

America in Bloom 2018 Evaluation Report

Community: Clyde, Ohio

Evaluation Dates: July 23-24, 2018

Judges: Teresa Woodard and Laurie Waller



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. Flowers (FL)	60.00	55.00	91.67%
2. Landscaped Areas (LA)	72.00	39.00	54.17%
3. Urban Forestry (UF)	80.00	44.00	55.00%
4. Environmental Efforts (EE)	68.00	34.00	50.00%
5. Celebrating Heritage (CH)	66.00	36.00	54.55%
6. Community Vitality (CV)	56.00	35.00	62.50%
7. Overall Impression (OI)	88.00	48.00	54.55%
Other			
8. Evaluation Tour Preparation & Actions (ET)	12.00	12.00	100.00%
Scoring			
Total Points and Percentage	502.00	303.00	60.36%

Star Rating: 7

Star ratings are based on overall percentage.

1 star = 0% - 9.99%	2 stars = 10% – 10.99%	3 stars = 20% – 20.99%	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
Connie Hench	Director, Clyde in Bloom	csshench@gmail.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 judges' recommendations. Complete the Community Information pages - general information, metric implementation checklist, and contacts with emails of community members that will meet the judges.
- Evaluation Tour Itinerary with start and finish times for each day
- Community Map with boundaries and the tour route

The areas to be scored:

Judges 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) to be scored must be within the boundaries of the entrant's community/municipality (except as noted below) 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 areas with labor and/or funding, then judges 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, judges 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 Meeting (0 pts.): Programs or procedures are not in place

Approaching (1 pt.): Programs or procedures are in place but not fully realized

Meeting (2 pts.): Programs or procedures are implemented but need improvement

Exceeding (3 pts.): Programs or procedures are implemented and succeeding but have not realized their full potential

Exceptional (4 pts.): Programs or procedures are exceptional.

Other:

- This Evaluation Report's scoring, general observations, and general and criteria recommendations are based upon the community's efforts 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.

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

Congratulations to Clyde for successfully completing its inaugural year in the America in Bloom national awards program. The community's tremendous beautification efforts are igniting a renewed pride in the downtown and surrounding areas. From what the judges learned while touring Whirlpool Clyde Manufacturing, the plant's can-do culture radiates throughout the surrounding community. It's no wonder the 3,400 employees produce 23,000 washers a day and continue to innovate to become a model for manufacturing safety, quality and efficiency.

That sense of pride in what you do stands out in the Clyde in Bloom efforts. Not many communities the size of Clyde can boast 40 beautiful hanging baskets, 211 overflowing containers, numerous floral and landscape displays, and a dedicated team of volunteers to plant and care for them all.

Clyde's pride is also reflected in its rich history and efforts to keep that history alive. At first glance, manufacturing seems to be the greater part of Clyde's heritage. However, in the 19th century when Clyde was established, agriculture was the main industry. At the turn of the twentieth century, Clyde joined the ranks of many Ohio cities and joined the automobile revolution. When the local factory making Elmore automobiles was purchased by General Motors and moved to Detroit, Louis Krebs started his own automobile company manufacturing the Clydesdale, as the Clydesdale Motor Truck Company. The site of this business later became the modern-day Whirlpool factory. During the late 1800s and early 1900s Clyde's downtown district grew. Victorian homes and a Carnegie Library are located in the neighborhood surrounding the town displaying the financial prosperity the town experienced during that era. The Clyde Museum, historic fairy garden and multiple festivals are wonderful avenues for celebrating its historic past.

In addition, the municipality, businesses, and citizenry of Clyde have made excellent efforts across the community in protecting the environment. City of Clyde installed a 20-acre, 400-panel solar array with the ability to grow in the future, installed LED lights in the streetlights of Clyde, and runs a massive recycling center. When the decision to build new schools came about, three of those schools were built to LEED standards -- two gold and one silver. Teachers at the high school implemented programs for composting, vermiculture, recycling and repurposing discarded materials. Eschelman's Orchard installed a massive grid-tied solar array that powers a warehouse-sized cooling shed for fruit storage. On a smaller scale, but no less important, one of Clyde's own, Angel Mitchell, is working toward breeding mite-resistant bees. We applaud the multitude and variety of environmental efforts being made.

Welcome to the America in Bloom family! We salute Clyde and look forward to watching it grow in the years ahead.

Teresa Woodard and Laurie Waller

1. Floral Displays

FL.01 - Management of flower display programs						X
Plan of Action						
FL.02 - Action plan developed each season for procurement, scheduling, planting, and maintenance of flower displays					X	
Design						
FL.03 - Unity and Variety: plant combinations create visual interest and dramatic effect while appearing coordinated					X	
FL.04 - Suitability of Plant Selections: plants selected for environmental conditions and flourishing together						X
FL.05 - Distribution and Location: displays found throughout the community and at key locations						X
FL.06 - Seasonal Displays: seasonal displays with spring, summer, fall, and/or holiday displays					X	
Maintenance						
FL.07 - Watering program to maintain growth in place						X
FL.08 - Fertilization: appropriate fertilization program using slow-release, liquid fertilizers, and/or soil amendments						X
FL.09 - Grooming: regular pruning, dead-heading, removal and replacement of dead plants						X
FL.10 - Plant health programs in place to monitor and manage pests and diseases (IPM/Integrated Pest Management)						X
FL.11 - Health and Vigor: plants are robust and floriferous						X
Community Involvement						
FL.12 - Flower displays are funded all or in part by volunteer contributions						X
FL.13 - Volunteers participate in the design, planting, and/or care of flower displays					X	
FL.14 - Civic groups, garden clubs, Master Gardeners, school programs, etc., sponsor plant sales, plant swaps, or educational sessions that contribute to the quality and implementation of the community's flower displays					X	
Judges' Discretion: Recognition by the judges of an item of special note						
FL.15 - Judges to enter text below						X
Extensive use of containers and annual color in key locations; fun themes and displays.						
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percentage	
1. Flowers (FL)	60		55		91.67%	

Flowers (FL) Recommendations:

Clyde truly shines in its floral displays! The team of hard-working Clyde in Bloom volunteers manage an impressive floral display which generates community pride, dresses up the historic downtown for its multitude of parades and events, renews interest in downtown shopping/dining and welcomes visitors including festival-goers and many cyclists from the North Coast Inland Trail.



The downtown's 40 hanging baskets overflow with bubblegum petunias. In addition, 211 containers line storefronts, sidewalks and even back alleyways. In the program's first year, CIB director Connie Hench solicited downtown businesses for a \$50/pot contribution. Each winter, she approaches the businesses for continued support of the downtown plantings. She cleverly designs each business's container to reflect its personality and gain their loyalty for continued support of the container program. For example, the container outside the former dime store features a coffee-named plant for the Main Street Café coffee shop and catmint for the Calico Cat antiques store. In addition to various donations, Clyde in Bloom receives support through the city's bed tax.

Multiple volunteers assist with the plantings. They include 4-H, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Venture Crew, Clyde Life Enrichment, SANDCO Industries, Clyde Little League, Clyde Business and Professional Organization, Clyde Heritage League and more.

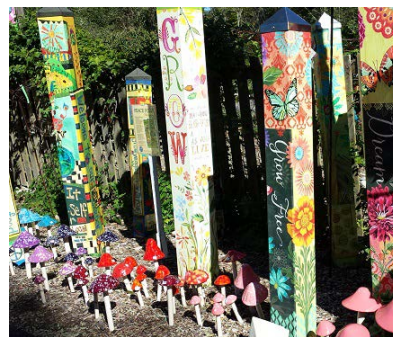
To sustain this impressive effort year after year, the judges encourage Clyde in Bloom to expand its base of volunteers. Offer done-in-a-day projects like an annual May planting with free petunias for participants. Encourage all volunteers to wear CIB T-shirts to increase visibility for the group's efforts. Another way to reduce planting and watering time is to use drought-tolerant perennials (see

<http://www.midwestliving.com/garden/ideas/25-top-easy-care-plants-for-midwest-gardens/>).

When planted in mass, plants like amsonia (see image) and baptisia can provide nice backdrops along borders of colorful annuals. Also, we encourage you to track volunteer hours so others understand and appreciate the efforts involved.



Every other day, Connie's husband Al Hench, and other volunteers water the hanging baskets and containers with a water tank pulled by a John Deere Gator donated by the city. The judges congratulate CIB on securing a grant for the water-saving hanging baskets which will help save water and volunteer time. *In addition, consider hiring SANCO industries to share the watering responsibilities. Also, explore irrigation for larger flower displays like those at the Railroad Plaza.*



At the Clyde Life Enrichment Center, plans are underway for a community perennial garden with perennial plant donations from area residents. *The judges recommend the Center's members embellish the garden with their own art by either painting the boulders in the border, painting planks of the fence, or adding peace poles.*

Cyclists on the well-traveled North Coast Inland Trail are greeted in Clyde with a bounty of hanging baskets on light poles along the bike path. As they arrive at the Railroad Plaza, 13 concrete containers are filled with purple fountain grasses surrounded by mounds of bubblegum, fuchsia and vista supertunias. More hanging baskets adorn the park's signature gazebo and light poles.



As resources allow, the judges encourage CIB to partner with the parks department to add floral displays at the highly used Community Park. Possibilities include hayracks of pink petunias along the park's two bridges plus a floral display by the flag pole. The park's summer rec campers and teen counselors (or another group) could adopt the floral displays as their summer project.

The CIB efforts are generating greater interest in gardening among residents. The CIB Facebook does a great job drawing attention to the group's efforts. We especially like Carolyn Pofok's videos of volunteers. *We encourage CIB to look for additional ways to educate area residents. Possibilities include how-to videos on Facebook, garden programming at the library, wreath making workshops at the tree farm, and educational activities at the farmer's market. Other ideas include adopting a flower (e.g., pink petunia) to plant community wide and selling it at Dobel's and the farmer's markets.*



At the post office, CIB volunteers recently installed a demonstration perennial flower garden and discussed plans for educational signage. *Consider adding plant IDs, signs about perennial gardening or QR codes with links to online information.*

For fall, CIB creates a pumpkin, gourd and scarecrow display along the North Coast Inland Trail. In winter, CIB hangs wreaths and lights downtown as highlighted in the Community Profile. Consider adding some spring daffodils to parks, along the bike trail or in residential gardens by participating in *Brent and Becky's Bulbs Bloomin' Bucks Fundraising program*. To learn more, see www.bloominbucks.com.



At the Railroad Plaza and beyond, the park's whimsical floral displays delight visitors. The judges salute CIB for these clever designs that give Clyde so much personality and set it apart from other communities. A cartoon figurine and bike are accented with a bike basket of annuals and a "Talk Dirt to Me" shovel. The "Jeans Family" of stuffed blue jeans are filled with colorful annuals. *To make this Jeans family stand out, think about adding a backdrop. Suggestions include a vertical planting with mandevilla vines climbing a series of bamboo poles (see image to the right), a row of flowering shrubs, Dragon's Breath celosia or even giant sunflowers.*



A repurposed fountain is planted with succulents. And an eye-catching sculpture of washing machine tubs is filled with petunias and dipladenia to honor the community's largest employer Whirlpool. *Consider enhancing this signature gateway sculpture with a larger steel "Clyde" sign to be visible to visitors as they drive into town.*

2. Landscaped Areas

Landscaped Areas Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings					
2. LANDSCAPED AREAS (LA): plants and related programs for the leadership, design, installation, and maintenance of landscape (shrubs, ornamental grasses, vines, evergreen topiaries), turf, and groundcovers	N/A	Not Meeting (0 pts)	Approaching (1 pt)	Meeting (2 pts)	Exceeding (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
Leadership and Policy						
LA.01 - Management of planting of public landscaped areas				X		
LA.02 - Municipal landscape ordinance requires landscaping and maintenance for new and/or improved commercial development				X		
Plan of Action						
LA.03 - Planning for restoration of natural areas			X			
LA.04 - Program for management of invasive plants			X			
LA.05 - Promotion and installation of demonstration/display gardens with interpretive signage; i.e. pollinator, wildlife, native, low-water use				X		
LA.06 - Recognition program for attractive landscapes in place		X				
Design						
LA.07 - Unity and Variety: plant combinations create visual interest while appearing coordinated					X	
LA.08 - Suitability of Plant Selections: plants selected for environmental conditions and are flourishing together				X		
LA.09 - Distribution/Locations: landscaping found throughout the community and at key locations					X	
Maintenance						
LA.10 - Grooming: pruning of plants, removal and/or replacement of dead plants					X	
LA.11 - Plant Health: programs such as IPM (Integrated Pest Management) in place to monitor and manage diseases and pests				X		
LA.12 - Weed Management: programs in place to manage weeds (removal, mulching, etc)					X	
LA.13 - Health and Vigor: Plants are robust				X		
LA.14 - Turf Care: regular mowing, edging, and removal/replacement of dead turf				X		
LA.15 - Turf Health: programs such as IPM (Integrated Pest Management) in place to monitor and manage diseases, pests, and weeds				X		
Community Involvement						
LA.16 - Volunteer donations contribute to funding landscaped areas in public areas				X		
LA.17 - Volunteers assist in design, installation, and care of landscaped areas and turf in public areas					X	
Judges' Discretion: Recognition by the judges of an item of special note						
LA.18 - Judges to enter text below						X
The Plaza gardens and Bible gardens are exceptional.						
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percentage	
2. Landscaped Areas (LA)	72		39		54.17%	

Landscaped Areas (LA) Recommendations:

Clyde can be proud of its seven quality city parks. The largest and most popular park, Community Park, was created in the 1940s and hosts a multitude of sports, a summer kids camp, 5K benefits, the Junior Olympics and the July 4th celebration. In addition, its shelter houses are booked throughout the season for birthday parties, family reunions and park activities.

The city has a landscape committee/tree commission with five members and two vacancies. While the commission does a quality job selecting, planting and maintaining trees, the group has not focused much on the landscaping of municipal buildings, public areas and parks. *We propose the city reconsider the role of this commission. Either, adding a CIB member to the existing group or modifying the group's name to "tree commission" and delegating landscape responsibilities and funds to CIB.*



We encourage Clyde to create a "Friends of the Parks" group to expand CIB beautification efforts into the various parks. Consider planting dwarf flower shrubs by park signs (above right), shelter houses or key features like the covered bridge. Some hard-working shrubs include oakleaf hydrangea (above left), 'Limelight' panicle hydrangea, 'Grace' smokebush, 'Diablo' ninebark, bottlebrush buckeye (above center), shrub roses or 'Tiger Eyes' sumac. Also, the area near the Community Park's Shelter House or the Clyde library are ideal locations for demonstration gardens (e.g., pollinator garden, native plant garden, rain garden or edible garden) with workshops (e.g., garden talks and cooking demos) at the park shelter/library.

Besides the city's own parks, Clyde benefits from the Sandusky Parks District that manages natural areas throughout Sandusky County including the 28-mile North Coast Inland Trail that runs through Clyde. The Parks District also owns the nearby 17-acre Shelley Wetlands, a 40-acre wooded parcel south on 19 and the 90-acre Green Creek Township property for future development. The Parks District offers educational programming at the Wilson Nature Center at Creek Bend Farm (Lindsey, Ohio) and brings programs to Clyde for special events. The Parks District also offers grants to local communities, and Clyde has been a recipient for a drinking fountain along the bike trail. Kudos to Clyde resident Sharon Wilson for her long-time service as a volunteer Parks District board commissioner. *We encourage Clyde to further develop its relationship with Sandusky Parks District and explore joint projects such as planting pollinator plots (below left) along the bike trail or expand educational programming at Clyde schools, community events or activities at the Shelley Wetlands. For more information, see*



<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/help/>). Perhaps a Clyde resident would be interested in participating in the Ohio Certified Naturalist Volunteer program sponsored by the Parks District and OSU Extension. The trained volunteer could help lead education programs or environmental projects in the Clyde area.

The city owns a portion of the bike trail that connects Clyde with Fremont and Bellevue. It also has 120 acres of natural area along Raccoon Creek. Some of this land is leased for farming, and another portion houses the solar field. *We suggest Clyde learn about the invasive species encroaching on Ohio's natural areas and adopt techniques for managing these invasives. See <http://ohiodnr.gov/invasiveplants>.*

In the downtown area, CIB expresses its playful personality in several landscaped areas including the delightful Storybook Garden and the Clyde Historical Fairy Garden Wagon. The CIB team also planted landscapes at the gazebo, patriotic themed Veteran's Memorial gardens, the butterfly garden along the bike trail, and the perennial garden. Clearly, the talented CIB volunteers use the landscape as a canvas for their imagination. For the Storybook Garden, Kim Hardin worked with the Campfire Girls to create a nursery rhyme garden near the bike trail. The girls chose several nursery rhymes then designed plants and props to portray each one. *We recommend a Birdhouse Lending Library to reinforce the garden's literary theme. Possibly, invite the library to host storytime here or sponsor a garden poetry contest or poetry reading day.*



For the Clyde Historical Fairy Garden Wagon, Denise Hofelich-Rogalinski, owner of Wishing Well Fairy Gardens and Crafts, created an amazing miniature village of various elements from Clyde's past such as the Clyde pond, old downtown businesses, Clyde's military heroes, the McPherson House and Whirlpool. Placed prominently in a landscaped bed in the Clyde Moose parking lot, the garden wagon has generated much attention from passersby. The wagon is accented with containers potted with fruit trees and cabbage plants alluding to the city's agrarian past. There's also a wishing well made from a Whirlpool washer tub and filled with flowers. *While the display generates drive-by interest, the judges encourage CIB to consider moving this intricate diorama to the Clyde Museum where visitors can spend quality time viewing the details up close.*



To extend the landscapes' interest into early winter when Clyde hosts its annual Winesburg Festival, we suggest adding some shrubs with winter interest to the gazebo, Maple and Eaton streets corner or post office garden. Possibilities include winterberry (left) and red twig dogwood. We suggest CIB approach Hine Pines tree farm about securing some evergreens to plant and light each year for the festival.

CIB's plantings are also spurring homeowners, churches and businesses to ramp up their plantings. The judges especially commend St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church for its newly installed Bible Garden. *We*

encourage CIB to launch a yard-of-the-week program to recognize outstanding efforts and encourage others to take part. The awards could start simple then be expanded to Best Containers, Best Storefront, Best Front Door Décor, Best Front Porch, etc. The awards program could be extended into a tour of the award-winning gardens the following season.

We also encourage you to tap local experts for classes in tree pruning (Eshleman Fruit



Farm), pollinator gardening (Angel Mitchell), growing shrub roses (Dobel's Garden Center), fairy gardening (Denise Rogalinski) or tree planting/care (Alan Binger of Hidden Pines Tree Farm). These workshops could be hosted at the gazebo, the sponsoring businesses or the Community Park shelter.

3. Urban Forestry

Urban Forestry Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings					
	N/A	Not Meeting (0 pts)	Approaching (1 pt)	Meeting (2 pts)	Exceeding (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
3. URBAN FORESTRY (UF): trees and related programs for the leadership, management, design, installation, and maintenance on public and private lands						
Leadership and Policy						
UF.01 - Qualified personnel on staff or access to trained individuals				X		
UF.02 - Tree board/commission is active				X		
UF.03 - Municipal ordinance(s) enacted/enforced for tree preservation on public and private property				X		
UF.04 - Municipal ordinance(s) enacted/enforced for protection of trees during construction				X		
UF.05 - Currently a Tree City USA community and/or has the Growth Award designation						X
Plan of Action						
UF.06 - Tree inventory for public areas is complete and current			X			
UF.07 - Annual tree planting program for public areas				X		
UF.08 - Management program for dead, imperiled, and/or invasive trees				X		
UF.09 - Recognition and protection of heritage trees			X			
UF.10 - Effective communication to residents of recommended trees, proper planting, "Right Tree in the Right Place," and/or maintenance			X			
Design						
UF.11 - Variety: appropriate selection of tree species planted					X	
UF.12 - Placement: appropriate spacing and planting area for optimal root and canopy growth					X	
UF.13 - Planting: correct planting depth (root flare at/above grade)					X	
UF.14 - Arboretum in place with labels and descriptive signage			X			
Maintenance						
UF.15 - Tree Health: program in place to monitor and manage diseases and pests			X			
UF.16 - Watering, Mulching, and Pruning: program for watering new trees; proper mulching (i.e., no volcano mulching); appropriate pruning, removal of dead limbs, and canopies raised adequately above vehicle and pedestrian areas					X	
Community Involvement						
UF.17 - Volunteer donations contribute to funding tree planting in public areas						X
UF.18 - Residents participate in Arbor Day activities					X	
UF.19 - Volunteers assist in tree planting and care			X			
Judges' Discretion: Recognition by the judges of an item of special note						
UF.20 - Judges to enter text below					X	
Fosters local tree industry with orchard and Christmas tree nursery						
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points		Percentage		
3. Urban Forestry (UF)	80	44		55.00%		

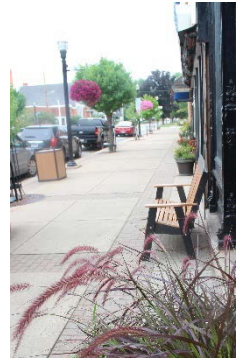
Urban Forestry (UF) Recommendations:

We commend Clyde for being a part of Tree City USA for the past 34 years.



Clyde has a municipal Landscape Committee/Street Tree Commission which consists of seven residents from within the city limits as well as outside of the city limits. Their charge is to disseminate news and information regarding the selection, planting and maintenance of trees within the corporate limits, whether the same be on private or public property, implement an Arbor Day observance within the City on an annual basis and

establish and maintain, on an annual basis, an inventory of all trees located within the boulevard of streets within the City. They are working toward replacing the downtown street trees (Ginkgos) with a smaller more appropriate varietal.



Stephanie Miller, Urban Forester with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, supports and advises the Clyde Landscape Committee and Street Tree Commission, as requested. Judges asked for a tree inventory for Clyde and were informed that the inventory is simply the purchase orders kept in files within the city. A tree inventory is the gathering of accurate information on the health and diversity of the community forest. How many street trees are there? What kind? In what condition are they? To manage the community forest effectively, you must first know its condition. Tree inventories are an essential tool of good management. *Therefore, we recommend that a comprehensive tree inventory for public areas, conducted by the Landscape Committee and Street Tree Commission with the support and assistance of State Forester, Stephanie Miller. Grants have been available to Ohio cities in the past, as evidenced by this article <http://www.davey.com/about/newsroom/davey-in-the-news/helping-communities-preserve-trees/> . We also recommend having one member of the Clyde In Bloom board/steering committee apply for and serve on the Landscape Committee and Street Tree Commission.*



In conjunction with completing a municipal tree inventory, *the Landscape Committee and Street Tree Commission needs to undertake a survey to identify and map Heritage Trees.* Here is a link to from Ohio Division of Forestry outlining the method for identifying heritage trees <http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/bigtree> . *Write an ordinance that details best practices for identifying and preserving Heritage trees. Then, celebrate the identified trees, like the 1776 tree in the McPherson Cemetery, on the Fourth of July and on Arbor Day. Consider extending the program for Memorial Trees in the McPherson Cemetery to other areas of town and include those trees in the tree inventory.*

The charter for the Landscape Committee and Street Tree Commission includes the requirement to disseminate news. *We recommend building a website that links to the Clyde Municipal website. Include in this new website should be a list of recommended trees and suggested maintenance practices. State Forester, Stephanie Miller can assist with this information. Once this information is on your website, disseminate the information to local Master Gardeners, garden clubs, local nurseries, City Hall, and include the information in packets for new construction/remodel.*

Also, complete a tree inventory in your cemetery identifying the species of trees and labeling them. Consider creating a map that includes unusual, historic, or unique trees. Engage a Scout group or Eagle Scout to create the labels for the trees.

Establish a program to monitor tree health on a regular basis and manage diseases and pests. Share this information on the municipal website as well as the website suggested specifically for the Landscape Committee and Street Tree Commission. Greater communication with the general public will make the difference in the long-range overall health of your urban forest.

4. Environmental Efforts

Environmental Efforts Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored)					
4. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS (EE): environmental leadership, policies, plans and programs for resource conservation; pollution control; trash, recycling, and reuse; and alternative transportation	N/A	Not Meeting (0 pts)	Approaching (1 pt)	Meeting (2 pts)	Exceeding (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
Leadership and Policy						
EE.01 - Environmental Advisory Board or Green Team in place			X			
EE.02 - Pet waste policies developed and enforced				X		
EE.03 - Electric/alternative fuel vehicle(s) used by municipality		X				
EE.04 - Electric vehicle charging station(s) provided		X				
EE.05 - Stormwater management program in place					X	
Plan of Action						
EE.06 - Litter and/or environmental clean-up programs in use				X		
EE.07 - Brownfield clean-up programs in place				X		
Resource Conservation						
EE.08 - Buildings are LEED certified and/or follow the standards					X	
EE.09 - Rain gardens and/or bio-swales in place			X			
EE.10 - Home energy audit program available			NS	X	NS	NS
EE.11 - Rain barrel program offered			NS	X	NS	NS
EE.12 - Low-flow water device incentives available		X	NS		NS	NS
Trash, Recycling, and Reuse Management						
EE.13 - Curbside recycling collection available		X	NS		NS	NS
EE.14 - Yard waste composting available or offered			NS	X	NS	NS
EE.15 - Prescription drug drop-off offered			NS	X	NS	NS
EE.16 - Hazardous waste and/or electronics waste collection or drop-off offered				X		
EE.17 - Plastic bag and/or foam container collection available				X		
Community Involvement						
EE.18 - Participation in Earth Day celebrations, Bike to Work Days, Walk to School Days, and similar opportunities that enhance public awareness of environmental issues				X		
EE.19 - Garden clubs, Master Gardeners, school curricula, and/or Soil and Water Conservation District, etc. provide educational opportunities for rain barrel usage, backyard habitats, and other environmental initiatives				X		
Judges' Discretion: Recognition by the judges of an item of special note						
EE.20 - Judges to enter text below						X
Run own power company and installed 20-acre solar field						
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percentage	
4. Environmental Efforts (EE)	68		34		50.00%	

Environmental Efforts (EE) Recommendations:



We commend the City of Clyde for the significant green initiatives it has undertaken. Clyde Light and Power is owned by the city and operates a 20-acre solar field with 400 panels that articulate with the sun. City of Clyde also owns the waste water treatment plant and is one step away from completing its storm water system. It also manages a large recycling center offering drop off for single-stream recycling. Hazardous waste recycling is also available. The City has changed all streetlight bulbs to LED. The elementary school, middle school, and high school buildings are all LEED certified. The newly built SANDCO building is twice the size of its former building, yet because of the energy saving features of skylights, LED lighting, insulation, and heating and cooling units, the cost of power has dropped by half. A clean-up of hazardous waste from a paint company located along Raccoon Creek was completed with the state. The high school FFA and Science teachers have created programming for environmental practices including composting, vermiculture, recycling trash, recycled wood projects (garden boxes and bee boxes), and inspired a high school intern to add a solar panel to the roof of the dog park gazebo and install LED lighting and a phone charging port. Eschelman's Orchard installed a grid-tied solar array used to power massive cooling sheds for storage of freshly picked fruit.

With the spread of environmental initiatives in Clyde, *establish an Environmental Advisory Board or Green Team to evaluate and address resource conservation and create policies and procedures to address Federal, State, and County environmental requirements. Consider including municipal employees, elected officials, and community representatives. The group can also facilitate the sharing of valuable information.*

Clean water is a vital resource that must be protected. Judges were unable to locate incentives for Ohio municipalities to replace high-water use devices with low-flow devices. Waste-water overflowing into natural stream courses is an issue across Ohio and the country. Employ low-flow water devices to reduce the amount of water heading into the waste water treatment facility thus lowering the possibility of breaching basins into natural waterways during storm events. *We suggest that after the Environmental Advisory Board or Green Team is formed, that they reach out to the EPA requesting incentive programs for Ohio. Another opportunity may be a partnership with Mansfield Plumbing in nearby Mansfield, Ohio, where plumbing fixtures are manufactured, to offer a limited number of low-flush toilets or low-flow shower fixtures.*

https://www.mansfieldplumbing.com/product-category/toilets-and-bidets/?page_number=1&category=high-efficiency-toilets . *Also explore public education programs on water conservation and storm water runoff.*



Kudos to the high school for its recycling efforts. For the Clyde community, judges were told that curbside recycling was discontinued and that the drop-off recycling was well used. *We encourage City of Clyde to revisit the idea of curbside recycling.* If recycling is made easy, more people will participate, and the refuse in local landfills will be reduced. Begin by researching how many residents consistently deliver recyclable material to the center. Determine how many residents are unable or do not recycle but

would be willing to recycle if a bin were placed at their home. *Educate your community on the benefits of recycling and create programs for public outreach to inform the community on recycling and composting. Partner with the local high school FFA program to teach composting and recycling workshops in the community.*



While Clyde celebrates Arbor Day, no community Earth Day celebration was noted by judges. We recommend using the platform of Earth Day to educate and inspire your residents to learn best practices in conservation efforts. Engage the high school students in the FFA program who are building bee boxes and garden boxes. Have them demonstrate what can be done with recycled wood. Offer a workshop on composting and engage the biology students and FFA students who are actively composting and using the material in garden beds. Sponsor a city-wide, clean-up effort. Offer free mulch to homeowners for their gardens. Plan a session in which home gardeners can learn to set up a basic drip irrigation system for their gardens. There are a multitude of ways to celebrate Earth Day and become a more environmentally friendly city. Here's one resource: <https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/different-ways-to-celebrate-earth-day.php>

As the City of Clyde works toward completing a strategic plan, *consider adding an electric charging station for electric vehicles*. Owners of electric vehicles that want to visit Clyde and enjoy your events, shopping and dining but will not be able to make the trip to your city if a charging station is not available. Grant programs are available through many State Energy Departments and/or from the U. S. Department of Energy. In addition, a program that can help residents with electric vehicle purchases is the Qualified Plug-In Electric Drive Motor Vehicle Tax Credit. If you purchased a new vehicle that runs on electric drawn from a plug-in rechargeable battery, you may be eligible to claim the qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle tax credit through the U. S. Internal Revenue Service. Additional information is available on the Internal Revenue Service's website <http://www.irs.gov/>. The charging station location can be placed on an app and be available for visitors, so they will feel comfortable traveling to Clyde.



Judges enjoyed a tour of the North Coast Inland Trail but noted no areas for bicyclists to address bike repairs. With all the use the trail gets, *consider adding repair centers to the trails to keep the riders going*. These stations include all the tools necessary to perform basic bike repairs and maintenance, from changing a flat to adjusting brakes and derailleurs. The tools are attached with stainless steel cables and includes the ability to fill up tires, all most helpful when there is a mishap with a bike. You can find more information on these public bike repair stations at <https://www.dero.com/product/fixit/>. Once your bike trails are in place, schedule routine Bike to Work/Bike to School days throughout the year. Holliston, Mass., another AIB community, offers plenty of inspiration for its bike trails and related events. See <http://hollistontrails.org/>.

5. Celebrating Heritage

Celebrating Heritage Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored)					
	N/A	Not Meeting (0 pts)	Approaching (1 pt)	Meeting (2 pts)	Exceeding (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
5. CELEBRATING HERITAGE (CH): recognition, designation, protection, commemoration, and celebration of historical, cultural, natural, agricultural, and industrial resources						
Leadership and Policy						
CH.01 - Historic preservation ordinance provides designation and/or protection from demolition			X			
CH.02 - Incentives offered to promote preservation: tax credits, waived permit fees, eased setbacks, available rebates, etc.		X				
CH.03 - Effective communication about ordinances, policies, and restoration methods			X			
CH.04 - Land trusts and/or conservation easements are available			NS	X	NS	NS
CH.05 - Historic Preservation and/or Architectural Review Board in place		X	NS		NS	NS
CH.06 - Historical Society is active			NS	X	NS	NS
Plan of Action						
CH.07 - National Register of Historic Places district and/or individual designations in place				X		
CH.08 - Natural and/or agricultural areas are protected				X		
CH.09 - Archives, artifacts, cemetery records, and oral histories in place and properly stored					X	
CH.10 - Historical publications/websites, interpretive signage, and programs in place				X		
Commemoration						
CH.11 - Signage in place for historic neighborhoods and/or structures				X		
CH.12 - Historical museum(s) and/or interpretive displays maintained					X	
CH.13 - Cemeteries, monuments, and/or plaques in place and well maintained						X
CH.14 - Community heritage promoted through tours (guided or self), brochures, Smartphone apps, etc.			X			
CH.15 - Parades, festivals, and other events commemorating a community's heritage are held					X	
Community Involvement						
CH.16 - Volunteers participate in planning and implementing recognition of a community's heritage through historical tours, parades, festivals, etc.						X
CH.17 - Volunteers participate in maintaining historical sites and structures				X		
Judges' Discretion: Recognition by the judges of an item of special note						
CH.18 - Judges to enter text below						X
Clyde Heritage League bought 3 properties; city heritage cleverly captured in fairy garden.						
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points		Percentage		
5. Celebrating Heritage (CH)	66	36		54.55%		

Celebrating Heritage (CH) Recommendations:



Clyde has a rich history that is tied to our national history beginning with the Civil War. It also has numerous resident amateur historians who have researched and collected memorabilia, stories and artifacts relating back to that long history. The Heritage League of Clyde has been around for decades, formed through the bicentennial committee with the goal of saving the City Hall building, and has helped catalogue and preserve the buildings and history of Clyde. Judges were informed that in the 1980s Clyde was a destination for bus tour groups coming to learn about the history. Winesburg walking tours were offered, and history appreciated while tourism revenue was generated.

Seven years ago, The Heritage League purchased the former City Hall building. That building is now hosting the Clyde Life Enrichment Center, a facility for retirement-aged adults with developmental disabilities.

We applaud the work it took to designate and list the McPherson Home on the National Registry of Historic Places. The Clyde Carnegie Library hosts a local history room where cemetery records are properly stored and available to researchers. The Heritage League also owns and operates the Clyde Museum, founded in 1932 and re-established in 1987 on West Buckeye Street, and hosts a terrific collection of artifacts throughout Clyde's history. Judges also noted presentations held at the museum for events other than ones historic in nature. We applaud the multipurpose use of the museum in welcoming visitors who might not otherwise venture inside.



Also of note, City of Clyde purchased the historic Geiger Root Beer building complete with the booze tunnel underground. *Judges hope that the municipality will find a way to use this building to showcase its history to the general public. The tour of the McPherson Cemetery was filled with a depth and breadth of history few towns of Clyde's size can claim. The long history held here begs the development of opportunities to share with residents and visitors alike. We recommend developing updated tours of the cemetery, downtown historical district, and guided tours of the museum.* From Civil War researchers to amateur genealogists, Clyde has substantial information and history to share. *In the historic*

downtown, adhere large window clings to the corresponding buildings, depicting the historic buildings in their heyday. Include a paper map for tour or add a QR code that can be scanned by a smart phone and linked to a website sharing the history, stories, and videos of the building.



Historic preservation of homes and commercial buildings can be a reason for tourism in your city. Historians delight in seeing the architecture, researching genealogy, and learning about the history. The Heritage League has researched and catalogued the historic buildings in Clyde. The next step is for the municipality to include in the strategic plan *ordinances for designation of historic buildings, preservation of said buildings, incentives to promote preservation (e.g., tax credits, waived permit fees, eased setbacks, available rebates and grants) and the formation of a Historic Review or Architectural Review Committee that participates in the planning process with the municipality. Clyde Heritage League is an ideal group to engage as members of this*

committee. Once ordinances and committees are in place, begin the process of designating your historic downtown district and historic neighborhoods.

These two links will help get the process started:

- <https://www.gsa.gov/real-estate/historic-preservation/historic-building-stewardship/preserve-america>
- <https://www.nps.gov/nr/> .

6. Community Vitality

Community Vitality (CV) Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings					
6. COMMUNITY VITALITY (CV): policies, programs, and outdoor activities and facilities that lead to a vibrant community and a sense of well-being. Includes parks, playgrounds, dog parks, sports fields, water activities, trails, and other outdoor recreational opportunities	N/A	Not Meeting (0 pts)	Approaching (1 pt)	Meeting (2 pts)	Exceeding (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
Leadership and Policy						
CV.01 - Clean Air (such as No Smoking) policies implemented				X		
CV.02 - Master plan in place for public green space and parks			X			
CV.03 - ADA accessibility in public outdoor areas including playgrounds			X			
Outdoor Facilities and Events						
CV.04 - Outdoor recreation facilities meet community needs					X	
CV.05 - Walking, biking, and exercise trails exist						X
CV.06 - Outdoor performances/events for art, dance, theatre, music, and/or cinema				X		
CV.07 - Run/walk/bike races and marathons held					X	
CV.08 - Benches and seating available near walking, exercise, and playground areas					X	
CV.09 - Trees or shade sails are in proper areas to provide shade for spectators and/or participants					X	
CV.10 - Playground equipment exists and age-appropriate ranges are offered				X		
CV.11 - Farmers' Markets are available					X	
Community Involvement						
CV.12 - Community gardening sites are in use		X				
CV.13 - Volunteer involvement in planning, funding, and/or and implementing civic events such as organized runs, walks, etc.						X
Judges' Discretion: Recognition by the judges of an item of special note						
CV.14 - Judges to enter text below						X
Golf outing benefits, fishing derby, summer camp and Mondays with DD adults, downtown center for DD adults						
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percentage	
6. Community Vitality (CV)	56		35		62.50%	

Community Vitality (CV) Recommendations:

Community Park is a hub of activity. Here, part-time parks director Sarah Scruggs organizes multiple youth and adult sports leagues, a recreation summer camp, July 4th activities, 5K fundraisers, a running club and a kid's summer recreation camp. Nearby, the Clyde Aquatic Center offers unique programs like "Flick and Float" movie nights and buddy swim in which volunteer teens seek out timid pool visitors and engage them in pool activities. Clyde even has a dog park to accommodate a play space for its four-legged residents.



The judges commend Clyde for its inclusive culture especially with its community members with developmental disabilities. In the former City Hall in the center

of town, the Clyde Life Enrichment Center provides activities for retired adults with developmental disabilities. At SANDCO Industries, adults with developmental disabilities gain valuable job skills while participating in work programs with contracts for Whirlpool, Revere Plastics and other local companies. At the summer rec camp, adults with developmental disabilities join campers once a week.



In the past decade, Clyde has shown incredible compassion to four families who lost children to cancer. The community remembers these children today with a special memorial by the gazebo. In addition, the community supports an annual 5K run to raise dollars for childhood cancer research.



The bike trail is highly used by area residents and visitors. Kudos to the volunteer trail patrol who serve as eyes for the trail's safe keeping. *To make the trail friendlier for out-of-towners, we encourage the community to add signs for points of interest in Clyde. Possibilities include the McPherson Museum and the downtown district. For additional inspiration, we encourage CIB to visit Dayton, Ohio – an Ohio town known as a bike town destination. See <http://www.downtowndayton.org/parking-transportation/bike-friendly/>.*

Clyde owns two upground reservoirs that supply water and offer recreation. They were completed in 1971 as part of the Northwest Ohio Water Development Plan. Raccoon Creek Reservoir, in southern Clyde, is a 36-acre reservoir open for public fishing and non-motorized boating. Beaver Creek Reservoir, located 5 miles southwest of Clyde, is a 110-acre reservoir also open for public fishing and non-motorized boating. At both, the city operates the boat ramps, mows the open spaces and maintains the parking areas.

More businesses are filling up the once-vacant historic downtown storefronts. Clyde now boasts a coffee shop, antiques store, record store and clothing boutique. The judges were especially delighted to visit Cami's art studio at Cusi Bella Boutique in the former shoe store which is a great community space for art classes, bridal/baby showers and birthday parties. The Business and Professional Association plays a big part in attracting residents and visitors downtown with its downtown markets, car shows and Winesburg Christmas Weekend. *We encourage the community to continue to host its many parades and quality events that bring so much vitality to the historic downtown. Also, in the alley near the Life Enrichment Center, consider creating a dream board like this one in*

Madisonville, KY (another AIB community). Residents express their wishes for the community on a large chalkboard painted with various headings.

Community Park once hosted concerts on its hillside. The judges suggest Clyde bring back these outdoor concerts, possibly hosting a kick-off to the high school football season with a performance by the high school band. The gazebo is another great venue for outdoor musical performances and brown-bag lunch talks.

This park is also an ideal location for a community garden. Community gardens take on many faces whether a teaching garden for youth, community fruit orchard (which fits with Clyde's history) or a plotted garden with spaces leased to residents for a minimal fee. We encourage you to explore the many options by attending the "We Dig Ohio" state-wide community gardening workshop held annually in March at Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus. See <https://www.fpconservatory.org/we-dig-ohio-summit-provides-tools-techniques-to-equip-central-ohio-community-gardeners/>

The Clyde Library adds to the cultural richness of the community with its adult concerts, summer reading program and various classes, including gardening ones taught by local Master Gardener Volunteers. Look for additional opportunities for CIB to partner with the library to share gardening information.

7. Overall Impression

Overall Impression (OI) Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings					
7. OVERALL IMPRESSION (OI): adequate and effective amenities are provided in good condition, and the community is welcoming and beautiful	N/A	Not Meeting (0 pts)	Approaching (1 pt)	Meeting (2 pts)	Exceeding (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
Leadership and Policy						
OI.01 - Signage ordinances enacted and enforced			X			
OI.02 - Ordinances in place to address overgrown lots, abandoned vehicles, unscreened dumpsters, public nuisances, etc.			X			
OI.03 - Code enforcement or compliance officer on municipal staff and making a difference			X			
Amenities						
OI.04 - Site furnishings in place: water features, lamp posts, benches, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles, containers, planters, and cigarette receptacles					X	
OI.05 - Crosswalks well marked				X		
OI.06 - Public restrooms available				X		
OI.07 - Effective community gateway entry features				X		
OI.08 - Effective use of banners, murals, and/or public art			X			
OI.09 - Effective wayfinding signage			X			
OI.10 - Effective use of non-plant seasonal decorations (i.e., lights, ornaments)					X	
Condition and Maintenance						
OI.11 - Condition of structures, buildings, decks, patios related to lack of vandalism, graffiti, peeling or faded				X		
OI.12 - Condition of infrastructure: roadways, road shoulders, curbs, medians, sidewalks, crosswalks/pavement markings, transformers, and utility poles related to lack of weeds, vandalism, litter, graffiti, peeling or faded paint, and rust				X		
OI.13 - 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.14 - Condition of vacant lots, stormwater retention ponds, and swales				X		
OI.15 - Lack of snipe/stake signs, billboards, and posted flyers					X	
OI.16 - Regularly scheduled street sweeping					X	
Community Involvement						
OI.17 - Volunteer funding and participation in community revitalization and improvement programs, such as river sweep, home repair programs (CHIP), disaster relief, clean-up days, etc.					X	
OI.18 - Programs are available for residents to fund public amenities such as memorial benches, brick pathways, etc.					X	
OI.19 - Volunteer involvement in Adopt-A-Spot Programs, Habitat for Humanity Projects, River Sweep, etc.					X	
OI.20 - Recognition programs for volunteers				X		
OI.21 - Volunteer hours recorded			X			
Judges' Discretion: Recognition by the judges of an item of special note						
OI.22 - Judges to enter text below						X
The community's fun personality shines in its quirky merry-go-round planter, whimsical containers and themed						
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percentage	
7. Overall Impression (OI)	88		48		54.55%	

Overall Impression (OI) Recommendations:

Way to go Clyde for supporting the first Downtown Clean-Up event, sponsored by CIB and Clyde Business and Professional Association! Volunteers from many organizations swept, pulled weeds and picked up trash along Clyde's sidewalks and even back. *We encourage you to continue and expand upon this collaborative project for future years.*



Downtown, the judges also noticed the vintage drinking fountain and coordinated benches and trash cans which were purchased through a grant. Clyde's patriotic spirit is evident with its Veteran's Memorial and 39-flag display (sponsored through the Clyde Women Business Professionals Organization) for the community's various parades. The McPherson banners along the bike trail draw attention to the city's most notable figure for visitors along the bike trail.

Clyde's charming personality exudes in several of its quirky landmarks, including the flower-filled ferris wheel at Dobel's, the cone-shaped Twistee Treat ice cream shop, the washing tub sculpture and the whimsical flower displays. We



encourage Clyde to take advantage of these unique features by promoting them through social media. Perhaps publicize on Facebook a list of the five best selfie spots in Clyde, install a series of selfie spot signs or create hashtags like #onlyinclyde, #clydepride or #madeinclyde. The Storybook garden is an ideal spot for a photo peep board.

The city has nice gateway signage at the north, south, east and west entrances to the community. The judges especially appreciated the "America in Bloom" message on the digital sign near the cemetery. *We recommend warming up these hardscapes with landscaping. Many are on the outskirts of town and not easily accessible, so we suggest landscaping them with tough plants like amsonia, daylilies, shrub roses, ornamental grasses, coneflowers, catmint, agastache, rudbeckia, Russian sage, taller sedums or hardy hibiscus (for a wetter spot).*



Clyde has several unique pieces of public art including its signature washing tub sculpture near City Hall. *We encourage Clyde to look for more places to install public art. One possibility is wall murals (possibly reproductions of old Clyde Postcards) displayed on downtown brick walls. Online, search "building wraps or wallsapes" for suppliers. The alley by the former City Hall could be a good spot for strings of market lights and pennant banners designed by art students or residents of the Life Enrichment Center. Another idea is to pair local artists with and without developmental disabilities for a collaborative art project. For inspirations, see <https://passionworks.org/>*



8. Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions

Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions (ET) Definition		Metrics Ratings	
8. EVALUATION TOUR PREPARATION AND ACTIONS (ET): community's readiness prior to and the action during the Evaluation Tour	N/A	Unmet (0 pts)	Met (1 pt)
Prior to the Evaluation Tour			
ET.01 - Community Profile provided to judges at least two weeks prior to their arrival			X
ET.02 - Community Profile includes contacts with emails			X
ET.03 - Community Profile from a returning community makes it clear what is new and/or implemented from judges' recommendations (scored as N/A for a new community)	X		
ET.04 - Evaluation Tour itinerary and Community map with boundaries provided to judges at least two weeks prior to their arrival			X
During the Evaluation Tour			
ET.05 - Evaluation Tour provided a representative cross-section of the community			X
ET.06 - Judges met with municipal leaders			X
ET.07 - Judges met with the business and/or non-profit community			X
ET.08 - Judges met with the media			X
ET.09 - Judges met with volunteers			X
ET.10 - Judges were asked to give a presentation(s)			X
Final Wrap-Up			
ET.11 - Enough time was allotted for judges to work on the Evaluation Tour Report in a quiet place with adequate WiFi availability			X
ET.12 - Community participated in a wrap-up session at the end of the Evaluation Tour			X
Judges' Discretion: Recognition by the judges of an item of special note			
ET.13 - Judges to enter text below			X
Big welcome and generous hospitality			
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage
8. Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions (ET)	12.00	12.00	100.00%

Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions (ET) Recommendations:

CIB put together an excellent itinerary to give judges a thorough overview of their efforts throughout the community. The generous hospitality was greatly appreciated from the heritage dinner at Main Street Café to the community gathering at Community Park's Shelter to the CIB Appreciation Dinner at Ski Lodge Winery. The events also provided a good opportunity to recognize volunteers, sponsors and partnering organizations for all their efforts to support CIB.

Your community profile is off to a good start. Feel free to pull sections of this evaluation to expand the profile. *To extend the usefulness of this document the judges suggest using the information from the profile book to create a format that can be used for attracting tourism, economic development or grants. As a "brag book" in conjunction with the newspaper, build a special section around each of the criteria along with advertisements of associated products and business.*

We appreciated the opportunity to meet with a diverse mix of business and non-profit groups, municipal leaders and local media. Your collaboration clearly was illustrated through those many connections.

As a next step, we encourage you to thoughtfully review these recommendations, adopt easy ones right away, plug other more challenging ones into long-term plans and discard those that are not a good fit. We are excited to visit Clyde again and see your continued beautification efforts.

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2018 Community Recognitions

Community: Clyde, Ohio

Recognized Criterion: Flowers

Clyde in Bloom director Connie Hensch and her team of hard-working volunteers are champions for Clyde's welcoming floral displays. Their tireless efforts dress up the community for its multitude of parades and contribute to the downtown's recent revitalization. Their thoughtful designs showcase the personality of the local businesses, bring a whimsy to the manufacturing community and echo the Clyde's can-do spirit.

The downtown's 40 hanging baskets overflow with Bubblegum petunias. In addition, 211 containers of varying sizes line sidewalks, storefronts and even back alleyways. At the Railroad Plaza, whimsical floral displays delight visitors. A cartoon figurine and bike are accented with a bike basket of annuals and a "Talk Dirt to Me" shovel. The "Jeans Family" of stuffed blue jeans are filled with colorful annuals. A repurposed fountain is planted with succulents, and an eye-catching sculpture of washing machine tubs is filled with petunias and dipladenia to honor the community's largest employer Whirlpool. At the nearby Veterans Memorial, a patriotic red, white and blue flower bed is planted at the base of the flag poles. Another red-and-white, block-patterned bed is planted on the site of the former Big Four Restaurant. Its four sections represent the four train lines that ran through Clyde long ago.

Noteworthy Project or Initiative: Solar Field

The environmental efforts in establishing a city owned power company and adding a 20 acre 400 panel articulating solar array is remarkable and forward thinking. Clyde Light and Power has been providing power since the late 1980s. In 2017, the solar array came online and provided a number of benefits to the municipality and citizenry of Clyde. The city receives lease payments annually for the land leased to the solar company who set up the array. The energy collected from the array offset the city's cost of constructing the equalization basin next to the waste water treatment plant needed for storm water compliance. The array shaves usage during peak load needs during the summer, thus lowering costs to the city as well as the customers. Finally, transmission costs are lower. First year savings from the solar array totaled \$200,000. It's notable that Whirlpool corporation, which employs 3500 people, is a customer of Clyde Light and Power and has also benefited from the addition of the solar installation. Judges recognize this progressive environmental decision to add solar to the city owned power grid as a notable project.

America in Bloom

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