

America in Bloom

2017 EVALUATION REPORT



Community: Winter Park, Florida

Population Category: Circle of Champions – Mid-Sized

Evaluation Dates: April 24-25, 2017

Judges: Barbara Vincentsen & Laurie Potier-Brown

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

All evaluation criteria are adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the community's location.

This Evaluation Report is based upon your community's efforts in each of the following criteria:

Criteria	Possible Points	Actual Points
1. Floral Displays	175.00	148.00
2. Landscaped Areas	175.00	155.00
3. Urban Forestry	175.00	150.00
4. Environmental Efforts	175.00	156.00
5. Heritage Preservation	175.00	152.00
6. Overall Impression	125.00	105.00
Total	1000	866.00
%	0.86600	
Bloom Rating	Five Blooms	

Five blooms = 85% Four blooms = 72.50–84.95% Three blooms = 60.00–72.45% Two blooms = 45.00–59.95% One bloom = <45.00%

Community representatives to receive the Evaluation Report:

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Name: Kris Stenger	Title: City of Winter Park	Email: kstenger@cityofwinterpark.org

General Observations and Recommendations:

Recommendations are indicated in italics.

Welcome back to your fifth year of participation in America in Bloom and your first year as a participant in the Circle of Champions. Inclusion in the Circle of Champions clearly shows that your efforts have made a difference in the city. We are happy to announce that because of your ongoing efforts, you have been awarded a five-bloom rating, a noteworthy achievement indeed.

Commendations are in order for the authors of the 2017 Winter Park Community Profile “Winter Park Blooms,” sponsored by the Keep Winter Park Beautiful and Sustainable Advisory Board. This comprehensive guide to Winter Park is wide ranging and concise and one of the best we have seen. *We recommend the 2017 Profile be added to the Keep Winter Park Beautiful website, replacing the 2015 version. Further, we recommend a direct link to the report from the city website. When updating the report each year, consider highlighting new projects or recent accomplishments to older projects.*

Your continued coordination and adherence to the 2015 Sustainable Action Plan has been most effective over the past two years. The range and effect of the projects undertaken with volunteer services over the past two years is most impressive. *With the help of the Internal Revenue Guidelines it has become easier to assess the monetary value of volunteer hours. Henderson County, North Carolina, has been tracking volunteer hours over several years and now reports over 60,000 hours over the many departments reporting this information. This translates into more than one million dollars in services not requiring the expenditure of tax dollars.*

We had little opportunity to speak to anyone from either schools or student clubs in town. In the future, speaking to someone familiar with youth organizations would give insight into the youth in the community and their efforts in Winter Park.

Among the many highlights of the tour was a stroll along the public pathway bordering the lake at the Rollins College campus. This public way is maintained by Rollins College but open to all. A recently completed “boat seating” study area which was part of a student competition is one of several inviting seating groupings along the water’s edge.

In 1981 a famous sink hole opened in Winter Park causing \$4 million in damages and leaving a crater 350 feet wide and 75 feet deep. Today the sinkhole is a small lake named Lake Rose with little to attest to the national attention surrounding its creation. *We recommend that a sign or plaque be erected in a prominent spot to mark the location of this occurrence of national interest.*

Thank you to everyone who shared their time and love for Winter Park during our tour. Everyone we met was knowledgeable, helpful and most informative. We particularly wish to thank our hosts Stephen and Kristin Pategas who spent three days with us and introduced us to the outstanding elected officials, municipal leaders, Rollins staff, business leaders and knowledgeable volunteers. Thanks also to Abby Gulden and Kris Stenger who stayed with us for the entire tour directing traffic and answering questions. We look forward to your continued partnership with America in Bloom and wish you all the best in your journey in the Circle of Champions.

1. Floral Displays

Flower beds, containers, planters, baskets, window boxes, trellises. Arrangement, originality, distribution, location, diversity, balance, harmony, quality of maintenance. Use and integration of annuals, perennials, ornamental grasses, bulbs, tropical plants, and seasonal flowers and colorful foliage that provide year-round interest.	Max points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Leadership and plan of action for floral displays	20	17
Concept and design, variety of plantings, overall effect	20	17
Maintenance and quality of displays	20	17
Design for all seasons	15	13
Business		
Concept and design, overall effect	15	13
Maintenance and quality of displays	15	13
Residential		
Concept and design, overall effect	15	12
Maintenance and quality of displays	15	12
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in design, planting, and maintenance of floral displays	20	17
Financial and in-kind contributions to floral displays	20	17
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	148.00

Observations and Recommendations:

The City of Winter Park has a total of ninety-six hanging flower baskets within their Central Business District. The Landscape Division of the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the floral selections, installation and maintenance. The baskets appeared to be newly planted and were not flourishing during our visit. The flowers are changed as needed (3-4 times per/year) based on weather patterns/conditions. *Having the right plant, in the right place, at the right time will help to keep your baskets looking their best. For spring, summer and fall plantings, consider ‘Bewitched After Midnight’ Ipomea. This is a trailing variety*



that is hardier and more drought tolerant than other Ipomeas. For the heat of summer try using Lantana, Superbena Verbena, Bidens, Calibrachoa, Silver Falls Dichondra, Pentas or Tagetes. For a different twist you could use succulents in your hanging baskets. For fuller baskets, consider side planting. For numerous ideas on hanging basket combinations visit the Proven Winners website at www.provenwinners.com. The judges also recommend that the city contact their local Orange County Extension Office for additional recommendations.



The Winter Park 'Rose Garden' is strategically located in Central Park -the crown jewel of all of the parks. Adjacent to the downtown shopping district, the Rose Garden is highly visible and well maintained. Primarily comprised of roses, the garden offers additional colorful Florida-friendly plantings in a lovely setting around the famous Winter Park Peacock Fountain. *By adding a label to each plant, the garden can become a demonstration garden – helping residents and visitors to identify and select rose varieties or colorful plants for their home.*

The Parks and Recreation Department's Landscape Division has four staff members responsible for finishing the floral installations of ninety hanging baskets plus on-going beautification and maintenance efforts within the city. *To be able to meet the demand placed on this department to keep everything looking tip top, it may be prudent to expand staffing. Start by adding part time staff and during more demanding times increase the part time status to full time. This will support Winter Parks' on-going beautification efforts.*

The Winter Park hanging baskets do not receive themed flowers to celebrate all holiday events. This is understandable due to cost. *Adding, attaching or draping items such as ribbons, flags, dried grasses, etc., to celebrate each holiday will help capitalize on the existing location and expense of your baskets.*

Holding a variety of floral displays and landscape materials, 191 containers are grouped together at intersections along Park Ave and in Hannibal Square. The city installed an irrigation system into each container to reduce maintenance. *Container gardens have a great impact on the main thoroughfares and the front of businesses. A container planting method used in other cities is the drop-in concept of pre-grown containers. Switching out the ready to go seasonal containers is easy to accomplish and keeps the containers always looking their best. Another suggestion is to use a greater number of succulents in your containers as they are easier to*



maintain and offer a unique container aesthetic.



Located along beautiful Park Ave are numerous raised brick planters, each hosting a unique garden display. Garden styles represented range from Tropical, Japanese Tsuboniwa to Florida Native and an arid garden – all presenting a wide range of landscape materials and florals. Each planter has its own pop-up irrigation system thereby reducing the city's maintenance efforts. *The addition of a label for each raised planter identifying its particular garden style plus individual plant labels can expand an aesthetic feature*

into a teaching opportunity as a demonstration garden. Alternately, each planter could be equipped with a QR code on a plaque. This could lead to a plan of the container with plant material identified on the plan. With so many residents and visitors strolling in the adjacent shopping area, this is a perfect opportunity to educate while attracting additional attention to the lovely existing planters.

The Landscape Division staff have received Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training. They limit all of their spray applications to the 'caution' level. Ninety percent of their spray program is focused on maintaining the Rose Garden. *To improve your maintenance efficiency at the Rose Garden and throughout the city, consider better coordination between the maintenance and the irrigation teams. Another consideration is to invite the participation of Garden Clubs and Master Gardeners in the on-going care requirements. Master Gardeners are required to put in a number of volunteer hours each year so they may be able to play an active role in the plantings downtown as well as other garden related activities. Remember, many hands...*



Founded in 1885, Rollins College, located in the heart of Winter Park, is well known for its beautiful campus. The campus is well designed with a simple, campus-wide plant palette of trees, shrubs and groundcovers. Colorful plantings are strategically limited and focused. A rose garden with a central urn of lush plantings is featured along the central campus walk. Containers of bright annuals create a visual buffer at a pedestrian and vehicular crossing. *Congratulations to Rollins College for a thoughtfully designed and well maintained campus.*

Winter Park was suffering drought conditions during the evaluation tour, as was much of Central Florida. In accordance with the St. John's Water Management District regulations,

Winter Park is currently allowed to irrigate 2 x per week for all outside plants including the hanging flower baskets, flower containers and raised planters. *A product that can assist with water retention for the baskets, containers and planters is a gel polymer soil amendment such as Horta-Sorb MD by Horticultural Alliance.*

Cocina 214 restaurant celebrates their entryway and outdoor seating area with lovely hanging flower baskets and containers. They led the rehabilitation of the Welbourne Ave neighborhood. Congratulations to Cocina 214 and to the City of Winter Park for working together to make it happen!



2. Landscaped Areas

Overall design and suitability of landscape, turf, and ground covers. Use of native and introduced plants. Good use of design principles (i.e., balance of plant material and constructed elements, harmony, color, texture, shape, focal points, etc.). Sustainability. Integration of lighting, hardscapes, and site elements such as lamp posts, water features, drinking fountains, bicycle racks, benches, trash/recycling receptacles, etc. Maintenance (weeds, mulching practices, edging). Site rejuvenation and rehabilitation. Efforts in strategic planning. Community gardens, children's gardens, healing gardens, pollinator gardens, Backyard Wildlife Habitat, Audubon, and other specialty public gardens and zoos.	Max points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Overall design and planting of landscape, turf and groundcovers	15	14
Environmental management of sports fields and turf	15	13
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	13
Sustainable management, naturalization and eco-design	15	14
Business		
Overall design and planting of landscape	15	13
Management of turf and groundcovers	10	9
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	14
Residential		
Overall design and planting of landscape	15	13
Management of turf and groundcovers	15	13
12Quality of landscape maintenance	15	13
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement, i.e. garden clubs, neighborhood groups, Master Gardeners and University extension, in funding, planting, and maintenance of landscaped areas	15	13
Participation in future planning (committees, councils, and advisory boards.)	15	13
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	155.00

Observations and Recommendations:



In Winter Park, peacocks are the predominant artistic theme. They are found in surprising places. A peacock adorns the Winter Park city seal. A Penelope Peacock greeted us at the Winter Park History Museum. And then, in the crown jewel of all of the parks in Winter Park, is the famous Winter Park Peacock Fountain. Strategically located in Central Park, the fountain is surrounded by a lush planting of roses and colorful Florida-friendly plantings. Though the fountain and its surround are beautiful, the charming discovery was that an Eagle Scout raised \$50,000 to build the fountain feature adorned with its celebrated peacock. *Adding night lighting along the pathways will lead and invite guests into the rose garden room and keep their steps safe.*



Within Central Park lives a 36-foot tall by 34-foot wide Florida native Southern Red Cedar tree. Loved by the Winter Park children and known as 'The Climbing Tree,' she also doubles as the holiday Christmas Tree. *In consideration of the Cedar tree's vigor, health and longevity we recommend changing the Christmas lights to a manufacturer that makes a strand lighter in weight to reduce the pull on the branches. We also suggest designing a permeable pathway (mulch or gravel) to the tree as an identifiable access way for the young*

'Climbing Tree visitors. This will help to reduce the wear and tear on the surrounding Zoysia sod.

City staff has had a difficult time locating Zoysia sod to replace worn areas within Central Park. The resulting effect is a patchwork quilt appearance in the high traffic areas. *Utilizing the Parks Maintenance Division staff, with their IPM training, may improve your future sod maintenance for these high traffic, high visibility areas. The judges also recommend that the city contact their local Orange County Extension Office for additional sod recommendations/options.*



From Park Ave through the Central Business District, the majority of landscape beds are nicely landscaped and fairly well maintained. We noticed only a few beds in disrepair. It is obvious that there is strong collaboration amongst the City, the Chamber of Commerce, the Park Ave

Merchant's Association and individual business owners. *To inspire business owners to plant and maintain their landscape beds to a higher level, the City may encourage the Chamber to add a new category in the Chamber's annual 'Ovation Awards' such as 'Best Landscape Vignette'. This can include dramatic landscape, sculpture, murals, outdoor settings and the like. Recognition as 'best of the community' will encourage everyone to plant the extra Bougainvillea and garner more attention for their business.*

1st Green Bank is Winter Park's shining example of a project built with Low Impact Design (LID) solutions. The palette of native plantings ranged from Lizard's Tail, Wild Coffee, Gaillardia to a buffer hedge of Simpson Stoppers. The LEED Gold project also included pervious pavers, a rain garden to capture and filter runoff from the site and low-volume irrigation. Congratulations to 1st Green Bank and the City of Winter Park for bringing home a beautiful LID and LEED project!



As a 48-acre Botanical Garden in Winter Park, Mead Garden is heavily reliant on a small staff of permanent employees and many volunteers. *In order to be able to maintain the garden in its present state and expand per the Master Plan, it may be prudent to expand staffing. Start with adding part time staff and during more demanding times increase the part time status to full time. This will support Mead Gardens' on-going efforts as well as their overall Master Plan.*

Throughout Central Park there is a consistent palette of benches and trash cans. They are classic in design and color and well located throughout the park. *Though dogs are not allowed in the park, we recommend adding drinking fountains that include doggie bowls such as those made by Most Dependable Fountain along the public sidewalk in the right-of-way. This will cut down on the use of water bottles and will keep your pets refreshed. We also recommend that the recycling cans match the trash receptacles for a cohesive appearance and be co-located with the trash receptacles. A greater number of matching well-placed bicycle racks would be helpful along public walkways and parks during your festivals and events.*





As the oldest recognised college in the state, beautiful Rollins College is located in the heart of Winter Park. The campus is dominated by old Live Oak trees with a distinctive understory plant palette of azaleas (varieties: Formosa, Duc de Rohan, Gerbing), liriope and jasmine. A winding walkway and boardwalk along the banks of Lake Virginia are planted with native and Florida-friendly materials. The simplicity of plantings campus-wide was designed for ease of maintenance and for disease and pest control. *Congratulations to Rollins College for a beautifully designed and maintained campus.*

Mead Garden opened in 1940 and served as an outdoor classroom laboratory for Rollins' Botany and Biology classes and for students of local schools and other colleges. Over the years, the garden has become a destination, attracting visitors from across the country. A variety of programs and events are held annually. One such program is the Young Naturalist Summer Camp. Campers learn about environmental awareness, wildlife, plants, birds, butterflies, crawling insects, water conservation and ecology. *With your philosophy of 'connecting children, nature and fun', you have the perfect opportunity to teach the campers a new language through a 'Plant ID' course. They'll use it for the rest of their lives. You can also include a session that teaches the campers how to plant, grow and maintain plants. The campers can then host a table at the GROWvember Fall Plant sale to learn the value of their efforts and enjoy the rewards.*



The Winter Park Village re-design, with parking designated at the perimeters, provides a lovely walkable and lushly landscaped environment in which to shop and live. *Along Webster Ave, we recommend that the City Code Enforcement team meet with the business owners and require replacement of the parking lot buffer hedges that are dead and/or missing.*



We recommend adding a lush base of Florida-friendly landscaping to each Winter Park Welcome sign. Irrigation or truck watering should be provided during establishment of the display. The signs will have a greater visual presence than is currently the case and an added sense of permanence.

Community Gardens abound in Winter Park. Mead Gardens, as one of the first community gardens in Winter Park, grows organic vegetables and fruit for members (residents) to keep and to share. The Mayflower Retirement Community, in collaboration with Rollins College environmental students, offers residents an organic community garden for volunteering and/or for harvesting. The DePugh Nursing Home provides an established Sensory/Memory Garden designed to stimulate the residents' senses through color, smell, touch and taste. The Rollins College Urban Farm is open to students and faculty and is fully organic. *We recommend adding more signage and information at each garden similar to the information seen on the kiosk at the Mead Garden Community Garden. Visitors who may be interested in growing vegetables will be able to see what is in use and/or recommended by season.*



Landscape plantings are designed to be aesthetically effective through their color, texture and massings. Mulch is useful for retaining moisture and reducing weeds. Red mulch reduces the impact of the planting design. *We recommend that you consider using Melaleuca mulch (an invasive species) or pine bark mulch – both of which are natural in color and will not detract from the overall planting impression.*

3. Urban Forestry

Distribution, variety and suitability of trees; new plantings; urban tree program; qualified personnel or access to trained individual(s); inventory or database; frequency of tree surveys; care and maintenance programs; preservation of heritage trees and woodlots and green buffer zones; scheduled succession plantings, Tree City USA and their Growth Award. Efforts in management, planning, maintenance, improvement, and innovation. Written policies, bylaws and regulations, long- and short-term plans, trees on private property protected.	Max points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Overall plan of action, tree planting programs, variety of species, inventory	20	18
Tree maintenance	15	13
Preservation and restoration of natural areas	15	13
Tree protection/planting regulations and by-laws	15	14
Business		
Overall planting program	20	16
Tree maintenance	15	13
Residential		
Overall planting program	20	15
Tree maintenance	15	12
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in funding, planting, and maintenance of trees (i.e. Tree City USA)	20	18
Volunteer involvement of youth in tree programs (i.e., Arbor Day, etc.)	20	18
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	150.00

Observations and Recommendation

Caring for an urban forest of over 75,000 trees, the Winter Park Urban Forestry Division has four Certified Arborists on staff to guide ongoing trimming, removal and replacements. *We applaud the City for their tremendous tree-mindedness by having four Arborists. Arborists have the acquired knowledge on tree care and are able to evaluate the health and well-being of trees as well as planning for their planting and maintenance.*



Central Park, the crown jewel of all the parks in Winter Park, has wide walkways for strolling shaded by large Live Oaks, Laurel Oaks and Camphor Trees. Several of the Laurel and Camphor Trees appeared to be in poor condition. It was encouraging to hear that the Urban Forestry team is utilizing their 15-point assessment program to evaluate the short-lived Laurel Oak trees. Camphor Trees are notoriously messy, adding to the park maintenance work load.

We recommend the following:

- *The City Arborists evaluate the Laurel Oak and Camphor Trees in all of the City Parks.*
- *The current Tree Ordinance 2895-12 lists the Camphor Tree as exempt from requiring a tree removal permit due to its listing on the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council as Category 1 Invasive. We recommend removing existing Camphor Trees and replacing each with a 'Shade Tree' (per spacing requirements) from the 'Approved Species Listing' located on the Winter Park Urban Forestry website.*
- *We are aware that the Laurel Oaks in Central Park are being replaced with 6"-7" caliper Live Oak trees. Consider replacing the stressed or aging Laurels in all of the City Parks.*

Congratulations on being a Tree City USA community for 37 years and for 27 years as a Tree City USA Growth Award winner!

It was extremely dry in Central Florida. This can have an effect for years to come on the health of an urban forest. As we toured, many Laurel Oak trees were in distress. As you know, appropriate soil moisture is critical for healthy vegetation. We recommend that you provide adequate deep watering for your trees during drought conditions. You will want to monitor all of your trees carefully over the next several years for signs of stress.

A winding walkway and boardwalk along the banks of Lake Virginia are part of the Rollins College charm. Native aquatic plant materials hug the shoreline amidst towering Bald Cypress Trees. Purple Martin houses blend into the stand of trees - adding habitat. The simplicity of the trail winding through the Cypress Tree forest is beautiful. Rollins has been respectful in their trail design to protect the trees which function to minimize flooding and provide food and cover for beneficial urban wildlife.





Park Ave is a lovely stroll for residents and visitors alike. The numerous shops and restaurants can be enjoyed throughout the year due to the lovely shade of the large oak trees that line the Avenue. *Rather than adding brushed aluminum tree grates to all 47 of the trees, consider using the Flexi-Pave product on several trees as a trial. Flexi-Pave is flexible, porous, ADA Compliant and sustainable. See the following link for more information: <http://kbius.com/kbi-products/kbi-flexi-pave>*

Within Central Park lives 'The Climbing Tree'. Loved by the Winter Park children, the Florida native Southern Red Cedar needs a name and a celebration every year. *A contest suggestion: "Name The Climbing Tree" held in conjunction with Arbor Day and/or Earth Day.*



Not a single tree was installed into a new parking lot recently built at Rollins College. Though parking islands were landscaped, there were no trees to create shade for the hot and humid Florida conditions. An amazing thing to see happen in Winter Park where they value their trees, until we heard why! Why? Because Rollins is preparing to add a canopy of solar panels to supply power to the decorative fixtures which light the lot. You gain the built shade, but you lose the natural shade - an interesting twist on sustainability!

Congratulations Winter Park on the 2017 achievement of undergrounding 50% of your overhead wires. The trees thank you!

Martin Luther King Park Jr. is preparing to be reborn through redesign. The opportunities appear to be endless with 23 spacious acres. The proposed new public library and events center will co-locate into the park creating an endless array of events and activities. *Though the park is lovely and spacious, it was devoid of color. In conjunction with the project redesign, the City should consider identifying a palette of colorful trees to be used in designating special areas, providing wayfinding for pathways, and identifying entry drives and walkways.*





Opened in 2011, the Winter Park Community Center was thoughtfully designed to a Silver LEED standard, both indoors and out. From the parking lot to the adjacent Shady Park, both sites were designed with Florida-friendly landscaping. Park sidewalks met the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and provided access through and around the many existing trees. A picnic area was created under a lovely old Live Oak tree. Setbacks protected the tree roots. *Congratulations Winter Park Community Center on a beautiful and functional design!*

4. Environmental Efforts

Sustainability practices. Recycling (paper, glass, metal, plastic, electronics, clothing, etc.), transfer/recycle stations, policies and by-laws, sustainable development strategies, waste reduction, hazardous waste minimization and collection (oil, paint, chemicals, used batteries, etc.), water quality and conservation, energy conservation, environmental cleanup activities, reducing carbon footprint, environmentally friendly transportation, LEED certification, air, noise and light pollution, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), rain gardens and rain barrels, composting, energy efficiency, youth programs, etc. Events such as Earth Day, Recycling Days, Bike to Work Days, etc.	Max Points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Leadership in environmental initiatives	25	24
Effective communication of environmental strategies and initiatives	25	23
New programs, improvement and innovation	25	23
Business		
Participation in environmental efforts	20	17
New programs, improvement and innovation	10	8
Residential		
Participation in environmental efforts	20	17
New programs, improvement and innovation	10	7
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in environmental efforts	20	19
Youth participation in environmental activities	20	18
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	156.00

Observations and Recommendations:

Winter Park is located on an extensive chain of lakes set in park-like surroundings in central Florida, and is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty which its residents strive to preserve and protect for current and future generations.

As a municipality, Winter Park has been a certified Green Local Government at the gold level for the past 6 years, putting it in the vanguard of communities striving for sustainability. Over the years the city has continued to grow and expand its programs and practices to nurture and protect its environment. Older programs have been improved and newer ones developed. A comprehensive approach to this development across multiple interests has been formalized in the Sustainability Action Plan adopted two years ago. Part of this plan is an annual review of progress across the full spectrum of initiatives. The report filed at the end of 2016 is informative both with respect to

overall goals and to individual achievement within numerous categories of initiatives. We applaud the recent inclusion of a Sustainability Manager within the Building and Permitting Office which will help ensure that efforts in this area will not deteriorate over time.

Within the past year, many parks and municipal areas have been supplied with recycle containers. While frequently paired with waste receptacles, we observed that this was more frequently not the case. There are many opportunities for paired receptacles, keeping waste and recycling conveniently in one place, reducing the probability that convenience will trump reason when it is easier to place recycle materials in the waste receptacle rather than walk 20 yards to the appropriate container. *To avoid migration of once-paired receptacles, there are numerous manufacturers who make stands designed to hold both waste and recycling. In fact, these stands can be customized with logos or other designs which “brand” the containers with the city. Another approach which we observed at one location in the city is the provision of a concrete pad to locate the pair of containers.*



Many recycle containers now include the logo for Recycle Across America with its circulating arrows. This organization also provides labels with additional information about what exactly is appropriate to put in the recycling containers. *Consider including additional labeling on the containers in public spaces to identify exactly what may deposited for recycling. See www.recycleacrossamerica.org for more information.*

Composting is a wide spread practice in Winter Park. All community gardens the judges visited included a composting area or facility. Food waste at restaurants throughout the city is collected by commercial haulers and delivered to composting sites through a Florida Department of Transportation Grant known as “Compost Orlando.” Composting by residents is also encouraged by the city. The city currently gives free Earth Machines to residents to aid in home composting. In a very clever arrangement, tickets are given to residents interested in obtaining an Earth Machine. On Hazard Waste Day these tickets are traded for an Earth Machine at the site accepting hazardous waste, making it very convenient to bring in any qualifying material for disposal at the same time.

There are new numerous buildings in Winter Park with a LEEDS rating of silver or higher both on the Rollins campus and at various commercial and municipal facilities within the city. Indeed, Winter Park is committed to building new municipal facilities to LEEDS standards. Achieving a LEEDS rating when building or renovating requires an early commitment to sustainable practices and focused planning throughout the design and construction process. Kudos to those who have taken this route. *We suggest you create a list of buildings with LEEDS ratings, including their locations. This list should include the rating level, be it silver, gold, platinum, along with a short paragraph highlighting the most salient strategies used in the project. This list could be referenced in your website and would be a most interesting resource for students, architects, environmental enthusiasts, developers, potential building owners and more.*

Celebrations of note in the city include an annual Earth Day which is organized by the Keep Winter Park Beautiful and Sustainable (KWPB&S) Advisory Board and sponsored by numerous local businesses. This event, held in Central Park, includes numerous enjoyable activities as well as informational presentations concerning environmental agendas and initiatives. Presentations of Green School Grants and the Arbor Day Celebration with tree giveaways are highlights of the day. *Consider creating a large banner or white board listing the many special environmental events held throughout the year in Winter Park. Then leave several lines open with a marker nearby to encourage people attending Earth Day to report on additional events which were held during the year or to list additional volunteer groups contributing to the sustainability efforts. New project ideas may also be added to this board.*

We commend Rollins for its leadership in sustainable environmental practices with initiatives by both the students and by the College. The list of sustainability programs is long. We particularly applaud the enterprising students who formed a storage company which rents space to students who have procured recycled dorm furnishings or cast off clothing discarded into PODS provided by the University at the end of the school year. For a fee, these items can be stored until the following semester when they may be claimed and used to augment the furnishings in the student resident halls. This student enterprise profits both the students and parents who have selected donated items and the students who have provided the storage solution, all while keeping the furnishings out of the landfill where they were otherwise destined.

In this community with a wealth of lakes and waterways, the city, its residents and the university are to be commended upon their stewardship of these waterways. The benefits of having a Sustainability Coordinator in a leadership role as part of the municipality's team of the Parks and Recreation Department becomes apparent when viewing the accomplishments of many groups working in cooperation toward a common goal. Without such a leader with the advantage of social media and the City's communication department to spread the word, galvanizing the numbers of volunteers

in numerous different groups that participate in many reported events would be difficult. A very successful case in point is the “Watershed Cleanup.” This event is held four times per year and includes about 100 volunteers from all walks of life. In this event, debris is cleaned from the shoreline, from within the lakes and along the streets before it can be washed into the lakes through the miles of storm water piping which drain Winter Park.

The city has a dedicated Lakes Division which is in charge of overall quality control of lakes and waterways. This includes storm water management and maintenance of the storm water inlets and drainage system, weed control, water quality and more. The presentation by Amy Giannotti, Assistant Environmental Resource Manager, provided an impressive overview of the municipal efforts which are involved in preserving and protecting the lakes and waterways. Rollins, with an extensive lakefront location, utilizes best management practices along the lakefront. An Aquatic Contractor handles all maintenance from the lakeside path to the lake. Work includes removal of invasive species and replanting with approved species. Residents also take an active role in maintaining the waterways with numerous volunteer activities.



Backing up the municipal, business and residential efforts to maintain the lakes and waterways in pristine condition are numerous codes and ordinances which regulate the storm water runoff within the City. New construction must conform to these regulations which provide for a variety of engineering strategies for directing and filtering storm water heading for the lakes. An impressive example currently underway is the storm water system being installed under the new parking area at the refurbished K-Mart Plaza.

Winter Park Library incorporates many sustainable practices which subtly encourage the sustainability message of “less waste.” Within the library proper there is a bookstore which is open 7 days per week to sell current used volumes of both fiction and nonfiction which are donated to the library. Once or twice a year, the library holds an event called “Don’t Pitch it, Fix It.” At this event, volunteers with the Sustainability Workshop who are handy at repairing electronics, clothing, tools and small appliances bring broken things back to useful life, keeping them out of the landfill. Yet another great idea is the book bike, a traveling “library” powered by a bicycle which can loan and renew books at various locations while itself expending no fossil fuel. *We recommend*



that the book bike visit local retirement facilities to provide new reading options for the residents who cannot travel.

The library continues to be a well-used facility in Winter Park and has outgrown its current location. Plans are underway to build a new library at Martin King Park, with the architect selected and fund raising well underway. This facility, which is to be a combined library and civic center, is scheduled to be built to LEEDS gold standards or better.

Winter Park actively encourages the use of electric vehicles. There are currently 6 charging stations in the city on municipal property located in areas convenient to shopping or areas of civic activity. Plans for the near future include the installation of six more stations. There is no charge for the use of these stations with an account with "Charge Point."

There are plans to develop a numerous bike paths throughout Winter Park. Portions of this work have been completed, as evidenced by the Cady Way Trail and the work on Denning Drive which creates a shared lane. Signage has been installed along some routes, although it is difficult for the casual observer to locate. *The bike path map available on the website identifies the locations of planned bike routes, most of which have yet to be implemented. Consider adding "share the road" signage along routes that are currently used by bikers, but which have not yet been modified. This helps to improve safety for those on two wheels by alerting drivers to the potential presence of bikers.*

5. Heritage Preservation

Historical, natural, agricultural, and cultural heritage. Preservation and restoration of buildings, homes, churches, cemeteries; heritage sites and/or monuments; heritage parks, historical gardens; historical trees, artifacts; historical society; heritage advisory committee, museums, archives, history books, land trusts/conservation easements and interpretative programs; ordinances and policies including protection of structures/sites from demolition/development. Resource availability. Farmers markets, festivals and parades.	Max Points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Leadership in preservation and restoration initiatives	25	22
Legal protection of heritage sites	25	22
Resource availability for preservation and restoration	25	22
Business		
Conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of properties	15	14
Participation in and support of heritage/cultural activities	15	14
Residential		
Conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of properties	15	12
Participation in and support of heritage/cultural activities	15	13
Community Involvement		
Volunteer involvement in cultural, historical, and natural heritage activities	20	19
Youth involvement in heritage activities	20	14
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	175.00	152.00

Observations and Recommendations:

Winter Park is well positioned to move forward with confidence into the 21st century, building on a tradition of enlightened city planning and stewardship of results of past achievements. The city honors its past and works to preserve its memory in ways that are both subtle and overt. Many older structures find new ways to be relevant in today's society through adaptive reuse, museums such as the Morse Museum take collections out into the neighborhood, the Historical Museum is housed in a historic freight depot close to the Farmers' Market and many more. This integration of new and old is nearly seamless, and augers well for the future of historic preservation in Winter Park.

The Farmers' Market, held every Saturday, is an extraordinarily popular event which draws large numbers of vendors and visitors every week. In keeping with the Winter Park tradition of preserving the best of the past for the benefit of the future, this Market, reputedly the largest in Florida, is housed on the grounds of the A.C.L. Freight Depot, which is on the Winter Park Register of Historic Places.

In addition to the Farmers Market, Winter Park hosts numerous Festivals, Parades and Events. Its annual Sidewalk Art Festival is well known regionally and attracts visitors from many states. Parades on St Patrick's Day, the 4th of July and Christmas are highlights of the year, as is the Holiday Boat Parade. Central Park, which is on the Winter Park Historic Register and is "central" to many daily activities in the downtown commercial district, is home to numerous special events including parades, festivals and, unusual for a city in central Florida, a holiday ice skating rink during Winter in the Park. Hannibal Square is home to the annual Folk Art Festival which showcases locally made jewelry, crafts and art works. This event enlists volunteers not only from Crealde but also from local churches, women's groups and others.



The Winter Park Historical Museum, housed in a building erected in 1927 to serve as a freight depot, is staffed by both volunteers and a paid curator. Exhibitions are changed every 18-24 months, giving people a revolving opportunity to drop by to see the latest display. In addition to the exhibitions, the museum hosts a variety of events during the week. The weekly children's story telling event with Penelope (in costume, left) draws an audience of 70 to 90 people. Conveniently, the Museum is open on Saturday at the same time the Farmers Market is in full swing, making a stop at this popular location very convenient. The web site for the Museum is well-designed and very user-friendly. In addition to information about the Museum and its programs, it also provides links to many related locations and organizations in town. *The section concerning the walking tour lists historic sites in town and references a brochure which is available at the museum and which can be downloaded. This brochure does not*

include a map. We recommend you include either a map or a link to a map identifying the route of this walking tour.

The Historic Preservation Awards announced for 2017 carry on a tradition of rewarding the efforts of residents, organizations and contractors who renovate or restore structures that are either in an historic district or are individually listed in the Historic Register. The slide show of winners that is available on the web site presents both before and after pictures and includes a brief description of the history of the structure and an outline of the scope of the work receiving the award. This presentation of the winners deserves an award itself, as it is as comprehensive as any the judges have seen elsewhere. *Consider presenting the winners with a bronze plaque to place below the plaque indicating that the facility is on the Historic Register. Also, consider preparing a compilation or list of all winners over the years and including it on the city website or on the Historical Society website. The current presentation for individual years, while excellent, is very difficult to open and may be daunting to all but the most determined investigators.*

The City has many repositories which house historical collections of note. The Winter Park Library History Center contains a beautifully organized collection including newspaper archives, a center for genealogical research, a Memory Lab, historic maps, numerous volumes relating the history of Winter Park and more. Other significant collections containing information about the history of about Winter Park include the

Hannibal Square Heritage Center, the Winter Park Historical Museum, and the archives at Casa Feliz to name a few. *We understand the Public Library is working toward creating a centralized index of collections and information available in the museums and historic organizations throughout Winter Park, providing easier access to information about the city. Perhaps the library could expand this effort by enlisting the aid of several technically savvy Rollins students who could tackle this project as part of a thesis project.*

The Winter Park Library has outgrown its current location and will be moving to a new facility which is scheduled to be built in Martin Luther King Park. This new library will be both library and event center, with meeting spaces, a catering facility for up to 400 guests, and more. *At these early stages in the design and construction process, we recommend the library's proposed History Center include not only the services in the current center, but also an expanded desk and computer space for volunteers working on archives and collections.*

Efforts expended by Winter Park residents to save threatened historic structures are nothing short of amazing. The vision of those who imagined the possibility of relocating Casa Feliz in its entirety, and the perseverance they displayed to accomplish this feat is remarkable. The story of the relocation of Casa Feliz has become legend. This, combined with the building's high visibility along the fairway of the golf course, its life as a museum, and its availability as a premier wedding and event location keep the benefits of preservation clearly in the public eye. Without question, all these factors made the relocation of the Capen House, a historic structure threatened with demolition, seem a reasonable goal. Once again, in the case of the Capen house, those behind the drive to preserve this 1885 structure located a site which provided high visibility while filling a much needed role as a commercial structure providing museum offices and event space for the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Garden. As such it admirably keeps awareness of the benefits of preservation in the public consciousness. This very active Museum with its sculpture garden and event facilities is staffed in part by a large group of volunteers working on the grounds, working as docents and staffing the gift shop. *If you are not already doing so, consider tracking all volunteer hours and posting them annually along with the dollar value of the volunteer time using a reasonable hourly wage. This compilation should then be combined with a similar list from other volunteer activities in town and highlighted at one of the annual festivals such as Earth Day. The dollar value of all these efforts will astound you.*



The continued efforts of those who strive to preserve the districts and structures that have defined the best of the past development of Winter Park have paid off. From 2001 to 2016, 88 structures and districts have been listed on the Winter Park Register of Historic Places. On May 11 of this year, Friends of Casa Feliz held a reception to celebrate designated homes with yard signs and, simultaneously, to solicit owners of qualifying sites to apply for local designation and inclusion on the Winter Park Register of Historic Places. Winter Park now has in place several economic and zoning incentives to encourage residents to designate their properties historic and list them on the local register. These include grant opportunities, some tax abatement programs for renovations to

properties on the register, and more. *Economic incentives such as those in Winter Park are rare among cities and towns, and Winter Park is to be commended for these benefits. We recommend that a brochure which includes all the available benefits, from special consideration at zoning hearings to actual cash grants be prepared and distributed to all owners of qualifying properties in the city.*

In addition to designated historic structures, Winter Park is home to several historic districts. As we drove through these districts we were charmed by the distinctive style and scale of each district. *The boundaries of these districts are not immediately apparent to the casual observer. Consider providing more distinct signage identifying each district or relocating the district signs to reduce competition from street and traffic signs. Also, consider providing a topper to street signs in historic district for greater visibility.*

The Hannibal Square Heritage Center is an active and growing center that is making a difference in its community using a multi-pronged approach which is proving most effective in energizing the community. Through a program initiated and curated by the Center, the history of the community is being chronicled by members of the community with oral histories and photographs. Public art installations and educational programs that weave the stories of this neighborhood with African-American history and experience in general are very popular. The Center also strengthens community ties by acting as the locus for many neighborhood volunteers who work to help create and staff the very well-attended Unity Heritage Festival and the Folk Art and Craft Festival.

6. Overall Impression

Lack of litter and graffiti. Maintenance of public open spaces, medians and boulevard strips, streets, sidewalks, walking and biking trails, curbs, ditches, road shoulders, unattended and vacant lots, buildings, garbage/recycling receptacles; lack of weeds, dog waste policies and receptacles, notices/posters appropriately displayed, vandalism not evident. Maintenance of the hardscape: walls, lamp posts, benches, playgrounds, etc. Appropriate use and placement of sculpture, public art, wayfinding signs, graphic elements such as banners, signs and murals.	Max points	Actual Score
Municipal		
Overall cleanliness	10	9
Maintenance of public roads and shoulders	10	8
Condition of public buildings and properties	10	9
Impact of graphic elements - banners, wayfinding signs, murals, etc.	10	7
Business		
Overall cleanliness	20	17
Condition of buildings and properties	20	18
Residential		
Overall cleanliness	10	8
Condition of buildings and properties	10	8
Community Involvement		
Participation in clean-up efforts, adopt-a-spot, annual cleanup days, etc.	15	13
Recognition of volunteer efforts	10	8
Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)	125.00	105.00

Observations and Recommendations:

Winter Park is a handsome city nestled in an environment of unsurpassed beauty. The early planners who laid out the city were truly visionaries. As the city has matured and developed, the combination of respect for the past, good stewardship of the present and planning for the future have benefitted the city immeasurably.

During the two day tour of Winter Park we observed no graffiti whatsoever. Hardscape is very well maintained throughout the city. Workout equipment and playground areas in Ward Park and Marin Luther King Jr Park are well designed. Indeed, the playgrounds in the various parks are in exceptional shape, just beckoning children to come play! The support buildings in Ward Park are first rate, setting a standard for facilities of this nature. The combination of tree shaded seating and covered seating areas at Ward Park evokes visions of crowds of parents cheering on their team at Little League games. Pedestrian areas met the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and provided ADA viewing areas of the field. Ward Park was well conceived and executed. What a model for others to follow.



We did notice the finish on the piers announcing the entrance to Kraft Park is deteriorating. The damage we observed is most likely from water seeping through the caps at the top of the piers and leaching into the support behind the finish. We suggest the caps be replaced or reflashed to correct the source of the problem and the piers refinished.

Our first introduction to the lakes in Winter Park was at the boat dock for the Winter Park Scenic Boat Tour. Daily boat tours take hundreds of people each week on one hour tours though the lakes and locks of the city, a definite highlight of any trip to Winter Park. *The landscaping area leading to the dock was surprisingly unkempt. If this area is publicly owned, we recommend Parks and Recreation target it for a landscape rehabilitation. Alternatively, this area could be a prime candidate to be adopted by a local business in a program named "Adopt a Spot". A program such as this would permit a winning candidate to sign a one-year contract with the city to undertake the care and maintenance of the adopted spot. The sponsor would pay a city-approved contractor to carry out the work. In return, a discrete sign identifying the sponsor would be permitted to be displayed for the term of the contract with the city.*



With a high occupancy rate for retail and dining establishments in the central core of the downtown area, the shopping district is a busy, "happening" place. Side streets have entered the picture as well. Of particular note are Greenada Court and Welbourne Street, both now repaved and upgraded with new lighting and street amenities. With the improvements came



new tenants and attractive floral displays. *The covered parking deck on Welbourne offers a bleak view of a gloomy parking interior punctuated by an unscreened dumpster positioned on the corner. Consider placing a living wall or green screen along the street level façade of the deck to screen the view and extend the vista of the improved Welbourne Street.*

Winter Park Village, once a failed mall, has become a model of adaptive reuse and an extremely well-done example of the opportunity failed malls present to municipalities. Kudos to Winter Park for attracting this type of investment to your city.



The new Community Center with its adjacent grounds is an impressive addition to the public facilities available to residents in Winter Park. The grounds were beautifully maintained and openly inviting, with interactive games, picnic tables, and a small outdoor amphitheater. *We suggest a similar landscaping approach to the Winter Park Welcome Center. This area currently appears rather stark in contrast with its mission of welcome.*

Among the members of the Board in Winter Park is the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) which is charged with preserving and improving the residential viability and livability of neighborhoods within the CRA. To help achieve this goal the CRA has created and funded several grants which are available to qualified owner-occupants for driveway installation, exterior painting and energy upgrades to windows, roofs, HVAC and more. So popular are these grants that there is currently a 2 year waiting list of applicants. Driving through the area around Hannibal Square it was clear that these grants are making a difference.

As in past years, we noted several areas on the business corridors that are outside the downtown core of Winter Park where there is a notable reduction in the care that many businesses expend to maintain their buildings and grounds. Many of these areas are,

unfortunately, along the entry route to the central portion of Winter Park or along heavily traveled roads leading to Orlando, giving them high visibility to many travelers every day. West Fairbanks Avenue and Morse Boulevard give a very different impression of the city than the remaining 95% of Winter Park. *Perhaps the Chamber of Commerce could begin a program similar to Business of the Month which is prevalent in many towns across the country. Awards would be based upon improvements in signage, landscaping and street presence. Businesses which have made an effort to improve their property would be recognized. Honored businesses would receive media coverage and, perhaps, a monetary reward. A stronger approach would be to designate all or part of this area as a Special Improvement District with distinct goals for improving the area and strategies designed to help achieve them.*



Checklist:

Yes	No	N/A	
y			Were the judges given a Community Profile, Evaluation Tour Itinerary, and map prior to their arrival?
y			Did the Evaluation Tour Itinerary provide for experiencing a representative cross-section of the community?
y			Were the guides knowledgeable about the community and horticultural aspects?
y			Were the judges able to modify the schedule if needed?
	n		Did the judges meet with the media?
y			Did the judges meet with municipal leaders?
y			Were the judges asked to give presentations?
y			Were the judges able to meet with and talk to volunteers?
y			Was enough time allotted to complete the Evaluation Report in a quiet place?
y			Were you informed about pollinator gardens? How many? (Please use comments section to add details if necessary.)
y			Was there a wrap-up session at the end of the tour?

DEFINITIONS (determined by who owns and/or manages the property):

Municipal - city hall and other municipal properties, parks and open spaces, roads, roadsides, sidewalks, public cemeteries, public schools/universities/colleges, sports facilities, empty lots and brownfields, libraries, hospitals, public railway and bus stations

Business - commercial and industrial sectors, shopping centers, stores, office buildings, restaurants, mixed use developments, service stations, private railway and bus stations, plant nurseries, garden centers, assisted living/nursing home/graduated care facilities, apartment buildings, hotels, private hospitals, churches, not for profit/civic organizations, private cemeteries, private schools/universities/colleges, residential common areas managed by associations

Residential - single family residences, town houses, individual homes in planned/gated/manufactured home communities, residential neighborhoods or developments

Community Involvement - volunteer efforts by individuals, clubs, youth groups, church groups, civic organizations, volunteer municipal boards, and social clubs for community enhancement

DISCLAIMER:

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COMMENTS:



2017 Community Recognitions

Community: Winter Park, Florida

Recognized Criterion: Environmental Efforts

Winter Park continues to excel in advancing Environmental Efforts and Awareness within the community with an effective use of both professional and volunteer efforts in many areas. To achieve this, the city has taken a holistic approach to environmental awareness with a clearly defined program outlining concrete goals and an action plan to help achieve these goals. This plan, known as the Sustainability Action Plan, addresses topics including recycling, transportation, natural resources and more. Most importantly, Winter Park has a follow up protocol in place which assures the implementation of these goals plus staff dedicated to same. The city's progress in each of the defined areas is tracked through an annual report to the City Commission prior to the adoption of the annual budget. This document reports achievements in the past year and highlights areas of emphasis for the coming year so that identified priorities can be funded appropriately. The combination of written plan, dedicated staff personnel, active and involved volunteers, scheduled progress reports and city funding has resulted in great strides in many environmental initiatives undertaken in Winter Park.

Noteworthy Project or Initiative:

The zesty arrival of Cocina 214 Restaurant led to the revitalization of the Welbourne Ave neighborhood. They celebrated their entryway and outdoor seating area with vivacious colorful hanging flower baskets and containers. An otherwise blank wall is laced in green with Mexican Weeping Bamboo. Reacting to the initiative of Cocina, the neighbors responded in kind and the neighborhood is thriving. Congratulations to Cocina 214 and to the City of Winter Park for working together to make it happen!

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