

America in Bloom 2018 Evaluation Report



Community: Village of Hawthorn Woods, Illinois

Evaluation Dates: July 23-24, 2018

Judges: Linda Cromer and Rod Barnes

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	40.00	66.67%
2. Landscaped Areas (LA)	68.00	48.00	70.59%
3. Urban Forestry (UF)	76.00	55.00	72.37%
4. Environmental Efforts (EE)	60.00	47.00	78.33%
5. Celebrating Heritage (CH)	66.00	36.00	54.55%
6. Community Vitality (CV)	48.00	41.00	85.42%
7. Overall Impression (OI)	84.00	56.00	66.67%
Other			
8. Evaluation Tour Preparation & Actions (ET)	12.00	11.00	91.67%
Scoring			
Total Points and Percentage	474.00	334.00	70.46%

Community representatives to receive the Evaluation Report (three minimum)		
Name	Title	Email
Pam Newton	Chief Operating Officer	pnewton@vhw.org
Joe Mancino	Mayor	jmancino@vhw.org
Brian Sullivan	Director, Parks & Recreation	bsullivan@vhw.org

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):

To paraphrase COO Pamela Newton upon first meeting with the judges, “Hawthorn Woods a rural community in a suburban county near a major urban area.” It has a certain musical ring to it, and when the Village of Hawthorn Woods was described by a Chicago journalist, he compared the community to the stage musical Brigadoon – the story of a perfect and mystical Scottish village. From the judges’ perspective, the comparison to a village in a frothy musical from the 40’s just doesn’t ring true. The Village of Hawthorn Woods is a thriving and progressive community designed for the big screen whose story line is part love story, mostly action adventure.

The love story is the tale of young Joseph Mancino who first visited Hawthorn Woods when he was 18, fell in love with the village, and vowed to live there one day.

Fast forward to 2009, Mancino had made good on his vow and had just been elected Mayor. And that’s when he joined in an epic adventure by entrusting the incomparable “Women of the Woods” to rescue his beloved village from financial peril. It’s quite a tale, and it ends, of course, in triumph.

Today the Village of Hawthorn Woods is an ongoing saga of success wrought from the pursuit of excellence.

The story of the village’s recovery from near financial ruin is well documented and is a lesson in developing sound public administration. The “Women of the Woods” have accomplished a great deal in a short period of time. The community is laid back but earnest in its quest to be the best it can be. It is well managed and poised for the future. Big audacious goals do not scare the elected officials and the leadership of the village.

This is an upscale award-winning community located 35 miles north of Chicago, experiencing hot summers and frigid winters. It is a model community characterized by controlled development and featuring great schools, safe streets, and outstanding amenities. Hawthorn Woods is dedicated to honoring the environmental heritage of the area and staying “rural by design.” Its list of honorary “best” and “safest” awards is all but redundant.

The village is a community populated by residents who made a proactive choice to live here, and who expect excellence in public services. Hawthorn Woods grew up without a town square, and activity centers around the village’s many parks and open spaces. Its residents are good stewards of their environment and participate in community activities and volunteer efforts to keep things “green.” *We recommend that the Community Profile prepared for the AIB judges’ visit be included on your website and in printed form as part of the informational packet given to new residents. It provides an informative snapshot of all that is your Village of Hawthorn Woods.*

The village is now facing an existential threat with the possibility of the extension of Rte. 53 that would cut the community in half. It’s a project that has been discussed for over two decades, but it has recently appeared to be picking up steam on the state level, while losing support from many communities because of negative environmental impact. Mayor Mancino has provided essential leadership by forming alliances to oppose the extension. *We encourage Mayor Mancino and the Village of Hawthorn Woods to continue the fight.*

Linda Cromer and Rod Barnes

Flowers Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings					
	N/A	Not Meeting (0 pts)	Approaching (1 pt)	Meeting (2 pts)	Exceeding (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
1. FLOWERS (FL): flowering annuals, perennials, bulbs, tropical plants, flowering topiaries, and colorful foliage and/or cut plant material for season-round interest in containers, hanging baskets, window boxes, raised planters, trellises, and in-ground beds						
Leadership and Policy						
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
Volunteers donate plants for floral color at public buildings and/or care for the floral displays. Two great examples are the resident who cares for the flowers at the police station and the parks employee who overwinters, divides, and donates canna rhizomes (a family heritage plant) to plant in public places.						
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percentage	
1. Flowers (FL)	60		40		66.67%	

Flowers (FL) Recommendations:



The Village of Hawthorn Woods is fortunate in having a strong volunteer spirit. A resident with a wonderful green thumb not only tends her own garden, but spends hours each week keeping the flower beds at the police station bright and beautiful during the warmer months. Eagle Scouts contributed plants for public enjoyment at Village Hall. A dedicated parks employee digs up, overwinters, divides and then replants canna rhizomes in public areas – a generous way to share a family heritage plant.

Some plants lend themselves to the dig-divide-and-do-it-again narrative without that troublesome overwintering step. Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) certainly fit that description. *We suggest you look for a spot at the Department of Public Works (DPW), ideally visible to visitors, to create a propagation bed/row for daylilies. Encourage your community's many enthusiastic gardeners and city employees to donate a division from their own gardens. There is a huge spectrum of color, form, and bloom time in the daylily family, so try to create a variety in your plant stock. Give the plants enough room and a little time to form larger and larger clumps; then dig and divide to add color to public areas, such as around park signs; be sure to return a split or two to the nursery bed to keep the process going.* This would be a relatively small investment in effort with a big payoff – first brightening up the DPW grounds and then growing its way into city parks. *If the initiative is successful, you can expand the effort to include other low-maintenance perennials. Check out <https://daylilies.org>*



The judges were privileged to visit several outstanding residential gardens during our tour. What a treat it would be for the community to have a similar opportunity. Gardening is an art, and private gardens are as unique and multi-dimensional as the gardeners who create them. *Consider establishing an annual garden tour featuring five or six residential gardens. The locations could be switched up each year. Enlist the two outstanding local garden centers, Hawthorn Gardens and Country Bumpkin, to pre-sell tickets for the tour. Set up a table manned by volunteers at each participating garden for visitors to sign up for a raffle featuring garden-related prizes purchased with proceeds from ticket sales. Those prizes could include gift certificates to be used at the Country Bumpkin and Hawthorn Gardens. Publicize the event on the city's website.* Gardeners are generous by nature and often embrace the idea of sharing their spaces and their knowledge with interested visitors.

Many communities adopt an official community flower. It's an avenue to generating interest in floral displays and creating a color thread throughout a community during the blooming season. *Consider the possibility for Hawthorn Woods. Provide a short menu of choices which perform well in your growing conditions. Perhaps limit the choices to native perennials for a continuing return on the installation of the selection. Let school children vote for their*

favorite and publicize the winner on the village website. Create a little excitement around the initiative and feature photos in your outstanding parks and recreation brochures and on the Village of Hawthorn Woods Facebook page. Once the choice is made, work with Hawthorn Gardens and the Country Bumpkin to insure the plants are readily available. Ask home owners' associations (HOAs) to include the flower in their gateway landscaping.

The Aquatic Center has included swathes of perennials and flowering shrubs to dress the front of the building and soften the concrete deck by providing colorful interest. It's an effective use of flowering plants, particularly where the yellow groupings echo the vibrant sculpture in front of the building. There are areas on the property, however, that could be enhanced similarly but with different plant choices. As you develop a list of native flowers to include in your monarch habitats and ponder the possible choice of a community flower, consider planting one or two of those options en masse in the under-dressed areas at the Aquatic Center. This popular community gathering place is an excellent opportunity to showcase the importance of flowers for aesthetics and public health purposes. This is also an attractive site to include discrete plant markers to add an educational element, and even interpretive signage discussing the health benefits of flowering plants in the environment.

Retail businesses and professional service providers with storefront facilities are well-served to make their properties more inviting with the use of container plantings. We noticed that a few businesses in the village seem to understand this but the practice is limited. *Where the sidewalk area in front of establishments permits, capacious container plantings of colorful annuals in the summer are a welcoming feature and we encourage local businesses to adopt the practice. Perhaps mall owners or developers can be charged with providing handsome containers that coordinate with the architectural design of the buildings. Tenants could assume the task of creatively planting the containers and keeping them watered. Such displays can be changed out in the autumn with mums, kale and pumpkins and other gourds, and dressed up for winter with evergreens, cones, and interesting sticks or bare branches to add height. Color and textural interest are enticing to passersby and send the message that the business owner cares about its clients and its community. That, in turn, is good for the bottom line.*



One vivid but invasive plant starting to show its face in Hawthorn Woods is purple loosestrife. We noticed it in two locations in riparian buffers as we drove through the community, and got a rather longer look at several striking clumps from the water during a visit to White Birch Lakes.

We suggest that this is an opportunity as much as a challenge. *Certainly the loosestrife needs to be removed to stop its spread, the sooner the better; in conjunction with the mitigation of loosestrife consider an initiative to augment color around the lakes with native plants that put on a show. One stunning native plant to consider near the water is red cardinal flower, a hummingbird magnet. Another option might be the stately queen-of-the-prairie, a lovely native plant that is listed as threatened in Illinois. Because of the dense growth near the water's edge, the most effective means of successfully introducing the change is through inserting healthy plant plugs using a dibble or Japanese hori-hori knife to create just enough space to slip them in.*



Cardinal flower



Queen-of-the-prairie

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 naturalistic landscape at the Arnold Palmer-designed country club golf course enhances the experience of visitors and residents and is a classic example of the beautiful, sustainable landscaping model the Village of Hawthorn Woods has adopted.						
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage			
2. Landscaped Areas (LA)	68	48	70.59%			

Landscaped Areas (LA) Recommendations:

The Village of Hawthorn Woods respects the natural environment and works to ensure that your commitment to controlled growth does not negatively impact that environment. Ordinances require appropriate landscape minimums as part of any new development as well as protection of trees and natural features.

Residents take great pride in their properties and, particularly in older areas of the community with more established landscapes, gardens are uniquely personal in conception and execution. Homeowners utilize creative plant combinations, vegetative screening methods, and berms and swales that are both useful and beautiful. *With so many outstanding residential landscapes in the community, consider initiating a “yard of the month” or similar recognition of landscapes that raise the bar for excellence and give the Joneses something for which to strive.*



Interesting is the “shared view” concept of a community that does not permit built fences separating residential properties. This creates an environment where attractive landscaping serves a utility as well as aesthetic purpose, and the results are stunning. We saw this concept to full effect when touring the Arnold Palmer-designed and Audubon Certified Hawthorn Woods Country Club via golf cart.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a historical gem and its wooded grounds are well laid out and tidy. *We would, however, be remiss in not mentioning that the sign next to the highway needs landscaping with enough visual weight to offset its size and somewhat neutralize the reader board messaging.* We applaud the effort it took to install the plant material we saw during our visit, but *we suggest rethinking the design to include some evergreen specimens to add perceived balance to the sign.*



The community is justifiably proud of its many initiatives to restore compromised areas and protect the low rolling hills, savannas, lakes, forests and riparian buffers that distinguish the natural topography of Lake County.

A notable project to restore the natural landscape and introduce a pollinator garden and Certified Monarch

Waystation was recently completed at Brierwoods Preserve. This unique project was developed by the Village of Hawthorn Woods in partnership with America in Bloom. Sustainable habitat restoration and planting of pollinator-friendly native plants were the primary objectives of the project, and it is a remarkable success.



Visiting Brierwoods Preserve put a discussion of pollinator-friendly plants in play during the judges' visit, and there was a request for recommendations for sourcing native plant seed for similar efforts. We generally recommend that local genotype plant material be used in restoration and native habitat projects. This insures that the plants you

install will be highly adapted to your region, and protects nearby wild plant populations from being overwhelmed by potentially mal-adapted genes. *We suggest that you purchase plant materials from a grower or growers nearby. While there are reputable suppliers of native plant seeds, plugs and plants throughout the Midwest that might well work for you, discussions since our visit with friends in the horticultural community in northern Illinois prompt us to suggest you contact Red Buffalo Nursery at www.redbluffalonursery.com and/or Natural Communities at www.naturalcommunities.net.*

Hawthorn Woods could work to promote Certified Monarch Waystations in private landscapes. The certification process would be the same that the village used in Brierwoods Preserve. www.MonarchWatch.org *Work with Hawthorn Gardens and the Country Bumpkin to create plant collections or "monarch kits" to make it easy for homeowners to get on board. Promote the program on the village website and ask the garden centers to set aside an area to post photos of residents' completed and Certified Monarch Waystations.*

The park signs at Hawthorn Woods' outstanding parks are handsome, consistent in design, and a credit to a community that puts a premium on their outdoor facilities. Some are accented with minimal landscaping, but there is little consistency in this regard. Lack of water sources near the signs makes extensive landscaping impractical. We would suggest, however that the stand of ornamental grasses at Copperfield Park and the effort at Brierwoods Preserve indicate awareness that some landscaping to transition the signs to their environs is desirable. *To that end, we recommend that the parks department develop a simple standardized design consisting of a limited palette of low-maintenance plants to enhance these distinctive signs. We would suggest ornamental grasses as at Copperfield Park as the backbone of the design and two or three sun-loving perennials in blocks of 3-5 plants fronting the display. Investigate the availability of plugs for a lower-cost installation than using mature plants. As an alternative, consider a stand of grasses as a backdrop to the signs and low-growing evergreen shrubs in a blue or gold hue in front. You may need to water to get the groupings established, but don't opt for varieties that require*

supplemental watering once established. You have a tremendous resource in resident and landscape professional Pamela Self, so don't be shy about asking her for advice. The most important consideration is choosing plant material that will require little more than mulching and a once-per-year cut down.



Urban Forestry Criterion Definition	Metrics Ratings					
3. URBAN FORESTRY (UF): trees and related programs for the leadership, management, design, installation, and maintenance on public and private lands	N/A	Not Meeting (0 pts)	Approaching (1 pt)	Meeting (2 pts)	Exceeding (3 pts)	Excelling (4 pts)
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	
The nursery at the public works building allows staff to plant , nurture, and take ownership of trees planted in public places.						
Totals:		Possible Points	Actual Points		Percentage	
3. Urban Forestry (UF)		76	55		72.37%	

Urban Forestry (UF) Recommendations:

The Village of Hawthorn Woods is rightfully proud of its designation as a Tree City USA, and it was great to see the Tree City USA flag fluttering in the breeze. This designation doesn't just provide bragging rights about a community's dedication to the care of its urban forest; it often opens the door to grant opportunities that prioritize Tree Cities. *We encourage you to apply for the Tree City Growth Award yearly, as well.*

<https://www.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/growthAwards> . This distinction is awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize higher levels of tree care by participating Tree City USA communities. The Growth Award highlights innovative programs and projects as well as increased commitment of resources for urban forestry. It also provides an opportunity to share new ideas and successes across the country. Communities that earn the Growth Award for 10 years receive special Sterling Tree City USA designation.



Hawthorn Woods has a tree inventory of shade trees in public areas. *We recommend that you expand the inventory to include conifers.* A complete list of all trees helps in the continuous effort to establish a healthy diversity of tree stock in the community.

The community identifies inventoried trees with discreet tags. We applaud the practice as it helps staff in quickly locating standing trees and keeping the inventory current.

A tree inventory puts you half way there in creating an arboretum within the boundaries of Hawthorn Woods. *We recommend that you survey your older parks for broad diversity and higher tree count and declare the most appropriate park an arboretum. Make certain that the tree markers are visible to visitors and identify conifers on the grounds as well as the already identified deciduous trees. Include interpretive signage to educate park visitors about the urban canopy and the health benefits of trees.*

The Village of Hawthorn Woods has an aggressive succession tree planting program in place. This practice extends to residents as well. We were delighted to spot a young birch tree planted to replace the older specimen nearby that is failing.



The restriction on fences has had an unintended positive effect on the community's urban forest as creative homeowners utilize a variety of trees to provide a sense of privacy for their properties.



The quality of care for trees in the community's parks is exemplary. There are, however, concerning examples of volcano mulching in residential neighborhoods including White Birch Lakes. Volcano mulching promotes fungal diseases from constant moisture around the lower trunk and causes stress from poor gas exchange by the cells in the bark. Too much mulch and the roots will grow up looking for air and moisture, producing a secondary root system that encircles the main stem strangling the plant. This process takes several years, but ultimately it will kill the tree. *Help educate the public about the dangers of volcano mulching through the weekly E-Blasts of Hawthorn Woods Happenings newsletter, and ask the local garden centers to actively discuss the practice with their customers.* Trees are an investment in everyone's future, and eliminating unnecessary risks to their survival benefits each of us.



Congratulations to the village for establishing a tree nursery at the DPW facility. *We suggest that you keep a record of trees cared by village employees at the nursery and identify where they are located once transplanted. Note the date they arrived as seedlings in the nursery yard, the length of time they were held on site, and the quality of growth and survival once transplanted to a permanent location in the parks.* Over a period of time, this data will demonstrate the efficacy of the practice.

When growing on or holding bare root stock for short periods, an alternative system to consider is the Missouri Gravel Bed (MGB), a method of handling bare root nursery stock in which dormant plants are placed in the spring with their roots in an irrigated bed of gravel and held for up to a year before planting bare root (in full leaf) in the landscape. The key to MGB is that root growth in gravel is very fibrous and, unlike with bark mulch, sawdust or sand, few roots are damaged when plants are removed from the gravel. www.plantsciences.missouri.edu . This method is working well for a developer in Ottawa, Illinois who is using it in conjunction with a reforestation project and is being considered by some communities as a way to manage excess Arbor Day seedlings until they can be planted.

Environmental Efforts 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)
4. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS (EE): environmental leadership, policies, plans and programs for resource conservation; pollution control; trash, recycling, and reuse; and alternative transportation						
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			NS	X	NS	NS
Trash, Recycling, and Reuse Management						
EE.13 - Curbside recycling collection available			NS	X	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
Remediation of buckthorn and other invasives at Brierwoods Preserve						
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage			
4. Environmental Efforts (EE)	60	47	78.33%			

Environmental Efforts (EE) Recommendations:

The Village of Hawthorn Woods has many environmental projects that work for a small community, and has the advantage of having an abundance of green space throughout the community. The village has made it a priority to ensure that residents have every opportunity to leave their homes and experience this space. The use of the green space at the Hawthorn Woods Aquatic Center to reduce the heat generated from the massive expanse of concrete deck area is an outstanding example of an environmental solution that provides a pleasing aesthetic appearance.

The remediation of buckthorn and other invasive plants at the Brierwoods Preserve is a prime example of accomplishing a great deal with few assets. The sweat equity of the two Hawthorn Woods park employees is a phenomenal feat -- accomplishing a herculean task with limited manpower. The resulting completion of the Preserve will provide benefits for generations to come.



Hawthorn Woods is a statewide leader in many areas. *One area that Hawthorn Woods can explore is to consider adopting a Complete Street Program (CSP).* Visit the Smart Growth America website to obtain information on what such a program encompasses. <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/> Complete streets are designed

and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Complete streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They can incorporate many ideas including the use of designated bike lanes and planters at intersections to create a calming effect, the planting of trees to reduce the heat from the concrete, permeable paving to filter impurities from storm sewers and LED lighting to reduce energy consumption. The program provides an environmental solution to make a community more livable.



Hawthorn Woods can develop rain gardens in areas where there are large amounts of storm water runoff and curb and gutter. Rain gardens are an environmentally sound solution to urban storm water runoff. The benefits of planting rain gardens include pollution control, flooding protection, habitat creation and improved water quality. The gardens can create habitat for butterflies, bees and other pollinators. The gardens can look aesthetically pleasing during dry seasons as native plants are used.





Reviewing alternative transportation methods for residents and for the region can be an economic boon for a community. *Creating electric vehicle charging stations at key public areas can entice travelers to stop and enjoy the many assets Hawthorn Woods has to offer.* One prime location for installing the chargers would be at the Hawthorn Woods Aquatic Center parking lot. The village has applied for grants in the past. It is time to revisit those grant opportunities. Charging stations can have credit card readers installed to collect revenue on the use. In addition, they can be placed on a grid to alert drivers where the stations are available, thus luring additional visitors to the community.

The Village of Hawthorn Woods should explore developing a yard waste disposal program that would create a business offering a compost product to area residents and businesses. One such example of a city doing this is the City of College Park, Maryland.

http://www.collegeparkmd.gov/government/public_works/smartleaf_compost.php College Park creates a product called SMARTLEAF. They also offer wood mulch to residents. The SMARTLEAF is a by-product of composting leaves collected from the city and other surrounding jurisdictions. Grass and other vegetative garden waste are added. Visit their website to see how these products are made.



Developing alternative transportation options continues to be a high priority for communities across the nation. One transportation option that can be used relatively easily is the creation of bike lanes on streets. Hawthorn Woods promotes being outdoors and being physically fit. *It is a natural fit to explore the creation of designated bike lanes on village streets.* The village is promoting their walk to school with a cop program, they could also promote bike to work/bike to school day. There is a nationally celebrated day in May <https://biketoworkday.us>

Hawthorn Woods has 17 park and recreation areas. *Consider placing recycling containers at all the key parks.* The containers could be made from recycled materials or created by decorating empty 55-gallon drums. Another option for the Village to explore is acquiring “Big Belly” <http://bigbelly.com/> receptacles. The smart technology incorporated in the receptacles fits with the environment stewardship of the Village of Hawthorn Woods. The receptacles use solar power to compact refuse and they use a technology app to notify the responsible party when the receptacles need service. The other benefit of the receptacles is they provide a place on the side to advertise and promote environmental awareness. The receptacles can be costly, therefore pursuing grants to fund them should be the means to obtain the receptacles.



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			NS	X	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
Adaptive reuse of an historic barn as the Town Hall reflects the importance the community's agrarian heritage.						
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage			
5. Celebrating Heritage (CH)	66	36	54.54%			

Celebrating Heritage (CH) Recommendations:

The Village of Hawthorn Woods has a rich rural history. Village Hall is in a former dairy barn. The village is surrounded by fields of corn and soybeans. It would be good to tell the story of how the village evolved using the connection to its farming heritage. In the meantime, the village needs to focus on protecting historic assets in the community.

The village has a comprehensive historic preservation ordinance that was developed and never passed on final consideration. *Complete the action and create the ordinance along with a volunteer historic preservation commission with the dual role of being a historical architectural review board.* This will insure that projects in the village are completed following historical guidelines.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a beautiful historic building. The attached cemetery is a treasure trove of history, and provides stories of early settlers to the region. The judges could not find that the church was listed on any local, state or federal historic registers. *Consider encouraging the church and accompanying cemetery to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.* Find information about the National Register at the National Park Service website: <https://www.nps.gov>



The Village of Hawthorn Woods does not have an active historical society. Hawthorn Woods is part of the Ela Township Historical Society <https://www.elahistoricalsociety.com/home>. The society's administrative offices and local museum is in the neighboring community of Lake Zurich. *Hawthorn Woods needs to strengthen the connection to the Ela Township Historical Society. This can be accomplished by adding board members from Hawthorn Woods when vacancies occur on the society's board and adding information specific to Hawthorn Woods on the Ela Township Historical Society website. A companion effort to connecting better with the Ela Township Historical Society should be to create a page on the village's website that provides residents information about historic preservation.*



The Village of Hawthorn Woods Village Hall is an amazing adaptive reuse of a historic building that provides the nucleus for village activity. The former dairy barn is a great example of the farming community Hawthorn Woods once was. *Adding interpretative signage at the barn site would provide visitors with the history of the farm and would provide information on the beginnings of Hawthorn Woods.*

This display of historic farm implement items found in the barn could be enhanced with interpretative signage that explains what the item is and why it is on display. This method will work well to educate the public and children on how the dairy barn once functioned.



The community's justifiable pride in its European settlement and agrarian history should be augmented by exploring ways to expand recognition and knowledge of the First Nations who resided in Lake County and were displaced by the influx of settlers.

This might begin through interpretive signage included in appropriate locations such as Brierwoods Preserve and other parks. Include distinctive iconography for visual interest.

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
The initiatives to improve team members' health and fitness including providing Fitbits for all and a tomato growing contest at public facilities are innovative, creative, and truly outstanding examples of the culture Village leaders have created.						
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage			
6. Community Vitality (CV)	48	41	85.42%			

Community Vitality (CV) Recommendations:

Hawthorn Woods has created a vital community through several initiatives. One program the village has made a priority is the welfare and fitness of their employees. A Wellness Committee consisting of representatives from various departments works on developing programs to help employees live healthier lives. The committee produces a monthly newsletter “HEALTH (Helping Employees Achieve a Lifestyle That’s Healthy).” The newsletter offers healthy lifestyle tips. The Wellness Committee also works with staff on a friendly competition growing vegetables at each of the village’s public facilities. Finally, Hawthorn Woods offers discounted YMCA memberships for employees. The village knows that it is important to invest in their number one resource, human capital. *This Wellness Committee could replicate the program for area residents through the Parks and Recreation Department. The newsletters could be shared via e-blast or through a newsletter. The various programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department could be included. The village could partner with the local YMCA or other health conscious entities to offer programs and discounts to residents.*

The Village of Hawthorn Woods was faced with difficult challenges in early 2009. Under a newly elected mayor, the village underwent a transformation. The village adopted an entrepreneurial small business approach to operating cash to provide services to the residents; Hawthorn Woods took a bold approach to solving the financial issues of the community. The village hired a Chief Operating Officer and created an Executive Leadership team to reflect the entrepreneurial approach to managing the community. The team consisted of the “women of the woods”. It turned out that the best suited candidates for the positions of Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Human Resources Director, Public Works Director/Engineer, Police Chief and Chief Administrative Officer were women. The team created several policies and procedures that began the village’s economic recovery. The transformation set the village on a course to operate on an innovative set of priorities. The budgeting process moved from zero based budgeting to a strategic, needs-based priority budget. The village now has a fund balance that is equal to 33% of the subsequent year’s expenditures. The small business philosophy has insured the vitality of Hawthorn Woods for the future.

Another area the Village of Hawthorn Woods has led the region in was implementing a “No Child Left Inside” initiative. Hawthorn Woods invested in parks, a new aquatic center, and the development of green space throughout the community to encourage residents to be outdoors. Programs like the movies in the park, various car shows, roller hockey, annual 4th of July parade and festival, and the winter activities all lend themselves to making sure that the residents of Hawthorn Woods experience the outdoors. Hawthorn Woods even used the popular Pokemon game app to get children outside. The Police Department’s “Walk with a Cop” program enticed elementary students to walk to school with a police officer -- an element of community policing that helps Hawthorn Woods maintain its “safest place in Illinois” title.



Hawthorn Woods has constructed top notch playgrounds and trails throughout the community. One thing that the village needs to insure is that there are tree and shade areas in all the parks. *Utilizing trees, pavilions, and shade sails where appropriate helps to mitigate the impact of the hot sunny days of summer. Requiring developers to include the same amenities in new subdivisions should also be a priority.*

Hawthorn Woods has a country club with a top-rated golf course and a gated community that surrounds the club. This adds to the variety of housing options families moving to Hawthorn Woods have available. *Strengthening the partnership with the Hawthorn Woods Country Club by offering classes that are open to all residents will increase the visibility of the club and provide benefits to the residents that would get to use the assets of the club.*



Your impressive plans for the nature-themed Lorraine Estates Park are simply outstanding. We envy the judges who will be able to assess your success with this ambitious and exciting project.

The Village of Hawthorn Woods has not had the opportunity to develop a government access channel that would provide the option to broadcast live the Board of Trustees meetings and the various committee meetings. *One way to implement this in a cost-effective way is to acquire one video camera to record the meeting and broadcast it on a YouTube channel. This method has the potential to increase participation in the village activities.*

Finally, the Village of Hawthorn Woods has created an outstanding team environment. It is obvious that there is great pride exhibited by all of the staff and by the residents and business owners that the judges encountered on their visit. Of particular note is the pin that was displayed by each Hawthorn Village employee. The Excellence pin is received by an employee in recognition of going above and beyond while providing service to the residents of Hawthorn Village. The employee is pinned by the Mayor at a village meeting. It is prestigious and helps create an environment that is healthy and vital. The village needs to replicate this program for the residents. There are many volunteers and businesses that help to make the village programs and activities successful by contributing products and money. This philosophy of offering programs that are paid for by contributions and fund raising is somewhat unique to Hawthorn Woods. *Creating a recognition program for the many businesses that contribute to the village programs or the many volunteers that provide hours of labor to improve the environment of the village would greatly enhance the Village of Hawthorn Woods overall community vitality.*

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 paint and rust					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						
Ol.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		
Ol.18 - Programs are available for residents to fund public amenities such as memorial benches, brick pathways, etc.				X		
Ol.19 - Volunteer involvement in Adopt-A-Spot Programs, Habitat for Humanity Projects, River Sweep, etc.				X		
Ol.20 - Recognition programs for volunteers					X	
Ol.21 - Volunteer hours recorded				X		
Judges' Discretion: Recognition by the judges of an item of special note						
Ol.22 - Judges to enter text below						X
Park and entryway signs are handsome and unique and provide a positive branding for the community.						
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage			
7. Overall Impression (OI)	84	56	66.67%			

Overall Impression (OI) Recommendations:

Hawthorn Woods' overall impression is welcoming. Spending time in the village makes you want to relocate there. The village has worked hard to create an attractive and livable community through the use of prudent planning and zoning. Many of the homes are on large oversized lots. The new subdivisions being developed all incorporate public amenities such as parks and playgrounds. The village has identified a need to keep seniors living in the community by working with a developer to create a model home that meets the needs of the seniors.

A major attraction for Hawthorn Woods is that it is safe, having been recognized by numerous organizations for being a crime free community. Just 35 miles from Chicago, the biggest threat to the peace in the Village of Hawthorn Woods is seemingly the occasional unapproved construction of a shed. Chief of Police Jennifer Paulus and her outstanding officers are quick to tell you that their work is 10% law enforcement, 90% community involvement. This is a village where a cop will bolster a kid's spirits in bad weather by driving him to school in the department's Humvee.

Coupled with being safe, Hawthorn Woods is environmentally friendly, clean, and free of trash and litter. Properties within the village are well maintained through effective code enforcement by the village. It is a "dark" community, and therefore it is void of light pollution. The village's community events and 4th of July celebration truly are straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting.



The judges saw a few issues easily addressed. *We recommend that the rusted and unsightly bins at the back of the parking lot adjacent to St. Matthew Lutheran Church be screened from the view of passersby.*

An identifier sign at Lake Lorraine is badly in need of paint and is partially obscured by weeds. *An energetic Boy Scout could make quick work of the fix.*

Some, if not all, parks lack recycling bins. This seems an anomaly in a community that puts a high value on the environment. *We recommend that all parks and public buildings be outfitted with recycling receptacles.* As mentioned earlier, the village should explore acquiring “Big Belly” <http://bigbelly.com/> receptacles. If you are unable to defray the cost through grants, opt for a simpler choice. Communities that pair trash and recycling containers are sending the message that it is important to recycle.



The Parks and Recreation Department has a well- developed program for memorial donations for benches and trees. The program for memorial ornaments to be placed on the holiday tree at Village Hall is genius and could be replicated in a number of other AIB communities as a fundraiser to support their In Bloom programs.

Parents enjoy participating with children at playgrounds. *It is important to provide shade areas for parents and children to escape the hot sun.* The use of shade screens is a common practice that will provide heat relief to participants and chaperones at play areas. Picnic pavilions are another avenue to use to provide temporary shelter to cool down when you are enjoying the recreational activities the village has to offer.

One of the main focuses of the village has been the development of green space. Benefiting from the many natural wetlands and open spaces found within the village boundaries, Hawthorn Woods has invested a great deal of resources and volunteer labor to develop trails, playgrounds and green space to get residents outdoors. As a result, Hawthorn Woods is a desired location for families to settle in. The village gives you a sense of being in the rural countryside, but in a proximity to urban amenities. Even the country club is focused on being “green” with a golf course that reflects the overall green space environment in Hawthorn Woods. Hawthorn Woods is rural by design and plans to stay that way.

The Village of Hawthorn Woods is good at obtaining sponsorships to help stage various community events during the year. They manage notebooks that contain historical data for each event. Community volunteers are recruited and used to help make the events successful. *The village needs to track community involvement and record the hours that volunteers give.* Many times, the information can be used as an in-kind match for grant applications.



Hawthorn Woods has had to be creative with all their financing options. One of the more innovative uses of their developer fees devoted to public art was using the fees to assist with offsetting the cost of placing utility lines underground. The action improves the aesthetics of the community. Now it is time to figure out how to inexpensively go about creating public art throughout the village. One way is to utilize local artists and recruit businesses and residents to create public art in public spaces. The village already has an example of public art with the historic rake located in front of the Public Works Building.



Because Hawthorn Woods has a history connected to farming, it would be fairly easy to accumulate antique pieces of farm machinery to incorporate into landscapes in public areas. A couple of examples are included here. We caution you not to let things get too “cute” and less

design/functionality oriented.

The Village of Hawthorn Woods has an outstanding logo and has begun developing signage at public facilities using the logo. It appears on the website and other public relations information the village distributes. The branding of a community is important. This is particularly true with communities that border multiple villages and towns. It is vital that residents and visitors have an accurate sense of the boundaries of Hawthorn Woods. Identifying location by using the logo on building signage, street signs and all printed material will insure that Hawthorn Woods is identified in a positive way by residents and visitors. *Consider incorporating the logo into bridge abutments, street signs, public facility signage, interpretative signage and any other marketing item the village uses.*

Wayfaring signage to public facilities is helpful for visitors. The signage can be designed in several different ways and can help with the branding of the community. It is important not to create clutter when you develop directional signage. Drivers are already faced with many challenges traversing streets and highways. The signage should be uniform and recognizable when giving directions.

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
The itinerary showcased the excellence of effort and teamwork that comprise the culture established by Mayor Joe and COO Pamela Newton.			
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage
8. Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions (ET)	12.00	11.00	91.67%

Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions (ET) Recommendations:

The Community Profile was comprehensive and submitted in a timely fashion. Very helpful was the separate Appendix including resource material that expanded our understanding of items mentioned in the profile.

In future, include the names of the individuals the judges will be meeting with at itinerary stops on the itinerary itself. It is helpful to the judges to have that information at hand on a single sheet as they arrive at each location.

The group luncheon on the second day of the tour was a wonderful gathering of knowledgeable business professionals and activists who contribute to the culture of Hawthorn Woods. It was as instructive as it was pleasing to hear each of them discuss their connections, their work, and their commitment to the village. The animation and obvious pride of place they displayed says a lot about the community. Well done!

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2018 Community Recognitions

Community: Village of Hawthorn Woods, Illinois

Recognized Criterion: Community Vitality

The Village of Hawthorn Woods is an award-winning community on the move; and providing outdoor recreational opportunities is a high priority.

Their continuing No Child Left Inside initiative is facilitated by an aggregate of seventeen parks featuring tennis courts, playgrounds, ball diamonds, exercise equipment, soccer fields, an inline skating rink..... and the list goes on. Volunteers help keep things pretty by doing everything from planting trees to picking up trash.

Highview Park is a major center of activity and hosts events including the annual 4th of July festival, movie nights in the park, car shows and winter sledding.

The recently developed Brierwoods Preserve is an 11.9-acre expanse with a tree-shaded hiking path, picnic area, playground and a monarch butterfly preserve.

The Aquatic Center has a competition class pool, high and low diving boards, water slides, and zero-depth entry access. Toe tickling grassy areas for play and attractive landscaping soften the deck area.

Hawthorn Woods employees lead the way in community walks, runs and bike events during the year, are provided free Fitbits, and vie for glory in competitive tomato-tending.

The Village of Hawthorn Woods is a vital community surrounded by nature, brimming with opportunities, and innovative in engaging residents in community play.

Noteworthy Project or Initiative:

Fitbits are provided to all village employees to help improve their well-being through a “healthy” competition.

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