

# America in Bloom 2015 EVALUATION FORM



**Participant:** Echo, Oregon

**Population Category:** Community Champions – Small

**Visiting Dates:** June 18-19, 2015

**Judges:** Bruce Riggs and Leslie Pittenger

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

All judging criteria will be adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the participant’s location.

The judges’ report is based on efforts in management, planning, maintenance, improvement, and innovation of each of the following criteria:

Criteria	Actual Points	Possible Points
1. Floral Displays	138.50	175.00
2. Landscaped Areas	143.50	175.00
3. Urban Forestry	125.50	175.00
4. Environmental Efforts	133.00	175.00
9.5. Heritage Preservation	149.00	175.00
6. Overall Impression	100.00	125.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>789.50</b>	<b>1000</b>
%	<b>78.95%</b>	
<b>Bloom Rating</b>	<b>4</b>	

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

**Participant representatives met: (including email)**

Name: Diane Berry	Title: Town Administrator	Email: ecpl@century.net
Name: Darin Tull	Title: Public Works Director	Email: ecpl@century.net
Name: Richard Winter, PhD	Title: Mayor	Email: ecpl@century.net

## General Comments and Suggestions:

*Suggestions are indicated in italics.*

Echo has many things going for it. It is in a beautiful location, has ample natural resources and a rich history to manage and display. Its most valuable asset, however, is its people and their drive to make things better for the residents and visitors who are lucky enough to be there. We were taken by the drive and passion of several people, most notably, Diane Berry who has championed Echo in Bloom for almost a decade. She represents the city's municipal government on one hand. On the other hand, as a resident, she sees the needs of the people first hand. She recognises that the city has a very rich history, that people love beauty in the form of floral displays, landscaping, and trees, and that protecting the environment is important for now and future generations. She sees the value of supporting local businesses and she helps them prosper. That said, many others help to improve this tiny city of 715 residents. They function on various committees, are always ready to pitch in and also help financially.

Congratulations on your participation in the inaugural Circle of Champions category. Your past commitment to excellence and community pride has earned you the privilege to peer with other champion cities, functioning at an elevated level of performance, as well as judging scrutiny. Thank you for accepting the greater challenge of the Circle of Champions and planting pride in your community.

Congratulations on earning four bloom ranking. Your community has done an outstanding job and has acknowledged and followed many of the suggestions given by past America in Bloom judges over the years. You have also seen the need for other improvements and have found ways to get funding and support to accomplish a multitude of endeavors. Your knack for getting repeat funding and new support is amazing and needs to be acknowledged. You are doing so much and it was easy to see the results of your hard work as we toured the city.

*You might consider preparing a master list of all of the suggestions past judges have made. Choose the ones that make sense and create a "to do" list and also a done list so that you can see all that has been accomplished to date. Put cost estimates on the list so others can see what needs to be done and how much it may cost. Don't underestimate the costs. Place this in your newsletter and consider putting a copy in with the water bill.*

The Echo Cemetery is outstanding from the point of view of history, maintenance and panorama of the area. It has been lovingly kept up, has no apparent vandalism (which means the stones are upright, clean and aligned) and has weed-free turf growing lushly on the hilltop overlooking the city and surrounding countryside.

We invite you continue to participate in America in Bloom as a new set of judges can add suggestions to your program. Thanks to all who welcomed us and treated us as friends. A special thanks to Lloyd and Lois Piercy who spent so much time with us. They generously shared their passion for making Echo a better place to live and to do business.

Echo is a cooperative milieu of municipal, businesses and residents all working to improve this small city. Little by little the city received grants and implemented projects to enhance the downtown.

Many characters have had a stop in Echo. *Possibly a movie night featuring important persons who affected Echo might be of interest and could feature notables like Jack Dempsey, Lewis and Clark, or Sacajawea.*

<b>1. Floral Displays</b> Flower beds, containers, baskets, window boxes. Arrangement, originality, distribution, location, diversity, balance, harmony, quality of maintenance. Use and integration of annuals, perennials, ornamental grasses, bulbs, tropical plants, and seasonal flowers that provide year-round interest.	<b>Max points</b>	<b>Actual Score</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
Leadership and plan of action for floral displays	20	19
Concept and design, variety of plantings, overall effect	20	18.5
Maintenance and quality of displays	20	18.5
Design for all seasons	15	11
<b>Business</b>		
Concept and design, overall effect	15	12.5
Maintenance and quality of displays	15	12
<b>Residential</b>		
Concept and design, overall effect	15	11
Maintenance and quality of displays	15	11
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Volunteer involvement in design, planting, and maintenance of floral displays	20	12.5
Financial and in-kind contributions to floral displays	20	12.5
<b>Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>138.5</b>

*Comments and suggestions:*

It was a pleasure to see all of the beautiful plantings lining the main street and major intersections. The library and city hall plantings were stupendous and we congratulate everyone who helped make this effort possible for a job well done. The church’s baskets and planter looked great and reflect the loving care given to the building by the congregation. Some residents had attractive containers and baskets decorating their homes.



We thought your plant selections were excellent. You are lucky to have the Kopacz Nursery nearby and involved. They were very enthusiastic about AIB and everyone is fortunate they encouraged you to participate.

*Try to involve more businesses’ and residents throughout the community by offering “floral display kits.” Working in cooperation with your nearby nursery, you could develop three packages that can be sold for three different prices with a container, soil, time-release fertilizer, and the same plants as those used in the city planters. Provide instructions on their care with a handout and also publish it in your newsletter.*

*Your firehouse would benefit from some planters. Consider planters placed adjacent to each of the fire truck bays. You might consider using the above-mentioned kits to show how well they grow.*

*Some of the street intersection planters could contain more perennials. Consider planting hakonechloa, blue festuca, red-stemmed rhubarb, possibly asparagus in the center or Jerusalem artichokes to add height to the planters. Another suggestion is to try planting evergreens and adding cones to create winter interest. Use small Colorado blue spruce selected for their whitish blue foliage or yellow chamaecyparis to add color. Make sure they are kept watered, as your winds will dry out the soil and plants.*



*Use the water bill to bring attention to the Echo in Bloom program and to prod businesses and residents to spruce up and plant their properties especially just before the judges arrive.*



We especially liked your Galvanized Garden with all the beautiful flowers in the diverse array of interesting containers. It must have taken quite a bit of effort to assemble that many planters. Your galvanized waterfall added a nice touch with the sound of water. It was artistically done.

Your daylilies are also attractive. The daylily society is an active group and *might donate plants if you contact them*. There are tens of thousands of cultivars so be forewarned.

<b>2. Landscaped Areas</b> Overall design and suitability of landscape, turf, and ground covers. Use of native plants. Overall design and suitability for location/use. Good use of design principles (i.e., balance of plant material and constructed elements, harmony, color, texture, shape, etc.). Sustainability. Integration of hardscapes, lighting, site features. Maintenance (weeds, mulching practices, edging). Site rejuvenation and rehabilitation. Efforts in strategic planning. Community gardens, children’s gardens, healing gardens, Audubon and other specialty public gardens and zoos.	<b>Max points</b>	<b>Actual Score</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
Overall design and planting of landscape, turf and groundcovers	15	13.5
Environmental management of sports fields and turf	15	12.5
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	13.5
Sustainable management, naturalization and eco-design	15	12.5
<b>Business</b>		
Overall design and planting of landscape	15	12.5
Management of turf and groundcovers	10	8.5
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	12.5
<b>Residential</b>		
Overall design and planting of landscape	15	11.5
Management of turf and groundcovers	15	11.5
Quality of landscape maintenance	15	12
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Volunteer involvement, i.e. garden clubs, neighborhood groups, Master Gardeners and University extension, in funding, planting, and maintenance of landscaped areas	15	11
Participation in future planning (committees, councils, and advisory boards.)	15	12
<b>Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>143.5</b>

*Comments and suggestions:*

The landscaped areas were attractive and well cared for on the street around city hall and in the areas where you have installed “Welcome to Echo” signage. The use of rocks to landscape in areas that have no water is a very practical way to enhance your signage. *The metal sign for the golf course is difficult to read because the torch cut letters are very similar in color to the background. Consider changing one or the other. You might also add torch cut outs of trees or giant flowers to bring attention to the landscaping at the golf course.*



Currently the golf course has more garden beds than can be cared for with the limited staff available to do the work. *Consider reducing the number of planting beds and concentrate your efforts on a few plantings and do them very well rather than spreading out your efforts. An alternative is to hire more personnel so the course plantings looks more manicured.* The lilies that were planted there looked wonderful and there was a nice selection of various kinds of perennials.

*Now that you have deemed dahlias as the city flower you might consider having an Echo perennial plant. Suggestions include ornamental grasses, like the yellow hakonechloa, that can be used as an effective border*

*plant to surround landscape plantings, or perennial sunflowers, daylilies, rudbeckia, or echinacea. Order a dozen or more and test their hardiness and ability to withstand your hot dry summers before declaring it the Echo perennial.*

We did notice that your hydrangeas were flowering profusely. There are a number of varieties that might do well in Echo. If you do decide to order some, select them from northern nurseries, as they probably would do better in your environment. There were also some very attractive rose bush plantings in George Park. They added a festive feel to that landscaped area.

*The Mountain Top Arboretum in Tannersville, NY is also zone 4 hardiness and can be used as reference when selecting plants for Echo. [www.mtarboretum.org](http://www.mtarboretum.org) Joan Kutcher is the Executive Director and she can be emailed or called for information. The Arboretum has a sizeable dwarf conifer, fir and pine collection in addition to numerous deciduous trees and shrubs. Many of which would grow well in Echo.*



3. Urban Forestry Distribution, variety and suitability of trees; new plantings; urban tree program; qualified personnel or access to trained individual(s); inventory or database; frequency of tree surveys; care and maintenance programs; preservation of heritage trees and woodlots and green buffer zones; scheduled succession plantings. Efforts in management, planning, maintenance, improvement, and innovation. Written policies, bylaws and regulations, long- and short-term plans.	Max points	Actual Score
<b>Municipal</b>		
Overall plan of action, tree planting programs, variety of species, inventory	20	17
Tree maintenance	15	12.5
Preservation and restoration of natural areas	15	10
Tree protection/planting regulations and by-laws	15	13
<b>Business</b>		
Overall planting program	20	13.5
Tree maintenance	15	8.5
<b>Residential</b>		
Overall planting program	20	15
Tree maintenance	15	10
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Volunteer involvement in funding, planting, and maintenance of trees (i.e. Tree City USA)	20	14
Volunteer involvement of youth in tree programs (i.e., Arbor Day, etc.)	20	12
<b>Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>125.5</b>

*Comments and suggestions:*

The memorial tree planting ceremony we attended was a great success and needs to be expanded. *Develop a wish list of trees and future locations and price what the true cost is to plant a memorial tree. Double the costs and when a donation is made to plant a tree put the extra monies in a separate tree fund to cover replacement and tree care. Along that line, a sign standard for memorial plaques should be created. Have this approved by the city council. Smaller is better.*



*Your arboretum has a valuable collection of trees that need attention before they lose their intrinsic value. It is obvious that the high school students and court system workers now used are an inadequate untrained work force and that you need to hire professional staff soon. Surrounding cities must have landscapers who attend to the care of private residences and businesses and they could be hired to regularly care for the arboretum. Consider adding mulch rings and plant labels to protect the trees from weed whips, improve water and moisture retention and help reduce the need to weed.*

George Park in center city is a beautiful respite and has an interesting diversity of trees. The small bridge over the gurgling stream produces a calming and cooling effect. The park has a nice combination of evergreens and deciduous trees some of which provide much needed shade. *Consider labelling more of the trees so visitors know what they are seeing.*

It was nice to see the planting plans for the new winery and that a number of trees are planned for the site. *Consider visiting the Idaho Botanical Garden in Boise Idaho to see their plant selections, as they have a somewhat similar environment. You can then source the trees that you like and then check to make sure they are suitable for your drier environment. This also would be a great way to locate suitable street tree plantings.*

*We liked the sign on the 60-inch northern red oak that put a \$69 value per year on the benefits of having mature trees. As the sign says every tree counts and you have made a positive effort by posting such a sign.*

*The high school's perimeter is bare and uninviting. There needs to be more tree planting especially around the school. The gazebo at the arboretum is a needed refuge from the sun and rain. You need to replace the interpretive panels around the gazebo that are now cloudy. Relocate the two archways nearby to another site and remove the wisteria before it becomes weedy.*



<b>4. Environmental Efforts</b> Sustainability practices. Recycling (paper, glass, metal, plastic, electronics, clothing, etc.), policies and by-laws, sustainable development strategies, waste reduction, hazardous waste minimization and collection (oil, paint, chemicals, used batteries, etc.), water quality and conservation, energy conservation, environmental cleanup activities, reducing carbon footprint, environmentally friendly transportation, LEED certification, air, noise and light pollution, rain gardens and rain barrels, composting, energy efficiency, youth programs, etc. Events such as Earth Day, Recycling Days, Bike to Work Days, etc.	Max Points	Actual Score
<b>Municipal</b>		
Leadership in environmental initiatives	25	20
Effective communication of environmental strategies and initiatives	25	20
New programs, improvement and innovation	25	19
<b>Business</b>		
Participation in environmental efforts	20	16
New programs, improvement and innovation	10	8
<b>Residential</b>		
Participation in environmental efforts	20	14
New programs, improvement and innovation	10	6
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Volunteer involvement in environmental efforts	20	15
Youth participation in environmental activities	20	15
<b>Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>133</b>

*Comments and suggestions:*

The City of Echo has many environmental initiatives currently underway. Adequate water supply is the concern for the whole area. Declining water tables, water rights, and the shortage of precipitation have caused many challenges for the city and local farmers. The city has taken the steps to use timers on drip lines, installed planters under existing lamppost baskets to reuse the runoff excess drip efficiently. Drought tolerant plants are in use.



Recycling bins are available to residents 24 hours a day. They are currently shielded from street view by a fence, a project of a high school student, and as they are emptied they are “creeping” out from behind the barrier. *Paint a line on the pavement so the driver has a guide on where to place the containers when empties are delivered. This doesn’t guarantee proper placement but will encourage it!*

The city has a very nice “Echo tote”. *When reordered, enlarge it enough that it can be used as a recyclable shopping bag. Sell sponsorships, advertisements, or announcement space on one side of the bag to fund the project.*

The golf course site has a majestic view of the surrounding hills and is an ideal site to bird watch. We were lucky enough to see a resident California top knot quail sitting on her nest. *Consider adding in the clubhouse a bird checklist and information sign on what kinds can be seen when.*

Echo has a magnificent skate park that is user friendly for all ages. It has varying skill level stations and is surrounded by trees so that spectators can watch in the shade. A new shelter has been constructed and recently dedicated. *Recycling trash containers would be a great addition to this expanding area.*

City Hall is a historic building and has undergone many changes. *As lighting needs are replaced consider more energy efficient LED lights. The initial investment can often be offset with rebates and incentives. [www.led-greenlighting.com/Funding.html](http://www.led-greenlighting.com/Funding.html) is a resource for green lighting initiatives.*

The owners of Firethorn Winery have plans drawn up plans to renovate and repurpose the Echo Flour Mill building into an energy-efficient wine tasting room and winery. The Bales family will be continuing the streetscape theme of the city to their property line including trees and other storm water runoff landscaping. The Piercy's of Sno Road Winery have renovated several buildings and have plans to update more. Both of these families are invested in the community and are leading the way in environmental efforts.

It seems to be sunny and windy in Echo on a regular basis. *More emphasis needs to be put on developing solar and wind as an energy source.*

It was interesting to learn that certain fields are being left fallow to encourage the native fauna and flora. By letting the formerly grazed land return to its natural state, there is less use of water on marginal lands and there has been an increase in the wildflowers and animals in this environment.



<b>5. Heritage Preservation</b>	<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Actual Score</b>
Historical, natural, agricultural, and cultural heritage. Preservation and restoration of buildings, homes, churches, cemeteries; heritage sites and/or monuments; heritage parks, historical gardens; artifacts; historical society; heritage advisory committee, museums, archives, history books, and interpretative programs; ordinances and policies. Resource availability. Farmers markets, festivals and parades.		
<b>Municipal</b>		
Leadership in preservation and restoration initiatives	25	22.5
Legal protection of heritage sites	25	22.5
Resource availability for preservation and restoration	25	21.5
<b>Business</b>		
Conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of properties	15	14
Participation in and support of heritage/cultural activities	15	13.5
<b>Residential</b>		
Conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of properties	15	12.5
Participation in and support of heritage/cultural activities	15	12
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Volunteer involvement in cultural, historical, and natural heritage activities	20	16
Youth involvement in heritage activities	20	14.5
<b>Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>149</b>

*Comments and suggestions:*

City Hall was built in 1916 and has always been a great example of a multi-use building. It currently houses the administration offices, the library, public restrooms, city council chambers, and the civic center. It really is the center of town.

The city hall building houses an extreme number of artifacts important to the community. *A new state-of-the-art facility needs to be constructed to house the materials gleaned from the area, or an existing building could be brought up to museum standards to better house and display items. Contact the American Alliance of Museums for additional help. See [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org).*

Cowboy poetry is a cultural phenomenon that could be used to tell Echo's story. *You might consider having an open contest to write poems about Echo and then have an event to hear their readings. Investigate <http://www.westernfolklife.org/General-Information-on-the-Gathering/national-cowboy-poetry-gathering-home-page.html>*

Echo has always seen a flow of people and goods going by and through the area. Native Americans used the resources in the region including its rivers. Then the Oregon Trail brought settlers in wagon trains to the region. Later mule pack trains delivered goods up and down the area and used the Columbia River as a route of commerce. Now freight trains ply the same routes delivering and moving goods to the region and beyond. *The story of the current freight trains needs to be told as they venture up and down the Columbia and through Echo. They are the modern day Oregon Trail wagons.*

The city newsletter is well done and is used to keep the public informed of current events, projects, and Echo's history. It is a valuable tool to recruit volunteers, promote activities, and inform the citizens of their heritage. *A "This month in Echo History" section or a "museum tid-bit" section in the newsletter may serve as a reminder of how history has shaped Echo.*



The Echo Historical Museum is located in a beautiful bank building and is loaded with wonderful donations and exhibits. The museum is open on weekends and staffed by volunteers. *Efforts need to be made to increase the number of volunteers so the museum continues to grow and operate. Encourage youth to become involved by having a volunteer day where they greet visitors or are stationed behind the bank teller window. Silent movies or old westerns could be shown and the youth volunteers could serve popcorn!*

Another jewel is the Chinese House/ OR & N Railroad Museum. Located across from city hall, it is housed in a former Chinese laborer bunkhouse. It is bustling with tools, photos, and artifacts excavated from a railroad site. *To guarantee that this history is not lost, and can be properly insured, an inventory of items on display and in storage is needed. College interns may be the best way to efficiently complete this task. Another option is to video the facility and then use software designed for historical archiving. The Museum Archive software project (<http://musarch.com>) provides free basic downloads to help organize museum collections. Contact the American Alliance of Museums for additional help. [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org). Meanwhile the tools should be labelled so museum visitors can better understand what they are seeing.*

Echo has several historical displays that are located outdoors and are not dependant on volunteers for availability. Fort Henrietta Park is the site of several historic elements. It contains interpretive panels with information on the fort, agency and Oregon Trail. *A tree has overtaken one of the boards and that should be moved to effectively tell the story. Other signs have become cloudy and need to be repaired or replaced.*



The unmanned covered wagon display is a great idea. Unfortunately, it was necessary to install plexiglass panels to keep out birds and other debris. The glare when it is daylight makes it hard to see the items inside. *A light-colored backdrop, mural of the Oregon mountains and skyline, or painted wall would allow the wagon and other items to stand out and tell the story of the Oregon Trail. Solar lighting to illuminate the displays would similarly enhance the wagon. Consider installing a skylight over the exhibit.*



A great deal of effort went into securing grants for restorations, preservation and improvements in many areas of Echo. *The Chronicle of Philanthropy magazine, [www.philanthropy.com](http://www.philanthropy.com), is a resource for news, funding, advice and resources. Congratulations on your ability to create projects that foundations are willing to fund.*

<b>6. Overall Impression</b>		
Lack of litter and graffiti. Maintenance of public open spaces, medians and boulevard strips, streets, sidewalks, walking and biking trails, curbs, ditches, road shoulders, unattended and vacant lots, buildings, garbage receptacles; lack of weeds, dog waste policies and receptacles, notices/posters appropriately displayed, vandalism not evident. Maintenance of the hardscape: walls, lamp posts, benches, playgrounds, etc. Appropriate use and placement of sculpture, wayfinding signs, graphic elements such as banners, signs and murals.	<b>Max points</b>	<b>Actual Score</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
Overall cleanliness	10	8.5
Maintenance of public roads and shoulders	10	8
Condition of public buildings and properties	10	8.5
Impact of graphic elements - banners, wayfinding signs, murals, etc.	10	8
<b>Business</b>		
Overall cleanliness	20	16.5
Condition of buildings and properties	20	16.5
<b>Residential</b>		
Overall cleanliness	10	6.5
Condition of buildings and properties	10	6.5
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Participation in clean-up efforts, adopt-a-spot, annual cleanup days, etc.	15	13
Recognition of volunteer efforts	10	8
<b>Total (the fields automatically calculate – do not type in them)</b>	<b>125.00</b>	<b>100</b>

*Comments and suggestions:*

Echo is a community of visions and the work done by volunteers, the city administration, and private entrepreneurs truly makes it a great place to live. Streets and sidewalks are clean, benches are provided for sitting and enjoying the flow of downtown, and beautiful planters and hanging baskets line the streets. All of this enhances the natural beauty of Echo.



American flags waved proudly from downtown street poles while we were visiting. The constant breeze fluttering the flags was picturesque. *Design an Echo flag to be flown at other times of the year. A four seasons design, Welcome to Echo or the artwork from the vision boards would be colorful additions to the street.*

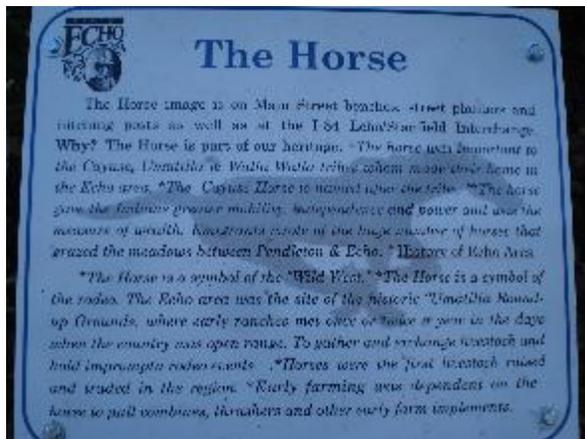
Volunteerism is essential to the success of community projects in any small community. Diane Berry leads the way as volunteer extraordinaire! There are several planned projects that appeal to volunteers throughout the year. *Volunteer recognition is important to keeping them engaged and returning. The car show is the one of the biggest events in the community and would be one of many great opportunities to acknowledge those who help year round. A volunteer picnic, Christmas party or Halloween bash are other possibilities.* Volunteer numbers many increase so that people could be invited to a special event!

The local Community Church is very active in Echo. The facility has been lovingly upgraded and is now handicapped accessible and adapted for multiuse programming. They provide lunch on Fridays and are the gathering place for many events. They have turned an unused corner of the grounds into a pocket park and improved the overall impression of the corner. The area is also close to the fire department. *Consider memorial benches and trees to offer a reflection and meditation corner.*

Echo's red fire hydrants stand proudly on street corners. These are 'little pieces of art' waiting to happen. *Engage local artists or Echo High School art class to design and paint the hydrants to tell a specific story of Echo's. A streetscape, Echo's flower the dahlia, or horses could gallop across the body of the hydrant. Also color code the tops to reflect water pressure rates.*



The Downtown Project most certainly has made a positive impact on Echo. The custom improvements using the horse motifs, planters, and public art make visiting Echo a unique experience. The positive energy has brought new businesses into downtown and others are looking to locate in this historic area. The future is bright for this champion community.



## Checklist for Judges and Participants:

Yes	No	N/A	
X			Were the judges given a community profile, itinerary, and map prior to their arrival?
X			Did the itinerary provide for seeing a representative cross-section of the participant?
X			Were the guides knowledgeable about the participant and horticultural aspects?
X			Were the judges able to modify the schedule if needed?
X			Did the judges meet with the media?
X			Did the judges meet with municipal leaders?
X			Were the judges asked to give presentations?
X			Were the judges able to meet with and talk to volunteers?
X			Was enough time allotted to complete the evaluation form in a quiet place?

### Comments:

### DEFINITIONS

**Municipal:** City hall and other municipal properties, parks and open spaces, roads, roadsides, sidewalks, cemeteries, schools and sports facilities, empty lots and brownfields, libraries, hospitals, assisted living, churches, universities, and colleges

**Business:** Commercial and industrial sectors, shopping centers, stores, office buildings, restaurants, mixed use developments, service stations, railway and bus stations, plant nurseries/garden centers

**Residential:** Single family residences, condominiums, town houses, planned communities, apartment buildings, gated communities, manufactured home communities, trailer parks, residential developments, neighborhoods, graduated care facilities

**Community Involvement:** Volunteer efforts by individuals, clubs, youth groups, church groups, civic organizations, and social clubs for community enhancement



## 2015 Special Mentions

**Participant:** Echo, Oregon

### **Recognized Criterion: Heritage Preservation**

Echo has a rich heritage starting with the Oregon Trail. There are three noteworthy trail sites nearby. Echo has 10 historical places and two museums all of which depict Echo from its founding in 1880 and before. This community with a population of 715 has done a remarkable job preserving its heritage. With limited resources the stories are effectively told of the struggles and challenges of the Native American tribes, early settlers, immigrants, and the development of the railroad in 1883.

Echo has met its challenges and has repurposed many historic buildings while maintaining the character of a western town. Work is ongoing and every year brings new and exciting projects. In 2009, Echo was the recipient of the Oregon Heritage Excellence Award. These days, old businesses and residences are being repurposed with loving care.

### **Special Project or Initiative:**

The *"Guide to Perennials for the Echo, OR area"* features three dozen tested perennials that grow well in Echo. Written by Diane Berry, the small guide provides a quick reference for residents and businesses that want to improve their gardens or curb appeal. Color pictures, a brief description and hardiness information make this document invaluable and useful.

America in Bloom ... Planting Pride in Our Communities  
2130 Stella Court, Columbus, OH 43215 • (614) 453-0744 • Fax (614) 487-1216  
[www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org) • [aib@americainbloom.org](mailto:aib@americainbloom.org)