



Sustainability Commission

City of Independence Sustainability and Beautification Award

The City of Independence in partnership with the Independence Sustainability Commission wish to award individuals and businesses in our community that are taking sustainable measures that create a safe and beautiful community we can take pride in.

Two separate awards are proposed.

1. Business/Organization
2. Individual or Informal Club
 - a. Includes Independence residents or club operating in Independence. The club shall have no formal organization i.e., have no bank account or file taxes. For example, neighborhood clubs or groups of people who have banded together to make community contributions that are not affiliated with formal established organizations

Award Criteria:

- Efforts must be within the limits of the City of Independence
- Efforts are measurable or have visible impact.
- Efforts may increase community safety
- Efforts may add to City aesthetics (e.g., landscaping, painting, community gardens, improvements of existing structures, visible trash reduction)
- Efforts may reduce /divert waste from landfill (e.g., creative ideas for using discarded items, compost efforts, recycling)
- Efforts may reduce carbon emissions (e.g., ride shares, encouragement of environmentally friendly transport, installing bike racks, improving walkability/ADA compliance)
- Efforts may encourage other City residents to care about and foster sustainable practices

Submission of Award:

- A webpage/app will be created that will have information pertaining to the award criteria, judging and allow for award application submissions.

- The award will be advertised on the City's social media platforms, in a local paper, such as the Independence Examiner, and at community events, such as the Mayor's monthly trash pick-up.
- Nominees will be submitted by community members.

Judging:

- Criteria will be weighted (1-5) based on size of impact, longevity of impact, and community reach of the effort. The nominee with the highest score will be selected as the award recipient.
- The Sustainability Commission will receive award submissions and make selections based on the judging criteria.
- Final approval will be made by the City Council and the award will be presented at a council meeting.

Award:

The Sustainability Commission proposes a plaque and tree be planted as the award. The award will be presented by the Mayor as recognition. Other awards or recognition maybe substituted at the request from the City Manager's Office or by City Council.

The Sustainability Commission suggests working with the Tree Commission on sourcing native trees that are appropriate for our area.

For individual or club recipients the tree will be planted at a City park of their choice by City staff. For business or organizations, the tree may be planted at a City park of their choice by City staff or at the business location or organization at no cost to the City.

Note: The City takes no responsibility for awarded trees planted on private property as part of this award. Trees planted in public parks are not guaranteed to be permanent and replacement of these trees are not guaranteed.

Timeline:

Award efforts to be considered are from January - December. Submissions will be accepted all year long. Judging will take place in late February with the award given to recipient in April.