Prince George's County

56th Annual BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

2026 Application

Deadline 5.1.2026

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

EST. 1960

OUR STORY

The Prince George's County Beautification Committee was established in 1960 as the citizens' advisory group for matters related to street trees and landscaping programs. In 1965 we became an official arm of the Prince George's County Government. On Arbor Day, we work to plant trees and educate our younger generations on the importance of TREES.

Committee members were instrumental in establishing the Willow Oak as the County tree, the Glenn Dale Azalea as the County shrub, Bee Balm as the County herb, and the Daffodil as the County flower.

Through our Beautification Awards Program, Prince George's County honors those who have contributed to the community through excellence in gardening and landscape design. The Beautification Committee is dedicated to the protection of the environment and the preservation of Prince George's County as a healthy and pleasant place to live and work. At our annual awards ceremony, we recognize those citizens whose gardening efforts help make Prince George's County beautiful.

Call for Entries!
You are encouraged to apply on your own behalf or nominate a friend or neighbor whose property you consider beautiful. *If a friend or neighbor is nominating a garden, they must have the nominee fill out the photography wavier section in this application.*

Who May Enter?
Any person or group maintaining property in Prince George's County is invited to submit an application (this includes professionally designed and maintained gardens).

What About Judging?
Each garden will be evaluated by accredited judges of the *University of Maryland Extension Master Gardeners of Prince George's County*.

AWARDS

Based on the judge's evaluation, first year winners will be given a Beautification Certificate Award. First year winners are then encouraged to submit their gardens every year for up to five years to receive the Golden Trowel Award. Golden Trowel Award winners will have their names entered into the Horticultural Hall of Excellence on the sixth year. Awards will be presented at the annual awards ceremony and reception for all participants held in September. Winning recipients will be notified before this date.

YEAR 1
Beautification Certificate

→

YEARS 2-5
Superior Sustained Maintenance Award

→

YEAR 6
Golden Trowel Award

For more information contact

By Phone: 301-627-7758 (Brooke Westby)
Website: www.pgcbeautification.com
By Mail: Prince George's County Beautification Committee, Post Office Box 143, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20773
By Email: pgc.beautification@gmail.com

APPLICATION

Category of Entry: There are three major competition categories. Take care in determining which subcategory best describes your entry. You may check as many subcategories as you feel apply to your situation. Extra credit will be given to gardens that exhibit sustainable practices. **However, only one application per property will be accepted. Applications must be submitted by: MAY 1, 2026**

Sustainability: In addition to judging your efforts in beautifying your property, the judges will also check on your efforts to incorporate sustainability practices on your property. These can include: the use of planting native plants; efforts to conserve water through mulching, the use of rain barrels and drip irrigation; composting, and efforts to create wildlife habitat- water source, food sources, and shelter needs.

Choose the season that best showcases the garden:
All school gardens will be judged in the Spring time frame.

☐ Spring Garden (entry to be judged from May-June)
☐ Summer Garden (entry to be judged from July-August)

Residential

This category is for homeowners, renters, or professionally designed properties. Both homeowners and renters may submit; however, if a renter's entry was commercially designed and is also commercially maintained, the entry should reflect the property owner as the nominee and the renter as the nominator.

Garden Type:
☐ Front Yard ☐ Back Yard
☐ Specialty Area (e.g., herb, oriental, patio/deck, rock, rose, vegetable, rain, xeriscape)
Please Specify: _____

Community

This category allows subdivisions, municipalities, government agencies or faith-based organizations to enter beautification projects that have been done collectively. This would include schools or civic groups, groups of property owners, clubs or community properties.

Garden Type:
☐ School ☐ Public Building ☐ Place of Worship ☐ Community
☐ Specialty Public Project (e.g., median, road, community garden, common area, community entrance, playground/recreation area, wildflower, rain, vegetable, xeriscape)
Please Specify: _____

Commercial / Industrial

Commercial and industrial properties are eligible to compete. Apartment common areas – either as an individual building or as a group of buildings – should be identified by the address of the business office and not by the address of an individual's apartment.

Garden Type:
☐ Overall Complex ☐ Entrances/Common Areas
☐ Individual Commercial Property (i.e., bank, grocery, gas station, restaurant, retail shop)
Please Specify: _____

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Name of Entry (or Site):_____

(PRINT CLEARLY AND EXACTLY HOW CERTIFICATE SHOULD READ, IF AWARDED)

Address of Entry:_____Phone (required):_____

_____ Zip:_____ Email:_____

Directions (from Beltway or nearest major highway): _____

_____

_____

If entry is by a Resident or Citizen:

Nominated by:_____Phone (required):_____

Address:_____Email:_____

_____Zip:_____

If entry is by an Association, Municipality or Business:

Contact Person's Name:_____Phone (required):_____

Address:_____Email:_____

_____Zip:_____

☐ As a nominator, we have notified the homeowner/business they are being nominated for this award and they have agreed to have their property judged.

Photography Waiver:

This section must be filled out by nominee of garden:

☐ I do not want photography of myself or my garden used on the Beautification Committee website.

Please send the completed application to:

Mail: **Prince George's County Beautification Committee**
Post Office Box 143
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20773

Email: **pgc.beautification@gmail.com**

Remember:

Application deadline is: May 1, 2026

The Tree City USA® program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, provides direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of towns, cities and counties where more than 135 million Americans live. The many benefits of being a Tree City include creating a framework for action, education, a positive public image, and citizen pride.

Prince George's County has been given this award for 41 consecutive years. Receiving this national award is an excellent indicator that our County is taking its tree care responsibilities seriously.

TREE CITY USA