

Beautification Commission Annual Report 2006

History and Membership

The Morgantown Beautification Commission was established in 1974. In 1998, it was restructured to add a landscape architect, urban forester, and botanist to the municipal ward roster. The current membership is:

Dale McGill	1 st Ward
Marilyn Bowers	2 nd Ward
Dr. Donna Ford-Werntz	3 rd Ward
Vacant	4 th Ward
Vacant	5 th Ward
Frank McGreevey	6 th Ward
Sandy Poulson	7 th Ward
Kara Hurst	Landscape Architect & Commission Vice Chair
Jonathon Cumming	Urban Forester
Dr. Bill MacDonald	Botanist & Commission Chair
Ralph Larue	BOPARC
Don Spencer	City Council Representative

Programs and Services

Beautification provides landscape maintenance for 30 project sites throughout the City of Morgantown. In neighborhoods, 12 volunteers maintain 7 of these sites. Beautification staff maintains 23. Beautification staff applied 280 cubic yards of mulch to landscaped beds in City parks, the Airport, and street intersection flowerbeds.

The Downtown lamppost baskets are a project of the Beautification Commission. In 2006, there were 50 lamppost baskets to plant and maintain. 18 new baskets were added on Clay Street in the Wharf District as part of the new streetscape improvements. 17 baskets were removed on High Street while construction of a new streetscape took place. 1,474 flowers were planted in lamppost baskets, hayracks, and street intersection flowerbeds. For holiday decorations, 327 pinecones, 118 ornaments, and 110 bows were used on the lamppost baskets. Monongalia County Master Gardeners had 16 volunteers who assisted with seasonal preparations of the Wharf District baskets. Future plantings are planned for the 12 new beds added in the bumpout features of the streetscape renovation.

The Morgantown Beautification Commission worked with a landscape architect in developing a plan for the South University Avenue Islands. They also reviewed the landscape outside the main terminal building and parking lots at the Morgantown Airport.

The sub committee, Proud of Our Town Awards, created and printed 1,000 brochures for distribution throughout the community. In August 2006, an award was presented to Dixie and Bob DeSantis recognizing their landscaped yard on Milton Street.

The Adopt a Street program has 33 groups participating in cleaning 43 city streets. 10 inactive groups were dropped from the program. With 4 new groups joining, affidavit forms were received as part of the reporting process to erect signs for new volunteer groups.

Resources

The Beautification staff consists of one full time horticultural coordinator, one seasonal horticultural laborer, and one intern from WVU Agriculture & Science School of Horticulture.

A full size pickup truck was purchased for landscape maintenance. The Public Works Department provided a truck seasonally for watering and a small pickup for the staff to use in landscape maintenance of city property.

The coordinator worked with an intern in the Planning Department to create a GIS map of project sites and tree plantings.

Activities

The Morgantown Tree Board planted 2 trees at the Public Safety Building in September celebrating Arbor Day. 23 trees were planted on High St. as part of the new streetscape.

The WVU Horticulture intern began a special project of 2 tropical plantings alongside Marilla Pool.

Forecast for Coming Year

The Beautification Commission will continue to address the issue of enhancing the aesthetic quality of gateways around the City. As new development of City properties occur, the Commission will review and provide guidance on them. Existing projects will also be reviewed as new developments occur in them.

Summary

While the number of projects regarding beautification grows in Morgantown, the commitment from the membership of the Commission remains strong to those projects, both old and new. As City properties develop alongside thriving business communities the importance of the Commission's role is vital. With a committed group of individuals, the interest from those in the community, and the support of City government, it will continue to flourish.



Lamp Post Basket
Downtown



Island in Suncrest



Volunteer Working on Christmas Basket