

CITY OF
MICHIGAN CITY

America In Bloom Project
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Visit the America In Bloom
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Visit America In Bloom site
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CITY OF
MICHIGAN CITY

**Extraordinary Spaces
In Everyday Places**

**What YOU
Can Do
In Your
Neighborhood**

Tel: 219/363-1407

WHAT IS AMERICA IN BLOOM?



America In Bloom is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and both personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements, and to providing educational programs and resources to that end.

The City of Michigan City will participate in the America In Bloom project in Spring 2008, but many preparations may be made before then.

The goal is to create "Extraordinary Spaces in Everyday Places," and your help is greatly needed for Michigan City to be successful in this endeavor.

The projects you choose to do may include far more than simply making your neighborhood beautiful.

Perhaps your project enhances the quality of life for you and your neighbors, provides sustenance to your stomachs as well as your souls.

Maybe your project is a memorial for family and friends lost to cancer, drunk drivers, narcotic overdoses or war.

*Making life beautiful by creating **extraordinary spaces in everyday places**...that's the goal.*



Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.

Participating “America in Bloom” towns have experienced positive changes in their communities. The kinds of improvements and their intensity may vary, but often include:

- increased levels of civic pride and community involvement
- cooperation among residents, organizations, businesses and the municipality
- everyone working toward a common goal: a better place to live, work, play, and visit
- visible results
- increased property values
- increased economic development and a positive impact on the retail industry
- increased tourism and a positive impact on hospitality industry
- decreased vandalism
- information and cultural exchanges with neighboring, national, and international communities

The benefits for individuals participating in this community development program are far reaching:

- improved quality of life
- enjoyable results
- greater community involvement
- recognition for volunteer efforts
- inspired imaginations
- beautified spaces
- educational opportunities
- shared ideas
- new friendships



People of ALL ages can have a BIG impact on this project!

Here are some ideas for things you can do:

On Your Own Property

- Trim trees and shrubs; keep lawn mowed
- Plant new flower gardens and update existing gardens
- Add some “garden art” to your flower gardens
- Plant some vegetables (tomatoes, green peppers, onions, radishes, cucumbers and squash are easy to grow) and share them with your neighbors as they mature.
- Paint your house, garage and other outer buildings if they need refreshing. (Watch for information on how the America In Bloom team can help with this!)
- Keep your sidewalk and driveway swept clear of debris
- Plant some beautiful flowers in the grassy area nearest the street

On Your Block:

- Help someone in your block to:
 - Mow their lawn
 - Trim shrubs and trees
 - Clean sidewalks and driveways
 - Plant some flowers
- Visit each of your neighbors who had a flower garden in 2007, and ask them to donate some of the seeds from that garden to the America In Bloom project. Put them in bags or envelopes that are labeled with type of plant, whether it needs sunlight or shade,



and how tall the plants are at maturity. Bring or mail the bags and envelopes of seeds to America In Bloom Project, Mayor’s Office, Marketing, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, IN 46360. They will be distributed to those who need free seeds beginning April 2008.

In Your Neighborhood:

- If your neighborhood does not have an established association, create one. Contact marketing@emichigancity.com for assistance in creating a free or low-cost website for your new group.
 - As a Neighborhood Association, identify folks who could use help in keeping their yards neat or who would love to have a small flower garden. Visit those folks and ask if they’d like some help, and then do whatever you can.
 - Identify several areas in your neighborhood where little flower gardens could be planted. These could be meditation gardens, labyrinths for walking meditations, memorial gardens, or children’s gardens. Get permission from the property owner to create and maintain the little gardens, create a plan, and then have your association members plant the gardens.
 - Does an artist live in your neighborhood...or is related to someone in your area? Consider asking that person to donate his/her time and expertise to create an artwork that can be outside. Add that artwork to one of your new neighborhood gardens.
- Collect funds from neighborhood Association members and purchase some art pieces from a local retailer. Rusted iron flowers, bird baths, bird feeders, and much more are available to enhance your little gardens.
 - Consider creating a butterfly garden in your neighborhood.
 - If there is available space in your neighborhood, plant a community vegetable garden. You can share the work and the produce, help families in need...or donate your produce to a local soup kitchen, homeless shelter, or the Salvation Army food pantry.
 - Gather funds and have a sign made that identifies your neighborhood—if it is similar to the signs at City Hall and Washington Park, that would be perfect!
 - Work with churches, schools, and businesses in your neighborhoods to create something that will be unique to your area!
 - Brainstorm other ideas that will work in your neighborhood.



If you have questions about America In Bloom, about how to create a neighborhood association, how to plan and/or plant a garden...or any other question about this project, please contact the Community Involvement Committee at marketing@emichigancity.com or by phone at 219/363-1407.