b.03 - Demonstration/display garden(s) with labelled flowers in place and promoted				X		
FL.b.04 - Effective communication about selection and care of flowers for beautification and pollinator habitats				X		
c. Design						
FL.c.01 - Unity and Variety: plant combinations create visual interest and dramatic effect while appearing coordinated						X
FL.c.02 - Suitability of Plant Selections: plants selected for location and environmental conditions						X
FL.c.03 - Distribution and Location: displays found throughout the community						X
FL.c.04 - Location: displays are located to serve as focal points						X
FL.c.05 - Seasonal Displays: seasonal displays with spring, summer, fall, and/or holiday displays					X	
FL.c.06 - Scale: if hanging baskets are in use, their size is in scale to their surroundings					X	
FL.c.07 - Scale: if containers are in use, their size is in scale to their surroundings					X	
F.L.c.08 – Scale: inground flower displays are designed with mature plant heights in mind					X	
FL.c.09 - Color: pleasing color combinations (monochromatic, analogous, and/or complementary) are used					X	
FL.c.10 - Form: uses a number of different textures in all floral displays					X	
d. Maintenance						
FL.d.01 - Watering procedures to maintain growth in place					X	
FL.d.02 - Fertilization: appropriate fertilization procedures using slow-release, liquid fertilizers, and/or soil amendments					X	
FL.d.03 - Grooming: regular pruning, dead-heading, removal and replacement of dead plants					X	
FL.d.04 - Plant health strategies in place to monitor and manage pests and diseases (IPM-Integrated Pest Management)					X	
FL.d.05 - Health and Vigor: plants are robust and floriferous						X

e. Community Involvement						
FL.e.01 - Volunteers provide donations and/or funds and/or participate in the design, planting, and/or care of flower displays					X	
FL.e.02 - Civic groups, garden clubs, Master Gardeners, school programs, etc., sponsor plant sales, plant swaps, provide information, or educational sessions that contribute to the quality and implementation of the community's flower displays					X	
f. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note						
FL.f.01 - Advisors to enter text below		NS	NS	NS		X
The use of a one-gallon pot inside the decorative larger pots to maintain color, health, and seasonal interest is an easy way for CIB volunteers and the water crew to maintain and guarantee season long vigor.						
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage			
2. Flowers (FL)	96	77	80.20%			

Flowers (FL) Recommendations:

Your annual floral displays and the Coshocton Is Blooming container planting initiative is simply outstanding. The new greenhouse installed this spring makes it possible to make it even more so.

The rows of hosta plants flanking the sidewalk at the courthouse are underplanted with daffodils to present a glorious display in springtime. The shade trees that protect the hostas from sunburn lose their leaves in the autumn and allow just enough sunshine for those yellow spring-blooming daffodils to jump up and greet the world. What a great variation of the tried-and-true daylily/daffodil planting practice. *That practice is tried and true because it's effective, and we recommend you underplant the numerous areas occupied by your stunning daylilies with daffodils to add to your spring display.*



The hanging petunia baskets are striking. *Consider adding vinca vine to the baskets in order to enliven the look as the vines dangle down and sway in the breeze, creating greater impact and interest as the season progresses.*

Your busy water person has become a real ambassador for your container program, answering questions from curious flower aficionados along the route. *We suggest that you prepare a simple handout to answer FAQs about the fertilizer mix and frequency of watering, plant choices, and how to support the Coshocton Is Blooming program.*

Historic Roscoe Village is a charming world of its own, and the decision of CIB to use a unique variation on the style of the containers for annual plantings was a winner. *The village would be an ideal spot to emphasize edibles as part of the display in container plantings and we recommend you consider trying it in at least a few of the containers. Include appropriate plant markers to identify and play up their inclusion.*

The Town and Country Garden Club's All-America Selections (AAS) display garden at the fairgrounds is fabulous - perhaps the most successfully executed we've seen on our AIB visits. The idea to cap it off with a mixed planter was terrific, but the club members recognize the scale is too small. *Our initial suggestion was to install one of the large round concrete planters from downtown, but upon reflection believe that idea impractical because of the weight load on the mortared rock structure. Instead, we recommend sourcing a composite planter in a similar style with a fraction of the weight. There are some very attractive options on the market. Check out a few at www.charlestongardens.com . A properly proportioned container with trailing plants will tie the container to the display below and "cap it off" with a flourish.*



When folks see inspiring floral displays, their instant reaction is a desire to replicate the look for themselves, and *adding plant identification labels to at least some of the Coshocton Is Blooming containers would be a nice feature, particularly in locations where pedestrians see the displays up close. The containers nearest to the library would be a logical start. Discrete plant markers would add an educational element and extra bonus to the obvious beauty of the display.*



Giant sunflowers are over-the-top, wildly unpredictable wonders that provide instant jaw-dropping joy to the beholder. *What fun it would be for the creative spirit of the Art Park to manifest as a strikingly unruly sunflower patch in a highly visible location on the grounds, and we encourage you to try it.* Providing contrast to the many more formal floral displays across the street at Coshocton County Court House Square, it would constitute a horticultural happening and help grow the inspiring artistic tension that the park provides. It would also add another element to your annual Sunflower Festival.

Landscaped Areas Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored)					
3. LANDSCAPED AREAS (LA): plants and related programs for the leadership, design, installation, and maintenance of landscape. Includes shrubs, ornamental grasses, vines, succulents, edibles, evergreen topiaries, turf, and groundcovers	Not Applicable N/A	Not Started (0 pts)	Launched (1 pt)	Achieved (2 pts)	Surpassing (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
a. Leadership and Policy						
LA.a.01 - Management of planting public landscaped areas					X	
LA.a.02 - Municipal landscape ordinance requires landscaping and maintenance for new and/or improved commercial development			NS	X	NS	NS
LA.a.03 - Municipal ordinance requiring landscaping for new residential developments			NS	X	NS	NS
b. Plan of Action						
LA.b.01 - Planning for restoration of natural areas				X		
LA.b.02 - Strategy for management of invasive plants				X		
LA.b.03 - Demonstration/display gardens with interpretive signage (pollinator, wildlife, native, low-water use, etc.) in place and promoted			X			
LA.b.04 - Effective communication of “Right Plant in the Right Place” and other planting issues				X		
LA.b.05 - Recognition program for attractive landscapes in place			X			
LA.b.06 - School gardening programs in place for multiple grades				X		
c. Design						
LA.c.01 - Unity and Variety: plant combinations create visual interest while appearing coordinated				X		
LA.c.02 - Suitability of Plant Selections: plants selected for location and environmental conditions				X		
LA.c.03 - Distribution/Locations: landscaping found throughout the community and at key locations					X	
d. Maintenance						
LA.d.01 - Grooming: pruning of plants, removal and/or replacement of dead plants				X		
LA.d.02 - Plant Health: Plants display health and vigor, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies in place to monitor and manage diseases and pests				X		
LA.d.03 – Mulch from renewable and sustainable sources is used by the municipality in appropriate places				X		
LA.d.04 - Weed Management: strategies in place to manage weeds (removal, mulching, etc.)				X		
LA.d.05 - Health and Vigor: plants are robust				X		
LA.d.06 - Turf Care: proper mowing, edging, and replacement of dead turf				X		
LA.d.07 - Turf Health: Grassy areas display health and vigor, and procedures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) are in place to monitor and manage diseases, pests, and weeds				X		

e. Community Involvement						
LA.e.01 - Volunteers assist in funding, design, installation, and/or care of landscaped areas and/or turf in public areas					X	
LA.e.02 - Community educational programs offered related to plant material, including specialty gardens				X		
f. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note						
LA.f.01 - Advisors to enter text below		NS	NS	NS		X
Clary Gardens current and continued enhancements are noteworthy						
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage			
3. Landscaped Areas (LA)	84	47	55.95%			

Landscaped Areas (LA) Recommendations:



Many public areas in Coshocton benefit from excess annuals from the Coshocton Is Blooming container program. *We recommend creating greater year around interest with the addition of shrubs with distinct color or form to provide contrast with the more pedestrian shrubs and grasses that provide the base for the existing landscape. One location to consider is the sheriff's building. Simply adding a few well-placed small slow-growing evergreen shrubs with yellow or chartreuse coloration such as*

'Moonlight' Japanese umbrella pine or 'Nana Lutea' Hinoki cypress will create a more attractive fall and winter display and make for landscape beds requiring fewer annuals for a "wowser" summer display.

The REACT Memorial Park created in 2010 is a wonderful undertaking near the water featuring blocks of native stone and a verdant grassy expanse. The sign and bench area, however, are looking a little tired and unkempt. *We recommend you remove the existing plants abutting the stone-mounted memorial plaque and replace them with a few slow-growing shrubs to provide a frame for the memorial dedication marker and anchor the seating area. We suggest conifers. An alternative would be a shorter ornamental grass such as 'Hameln' fountain grass that can provide winter interest and then simply be cut back in the spring before new growth emerges.*



Coshocton Is Blooming is consulting with the Triple Locks Theater about revamping the landscape around their sign and including a planter for summer display. *As suggested during our visit, it should be a fairly simple process to hide the distracting mechanics that provide electricity to up light the sign as part of the landscape revamp. An attractively landscaped sign will help keep this valuable community amenity in the spotlight.*



Most downtown and Roscoe Village properties feature attractive landscaping. However, some residential neighborhoods do not demonstrate a high level of effort. *We urge you to recommit to a "Yard of the Month" recognition or doorhanger program recognizing attractive residential landscapes. Post photos of those recognized on social media.* Beauty creates interest and activity, and the spark lighting up your downtown area is poised to ignite pride in more residential areas as well. We were delighted to visit one such local garden and enjoy the efforts of the head gardener and her husband.

Your CIB greenhouse property is a wonderful opportunity to cultivate a row or two of perennials for use in public areas. *Put the word out through Master Gardeners and the Town and Country Garden Club that you are seeking divisions of perennials and hardy ornamental grasses. This could be in conjunction with a spring plant swap. We suggest you trench in divisions of flowering plants but adapt your pot-in-pot practice to grow on grasses. Sinking a pot in the ground to drop in a small potted grass division will make it easier to lift and relocate them after they've had time to grow on.* Ornamental grasses are great landscaping material but can be back-breaking labor to dig and divide.

The connections between your CIB greenhouse property and Clary Gardens to the rose grower who shipped roses nationwide by rail in the last century are resonant. *Explore the possibility of discovering rose varieties that were grown and distributed from Coshocton. If successful, try to source some of those varieties and use them in the landscape at Clary Gardens with attendant labelling.*

Urban Forestry Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored)					
4. URBAN FORESTRY (UF): trees and related programs for the leadership, management, design, installation, and maintenance on public and private lands	Not Applicable N/A	Not Started (0 pts)	Launched (1 pt)	Achieved (2 pts)	Surpassing (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
a. Leadership and Policy						
UF.a.01 - Qualified personnel are on staff or accessing trained individuals such as arborists and/or urban foresters					X	
UF.a.02 - Tree board/commission and/or department is active						X
UF.a.03 - Municipal ordinance(s) enacted/enforced for tree preservation on public and/or private property			NS	X	NS	NS
UF.a.04 - Municipal ordinance(s) enacted/enforced for protection of trees during construction		X	NS		NS	NS
UF.a.05 - Currently a Tree City USA community			NS	X	NS	NS
b. Plan of Action						
UF.b.01 - Tree inventory for public areas is complete and current within the past ten years				X		
UF.b.02 - Annual tree planting program for public areas						X
UF.b.03 - Management strategies for removal of dead, imperiled, and invasive trees in public areas				X		
UF.b.04 - Policy for recognition and protection of historic trees			X			
UF.b.05 - Effective communication to residents of recommended trees, proper planting, "Right Tree in the Right Place," mulching, placement and spacing, and/or maintenance				X		
c. Design						
UF.c.01 - Variety: current practices include appropriate selection and diversity of tree species being planted					X	
UF.c.02 - Placement: current practices include appropriate spacing and planting area for optimal root and canopy growth					X	
UF.c.03 - Planting: current practices include correct tree planting depth (trunk flare at/above grade)					X	
UF.c.04 - Arboretum/Park in place with labels and descriptive signage		X				
d. Maintenance						
UF.d.01 - Tree Health: strategies in place to monitor and manage diseases and pests				X		
UF.d.02 - Watering, mulching, and pruning for new trees: procedures for watering and proper mulching (i.e., no volcano mulching) in place and effectively communicated to the public			X			
UF.d.03 - Pruning for established trees: appropriate pruning, removal of dead limbs, and canopies raised adequately above vehicle and pedestrian areas				X		

e. Community Involvement						
UF.e.01 - Policy for donations to tree planting in public areas (memorial trees, etc.) in place				X		
UF.e.02 - Community participates in Arbor Day activities					X	
UF.e.03 - Volunteers assist in tree planting and/or care					X	
f. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note						
UF.f.01 - Advisors to enter text below		NS	NS	NS		X
Hall Park's addition of 24 native trees						
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage			
4. Urban Forestry (UF)	78	48	61.53%			

Urban Forestry (UF) Recommendations:

Coshocton’s Community Profile indicates that the community is a Tree City USA, but the Arbor Day Foundation’s comprehensive website does not list your city as a current designee. A number of communities across the country post-Covid didn’t file the necessary paperwork to achieve designation. If that is the case with Coshocton, *we urge you to re-apply this year and keep your status current in future.* Tree City USA designation opens the door to a number of grant opportunities to help with your impressive urban forestry efforts. *If you did file the necessary paperwork last autumn and received confirmation of your active status just prior to Arbor Day this year, we suggest you contact the Arbor Day Foundation in order to correct the misunderstanding.*



Coshocton has a number of distinctive trees. Of special note are two massive ginkgoes. *We urge you to research their origin to confirm what is popular local belief and document it if possible. Further, we suggest the Tree Commission work with supportive partners to consider establishing a heritage tree program.* The usual important criteria for heritage tree designation include age, rarity and size, as well as aesthetic, botanical, ecological, and/or historical value. It is one more way to create interest in and awareness of important assets in the City of Coshocton. *Check out an outstanding model heritage tree program established in another America in Bloom community at www.saratoga.ca.us/328/Heritage-Trees.*



Clary Gardens is graced by a wide variety of trees, and *we recommend you explore the possibility of becoming an accredited arboretum.* ArbNet created its Arboretum Accreditation Program

to establish and share a widely recognized set of industry standards for the purpose of unifying the arboretum community. No other international program of accreditation exists that is specific to arboreta. Accreditation is based on self-assessment and documentation of an arboretum’s level of achievement of accreditation standards, including planning, governance, number of species, staff or volunteer support, education and public programming, and tree science research and conservation. The entire program is **free of charge**. *We suggest you establish credentials with Level I accreditation and continue to achieve ever higher levels of recognition.* www.arbnet.org/arboretum-accreditation-program

Your active Tree Commission has an aggressive program utilizing Right Tree/Right Place standards to plant trees in tree lawns between sidewalks and curbs. You are fortunate in having many such areas wide enough to accommodate healthy tree growth, such as the easement along Seventh Street where young trees are in their third year since being planted. *We encourage you to maintain adequate mulched zones 2" deep and 2" from the trunk flare to protect young trees from damage by mowers and weed eaters and to help retain moisture in the soil.*

We understand that English ivy is the "signature" groundcover for Roscoe Village, and it is used as an attractive addition to many landscapes. This is one plant, however, that can quickly turn into an aggressive thug and then into a killer. Many states consider it an invasive species. Two mature trees, one a stately sycamore near the curving driveway and one a smaller shade tree fronting the building at the Triple Locks Theater are being suffocated by ivy. *We recommend you take immediate action to remediate the problem. The growth extends so far along structural branches in the upper areas of the canopies of both trees that it would be virtually impossible to remove it. Instead, cut grasping tendrils 3'-4' up the trees and then cut the tendrils at ground level. Carefully remove the cut sections and pull the rooted ivy away from the base of both trees. The ivy extending into the canopy will slowly wither. Remain vigilant that the ivy doesn't take hold again. It is such a challenge to increase our urban canopy that it is important to preserve threatened mature trees when possible.*



Environmental Efforts Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored)					
	Not Applicable N/A	Not Started (0 pts)	Launched (1 pt)	Achieved (2 pts)	Surpassing (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
5. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS (EE): environmental leadership, policies, plans, and programs for resource conservation; pollution control; trash, recycling, and reuse; and alternative fuel vehicles						
a. Leadership and Policy						
EE.a.01 - Environmental Advisory Board(s) and/or Green Team(s) in place			NS	X	NS	NS
EE.a.02 - Electric/alternative fuel vehicle(s) used by municipality		X				
EE.a.03 - Electric vehicle charging station(s) provided				X		
EE.a.04 - Stormwater management policies in place and enforced				X		
EE.a.05 - Pet waste policies in place and enforced				X		
b. Plan of Action						
EE.b.01 - Sustainability Action Plan in place				X		
EE.b.02 - Effective municipal/civic education about environmental efforts for children and adults				X		
EE.b.03 - Effective notification to community regarding pesticide applications and mosquito spraying				X		
c. Resource Conservation						
EE.c.01 - Bio-swales and/or rain gardens in place to reduce stormwater run-off pollution			X			
EE.c.02 - Home energy audit/incentives available				X		
EE.c.03 - Waterwise irrigation in place	X					
EE.c.04 - Low-flow water device incentives available		X				
d. Trash, Recycling, and Reuse Management						
EE.d.01 - Residential curbside trash collection is available and/or required				X		
EE.d.02 - Residential curbside recycling collection and/or collection points are in place					X	
EE.d.03 - Recycling containers available in public areas and for private use, and standardized and/or consistent labels used on containers			X			
EE.d.04 - Yard waste composting pick-up and/ or drop-off available				X		
EE.d.05 - Prescription drug drop-off(s) available				X		
EE.d.06 - Hazardous waste and/or electronics waste collection or drop-off(s) available				X		
EE.d.07 - Plastic bag and/or foam container collection point(s) available				X		
EE.d.08 - Reuse opportunities are available (clothing, books, household goods, repair initiatives, etc.)				X		

e. Community Involvement						
EE.e.01 - Community events that enhance public awareness of environmental issues and distribution of information on effective recycling (lack of contamination), i.e. Earth Day participation				X		
EE.e.02 - Garden clubs, Master Gardeners, and/or Soil and Water Conservation District, etc. provide educational opportunities for rain barrel usage, backyard habitats, and other environmental initiatives					X	
EE.e.03 - School curricula programs and events to encourage youth involvement					X	
f. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note						
EE.f.01 - Advisors to enter text below		NS	NS	NS		X
Levy passed for Justice Center to be constructed on remediated brown field						
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage			
5. Environmental Efforts (EE)	90	45	50.00%			

Environmental Efforts (EE) Recommendations:

Congratulations on your curbside recycling program. *We recommend that you take that pro-recycling ethos from the curb to the sidewalks downtown and into your parks and other public places - an especially timely initiative with your newly instituted DORA district.* While there are a few recycling containers downtown and in some public areas, it does not appear that non-residential recycling is a priority. *We recommend that the community begin a program to provide paired recycling and waste cans on every commercial block downtown, near schoolyards, and in all parks and public attractions.* Some communities use recycling containers as an opportunity to create public art. The city of Brewton, Alabama, another AIB community, lights up its downtown streets and public parks with donated 50-gallon drums painted by local artists and sporting the universally recognizable Reduce-Reuse-Recycle logo on commercially available lids.



Promote a zero-waste lunch week in the schools, municipal offices and commercial districts to encourage residents to pack lunches without using anything that can't be reused, composted or recycled. A lunch for a typical school-aged child can result in 68 pounds of trash by the end of the school year. This is not only wasteful, but costly, especially considering that most lunches can be packed using reusable containers and napkins. Local restaurants may offer menu tips for a deliciously healthy zero waste lunch while retailers may offer specials on zero-waste lunch gear and menu items. Many schools and offices promote this during the week of Earth Day, hoping that new habits will be formed that will continue throughout the year: <https://www.recycleok.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/wastefree-lunch-uls2008.pdf>

Good work in installing water fountains at your city hall designed to fill reusable water bottles efficiently. *We recommend you extend that availability to other public buildings. Encourage your local schools to install water*

fountains adapted for refilling bottles if they aren't already available. Provide the school district with information on your supplier if convenient. If not, information is available from many vendors including <https://www.elkay.com/us/en/drinking-water/bottle-filling-stations.html>.

While trees provide many well-known ecological benefits, the importance of trees as a source of food for bees and other pollinators is sometimes overlooked. Ohio trees can provide food for bees from early spring through late summer, with most tree species in Ohio blooming in spring and early summer. *We recommend that your Tree Commission, Master Gardeners, and the Town and Country Garden Club coordinate efforts to educate the public about the importance of trees to our bee population.* You can find more information through the Ohio State University Extension office at <https://u.osu.edu/beelab/> or through your local county extension office.



Every individual has their own passions and priorities. Some residents with no desire to grow the biggest dahlia on the block may have a real interest in landscaping for reasons beyond aesthetics. Residential yards can support birds and pollinators by including areas with native plants and providing shelter and water for wildlife. *Encourage Master Gardeners and the Town and Country Garden Club to promote residential designations such as certified Backyard Habitats through the National Wildlife Federation. Visit www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create.aspx to learn more.* Proudly displaying a Certified Wildlife Habitat sign can inspire others.

Coshocton has installed electric charging stations for alternative fuel vehicles. *We urge you to up the ante and begin investing in energy efficient vehicles for municipal use by replacing vehicles in your fleet with energy efficient options as current units are retired.* Municipal vehicles rarely drive long distances in a typical workday, and a charging station located at the city garage would keep the fleet operating efficiently.

It is concerning that less than half of your community has separate sewer and sanitary water underground infrastructure. *Because of this, it is important to utilize all available methods to mitigate stormwater run-off. Put even more emphasis on your tree-planting efforts. Require the use of permeable paving materials for new development. Use permeable concrete when replacing sidewalks and installing public parking lots.* It is possible that federal grant monies coming available will help you accelerate progress in this area.

Congratulations on your plans to install your new justice center on a remediated brownfield.

Celebrating Heritage Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored)					
	Not Applicable N/A	Not Started (0 pts)	Launched (1 pt)	Achieved (2 pts)	Surpassing (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
6. CELEBRATING HERITAGE (CH): recognition, designation, protection, commemoration, and celebration of historical, cultural, natural, agricultural, and industrial resources						
a. Leadership and Policy						
CH.a.01 - Historic preservation ordinance effectively provides commercial and residential designation and protection from demolition			NS	X	NS	NS
CH.a.02 - Incentives offered to promote preservation: tax credits, waived permit fees, eased setbacks, rebates, etc.				X		
CH.a.03 - Historic Preservation and/or Architectural Review Board in place and effective				X		
CH.a.04 - Historical Society is active				X		
b. Plan of Action						
CH.b.01 - Effective communication of ordinances, policies, and restoration methods				X		
CH.b.02 - National Register of Historic Places district and/or individual designations in place				X		
CH.b.03 - Natural and/or agricultural areas are protected				X		
CH.b.04 - Archives, artifacts, cemetery records, and/or oral histories collected, properly stored, or preserved				X		
CH.b.05 - Education: historical publications/websites, interpretive signage, tours, and programs in place					X	
CH.b.06 - Programs in place to encourage youth involvement, including curriculum-designated tours and available to multiple age levels					X	
c. Commemoration						
CH.c.01 - Signage in place for historic neighborhoods and/or structures				X		
CH.c.02 - Historical museum(s) and/or interpretive displays maintained					X	
CH.c.03 - Cemeteries, monuments, and/or plaques in place and well-maintained				X		
CH.c.04 - Community heritage promoted through tours (guided or self), brochures, Smartphone apps, etc.					X	
CH.c.05 - Parades, festivals, events, programs commemorating a community's heritage are held				X		
d. Community Involvement						
CH.d.01 - Volunteers participate in planning and implementing recognition of a community's heritage through historical tours, parades, festivals, etc.					X	
CH.d.02 - Volunteers participate in maintaining historical sites and structures					X	

f. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note						
CH.e.01 - Advisors to enter text below		NS	NS	NS	X	
Rescue of historic placards listing WWII veterans from Coshocton.						
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage			
6. Celebrating Heritage (CH)	70	43	61.42%			

Celebrating Heritage (CH) Recommendations:

History is brought to life in Roscoe Village through live demonstrations, informational kiosks and well-maintained historic buildings. The new digital tour guides located at several key points along Whitewoman Street are a wonderful addition to the self-guided tour. From the brick streets and sidewalks to the period clothing worn by shop owners and employees it truly feels like you have walked into the 1830's and the days of the early canal boats.

Walking tours that use QR codes are being replaced by smartphone tours. *With 21 colleges within a 50-mile radius of Coshocton, consider working with an intern or a class to develop a walking/driving tour of historic homes and buildings throughout the community that uses recorded dialog as the narrative. Examples are VoiceMap Audio Tours, Geotourist Ltd, and PocketGuide Audio Travel which are all available through the Apple Store App and Google Play.*



Coshocton has a number of historically significant structures and assets. The community clearly values historic preservation demonstrated by the thriving activity in Roscoe Village and the designation of a historic district downtown. *The advisors noted a few signs in vacant buildings and would have you consider taking up this project using historic medallions on each building. AIB community Washington, Missouri,*

uses informational plaques mounted on downtown buildings to explain their history and significance to the area.



You have created and continue to bring vibrancy and enthusiasm to the downtown business district. The renovation of the Pastime Theater as a "Makerspace" will be a wonderful addition to the increasing number of historic buildings that have been creatively restored and repurposed. Protecting your built heritage in Coshocton requires continued vigilance and work, and the efforts of Our Town Coshocton have been instrumental in saving some important structures downtown. *Continue by strengthening the laws/ordinances preventing commercial and residential structures from demolition. Once buildings are gone, they are gone forever. AIB community Winter Garden, Florida, has a strong ordinance that could be adapted for Coshocton.*



<http://wintergarden-fl.gov/DocumentCenter/View/320/Ordinance-10-05-PDF>

Arroyo Grande, California (another AIB community) also has strong historic preservation ordinances that could inform Our Town Coshocton and city officials in the quest to preserve historic buildings.

<https://www.arroyogrande.org/DocumentCenter/View/1389/Historic-Context-Statement-PDF?bidId=>

Once your preservation ordinances are in place, educate your community and communicate the new changes in laws, policies, and restoration methods. This can be accomplished through posting to the city website, flyers, social media, workshops, and reader boards in public parks and along Main Street.



Oral stories have a way of bringing history to life. Hearing the details of an experience through the voice of the person that lived it is moving in a truly unique way. *Work on collecting oral histories of the individuals in Coshocton that can share what life was like when they were growing up, and how the community has changed. Collect stories of military veterans such as those listed on the WWII boards located downtown. Once you have gathered a few oral histories, make them available to local schools to include in their curriculum.*

The Triple Locks Theatre has been in existence since 1947; that is 75 years of history and wonderful entertainment! *Consider performing one of the original shows or show a movie from 1947 to celebrate this outstanding achievement.*

The Coshocton Public Library is a tremendous asset to the community. They are located in a building that was formerly the 1917 post office. History runs deep in this building beginning with the postal route maps and the large genealogy department. The Genealogy Society is actively preserving records from as far back as 1886 and the continually growing collection includes maps, photos, newspaper clippings, and city and county government records. There are four cemeteries in Coshocton and the work of plotting those buried at each is an ongoing project. The advisors were impressed with the scope of the collection and the care that it is given. *While much of it is on microfilm, consider involving a college intern to digitalize the collection and make it available online.*



An Historic Preservation Board should be created to assist in the protection of historic assets. The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions <https://napcommissions.org/> can assist with the establishment of a local preservation ordinance and commission and provide training to architectural review board members. It is a great network that can recommend practical approaches to dealing with developmental pressures and unsympathetic design.

There are dozens of communities in Ohio that are Certified Local Governments (CLG). CLG is the official preservation partnership that connects local, state and Federal governments to help communities save their irreplaceable historic resources. CLG communities have access to historic preservation resources and can apply for grants that fund many kinds of historic preservation projects. *Consider applying to join. Visit <https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/state-historic-preservation-office/clg/clgino>*

Overall Impression (OI) Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored)					
7. OVERALL IMPRESSION (OI): adequate and effective amenities are provided in good condition, and the community is welcoming and attractive	Not Applicable N/A	Not Started (0 pts)	Launched (1 pt)	Achieved (2 pts)	Surpassing (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
a. Leadership and Policy						
OI.a.01 - Signage ordinances enacted and enforced			X			
OI.a.02 - Ordinances in place to address overgrown lots, abandoned vehicles, unscreened dumpsters, public nuisances, unregulated garage sales, empty storefront windows, etc.				X		
OI.a.03 - Code enforcement/compliance officer on municipal staff and codes are enforced				X		
OI.a.04 - Design style determined, applied, and consistent for site furnishings, crosswalks, gateway entry features, banners, wayfinding signage, etc.			X			
b. Amenities						
OI.b.01 - Site furnishings in place: water features, lamp posts, benches, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles, containers, planters, and cigarette receptacles			X			
OI.b.02 - Crosswalks well-marked			X			
OI.b.03 - Public restrooms available			X			
OI.b.04 - Effective community gateway entry features		X				
OI.b.05 - Effective use of banners, murals, and/or public art					X	
OI.b.06 - Effective wayfinding signage				X		
OI.b.07 - Effective use of non-plant seasonal decorations (lights, ornaments, etc.)				X		
c. Condition and Maintenance						
OI.c.01 - Condition of structures, buildings, decks, patios, etc. related to lack of vandalism, graffiti, peeling or faded paint, and rust			X			
OI.c.02 - Condition of infrastructure: roadways, road shoulders, curbs, medians, sidewalks, railroad crossings, crosswalks/pavement markings, transformers, and utility poles related to lack of weeds, vandalism, litter, graffiti, peeling or faded paint, and rust			X			
OI.c.03 - Condition of signs and site furnishings: water features, lamp posts, benches, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles, containers, planters, and cigarette receptacles			X			
OI.c.04 - Condition of vacant lots, stormwater retention ponds, and swales				X		
OI.c.05 - Control of excessive stake signs, billboards, and posted flyers				X		
OI.c.06 - Regularly scheduled street sweeping			X			

d. Community Involvement						
Ol.d.01 - Volunteer participation and/or funding of community revitalization and improvement initiatives, such as Adopt-A-Spot, Habitat for Humanity, River Sweep, home repair programs (CHIP), disaster relief, clean-up days, etc.				X		
Ol.d.02 - Process is available for residents to fund public amenities such as memorial benches, brick pathways, etc.					X	
e. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note						
Ol.e.01 - Advisors to enter text below		NS	NS	NS		X
New historic district street signs						
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage			
7. Overall Impression (OI)	80	33	41.25%			

Overall Impression (OI) Recommendations:

When visitors come to your community, they see what you may not. The Overall Impression category assists communities in focusing on amenities like benches and trash receptacles, sidewalks, signage, and buildings.

As one enters Coshocton, it is clear this is a city that takes pride in its appearance. Graffiti is almost non-existent, planting beds and floral displays are well done and well maintained, parks are attractive as are many residential neighborhoods, and retail establishments. The strength of a city is augmented by its ordinances. *A review of city ordinances every 5 years will keep them current and relevant.*

In order to prevent accumulated sediment, debris, and litter from entering your stormwater system and to enhance overall beautification efforts, a street sweeping program should be part of the Coshocton Stormwater Management Plan. Streets should not be swept on normal trash collection days, if possible. Prepare a schedule and publish on utility bills and the city website so that people can move parked cars from the street during the timeframe when their neighborhood is scheduled for sweeping. A bi-monthly schedule from April to November would heighten the effectiveness of the program.



Pedestrian alleys in Roscoe Village are intriguing spaces that can encourage people to take a glance sideways and then walk a bit further in to explore. Near Roscoe General Store, the addition of pleasantly done café seating admirably does that while giving visitors a place to relax. *Additional alleys would benefit by adding containers with plants, benches or other amenities. Work with property owners to place a distinctive focal point at adjacent alley entryways. Near the leather shop alley, a screen to hide the HVAC units behind the wrought iron fence could be erected and painted with a mural of a tanner at work.*



Coshocton has a memorial bench program and those are placed in appropriate locations in the downtown square. *Decorative metal benches that would be squirrel resistant would be a better choice for that area, allowing the city to move the current benches to Roscoe Village which is in desperate need of seating along Whitewoman Street. Place the benches in the former tree wells to allow visitors a place to sit for a spell and enjoy the floral displays.*



Well-marked crosswalks are critical for encouraging pedestrians to visit the downtown and safely negotiate the intersections. *While pedestrians and vehicles wait at intersections, entertain them with crosswalks they have never seen before – Coshocton’s logo. Replace the white bars or paint on top of them. Who said crosswalks must be boring?*



Our Town Coshocton Director and CIB board member Lanny Spaulding expressed the vision that Coshocton should be not only a destination but an experience. When visitors reach Coshocton, they need to know it, and that initial experience can best be accomplished with attractive entryway markers. *Consider going beyond the somewhat pedestrian single placard with organizational logos the AIB advisors glimpsed. Instead, resolve to mark every entryway into the city with a marker distinctly Coshocton. It can be as simple as a rendition of either the flag-style logo shown above right or a larger version of the handsome graphic on your new downtown street signs. Simply mount the markers on a plinth to elevate them where space is limited. Include drought-tolerant plants and distinctive rough-hewn sandstone blocks where there is space.*

Finally, with the number of grant opportunities that exist, it may be a good time for the city to invest in a full-time grant writer. As we all know, grant writing is fairly tedious work and attention to detail, along with thoroughness in your written application, can make the difference between being a recipient and coming up empty handed. Having a grant writer on staff will allow someone to focus on this very important source of income for the city and will free up the employees who are currently trying to fit this into their other duties. The position can be structured to receive compensation only when a grant is received and can be set up as a percentage or lump sum.

Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions (ET) Definition	Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored)		
8. EVALUATION TOUR PREPARATION AND ACTIONS (ET): community's readiness prior to and the action during the Evaluation Tour	Not Applicable N/A	Unmet (0 pts)	Met (1 pt)
a. Prior to the Evaluation Tour			
ET.a.01 - Community Profile provided to Advisors at least two weeks prior to the first official tour date			X
ET.a.02 - Community Profile includes contacts with emails			X
ET.a.03 - Community Profile from a returning community makes it clear what is new and/or implemented from Advisors' recommendations (scored as N/A for a new community)			X
ET.a.04 - Evaluation Tour Itinerary and Community Map with boundaries provided to Advisors at least two weeks prior to first office tour date			X
b. During the Evaluation Tour			
ET.b.01 - Evaluation Tour provided a representative cross-section of the community			X
ET.b.02 - Advisors met with elected/appointed municipal leaders and/or staff			X
ET.b.03 - Advisors met with the business and/or non-profit community			X
ET.b.04 - Advisors met with the media			X
ET.b.05 - Advisors met with volunteers			X
ET.b.06 - Advisors were asked to give a presentation(s)			X
c. Final Wrap-Up			
ET.c.01 - Enough time was allotted for Advisors to work on the Evaluation Tour Report in a quiet place with adequate Wi-Fi availability		X	
ET.c.02 - Community participated in a wrap-up session at the end of the Evaluation Tour			X
ET.c.03 - Evaluation Report metrics were adequately addressed in the Community Profile and/or Evaluation Tour Itinerary and during the Evaluation Tour			X
d. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note			
ET.d.01 - Advisors to enter text below	X	NS	
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage
8. Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions (ET)	13.00	12.00	92.30%

Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions (ET) Recommendations:

Coshocton created a wonderful tour that highlighted every criterion. The Advisors were allotted a sufficient amount of time to ask questions, and a place to work on their evaluations. Much expense and time was spent by the CIB board members on entertaining the advisors and while appreciated more time to work on our scoring and evaluation would have been appreciated. *It is appropriate to leave the Advisors to work on their own during one of the two evening meals.*

Coshocton submitted their Community Profile and itinerary to the Advisors within the two weeks prior to their visit. The Community Profile was well done. *Help the Advisors see what you've been working on for the past year by highlighting or italicizing those items.*

Now that you have received this evaluation for 2022 and you're working through the recommendations that have been made with your entire committee, *you'll want to determine which recommendations can be done immediately, which are longer term projects and which recommendations may not be something that your community is able to approach at this time. This will help to keep everyone focused and will get many projects off the drawing board and started right away. It will also help you to see your progress as you can check off those recommendations once completed.*

Be sure to share the Evaluation with the officials of your community, real estate agents, City Council, Chamber of Commerce, and Our Town Coshocton. The recommendations can be worked into their business plans which can help you get support both from a budgetary standpoint and from potential volunteers. Don't forget to post clips from the evaluation on the city website and CIB Facebook page.

DISCLAIMERS:

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

2022 Community Recognitions

Community: Coshocton Ohio

Recognized Criterion: Flowers

Flower power is on full display in Coshocton, Ohio, and has proven the catalyst for a renaissance in this remarkable community. Coshocton Is Blooming's signature container planting program has generated community involvement and a resurgence in economic development...growing not just plants but pride of place.

Container plantings are designed to provide maximum impact. Plant choices create excitement not just through color, but through striking combinations of texture and form. Over five hundred container plantings (**519** at the time of the Advisors' visit, to be exact) are designed for maximum impact, placed in key locations throughout the community, and watered daily by Coshocton Is Blooming. Creative insertion of "pots in a pot" centering the containers allows for refreshing the displays and extending the bloom season. Residents and businesses add to the floral panorama with their own creations, and landscaped areas throughout the city are highlighted with bursts of color.

Well-placed pots, overflowing window boxes, and picturesque pocket gardens spill over with vibrant blooms making Coshocton a community of flowers paid for, planted, and nursed through volunteer efforts.

Noteworthy Project or Initiative: Our Town Coshocton

The downtown organization, Our Town Coshocton, is actively working to restore, reuse, and revive the historic downtown business district. The active volunteer board and their director worked with Coshocton City Council and established a DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) district. Now concerts and other events are bringing in visitors and residents to enjoy all that downtown Coshocton has to offer. The summer concert series saw 2,000+ visitors in downtown at one event!

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