2027 Metrics for Communities

Communities are required to provide the following prior to evaluation:

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

The areas to be scored:

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

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

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

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

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

In Progress (1-2 points): programs or procedures are developed, and a plan of action is implemented.

In Place (3-5 points): programs or procedures are utilized and beneficial.

Surpassing (6-8 points): programs or procedures are exceptional, utilized, and beneficial throughout the community.

Other:

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

COMMUNITY VITALITY: Community Vitality refers to the overall health, strength, and vibrancy of a community, reflected in the quality of life, social connections, economic opportunities, and civic engagement among its members and measured through policies, programs, activities, and facilities. Examples include neighborhood associations that are active, thriving local businesses, inclusive public events, volunteer programs, and accessible services like libraries and recreation centers. Museums, arts/cultural organizations, mentoring programs, schools, faith-based organizations, parks, playgrounds, dog parks, sports fields, water activities, trails, golf courses, and other active and passive recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities all add to the vitality of a community.	**Not Applicable (N/A)**	**Not Started (N/S) 0**	**In Progress 1-2**	**In Place 3-5**	**Surpasses 6-8**
1. An economic development plan is in place and implemented. It includes strategies for short- and long-term economic growth along with programs to improve the economy. It is regularly evaluated, measured, and/or reevaluated.					
2. Communication of ordinances and policies pertaining to Community Vitality is easily accessible. Topics include, but are not limited to, culture, education, government, recreation, and technology. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall, library, and social media.					
3. Master plan exists for current and/or future community growth and public green space. Growth, enhancements, and/or protection of undeveloped areas are included. It is reviewed and routinely updated.					
4. Public parks and/or green spaces are available. Properties may be defined as pocket parks, school grounds, neighborhood, city, county, state, and national parks, and green spaces. Parks and green spaces meet the needs of the community and are clean, maintained, and utilized.					
5. Active and/or passive recreation opportunities are available and meet the needs of the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, water sports, golf, baseball, pickleball, skiing, soccer, hiking, nature trails, bird watching, picnic areas, and fishing. Year-round age and ability appropriate programs are available.					
6. Seating is available near walking, exercise, playground areas, and/or public transportation stops. The seating and area are clean and accessible.					
7. Shade is provided for participants and/or spectators at cultural and sporting events. Structures include, but are not limited to, shade sails, dugouts, pergolas, arbors, and trees. Structures are maintained and inspected for safety.					

8. Community gathering space is available. The space is accessible and used throughout the year for all ages and abilities. Examples include, but are not limited to, community center, senior center, YMCA, faith-based gathering places, libraries, town hall, and designated outdoor refreshment areas (DORA) with clearly defined district boundaries.					
9. Age- and ability-appropriate play areas are accessible. Equipment is ADA-compliant and/or inspected by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector.					
10. Active outdoor community events are offered throughout the year. Examples include, but are not limited to, Bike-to-Work Day, Walk to School Day, and 5K events.					
11. Community celebrations and/or cultural performances meet the needs of the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, festivals, art, dance, theatre, music, and cinema.					
12. Alternative transportation programs are available. Transportation is available in all areas of the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, bicycle/scooter rental, car/van pools, public transportation, and/or ride sharing to all areas of the community.					
13. Safety policies, programs, and/or services are in place. Examples include, but are not limited to, police, fire, emergency medical services, community health, crime prevention, homeland security, gang prevention, traffic, homelessness, and civil and human rights. Information is easily accessible and communicated.					
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
1. Community Vitality	104		0		0.00%

FLORAL IMPACT: Floral areas in a community are designated spaces where flowers are strategically and intentionally planted, cultivated, and maintained to enhance the beauty and ecological health of the environment. These areas can be part of public parks, street medians, residential gardens, school grounds, roadways, or commercial zones. Examples include containers, hanging baskets, window boxes, raised planters, trellises, and in-ground plantings and can be found at Botanical Gardens, school gardens, public spaces, and business and residential front yards. Season-round displays can utilize annuals, perennials, bulbs, tropical plants, flowering topiaries, colorful foliage, and cultivated and native plants.	**Not Applicable (N/A)**	**Not Started (N/S) 0**	**In Progress 1-2**	**In Place 3-5**	**Surpasses 6-8**
1. Floral combinations are carefully selected for location and environmental conditions. The combinations create visual interest, provide dramatic effects, and appear coordinated.					
2. Floral displays are located throughout the community. Displays are well maintained and attractive. Examples include, but are not limited to, flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, topiaries, and/or mosaics.					
3. In-ground flower displays are designed with mature plant heights, color, and texture in mind. Plants are healthy, robust, and floriferous.					
4. Containers and/or hanging baskets are part of a floral plan, in use, scaled to their surroundings, and have suitable plants. Flowers are robust, floriferous, and provide a dramatic effect.					
5. Regular maintenance, watering, fertilizing, pruning, deadheading, weeding, removal, and/or replacement of dead flowers is conducted on public properties.					
6. Demonstration/display gardens are available. Flowers are labeled. The garden is promoted to the public. Garden is available to residents and businesses for events.					
7. Appropriate floral maintenance procedures, including fertilization (chemical and/or non-chemical) for municipal, parks, and/or school properties are implemented. The procedures produce effective results. Educational information about fertilization is communicated. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall postings, libraries, and social media.					
8. Training programs for proper floral displays care and maintenance are offered to seasonal staff and/or volunteers. Training is conducted by Master Gardeners, County Extension, local garden centers, state agencies, and/or contractors.					

9. Efforts are in place to educate and raise public awareness of the importance of floral displays in the landscape. Educational information about the selection and care of flowers for beautification is available and communicated to the public.					
10. Recognition programs are in place monthly, quarterly, and/or annually for attractive displays created by businesses and/or residents.					
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
2. Floral Impact	80		0		0.00%

LANDSCAPED AREAS: Landscaped areas in a community include outdoor spaces intentionally designed and maintained to enhance natural beauty, functionality, and environmental health. These areas include elements like non-native and native trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, vines, succulents, edibles, evergreens, topiaries, turf, groundcovers, and pollinator-friendly plants, and can include hardscape features such as benches, fountains, and decorative features. Landscaping can be found in parks, walking paths, residential neighborhoods, community gardens, round-abouts, streetscapes, commercial zones, schools, and public squares.	**Not Applicable (N/A)**	**Not Started (N/S) 0**	**In Progress 1-2**	**In Place 3-5**	**Surpasses 6-8**
1. Action plan developed and implemented for proper maintenance, pruning, removal, and/or replacement of dead and overgrown plants. Best practices are utilized.					
2. Plan developed each season for procurement, scheduling, planting, and/or maintenance of landscapes.					
3. Landscape ordinances and/or policies are in place. City landscape ordinance requires specifications for landscaping and maintenance for new and improved residential, commercial, and public development. Ordinances and/or policies are easily accessible.					
4. Landscaping is found throughout the community including public areas, parks, gateways, and/or key buildings. Landscape displays are selected for location, environmental conditions, and/or impact. Attractive designs are utilized and well maintained. Landscapes serve as focal areas in the community.					
5. Landscape displays enhance community entryways. The use of trees, shrubs, signage, hardscapes, and/or lighting creates a welcome display. The displays are attractive, well maintained, and create visual impact.					
6. Procedures in place to monitor and/or manage diseases and/or pests in the landscape. Pertinent information is available and/or communicated to the public.					
7. Lawn and turf areas display health and vigor. Procedures and practices, such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) are used to manage lawn and turf areas, including fertilizing, mowing, edging, proper watering, and/or weeding.					
8. Qualified landscape personnel and/or experienced contractors are available to design, install, source, and/or maintain public landscape sites. Additional support can be provided by growers, garden centers, County Extension Agents, and/or city departments. These resources are utilized to create and implement attractive municipal landscape displays.					

9. Training programs for proper landscape display care and maintenance are available for volunteers, full-time, and/or seasonal staff. Examples of trainers include, but are not limited to, Master Gardeners, County Extension, local garden centers, state agencies, and contractors.					
10. Recognition programs are in place monthly, quarterly, and/or annually for attractive displays created by businesses and/or residents.					
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
3. Landscaped Areas	80		0		0.00%

URBAN FORESTRY: Strategic design, use, installation, and maintenance of trees and associated green spaces for environmental, aesthetic, shade, and community benefits, including but not limited to street trees, park trees, native and ornamental species, naturalized areas, woodlands, and tree canopies on public and private lands, with attention to proper selection, placement, and long-term care to ensure sustainability, resilience, and quality of life.	**Not Applicable (N/A)**	**Not Started (N/S) 0**	**In Progress 1-2**	**In Place 3-5**	**Surpasses 6-8**
1. The municipal plan addresses the role urban forest initiatives play in the green infrastructure of the community. Policy is enacted and enforced that includes performance requirements to meet the minimum crown canopy and/or succession planting.					
2. Municipal ordinance enacted and enforced for tree planting and/or preservation. Ordinance addresses the handling and removal of damaged, dying, or dead trees. Ordinance includes public property, private property, and new construction projects. Communication of ordinances and policies are easily accessible.					
3. Tree board and/or department is available, active, and/or interact with the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, tree planting events, addressing safety concerns, education, and making recommendations to municipality.					
4. Certified municipal personnel, trained arborist, urban forester, and/or Department of Natural Resources (DNR) entity actively manages the urban forest.					
5. Trees are healthy and contribute to public health and wellness. Procedures are in place for the appropriate selection, diversity of tree species, proper spacing, planting depth, and/or monitoring and managing diseases and pests. Pertinent information is available and/or communicated to the public.					
6. Policies are implemented for the protection of historic trees located on public and private properties. Tree programs exist that spotlight and honor historic trees. Trees are labeled and/or indexed. Historic trees are highlighted in a brochure, tree walk, and/or website.					
7. Programs in place to increase, support, promote, and/or protect trees. Examples include, but are not limited to, civic native tree nursery, repurposing fallen trees, managing destructive pests, and urban orchards.					
8. Efforts are in place to educate and raise the public awareness of the importance of urban forestry. Examples include, but are not limited to, the use of print, videos, websites, apps, and social media.					

9. Trees are identified in public sites such as arboretums, parks, and/or cemeteries. Examples include, but are not limited to, identification labels, descriptive signage, QR codes, kiosks, maps, apps, and brochures.					
10. Policies are implemented, and education is available for the safe participation by volunteers and staff in planting trees on public properties. Ongoing urban forest tree care training and educational information and/or seminars available for residents and/or businesses.					
11. Effective communication of recommended trees is available to the public. Topics include "Right Tree in the Right Place," mulching, placement, spacing, and/or maintenance. Examples of communication include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, library, City Hall, and social media.					
12. The municipality is a member of urban forestry organizations, participates in programs, and/or earns designations and awards. Examples include, but are not limited to, Tree City USA, Arbor Day Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and regional or state agencies.					
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
4. Urban Forestry	96		0		0.00%

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES: Environmental initiatives are purposeful actions, programs, or policies designed to protect, preserve, or restore the natural environment and to reduce human impact on the planet, promote sustainability, and ensure a healthier ecosystem for current and future generations. Environmental and sustainable leadership includes policies, plans, and programs for water, and resource conservation; pollution control; trash, recycling, and reuse; climate change issues; green Infrastructure; and alternative energy sources. Environmental initiatives can be led by governments, businesses, communities, or individuals.	**Not Applicable (N/A)**	**Not Started (N/S) 0**	**In Progress 1-2**	**In Place 3-5**	**Surpasses 6-8**
1. Comprehensive/Master Environmental Plan in place to identify, protect, restore, and/or maintain natural areas. Examples include, but are not limited to, removal of invasives, no-mow areas planted with native grasses and wildflowers, and succession tree plantings. The plan promotes water conservation, alternative energy use, food security and sustainability, carbon reduction, and/or responsible land management. The plan is accessible and reviewed annually.					
2. Environmental board and/or Green Team are available, active, and/or interact with the community. Examples may include, but are not limited to, sustainability initiatives, events, education, and making recommendations to the municipality					
3. Public awareness strategies regarding environmental issues are implemented and effective. This includes but is not limited to, the Reduce/Recycle/Reuse program, Earth Day events, pollution prevention, "leave no trace," landfill reduction, and community clean-up days. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall, library, and social media.					
4. Programs exist and are available for all ages to educate, encourage, and/or expand the understanding of the role and importance of pollinators and ecological habitats.					
5. Green infrastructure policies, techniques, and/or inventory mapping are used throughout the community and regularly updated. Examples include, but are not limited to, naturalization, soils, topography, xeriscaping, rain gardens, wetlands, and suitable plant varieties to enhance such features as traffic calming, bank stabilization, stormwater run-off, and water management. Displays are well maintained.					
6. Home and business energy audits are available and promoted. Incentives are available and communicated for items such as solar energy, water conservation, home appliance replacement, weatherization, etc.					

7. Water conservation and water quality measures are widely promoted throughout the community and accessible. Residential and business practices include, but are not limited to, using rain barrels, rain gardens, and permeable surfaces; addressing water leaks in homes, businesses, and community spaces; choosing efficient appliances; and irrigating responsibly. Efforts also emphasize protecting water quality through stormwater management, reducing chemical runoff, proper disposal of household and yard waste, and maintaining healthy waterways.					
8. Management strategies are implemented for the effective reuse/repurpose of buildings, structures, and/or land. The municipality has a reuse plan in place.					
9. Recycling and trash containers are available, present themselves together, and are clearly labeled in public areas. Additional containers are available during special events. Collection is available for trash, recycling, composting, and food waste. Events and/or sites are offered for drop-off of hazardous, household, electronics, shredding, and/or difficult-to-recycle items.					
10. Reuse opportunities are offered and include clothing, books, household goods, resale shops, tool lending, durable medical equipment, and/or equipment repair initiatives available for donations and/or purchase.					
11. Energy-efficient vehicles/transportation for police, fire, public transit, and/or city employees is available. Options may include electric, fuel cell electric, plug-in electric hybrid, and/or compressed natural gas vehicles. Electric vehicle charging stations are located throughout the community and available to city, residential, and/or visitor vehicles. 240-volt home charging outlet installation incentive is available and promoted.					
12. Mulch from renewable and/or sustainable sources is appropriately used by the municipality. Mulch is available for residential use.					
13. Green building practices are implemented to minimize environmental impact while maximizing efficiency, health, and sustainability. These practices emphasize the use of environmentally responsible building materials—such as recycled, reclaimed, rapidly renewable, or locally sourced products—as well as non-toxic materials. Energy-efficient and renewable energy systems, including solar panels, wind turbines, geothermal heating and cooling, high-performance insulation and windows, and smart HVAC and energy management tools, are also encouraged. Certification systems such as LEED, WELL, or the Living Building Challenge are utilized to help track, validate, and achieve comprehensive sustainability goals.					
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
5. Environmental Initiatives	104		0		0.00%

CELEBRATING HERITAGE: Celebrating heritage in a community includes recognition, designation, protection, commemoration, and celebration of historical, cultural, natural, agricultural, and industrial resources, including but not limited to, traditions, stories, landmarks, buildings, artifacts, events, and practices that reflect the community's identity. Efforts may include preservation, interpretation, education, and programming that foster pride, belonging, and awareness of diverse cultural roots while maintaining and enhancing the community's heritage.	**Not Applicable (N/A)**	**Not Started (N/S) 0**	**In Progress 1-2**	**In Place 3-5**	**Surpasses 6-8**
1. Historic Preservation, Historic Society, and/or Architectural Review Board are available, active, and/or interact with the community. Activities/responsibilities include, but are not limited to, review proposals for construction and rehabilitation, promote historic preservation incentives, submit recommendations to National Register, and designate local historic landmarks.					
2. Historic Preservation ordinances are enacted and enforced. Ordinances effectively provide commercial and/or residential designation, guidance, and/or protection. Ordinances, policies, and restoration resources are available, easily accessible, and communicated.					
3. Historic districts, neighborhoods, structures, landmarks, and/or objects are identified and/or labeled. Designations by such organizations as the Department of Archives and History and/or National Register are in place and/or in progress.					
4. Cemeteries and monuments are in place and well maintained. Historical plaques are used and well maintained. Examples of plaque locations include, but are not limited to, buildings, sites, residences, districts, historical events and people, and battle sites. Historical Records are available for public reference.					
5. Historical museums and/or interpretive displays are available and maintained. Events and educational opportunities are held for all age groups to utilize historic assets.					
6. Archives, artifacts, community records, and/or oral histories are collected, safely stored, preserved, and/or catalogued.					
7. Staff and/or volunteers are trained to maintain historical sites, archives, records, collections, artifacts, structures, and/or landscapes. Historic educators are trained to effectively communicate a community's history.					

8. Historic preservation incentives are available and promoted. Incentives may include, but are not limited to, tax credits, waived permit fees, eased setbacks, and/or rebates.					
9. Programs are in place for the purchase, installation, and/or long-term maintenance of memorial features. Examples include, but are not limited to, memorial benches, trees, brick pathways, and lamp posts.					
10. Natural and agricultural areas are identified and protected. Designation by such organizations as The Nature Conservancy, the National Park Service, Department of Natural Resources are in place and/or in progress.					
11. Programs and/or events are available to bring history to life. Examples include, but are not limited to, theater dramas, reenactments, and historic characters at public events.					
12. Community heritage and/or cultural diversity are supported and promoted to all ages. Educational resources are available such as websites, publications, tours, interpretive signage, mobile apps, and/or programs.					
13. Youth of all ages and abilities participate in historical programs. Examples include, but are not limited to, lectures, tours, events, reenactments, research, and reader's theater. Participants are recognized for their efforts and/or achievements.					
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
6. Celebrating Heritage	104		0		0.00%

OVERALL IMPRESSION: The overall impression of a community refers to the design, maintenance, and condition of physical, social, and cultural elements that collectively shape the perception of a community's character and identity. These include, but are not limited to, amenities, infrastructure, signage, public spaces, streetscapes, and visible upkeep of public and private properties. Ordinances, regulations, and enforcement addressing signage, nuisances, and property maintenance contribute to reducing visual clutter, enhancing aesthetics, and fostering a welcoming atmosphere that reflects community values.	**Not Applicable (N/A)**	**Not Started (N/S) 0**	**In Progress 1-2**	**In Place 3-5**	**Surpasses 6-8**
1. Ordinances are enacted and enforced to address issues such as overgrown lots, abandoned vehicles, unscreened dumpsters, public nuisances, unregulated garage sales, building facades, and/or empty storefronts windows. Ordinances are routinely reviewed and updated as needed.					
2. Code enforcement/compliance officer is available. Violations are detected, investigated, and/or resolved. Code enforcement includes, but is not limited to, public health, safety, consumer protection, building standards, and land use.					
3. Communication of ordinances is easily accessible. Examples of communication include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, library, City Hall, social media, and calendar of events.					
4. First impressions are positive in residential, business, and/or municipal areas. Properties, buildings, structures, grounds, decks, patios, and yards are neat and in order. Examples include, but are not limited to, lack of vandalism, graffiti, broken windows, peeling or faded paint, and rust. Programs exist and are effective to minimize graffiti, litter, and nuisance areas.					
5. Community infrastructure is in good condition. Examples include, but are not limited to, roadways, road shoulders, curbs, corner pads, medians, sidewalks, railroad crossings, sewers, transformers, and/or utility poles.					
6. Community amenities are in good condition. Examples include, but are not limited to, signs, site furnishings, public restrooms, water features, lamp posts, benches, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles, safe parking, proper lighting, crosswalks/pavement markings, containers, planters, and/or cigarette receptacles.					
7. Community is accessible to people of all abilities. Examples include, but are not limited to, public buildings, parking, sidewalks, public transportation, playgrounds, parks, sports fields, and trails.					

8. Wayfinding signage is visible, attractive, and in appropriate locations throughout the community. Signage adequately lists directional information and/or areas of interest.					
9. Public art is located throughout the community. Features such as banners, murals, and/or statues are used, attractive, and effective.					
10. Year-round seasonal decorations are used in key areas. The decorations are well maintained and attractive. Examples include, but are not limited to, lighting, ornamental displays, wreaths, planters, luminaries, and displays in government buildings, residential homes, and storefronts.					
11. Pet waste policies are posted and/or enforced. Pet clean-up stations are available throughout the community. Stations are monitored and stocked.					
12. Public restrooms are available, ADA compliant, and cleaned routinely.					
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
7. Overall Impression	96		0		0.00%

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Community involvement refers to the active participation of individuals, organizations, and groups in efforts that support and enhance the well-being of the community. Contributions include, but are not limited to, volunteering, mentoring, fundraising, resource sharing, organizing events, serving on boards or committees, and supporting cultural, educational, social, and service initiatives. Engagement fosters shared responsibility, strengthens the social fabric, builds trust, and enhances quality of life while inspiring new and continued involvement.	**Not Applicable (N/A)**	**Not Started (N/S) 0**	**In Progress 1-2**	**In Place 3-5**	**Surpasses 6-8**
1. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, engage and/or recognize a diverse base of volunteers of all ages, abilities, cultures, and/or segments of the community in each of the America in Bloom criteria. Volunteers from businesses, residents, schools, and/or organizations participate, and opportunities present themselves to residents and/or businesses to get involved.					
2. Residential landscapes provide streetscape appeal and reflect community value in landscaping. They are neat, attractive, and well maintained.					
3. Annual recognition of a community champion. This may be from the schools, social organizations, Chamber of Commerce, businesses, to include issues that are important to the community, including, but not limited to, housing, health, and environmental initiatives.					
4. Secure food programs are available. Examples include, but are not limited to, hunger relief efforts, food pantries, garden plots, rooftop gardens, community gardens, farmers markets, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).					
5. Volunteer boards are active and/or comprised of representatives from business and residents. Examples include, but are not limited to, In Bloom committee, Rotary, Veteran groups, Chamber of Commerce, Scouting, HOAs, municipal boards, and faith-based organizations.					
6. Youth of all ages and abilities participate in community events. Examples include, but are not limited to, lectures, tours, events, reenactments, research, and reader's theater. Participants are recognized for their efforts and/or achievements.					

7. Youth organizations such as Scouts, Green Teams, schools, and 4H encourage community involvement. Participants are recognized for their efforts and/or achievements. Efforts are communicated to the public through social media, newsletters, city website, and other methods. Youth-focused programs are in place for multiple ages and/or abilities. Examples include, but are not limited to, sports, gardening, clubs, and lectures.					
8. Volunteer engagement in parades, festivals, and community events as measured by but not limited to event volunteers, the frequency and variety of events, a dedicated volunteer coordinator, and number of volunteer hours.					
9. Volunteers participate in community improvement initiatives. Examples include, but are not limited to, Habitat for Humanity, home repair programs, disaster relief, and clean-up days.					
10. Residential best practices regarding water conservation measures are used throughout the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, water-saving shower heads, full loads for dishwashers and washing machines, sink and toilet leaks fixed, lawn irrigation, drought-resistant plants, and use of gray water.					
11. Compassionate Community Response: The community demonstrates organized efforts to provide compassionate care during crises such as floods or hurricanes, wildfires, homelessness, and tragic deaths of community members. Support may include short- and long-term assistance (e.g., meals, housing, support groups, vigils, warming centers, garden therapy), volunteer service, fundraising, and coordinated relief efforts.					
12. Training programs for volunteer excellence are in place to teach best practices assuring every volunteer is equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed for all volunteer positions. Training should include standardized best practices, role-specific instruction, hands-on learning, mentorship, safety, communication, and teamwork.					
13. The community has a disaster preparedness plan in place and routinely reviews and updates it to ensure effectiveness, incorporates lessons learned from past events, and conducts regular training exercises to maintain readiness among residents and emergency personnel.					
Totals:	**Possible Points**		**Actual Points**		**Percent**
8. Community Involvement	104		0		0.00%

EVALUATION TOUR PREPARATION AND ACTIONS: Community's readiness prior to and the action during the Evaluation Tour include an informative Community Profile, preparedness prior to Advisors' arrival, and effective content during the Evaluation Tour. Succession plans are evident.	**Not Applicable (N/A)**	**Unmet (U/M) 0**	**Met 1**
1. Community contact was available for pre-visit meeting for introductions and discussion of preparations.			
2. Community Profile was provided to Advisors at least two weeks prior to the first official tour date.			
3. Community Profile includes contacts with emails and positions.			
4. Community Profile from a returning community includes what is new and implemented from previous Advisors' recommendations (scored as Not Applicable for a new community).			
5. Community Profile includes a map with tour boundaries and a daily itinerary.			
6. Evaluation Tour provided a representative cross-section of the community.			
7. Advisors met with elected/appointed municipal leaders and staff.			
8. Advisors met with the business and non-profit community.			
9. Advisors met with volunteers.			
10. Advisors met with the media (print, radio, tv, social media) and/or have been given media contact information.			
11. Advisors were asked to give a presentation.			
12. A tour wrap-up session was conducted with a community representative.			
13. Enough time was allotted for Advisors to work on the Evaluation Report in a quiet place with adequate Wi-Fi.			
14. Succession plans are evident, and next year's chair is present and participating in the tour.			
15. CN grant project(s) are reviewed (scored as Not Applicable for a community not receiving a CN grant).			
Totals:	**Possible Points**	**Actual Points**	**Percent**
9. Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions	15	0	0.00%

DISCLAIMERS:

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