

America in Bloom 2022 Evaluation Report



Community: Pound Ridge, New York
Evaluation Dates: June 23-24, 2022

Lead Advisor: Sue Amatangelo
Co-Advisor: Carlo Balistreri

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.

| Seven Criteria (Codes) | Possible Points | Actual Points | Percentage |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Community Vitality (CV) | 76.00 | 55.00 | 72.36% |
| 2. Flowers (FL) | 96.00 | 77.00 | 80.20% |
| 3. Landscaped Areas (LA) | 84.00 | 65.00 | 77.38% |
| 4. Urban Forestry (UF) | 70.00 | 51.00 | 72.85% |
| 5. Environmental Efforts (EE) | 78.00 | 57.00 | 73.07% |
| 6. Celebrating Heritage (CH) | 66.00 | 59.00 | 89.39% |
| 7. Overall Impression (OI) | 80.00 | 67.00 | 83.75% |
| Other | | | |
| 8. Evaluation Tour Preparation & Actions (ET) | 13.00 | 13.00 | 100.00% |
| Scoring | | | |
| Total Points and Percentage | 563.00 | 444.00 | 78.86% |
| Star Rating | 8 | | |
| Community Involvement Total | 72 | 67 | 93.05% |

Star ratings are based on overall percentage.

1 star = 0% - 9.99% 2 stars = 10% – 10.99% 3 stars = 20% – 29.99% 4 stars = 30% – 39.99% 5 stars = 40% – 49.99%
 6 stars = 50% – 59.99% 7 stars = 60% – 69.99% 8 stars = 70% - 79.99% 9 stars = 80% – 89.99% 10 stars = 90% - 100%

| Community representatives to receive the Evaluation Report (three minimum) | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Name | Title | Email |
| Carolynn Sears | Chair, Growing Pound Ridge | carolynnsears@me.com |
| Kevin Hansan | Town Supervisor | supervisor@townofpoundridge.com |
| Elyse Arnow | Chair, Comprehensive Plan update | e.b.arnow@gmail.com |
| Diane Briggs | Councilwoman, Town Board | dbriggs@townofpoundridge.com |
| Tanja Vogel | Co-president, Pound Ridge Partnership | tanja@prpartnership.org |
| Tambra McCarthy | Co-president, Pound Ridge Partnership | tami@kahlocollective.com |
| Matt Polinsky | President, Friends of Pound Ridge | Matthew.Polinsky@cigna.com |
| Mary Bailly | President, Pound Ridge Garden Club | thebaillys@aol.com |
| Deb Benjamin | President, Pound Ridge Historical Society | dbbenjamin@verizon.net |
| Lisa Miller | Co- President, Pound Ridge Business Association | lisamariemiller1962@gmail.com |

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Jonathan Looper | Co- President, Pound Ridge Business Association | vadiathan@gmail.com |
| Nicole Engel | Chief of Staff | chiefofstaff@townofpoundridge.com |
| Sharbari Bose Kamat | Chair, Human Rights Advisory | sharbari.kamat@gmail.com |
| Ellen Grogan | Chair, Conservation Board | elgrogan@gmail.com |
| Dave Goldberg | Superintendent, Recreation | dgoldberg@townofpoundridge.com |

GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION:

Communities are required to provide the following prior to evaluation:

- Community Profile organized to follow the criteria and metrics. For repeat communities, call out what is new and/or implemented due to advisors' recommendations.
- Evaluation Tour Itinerary with start and finish times for each day
- Community Map with community boundaries and the tour route
- Communities are responsible for addressing the metrics in the Community Profile, Evaluation Tour Itinerary, and during the Evaluation Tour.

The areas to be scored:

Advisors will review Community Profiles, Community Maps, and Evaluation Tour Itineraries to confirm the appropriateness of the areas to be evaluated and contact communities prior to the tour so adjustments can be made.

- All areas (municipal, commercial, and residential) within the boundaries of the entrant's community/municipality (except as noted below) are scored and a representative portion of all areas must be included.
- Property to be scored, whether public or private, must be subject to the codes and regulations of the entrant's community/municipality.
- When a property does not meet these requirements, but the community's volunteers significantly impact the property with labor and/or funding, then advisors may include in their scoring the property not subject to the codes and regulations of the entrant community.
- A community may request recommendations for areas toured but not scored.

Metrics are noted with unique codes based on the criteria. Ratings include:

N/A (Not Applicable): Communities should strive to implement all metrics; however, advisors will use N/A when a metric is not scorable in a community. An N/A metric is not included in the point totals and does not affect percentages. Examples when N/A may apply in a metric: commercial/business areas do not exist; state or county statutes prevent implementation of a metric.

Not Started (0 pts.): programs or procedures are not in place.

Launched (1 pt.): programs or procedures are in place but not fully realized.

Achieved (2 pts.): programs or procedures are implemented but could be improved.

Surpassing (3 pts.): programs or procedures are well-implemented.

Excelling (4 pts.): programs or procedures are exceptional.

NS (Not Scored): preset in the Advisors' Discretion metric's point box for when a score there is not appropriate.

Advisors' Discretion (N/A, 3-4 pts.): advisors may add and score an item not in the metrics. This item must be an unusual or newly implemented project, program, or initiative that can be repeated in other communities and perhaps used as a future metric.

Other:

- This Evaluation Report's scoring, general observations, and general and criteria recommendations are based upon the community's efforts including its levels of participation in, or implementation of the metrics in each of the criteria.
- Future projects and programs are not scored.
- The scoring for the seven evaluation criteria is adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the community's location. Make sure the advisors are made aware of any challenges that were faced during the year.

General Observations and Recommendations (recommendations are indicated in italics):

Welcome, Pound Ridge to America in Bloom and congratulations on completing your first year in the program. The efforts and accomplishments in your community have garnered you an impressive 8-star rating!

Tucked away only about an hour and a half outside of the New York City limits and not far from the Connecticut border, you will find Pound Ridge, one of the best kept secrets on the east coast. One would never believe that this serene and beautiful area is so close to the largest and busiest city in the United States.

Pound Ridge is a robust business district that only 5 years ago saw empty storefronts and very little foot traffic. Typically a population around 3,000, Pound Ridge has seen an increase of residents that were once part times, now moving to the town permanently raising the population to just over 5,000. In 2013 a transformation began when the need to better the business district was evident and the timing was right.

If the Advisors were to choose one word to describe Pound Ridge and its residents we would have to say **PASSION!** The cooperation between organizations is outstanding. There was a request while we were visiting to find a way to increase communication needs to find a better route to make sure everyone is in the loop and working off of the same page. *Creating a community-wide calendar that all organizations can use with a master scheduler/information officer may help in the need. Although there is a calendar on your website, it is focused strictly on the date and time of meetings. The MSIO can schedule a monthly meeting with a representative from each organization and department that has community wide scheduling needs to make sure everyone is aware and informed. Plus minutes for each meeting can be posted with past minutes archived. This will allow everyone in the community the opportunity to get deeper involved in the community and the things that are happening. The superintendents' newsletter could also post the calendar each week for the following week as a reminder. A Google calendar would be another quick and inexpensive route to go.*

The Community Profile for Pound Ridge was well done and reflected the true characteristics of your community. It provided a wonderful initial overview and brought your community to life for the Advisors. The document was both impressive and informative. *Each year take the opportunity to work on your Community Profile by adding and sharpening the details of your city. Conduct focus groups with a number of residents from your community of different ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds to help you identify all the great things that Pound Ridge is known for and all the great things that are happening from their viewpoint. Try to reach out to those that typically do not get involved. Use the evaluation grid for each category to help you think of questions to ask and through your discussions you may be able to discover additional opportunities, thoughts, and ideas to add or to work on. Use the Community Profile in your efforts to attract new businesses, residents, and tourists to Pound Ridge. Each year add new information to each criterion including the events taking place, the awards you have received, future plans and comments made by residents and visitors. Add pictures to your community profile and when you have everything ready to go, post it on your town website, give copies to the Chamber, City Council, Real Estate Agents in and around Pound Ridge and any local organizations. It is the window to your community and will be a worthwhile document to attract potential new residents, businesses, and visitors.*



As you prepare for 2023, create an America in Bloom committee selecting a captain that will oversee each criterion and allow the captains to bring their own committee together focusing on their category. These individuals can help to make additions to the community profile and can put together the tour for the Advisors highlighting the category

with which they are responsible and even speak to the Advisors when they visit utilizing their expertise in the subject matter. This will help to lighten the load and will start to build your volunteer base. Apply for 501(c)(3) status for your America in Bloom committee.

Adding monthly information about America in Bloom and your activities to your town website and in your water bills will help to get the word out and get the entire community involved. Get Ellen Best of Talk of the Town and Neil Rentz at the Record-Review involved with routine information printed in their newspapers. Once the town begins to see positive movement they will want to know more. Keep everyone informed as best you can and don't hesitate to ask for their involvement. Volunteerism is such an important part of every community. Many times, residents would like to volunteer but they have no idea how to get involved. Provide the avenues for new volunteers to be able to throw their hat into the ring. Use every event as a means to collect names and email addresses, have a page on the town's website for sign-ups.

The women of Pound Ridge are active, engaged, and a strong force in much of what is created and/or executed in Pound Ridge. Select a date or a week each year to celebrate the Women of Pound Ridge. This can be another event facilitated by Sharbari Bose Kamat and/or the Chamber. You can even select a Woman of the Year to honor their work and dedication to the community.

When Pound Ridge sets its mind to something, the result is usually successful. Much success is due to the dedication of Carrie Sears and her team, as well as the many committees that are working to make Pound Ridge a great place to live, work, and play.

Once again, your 2022 America in Bloom Advisors, Carlo and Sue, would like to thank everyone involved in the tour for your warm welcome and your hospitality. You prepared a wonderful tour and made us feel right at home. Special thanks to Carrie Sears and Supervisor Kevin Hansan for all your preparation prior to our arrival, sharing the many facets of your community and answering the numerous questions we had throughout our two full days together. Special recognition and applause go out to the many Pound Ridge organizations and committees. Their tireless work to beautify the community is getting traction and moving it in a very positive direction. You are making a difference already in your community and you should be very proud of your accomplishments. We look forward to your return in 2023!



Our best to you,
Sue Amatangelo and Carlo Balistreri
2022 America in Bloom Advisors

| Community Vitality (CV) Criterion Definition | Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored) | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. COMMUNITY VITALITY (CV): policies, programs, activities, and facilities that lead to a vibrant community and a sense of well-being. Includes libraries, community centers, arts/cultural museums; and parks, playgrounds, dog parks, sports fields, water activities, trails, and other outdoor recreational opportunities | Not Applicable N/A | Not Started (0 pts) | Launched (1 pt) | Achieved (2 pts) | Surpassing (3 pts) | Excelling (4 pts) |
| a. Leadership and Policy | | | | | | |
| CV.a.01 - Municipal volunteer boards are in place and interfacing with municipality and businesses | | | | | | X |
| CV.a.02 - Municipality offers grants to neighborhood associations for enhancements | X | | | | | |
| CV.a.03 - Master plan in place for public green space and parks | | | | | X | |
| CV.a.04 - ADA accessibility in public areas and other programs for inclusion | | | | X | | |
| CV.a.05 - Promotion of alternative transportation: pedestrian, bicycling, car/van pools, and/or ride sharing | | | | X | | |
| b. Facilities and Events | | | | | | |
| CV.b.01 - Outdoor recreation facilities meet community needs: parks, playgrounds, splash pads, dog parks, sports fields, sports courts, swimming pools, golf courses, kayak/canoe trails, public access to water bodies, etc. | | | | | X | |
| CV.b.02 - Walking, biking, and exercise trail network in place and is safe, well lit, and connects to a larger network | | | | X | | |
| CV.b.03 - Performances/events for art, dance, theatre, music, and/or cinema available | | | | X | | |
| CV.b.04 - Run/walk/bike/kayak/canoe events are held | | | | X | | |
| CV.b.05 - Benches and seating available near walking, exercise, and playground areas | | | | | X | |
| CV.b.06 - Structures, shade sails, or trees provide shade for spectators and/or participants | | | | | X | |
| CV.b.07 - Play areas exist, age-appropriate ranges of equipment offered, and ADA compliant and conform to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and inspected by Certified Playground Safety Inspector | | | | | X | |
| CV.b.08 - Public library/resources center is available for all ages and abilities | | | | | | X |
| CV.b.09 - Community center is available | | | | | X | |
| CV.b.10 - Farmers' Market(s) is available | | | | | X | |

| c. Community Involvement | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|----|----|-------------------|---|
| CV.c.01 - Community gardening sites are in use | X | | | | | |
| CV.c.02 - Level of participation in food banks, hunger-relief, Plant a Row for the Hungry (GardenComm initiative), etc. | | | | | X | |
| CV.c.03 - Participation in civic events such as Bike to Work Days, Walk to School Days, etc. | | | | X | | |
| CV.c.04 - Voluntary (non-mandated HOA) neighborhood organizations in place | X | | | | | |
| CV.c.05 - Programs in place to encourage youth involvement | | | | | | X |
| CV.c.06 - Recognition programs for volunteers | | | | | | X |
| d. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note | | | | | | |
| CV.d.01 - Advisors to enter text below | | NS | NS | NS | X | |
| Outstanding volunteerism. | | | | | | |
| Totals: | Possible Points | Actual Points | | | Percentage | |
| 1. Community Vitality (CV) | 76 | 55 | | | 72.36% | |

Community Vitality (CV) Recommendations:

Nobody does volunteerism better than Pound Ridge. They are a force to be reckoned with and get much done in and around the community. Part of their success is due to the ability of committees, organizations and positions to work in a collaborative manner. Both young and old alike, get involved and stay both mentally and physically active.



Currently, Pound Ridge has 6 walking only trails. Neighboring communities have multi use trails that can be used by walkers, bikers, runners and even equestrians and there are a few trails in and around Pound Ridge. Unfortunately, due to the topography of the area it would seem an impossible task to be able to increase the number of trails in your community and to connect them with others. *Although it may seem difficult, perhaps there is an opportunity for a collaboration of homeowners and neighboring communities to work on mapping out a trail that connects everyone and even provides a safe route for children to and from school. Bike trails in Pound Ridge that connect to other trails across the state*

would be something to work towards but it will take time and should be considered a long-term goal while working towards short term successes. Bike trails will help to keep everyone physically fit no matter whether you run, walk, or ride, and will bring visiting bicycle enthusiasts to your town who will stay for a while which is always a plus. In the meantime, temporary trails can be set up in Pound Ridge to accommodate residents as well as visitors. Trails can be set up off of the main roads and routed in such a way that they take the rider past some of the historic sights and highlights of the city. The use of



bike signage such as the one pictured above will help to keep bikers on course and a trail map online and brochure pointing out areas of interest available at city hall will be appreciated. Create stops on the map including picnic areas, and playgrounds. As you grow your trails and are able to connect with other local communities, you will find additional visitors adding Pound Ridge to their travel plans as well as new opportunities for businesses, races, and events. Contact Rails to Trails, <https://www.railstotrails.org>, to see if there is grant funding available for this effort. Be ready for that influx with available bike racks and areas where bike repairs can be made. The addition of a bike repair center at each end of the city will be appreciated should a tire go flat or if a repair needs to be made before hitting the trail again. Once your bike trails are in place, schedule Bike to Work/Bike to School days throughout the year.



There is an immediate need in Pound Ridge to have ADA accessibility. It is estimated that 26 handicap children live in the area and when visitors come to town that number could go up. Having access for handicapped children to playgrounds and picnic areas will go a long way. It will go even farther if you are look upon as being an ADA-friendly community. ADA-accessible picnic tables would be a good addition to your parks to accommodate wheelchairs. The tables should sit on a cement pad and the journey from the parking area to the playground easily traversed at all play areas for handicapped children. Consider simple modifications to all of the Pound Ridge parks to create inclusive playgrounds. See the following website: <https://www.theparkcatalog.com/blog/picnic-tables-ada/>

Although a few playgrounds in Pound Ridge are set up for ADA accessibility most stop short of having ADA accessible play equipment. *Add an ADA accessible swing to all existing swing sets. See the following website for Expression Swings:* <https://www.gametime.com/products/playground-equipment/expression>

Proper play area surfaces are also important for all children. *Poured-in-Place is a surface material that can support wheelchairs and is safe for play for all children, much more than loose surfaces. It has the added benefit of being slip-resistant and soft. Consider adding Poured-in-Place surfaces to your playgrounds.*

<https://www.duraflexsurfacing.com/poured-in-place.html>



Have your play areas checked for safety by a reputable and certified organization like The National Recreation and Parks Association or The National Program for Playground Safety. The Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) certification program is the most comprehensive training program on playground hazard identification and risk management methods offered nationwide. National Program for Playground Safety Inspectors have earned certification by successfully completing a playground inspector course and specialize in inspecting for good zoning to allow for safe user behavior, durability of equipment, proper surfacing materials, ADA compliance, developmentally appropriateness, and safe environmental conditions. *You can search for a safety inspector in your area by going to* <https://www.playgroundsafety.org/take-action/find-playground-inspector>. *Better yet, provide someone in the Recreation Department the opportunity to become a Certified Playground Safety Instructor so you'll always have someone on staff that can make sure you are always in compliance and children will be safe.*

Opportunities to add a splash pad on the opposite side of town from Town Park could be considered and will ease the traffic at the Town Park pools on a hot summer day, provide a wheelchair accessible water feature that can be enjoyed by handicapped individuals, of all ages.

The roads in Pound Ridge are in good shape but can be narrow and dangerous especially when it is dark. The turnaround time from the moment a call comes into the Pound Ridge Lions Ambulance Corps until help can arrive on site can be as much as 20 minutes. *The availability of CPR Training to everyone in the community can help to save a life and is something you should consider having on a routine and ongoing basis. Even the schools can have CPR training a requirement if their students.*



Dog Parks and parks where dogs are welcome are a great way to get our furry friends out and stretch their legs. It's also a great way for both the dog and the owner to meet new friends. Having water available for the dogs, particularly on a hot day after they have been out running and playing, is essential. If water is not tapped into these parks, you'll want to add a fountain that is easily accessible by the dogs and will provide clean, fresh water for both. We recommend adding drinking fountains downtown and in the parks that include doggie bowls. Products made by Most Dependable Fountain are attractive and low maintenance. This will cut down on the use of water bottles and keep pets refreshed. Visit: <http://www.mostdependable.com/products/pet-fountains/> Shade areas are also essential and if tree shade is not available then add shade sails so there is a place for both dogs and their owners to get out of the sun. Adding agility

equipment to the dog parks will add to the fun and help to make the outing even more enjoyable and exciting for your dogs. Companies such as Dog-On-It Parks provide the safe, fun exercise and agility equipment as well as fountains, water features, benches and tables. You can find more information at: www.dog-on-it-parks.com

Community volunteer organizations make this community tick. Groups like Friends of Pound Ridge, Growing Pound Ridge, Pound Ridge Partnership, Neighbor to Neighbor, and so on are active and contributing their time and talents to Pound Ridge. The fire station alone has 65 volunteers. Pound Ridge also has a knack for getting teens involved in their community which will go a long way towards keeping them as contributing residents and will be valuable in the long run. Students like Kyle Vogel and Greg Ronel have skills that would be very beneficial to Pound Ridge. The mapping application called Traipse, which Kyle is working on, will be fun and educational for visitors and new residents. *Enhance this app by adding QR codes to each shop and dining establishment that will take you to the town's website to see menus, or merchandise and any other important information.*

The Pound Ridge Public library is the heart of the community. They host an overwhelming number of programs to benefit adults and children each month. *Work with John Gutierri at Pound Ridge Nursery to hold a monthly educational seminar on any aspect of horticulture. Hands on experience is always the best way to learn and be inspired and including classes for children will help them get the gardening bug early.*

Seniors are a big part of Pound Ridge and the ability to get them out and active is extremely important. Many in your community, including Louise Paolicelli, are working hard to make sure every senior is not left alone. The social interaction with children is priceless for both the child and the senior citizen. The dynamic of youth and adult involvement can be viewed at Providence Mount St. Vincent a senior living community in Seattle that has established a licensed preschool where children and the elderly come together in an intergenerational care home. Both young and old interact on a daily basis with shared games, cooking lessons, and storytelling sessions. Practical benefits include increased communication skills, seniors teaching young minds new tricks, and the children engaging with and entertaining the residents in the way that children always do. This intergenerational exposure goes beyond an emotional bond and life lessons learned and the benefits are seen in not only the children but in the adults as well. Frequent interaction with children throughout their day helps alleviate symptoms of loneliness and isolation. It also encourages seniors to engage in physical activity by playing with the children, enjoying the spirit and joy that children bring. *Bring your seniors and children together by sharing a simple bag lunch. It is easy to do, a great place to start, and will make a lasting impression on all.*



It may seem like a small and insignificant point but the Market would benefit from the addition of cart corrals in the parking lot. While the Advisors were visiting, carts were left in many different places and one customer in particular seemed lost trying to figure out what to do with her cart. This will keep the parking lot neat and tidy and will help to avoid a runaway cart that could hurt someone or damage a vehicle.

| Flowers Criterion Definition | Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored) | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2. FLOWERS (FL): flowering annuals, perennials, bulbs, tropical plants, flowering topiaries, and colorful foliage and/or cut plant material for season-round interest for displays in containers, hanging baskets, window boxes, raised planters, trellises, and in-ground beds | Not Applicable N/A | Not Started (0 pts) | Launched (1 pt) | Achieved (2 pts) | Surpassing (3 pts) | Excelling (4 pts) |
| a. Leadership and Policy | | | | | | |
| FL.a.01 - Public or private management of flower displays | | | | | X | |
| FL.a.02 - Program to encourage, expand understanding of role and importance of pollinator habitats | | | | | X | |
| b. Plan of Action | | | | | | |
| FL.b.01 - Action plan developed each season for procurement, scheduling, planting, and maintenance of flower displays | | | | | | X |
| FL.b.02 - Recognition program(s) in place for attractive displays by businesses and/or residential | | | | | X | |
| FL.b.03 - Demonstration/display garden(s) with labeled flowers in place and promoted | | | X | | | |
| FL.b.04 - Effective communication about selection and care of flowers for beautification and pollinator habitats | | | | | X | |
| c. Design | | | | | | |
| FL.c.01 - Unity and Variety: plant combinations create visual interest and dramatic effect while appearing coordinated | | | | | X | |
| FL.c.02 - Suitability of Plant Selections: plants selected for location and environmental conditions | | | | | X | |
| FL.c.03 - Distribution and Location: displays found throughout the community | | | | | X | |
| FL.c.04 - Location: displays are located to serve as focal points | | | | | X | |
| FL.c.05 - Seasonal Displays: seasonal displays with spring, summer, fall, and/or holiday displays | | | | X | | |
| FL.c.06 - Scale: if hanging baskets are in use, their size is in scale to their surroundings | | | | | X | |
| FL.c.07 - Scale: if containers are in use, their size is in scale to their surroundings | | | | | X | |
| F.L.c.08 – Scale: in-ground flower displays are designed with mature plant heights in mind | | | | | | X |
| FL.c.09 - Color: pleasing color combinations (monochromatic, analogous, and/or complementary) are used | | | | | | X |
| FL.c.10 - Form: uses a number of different textures in all floral displays | | | | | | X |
| d. Maintenance | | | | | | |
| FL.d.01 - Watering procedures to maintain growth in place | | | | | | X |
| FL.d.02 - Fertilization: appropriate fertilization procedures using slow-release, liquid fertilizers, and/or soil amendments | | | | | X | |
| FL.d.03 - Grooming: regular pruning, dead-heading, removal and replacement of dead plants | | | | | | X |
| FL.d.04 - Plant health strategies in place to monitor and manage pests and diseases (IPM-Integrated Pest Management) | | | | X | | |
| FL.d.05 - Health and Vigor: plants are robust and floriferous | | | | | | X |

| e. Community Involvement | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----|---|---|
| FL.e.01 - Volunteers provide donations and/or funds and/or participate in the design, planting, and/or care of flower displays | | | | | | X |
| FL.e.02 - Civic groups, garden clubs, Master Gardeners, school programs, etc., sponsor plant sales, plant swaps, provide information, or educational sessions that contribute to the quality and implementation of the community's flower displays | | | | | | X |
| f. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note | | | | | | |
| FL.f.01 - Advisors to enter text below | | NS | NS | NS | X | |
| Mixed plantings in Scott's Corners are outstanding. | | | | | | |
| Totals: | Possible Points | Actual Points | Percentage | | | |
| 2. Flowers (FL) | 96 | 77 | 80.20% | | | |

Flowers (FL) Recommendations:

Pound Ridge uses flowers in a different way than many communities. Rather than an in-your-face display of color, flash, and pizzazz, they subtly and charmingly elevate the experience of their downtown with a display that is not so much diamonds flashing from tiaras, as it is a single strand of fine pearls.

There are baskets and annuals aplenty, but the special floral charm of Pound Ridge is its mixed plantings, present along the streets, in front of and between businesses, lining pass-through walkways, and in pocket parks. Smart use of perennials and annuals, flowering plants and foliage, trees and shrubs—along with garden design fundamentals—result in plantings that would not be out of place consorting with a fine home. An advantage to more permanent plantings is the minimization of costly and time-consuming change-outs throughout the season. While seasonal displays still occur, the multi-season interest in Pound Ridge plantings adds its own value to the downtown aesthetic.

Pound Ridge is blessed with a group of organizations and businesses that contribute to their floral efforts. The town, with many volunteer committees and boards, is involved, as are numerous independent non-profit organizations put together by concerned residents and businesses.



While the municipality is on-board with downtown efforts, it is largely private organizations—Pound Ridge Partnership (PRP) and the Pound Ridge Business Association, that drive forward momentum. Beautification is a primary goal, “prettier, cleaner, neater” a catch-phrase overheard. The PRP in particular has had a massive impact completing landscape projects; new, period lampposts with a memorial plan to allow interested parties to donate to the effort; and flower baskets at strategic locations.

While much of the successful fundraising being conducted goes into somewhat invisible infrastructure studies, the generosity and grant money also benefits the beautification of the Scott’s Corners Business District, the Hamlet and the businesses located there. These downtown areas are critically important as a place to meet and engage with fellow residents. They are the Town’s center, its beating heart.



Another player, the Pound Ridge Conservation Board, comes out of the preserves and into downtown to promote the Pollinator Pathway effort of the town. On-street pollinator gardens ornament the front of local businesses and are marked with the Pollinator Pathway medallion. *The Pollinator Pathway can be set up as an educational and fun tool for children and adults to follow the pollinator pathway find the medallions and learn about the different pollinators and about the flowers in the beds. The information can be set up on the town website and be available for anyone wanting to build a pollinator garden.*

The Pound Ridge Garden Club, 80 years young, is actively engaged in several projects around town and conducts an annual daffodil (and other) bulb sale. Two projects are worthy of special mention. One is a rain garden packed with native plants at the roadside in front of an historic home. The other is a perfect complement to their annual

daffodil sale. They've created a "Daffodil Drive," complete with a map, which pulls residents out of their homes and onto town roads, guiding drivers past the most beautiful daffodil displays.

Even the library gets into the power of the flower. With support from the PRP, The Pound Ridge Library has created a "Local and Heirloom Seed Collection." It's a seed library AT the library. Seed donors bring in native and heirloom seeds, they are sorted, packaged and 'catalogued' by name in an old-fashioned card catalogue. The idea is that anyone can 'borrow' seeds, plant them in their gardens, grow, flower, and then collect and 'return' seed so that others can share in the bounty. No one is dinged for not returning seed, but the hope is that the project sustains itself.



Because consistency of "look" helps establish a feel or brand for the downtown area in particular, we recommend that uniform guidelines for Westchester Avenue be established from the Hamlet through the Scott's Corners Business District. The goal would not be to change the current display, but to respect the individuality and creativity already present and enhance it, tying it all together with a common thread weaving through.

As eyes are opened to floral possibilities, education of, and information sharing with the public become more important. The right moves in this regard will leverage downtown efforts and people will take home ideas to use in their own landscapes. To add—in a very visible way—to the work already being done by stakeholder organizations, we recommend that one or more downtown plantings be set up as demonstration garden with labels and interpretive panels to open discussion about the selection and care of flowers for the home gardens. The local garden center can also set up a display garden. This will serve to benefit both new and experienced gardeners and will increase the foot traffic in the garden center. A definite win for everyone.

Pound Ridge is a very private community, protective of its resident's solitude. It has developed, and is laid out in a manner that all but precludes the ability to assess homeowner gardens. Despite these facts, residents—as in other municipalities—are deservedly proud of their homes and gardens. Many communities conduct holiday home tours as fundraisers for one group or another. To engage the community more fully in efforts to beautify the town, we recommend that an effort be undertaken to assess whether there would be interest in a seasonal private garden tour/award program. Although people create gardens or landscapes largely for the adornment of their own homes, almost everyone enjoys sharing that accomplishment in a controlled way with interested people.

Given the active interest in flowers and floral display and the number of stakeholders who contribute to the effort, we recommend that Pound Ridge adopt a town flower and consider it for a new logo. Once you have done that, plant the flower in your hanging baskets and container plantings, sell the flower at a spring plant sale both individually and in a container garden and have a festival centered around the flower. Increase the communication about your new town flower and others that are being planted in the community for beautification and pollinator habitats. Use the local newspaper, and the town website to get your message and the information out.

Growing Pound Ridge takes care of the flower pots and watering of the beautiful flowers in Scotts Corners. Baskets and containers are fertilized and watered by hand. Using grass or coir baskets in the hanging baskets can mean watering more than once a day to account for evaporation due to excessive heat and/or wind. Hanging baskets can benefit from the installation of an automatic irrigation system. This will alleviate some of the labor time needed to routinely water but you will be able to monitor and adjust the watering cycles. When you are ready



to make the investment, many communities have purchased irrigation systems and can be a wealth of knowledge before you move forward. America in Bloom can connect you with one of those communities. Changing your containers to those with reservoirs is another idea and can help to keep the plantings consistently watered. There is a benefit realized with these containers as they will hold the fertilizer and give the nutrients back to the plants rather than having it run through the basket and on to the sidewalk.

Recognize your downtown businesses that are doing so much to dress up their business and the main corridor with your own version of the America in Bloom Door Hanger. It was obvious on our tour that they are appreciated and will hopefully be a catalyst for businesses to do more and to get their neighbors to do the same.

Consider creating space for a butterfly garden in Town Park. This colorful garden can become a teaching tool for children and adults while serving as a Monarch Waystation. Providing nectar plants and host plants for larvae, monarchs are able to produce successive generations and sustain their migration. A Monarch release can be done at the elementary schools, plants that attract butterflies can be planted around the city and residents can learn about the best pollinator plants to add to their landscape. See the following website:

<https://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/>

| Landscaped Areas Criterion Definition | Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored) | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | Not Applicable N/A | Not Started (0 pts) | Launched (1 pt) | Achieved (2 pts) | Surpassing (3 pts) | Excelling (4 pts) |
| 3. LANDSCAPED AREAS (LA): plants and related programs for the leadership, design, installation, and maintenance of landscape. Includes shrubs, ornamental grasses, vines, succulents, edibles, evergreen topiaries, turf, and groundcovers | | | | | | |
| a. Leadership and Policy | | | | | | |
| LA.a.01 - Management of planting public landscaped areas | | | | | X | |
| LA.a.02 - Municipal landscape ordinance requires landscaping and maintenance for new and/or improved commercial development | | | NS | X | NS | NS |
| LA.a.03 - Municipal ordinance requiring landscaping for new residential developments | | | NS | X | NS | NS |
| b. Plan of Action | | | | | | |
| LA.b.01 - Planning for restoration of natural areas | | | | | | X |
| LA.b.02 - Strategy for management of invasive plants | | | | | X | |
| LA.b.03 - Demonstration/display gardens with interpretive signage (pollinator, wildlife, native, low-water use, etc.) in place and promoted | | | | | X | |
| LA.b.04 - Effective communication of “Right Plant in the Right Place” and other planting issues | | | | X | | |
| LA.b.05 - Recognition program for attractive landscapes in place | | | | | X | |
| LA.b.06 - School gardening programs in place for multiple grades | | | | | X | |
| c. Design | | | | | | |
| LA.c.01 - Unity and Variety: plant combinations create visual interest while appearing coordinated | | | | | X | |
| LA.c.02 - Suitability of Plant Selections: plants selected for location and environmental conditions | | | | | X | |
| LA.c.03 - Distribution/Locations: landscaping found throughout the community and at key locations | | | | | X | |
| d. Maintenance | | | | | | |
| LA.d.01 - Grooming: pruning of plants, removal and/or replacement of dead plants | | | | | X | |
| LA.d.02 - Plant Health: Plants display health and vigor, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies in place to monitor and manage diseases and pests | | | | X | | |
| LA.d.03 – Mulch from renewable and sustainable sources is used by the municipality in appropriate places | | | | | | X |
| LA.d.04 - Weed Management: strategies in place to manage weeds (removal, mulching, etc.) | | | | | X | |
| LA.d.05 - Health and Vigor: plants are robust | | | | | X | |
| LA.d.06 - Turf Care: proper mowing, edging, and replacement of dead turf | | | | | X | |
| LA.d.07 - Turf Health: Grassy areas display health and vigor, and procedures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) are in place to monitor and manage diseases, pests, and weeds | | | X | | | |

| e. Community Involvement | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----|--|---|
| LA.e.01 - Volunteers assist in funding, design, installation, and/or care of landscaped areas and/or turf in public areas | | | | | | X |
| LA.e.02 - Community educational programs offered related to plant material, including specialty gardens | | | | | | X |
| f. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note | | | | | | |
| LA.f.01 - Advisors to enter text below | | NS | NS | NS | | X |
| Strategy for management of invasive plants is commendable. | | | | | | |
| Totals: | Possible Points | Actual Points | Percentage | | | |
| 3. Landscaped Areas (LA) | 84 | 65 | 77.38% | | | |

Landscaped Areas (LA) Recommendations:

Pound Ridge is a reclaimed town. Reclaimed from land long ago cleared for agriculture by the settlers who occupied it. Reclaimed by the forest that once covered it.

Stories are told of views all the way to New York City. Now, as late resident Sara Stein wrote nearly thirty-five years ago in *My Weeds: A Gardener's Botany*, "...you can hardly see the condos for the trees...."



Any discussion of the landscaped areas of Pound Ridge must start with the fact that this town is not like most small cities. The municipality sprawls over 25 square miles. Lot sizes are large and neighbors are, for the most part, invisible. Homes and their landscapes are beautifully cared for, and very attractive. Most of the people who call Pound Ridge home (either permanently, or on weekends) came here for privacy and solitude.

Pound Ridge Town Park is the most prominent, public, landscaped area. It is just outside the downtown commercial district, Scott's Corners. It has great topography and is completely treed, but for a pond that provides winter skating and summer fishing, ball fields that double as concert and event space, and a wonderful pool/cafe complex available to paying members (both resident and nonresident). It is wonderfully managed by the recreation and maintenance departments and is, outside of the shops and restaurants downtown, THE gathering spot for residents when they decide to get together.

Should residents want to escape their own wooded enclaves, the Town is ringed with significant acreage in the town is devoted to parks and preserves that are largely preserved/managed woodlands including the largest in Westchester County, the Ward Pound Ridge Reservation at 4700 acres. Trails, campsites and picnic areas abound, and the Trailside Nature Museum is open every day but Monday and Tuesday.

Thoughtful care of individual and public landscapes is vitally important since town water is supplied by well, and there is no sewage system, municipal reservoir or water treatment plant. Since all water for household use comes from the aquifer below the town, the quality of that water is paramount. There are reservoirs in the area, but they provide drinking water to Connecticut and New York City. They are protected by large acreages to keep the water as clean as possible.



Nature's reclamation of Pound Ridge continues apace, and the several recommendations that follow, upon reflection, all deal with managing nature's moves in one respect or another. Sara Stein once more: "The rapidity with which this once bucolic village has been overgrown by woods makes you wonder about the place of gardens, agricultural or horticultural, in the natural scheme of things. They don't seem long for this world." Staying one step ahead in this never-ending game becomes the goal.

Pound Ridge is to be commended for its "Invasive Project—Pound Ridge" (IPPR). This effort is a public/private partnership to "encourage and coordinate efforts to reduce existing infestations and to prevent new ones from occurring through scientific study, education, early detection and rapid response." It's a model program, a

collaborative task force between the Pound Ridge Conservation Board and the Henry Morgenthau Preserve, and the Bedford Audubon Society that would be of great use to other communities...and one that does double duty here in landscaped areas as well as urban forestry. Early detection and rapid response is an important goal, but attacking already established populations is equally important. One of their purposes is to encourage and coordinate efforts to reduce existing infestations. *One way to do so would be to set up a formal triage program to collect the location and size of existing infestations spotted by partner organizations, preserve staff, Master Gardeners, citizen scientists and volunteers; rate them for significance and likelihood that they could be a source population for further outbreaks, and then use the resulting list to attack the most important situations first. Using the collective of dedicated residents already in place to identify and eradicate “invasive zero” populations will attack the source, and help prevent new populations from arising.*



Tours of Town Park and preserve areas revealed an enormous amount of Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans* and/or related species), particularly—as might be expected—near edge habitat. This results in it being heavily present on or very near walkways, play areas, and places where people are likely to come into contact with it. While it is not dangerous to humans, there was also a significant population of garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). The concern here is garlic mustard’s romping takeover of places it isn’t controlled. *We recommend that poison ivy and garlic mustard be targeted by the above recommended triage program as category one invasive for removal—starting in the trafficked areas of Town Park, and along preserve trails. Staff and/or volunteers should familiarize themselves with the various forms of poison ivy, and the leaf shape of garlic mustard, then survey all areas near paths and other places people are close to edge habitat in Town Park and other highly traveled public green spaces, and flag populations for treatment and/or removal. Methodology for the eventual removal and disposal of these plants should be done in accordance with Town ordinances. Nota bene: do NOT burn poison ivy. The volatile oils (urushiol) that cause the classic irritation can be carried by smoke which, when breathed in, can cause serious health consequences. In addition, it should not be composted. The best method to handle pulled poison ivy is to bag all vines and leaves and put them in the trash. Look into the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for recommendation of eradication and possible grant opportunities.*

Although tame by comparison, weed problems in turf, particularly downtown and in heavily used areas, can be unsightly and not in keeping with the level of excellence exhibited in gardened areas. We recommend identifying public areas that need help with weed issues, and collaborating with private property owners in public areas to improve turf areas and help handle weed issues. Take a closer look at the health of the turf in the parks and areas such as around Stickasaurus. Work with the Pound Ridge Partnership, its committee “Growing Pound Ridge”, the Pound Ridge Conservation Board, the Invasive Project: Pound Ridge to identify public ‘hot spots’ and create an approach for dealing with privately owned property—particularly in the publicly visible areas of downtown. In some instances, addressing turf weed issues may be as simple as a hand-pulling program combined with a plan to improve turf health. Other outbreaks may require larger efforts such as excavation and re-sodding.





The Pound Ridge Elementary School could benefit from the addition of landscaping on all sides of the building. As a learning environment, plants can play a part in the mental well-being of children. Pound Ridge Pride Day which happens each year when the town gets together to beautify the business district is a great time to get this done. It is also a great time to get children to join in. Being around plants helps people concentrate better in the home, in schools, and in the workplace. Studies show that tasks performed while under the calming influence of nature are performed better and with greater accuracy, yielding a higher quality result. Moreover, being outside in a natural environment can improve memory performance and attention span by twenty

percent. Being around natural environments improves the ability of children with Attention Deficit Disorder to focus, concentrate, and engage more with their surrounding environment. While you are at it, remove any trees and/or shrubs that are no longer alive.

The children's gardening program at the elementary school is well done. It's a wonderful gathering and educational place for children. To get one's hands in the dirt can be a life changer. Be sure to include not only vegetables but also herbs, flowers, and brambles. The biggest challenge for this garden is getting children scheduled to cover the watering, weeding and harvesting during the summer months when school is on break. Setting up a Google calendar so that students can work in teams to cover the garden will make light work for everyone. Adding a picnic table inside the garden where they can sit in the shade and providing cool beverages and maybe an enticement with a coupon for ice cream will help tremendously. Schedule the students to arrive early in the morning while it is still relatively cool outside and for no more than one hour at a time. Put together a gardening club that students voluntarily join and participate. Before school starts in the fall, have a garden party. It's a great way to get children engaged in science. Bring back high school students to mentor the elementary school students and share what they learned about gardening.



Keep the gardens growing by applying for grants specifically designated for school gardens. Many can be found at: <https://kidsgardening.org/garden-grants/>. Also check into the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) website where every year they awards grants to help connect students to the sources of their food through education, taste tests, school gardens, field trips, and local food sourcing for school meals. The farm to school grant program will be supporting 176 grants, serving 6,800 schools and more than 1.4 million students.

Finally, we recommend that funding be sought for a deer density study to help assess efforts of town control measures. Everyone knows the pernicious effect of the combination of deer and automobiles. No one who gardens anywhere in the Northeast needs to know what deer + gardens equals. Deer management is a significant concern in all communities where they roam—both because of the danger of deer/car collisions and the animals' impact on the landscape. Pound Ridge has a plan, and the "Pound Ridge Deer Management Program" has been held up as an example to other communities. BUT, without a study to examine the carrying capacity of the land in Pound Ridge, and the density and health of the Town's herd, there is no way to determine, other than anecdotally, whether the

program is achieving its objectives. New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is responsible for managing New York's wild deer. They are in the same position as the Town in terms of needing to understand what the carrying capacity of the land is, and how the herd is benefiting or harming people. Knowledge of their programs will be a big help. Grants for environmental protection and improvement are available to municipalities, community organizations, non-profits. These can be found at www.dec.ny.gov. An application from a collaboration of the Town, non-profits, and community organizations (rather than just one) is likely to get more favorable consideration. If the study can be folded into research on chronic wasting disease (a consequence of high deer populations), the Wildlife Management Institute (www.wildlifemanagement.institute.org) also has grant funds available.

| Urban Forestry Criterion Definition | Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored) | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 4. URBAN FORESTRY (UF): trees and related programs for the leadership, management, design, installation, and maintenance on public and private lands | Not Applicable N/A | Not Started (0 pts) | Launched (1 pt) | Achieved (2 pts) | Surpassing (3 pts) | Excelling (4 pts) |
| a. Leadership and Policy | | | | | | |
| UF.a.01 - Qualified personnel are on staff or accessing trained individuals such as arborists and/or urban foresters | X | | | | | |
| UF.a.02 - Tree board/commission and/or department is active | | | | | X | |
| UF.a.03 - Municipal ordinance(s) enacted/enforced for tree preservation on public and/or private property | | | NS | X | NS | NS |
| UF.a.04 - Municipal ordinance(s) enacted/enforced for protection of trees during construction | | X | NS | | NS | NS |
| UF.a.05 - Currently a Tree City USA community | | | NS | X | NS | NS |
| b. Plan of Action | | | | | | |
| UF.b.01 - Tree inventory for public areas is complete and current within the past ten years | | | | | | X |
| UF.b.02 - Annual tree planting program for public areas | | | | | X | |
| UF.b.03 - Management strategies for removal of dead, imperiled, and invasive trees in public areas | | | | | X | |
| UF.b.04 - Policy for recognition and protection of historic trees | | X | | | | |
| UF.b.05 - Effective communication to residents of recommended trees, proper planting, "Right Tree in the Right Place," mulching, placement and spacing, and/or maintenance | | | | | X | |
| c. Design | | | | | | |
| UF.c.01 - Variety: current practices include appropriate selection and diversity of tree species being planted | | | | | | X |
| UF.c.02 - Placement: current practices include appropriate spacing and planting area for optimal root and canopy growth | | | | | X | |
| UF.c.03 - Planting: current practices include correct tree planting depth (trunk flare at/above grade) | | | | | X | |
| UF.c.04 - Arboretum/Park in place with labels and descriptive signage | X | | | | | |
| d. Maintenance | | | | | | |
| UF.d.01 - Tree Health: strategies in place to monitor and manage diseases and pests | | | | X | | |
| UF.d.02 - Watering, mulching, and pruning for new trees: procedures for watering and proper mulching (i.e., no volcano mulching) in place and effectively communicated to the public | | | | X | | |
| UF.d.03 - Pruning for established trees: appropriate pruning, removal of dead limbs, and canopies raised adequately above vehicle and pedestrian areas | | | | | X | |

| e. Community Involvement | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|----|----|-------------------|---|
| UF.e.01 - Policy for donations to tree planting in public areas (memorial trees, etc.) in place | | | | | X | |
| UF.e.02 - Community participates in Arbor Day activities | | | | | | X |
| UF.e.03 - Volunteers assist in tree planting and/or care | | | | | X | |
| f. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note | | | | | | |
| UF.f.01 - Advisors to enter text below | | NS | NS | NS | | X |
| Tagged trees in Halle's Ravine. | | | | | | |
| Totals: | Possible Points | Actual Points | | | Percentage | |
| 4. Urban Forestry (UF) | 70 | 51 | | | 72.85% | |

Urban Forestry (UF) Recommendations:

Pound Ridge’s landscape is defined by its trees. The Town gives the impression it sprang forth fully realized from the hardwood forests of the northeast—that it is as it has always been. Its miles of ancient stone walls tell another story.

There is no shortage of trees in Pound Ridge. The canopy is lush, beautiful, and well maintained. Pound Ridge has a near complete tree canopy of good-sized deciduous hardwoods and remnant hemlock. It’s hard to believe it’s nearly all second growth and that the entire area was clear-cut years ago for crops and livestock. The rebounding forest has made the “Mother Nature always wins” adage remarkably clear...and she has no intention of giving up.



Stein again: “Our town prides itself on its rural atmosphere. Unlike nearby Greenwich, with its groomed estates, or Scarsdale, neatly done in lawns and hedges, Pound Ridge is wild. Rocky ridges punctuate a woodland tangled with head high mountain laurel, whose trunks are sinuous with age. The woods are stuffed with oaks and hickories; the roads are lined with sugar maples.... Most homes are in woodland; if there is any grass at all, it grows in a clearing that looks like a concession to children’s play. Driving the hilly back roads in summer one is hardly aware that there are homes behind the obscuring net of woodland. There are no views.”

The Pound Ridge Land Conservancy owns 19 preserves (six with publicly accessible trails), and partners with the Westchester Land Trust on protection by conservation easement for other property. Nature is left pretty much to her own devices, except for issues of health, safety, accessibility, and invasive plant removal (all primarily trail related). *But management is important. Because of its density, continuous attention is a necessity.*

Hazardous tree/tree health assessment, the allowing of desirable trees and discouraging of those that are not, and removal of problem plants are all critical elements of a healthy urban forest on both public and private lands. Much of that work is in private hands given the high percentage of land area covered by residential real estate. *Educating the public about tree selection, planting, care, health and, ultimately, removal is very important. Information available on websites and in printed form available at the Town Hall is always appreciated by residents. As well classes, on-site and hands-on, are always beneficial. Although there are efforts underway, additional resources and programming in this area would not be misdirected.*

A comprehensive Natural Resources Inventory was completed in 2018 and published in 2020. It is a primary tool for the conservation boards, which in tandem with the office of the building inspector and the town maintenance department handle hazard tree issues, and the ordinance for the protection of trees on public and private lands. It is packed with information and resources and should be much wider known, by organizations and the public. It’s the kind of publication that should be on every resident’s shelves...like a well-worn field guide. It is already available on-line in several places, but potential users and enjoyers need to know what it is, where it is, and what it will do for them. *Utilize the multiple communications venues of the Town, the Pound Ridge Conservation Board, etc. to education the public about its existence and value. Refer to it in the note that accompanies resident’s property tax bills. Quote from it in newsletters, pulling out interesting facts to share. Put printed copies of it in a visible locations at the library, Town offices, the museum, and other places where people who don’t have/or take advantage of electronic versions can review and refer to it.*

Given the importance of Town trees, it should come as no surprise that there is an ordinance for tree protection with appendices identifying protected trees and those that are invasive. It primarily functions to regulate the issuance of permits to remove trees. Despite the title of its article 1: “Tree Preservation,” it contains no exceptions or protections from the permit process to protect historic and/or significant trees. Pound Ridge’s urban forest is one of its most outstanding assets. We recommend that Pound Ridge’s tree ordinance be amended to include special consideration and protection for historic and/or significant trees. In concert with the next recommendation, this will ensure that the trees of the urban forest are thought of in a respectful, appreciative way—as much more than a commodity or impediment. *Start by reviewing available resources, like “Guidelines for Developing and Evaluating Tree Ordinances” (www.phytosphere.com), especially the sections on “Defining Special Trees: Heritage, Historic, and Landmark Trees.” New York’s Department of Environmental Conservation (www.dec.ny.gov) has a page on tree ordinances that outlines the components of a successful ordinance (including Tree Protection, and Trees on Private Property) and several example ordinances. Pound Ridge’s urban forest is one of its most outstanding assets. We recommend that Pound Ridge’s tree ordinance be amended to include special consideration and protection for historic and/or significant trees. In concert with the next recommendation, this will ensure that the trees of the urban forest are thought of in a respectful, appreciative way—as much more than a commodity or impediment.*

A Historic Tree is a tree (or group of trees) that are at least 50 years old and share a significant event (or events) in a specific place in time. What is “significant” could vary according to the point of view. Size, age, or a great story behind a tree can also contribute to a tree’s significance. The point has been made that much of the Town was cut over years ago to provide cleared land for crop and livestock production. The fact is that this was many years ago, and the returning forest has its own crop of large, senior citizens. A case in point is the massive sycamore at the library. Another is the Boutonville Oak at the Pound Ridge Reservation and estimated to be between 4-500 years old, which significantly predates the big cut over. And finally, until 10 years ago, Pound Ridge was the site of New York’s Champion Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)—further recognized as the second biggest in the country— at nearly 400 years old, 131 feet tall, and almost 19 feet in circumference. A Heritage Tree has deep significance to a community. An example is if a new tree (or grove) was planted in honor of someone or a group of people that are significant to the community. *Since much of Pound Ridge consists of secondary forests or second growth trees, you can still recognize significant trees for their age. A logical outgrowth of a newly amended Pound Ridge tree ordinance is a program to seek out and recognize historic and/or significant trees on both public and private land. Even a tree that is 50 or 75 years old can be significant and the children of Pound Ridge should be aware of these trees and know where they are. This is an opportunity to bring together the entire community, find out where these trees are growing, tag them and monitor them. Create a tour of these trees and make it a part of the educational unit for the elementary students. We recommend that the Town establish a historic/significant tree program that identifies, locates, celebrates, and provides measures to preserve its important tree citizens. Historic trees need not be of primary forest vintage to be important. Size is not everything when it comes to the significance of a tree that has seen and been through the changes wrought by human neighbors. Once enough special trees are identified, create a map so that they can be seen and appreciated. Arrange a partner tour to your historic bus tour to showcase historic/significant trees. Applaud property owner efforts to care for these special trees with a simple certificate or plaque. Recognize your special trees with a mention (or publication) at the museum.*





Since trees are such an integral part of the Pound Ridge experience (even if that experience is through other than direct engagement with the urban forest), that knowing something about them would enrich anyone's understanding of the world around them. *To that end, we recommend that the Town or one of its non-profit partners establish a tree identification/labeling/and education program similar to the tree ID system used in Halle's Ravine. Naming and learning a little about what you're looking at instantly changes your relationship with that object, place, or person.*

Although the trees are beautifully tagged in the Halle's Ravine, the information could be expanded as it doesn't include the year that each of these trees started their life. This information can provide educational opportunities for children to study what the world was like when the tree first sprouted. It will also help adults to recognize the difference in growth rates in different trees. Fun facts could include who was the president when the tree was a little sapling, and how many people lived in Pound Ridge at the time.

| Environmental Efforts Criterion Definition | Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored) | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | Not Applicable N/A | Not Started (0 pts) | Launched (1 pt) | Achieved (2 pts) | Surpassing (3 pts) | Excelling (4 pts) |
| 5. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS (EE): environmental leadership, policies, plans, and programs for resource conservation; pollution control; trash, recycling, and reuse; and alternative fuel vehicles | | | | | | |
| a. Leadership and Policy | | | | | | |
| EE.a.01 - Environmental Advisory Board(s) and/or Green Team(s) in place | | | NS | X | NS | NS |
| EE.a.02 - Electric/alternative fuel vehicle(s) used by municipality | | | X | | | |
| EE.a.03 - Electric vehicle charging station(s) provided | | | | X | | |
| EE.a.04 – Storm water management policies in place and enforced | | | | | | X |
| EE.a.05 - Pet waste policies in place and enforced | | | | | | X |
| b. Plan of Action | | | | | | |
| EE.b.01 - Sustainability Action Plan in place | | | X | | | |
| EE.b.02 - Effective municipal/civic education about environmental efforts for children and adults | | | | | X | |
| EE.b.03 - Effective notification to community regarding pesticide applications and mosquito spraying | X | | | | | |
| c. Resource Conservation | | | | | | |
| EE.c.01 - Bio-swales and/or rain gardens in place to reduce storm water run-off pollution | | | | X | | |
| EE.c.02 - Home energy audit/incentives available | | | | X | | |
| EE.c.03 - Waterwise irrigation in place | X | | | | | |
| EE.c.04 - Low-flow water device incentives available | X | | | | | |
| d. Trash, Recycling, and Reuse Management | | | | | | |
| EE.d.01 - Residential curbside trash collection is available and/or required | | | | X | | |
| EE.d.02 - Residential curbside recycling collection and/or collection points are in place | | | | X | | |
| EE.d.03 - Recycling containers available in public areas and for private use, and standardized and/or consistent labels used on containers | | | | | | X |
| EE.d.04 - Yard waste composting pick-up and/ or drop-off available | X | | | | | |
| EE.d.05 - Prescription drug drop-off(s) available | | | | | X | |
| EE.d.06 - Hazardous waste and/or electronics waste collection or drop-off(s) available | | | | | X | |
| EE.d.07 - Plastic bag and/or foam container collection point(s) available | | | | | X | |
| EE.d.08 - Reuse opportunities are available (clothing, books, household goods, repair initiatives, etc.) | | | | | X | |

| e. Community Involvement | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----|----------------------|----|-------------------|---|
| EE.e.01 - Community events that enhance public awareness of environmental issues and distribution of information on effective recycling (lack of contamination), i.e. Earth Day participation | | | | | | X |
| EE.e.02 - Garden clubs, Master Gardeners, and/or Soil and Water Conservation District, etc. provide educational opportunities for rain barrel usage, backyard habitats, and other environmental initiatives | | | | | | X |
| EE.e.03 - School curricula programs and events to encourage youth involvement | | | | | | X |
| f. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note | | | | | | |
| EE.f.01 - Advisors to enter text below | | NS | NS | NS | | X |
| Completion of the Village Green Park. | | | | | | |
| Totals: | Possible Points | | Actual Points | | Percentage | |
| 5. Environmental Efforts (EE) | 78 | | 57 | | 73.07% | |

Environmental Efforts (EE) Recommendations:

Proud Ridge excels at environmental efforts. From the people to live here to the natural beauty of the area, environmental efforts are always top of mind including the Sarah Stein gardens and the egret rookery. This community of only 5,082 residents boasts 19 preserves, plus 110 homeowners live on the pollinator pathway covering over 500 acres.



Artificial nighttime lights disrupt the world's ecosystems. Plants and animals depend on Earth's daily cycle of light and dark rhythm to govern life-sustaining behaviors such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep and protection from predators. Night light pollution has a negative effect on our environment by turning what should be night into day. According to the International Dark Sky Association (IDA), scientific evidence suggests that artificial light at night has negative and deadly effects on many creatures including amphibians, birds, mammals, insects and plants. Pound Ridge would be a perfect community to add to the list of International Dark Sky communities that have shown exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation

and enforcement of a quality outdoor lighting ordinance, dark sky education and citizen support of dark skies. Dark Sky Communities excel in their efforts to promote responsible lighting and dark sky stewardship, and set good examples for surrounding communities. Visit <https://www.darksky.org/> for more information.

Start a bird trail in the parks around the town. Determine the birds that you would like to support and /or increase and after researching their ideal habitat, work with the Boy Scouts to design, build and sell these bird houses complete with instructions on hanging, monitoring and cleaning. The Eastern Bluebird is the state bird of New York. Increase the population of these beautiful birds by increasing the number of bird boxes where they can lay their eggs, raise their brood and be relatively protected. Even if other birds make their home in the bluebird box, it is still a bonus. Once the babies have fledged, simply clean out the box and the circle of life will begin again. For more information visit <http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/>



The Native Plant Sale that takes place in the spring could be combined and enhanced with additional environmental items such as composters, rain barrels, trees, annuals/perennials, and bird houses. The expansion of the sale would allow other organizations to get involved including the Conservation board, Master Gardener's along with the Extension Office, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the local Garden Clubs. Use Earth Day as an opportunity to bring together each of these organizations and help your community to celebrate the earth each and every day.

Residents that live in Pound Ridge are also deeply involved in environmental efforts. Water Keepers Alliance is the largest and fastest growing nonprofit solely focused on clean water. Their campaigns include Safe and Clean energy, clean water defense, pure farms, and pure water. There are 300+ water keeper groups, across 45+ countries, covering 2.6 million miles of waterways, with 1.1 million volunteers and supporters worldwide. Their goal is drinkable, fishable, swimmable water everywhere for everyone.

The rain garden to honor Mary Moat is a beautiful tribute and will have lasting effects on the environment for years to come. Rain gardens are an important part of sound environmental efforts. They create an entire eco system while solving an issue. Benefits include: Beautifying your yard and neighborhood, help protect our streams from pollution by reducing stormwater runoff, reduce the risk of flooding and drainage problems, and provide a habitat for pollinators and birds. Rain gardens are effective in removing up to 90% of nutrients and chemicals and up to 80% of sediments from the rainwater runoff. Teach your residents about the benefits of rain gardens, how to create one and add this information to the Pollinator Pathway Web page at <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/pound-ridge> When the opportunity presents itself, add more rain gardens!



All municipal buildings would benefit by the addition of motion sensor lighting. Bathrooms in particular are areas where energy is wasted by lights being left on when they do not need to be. Motion sensor lighting can also be used in residential homes and business locations. Town Hall can be a great location to sell the motion sensor lights at a reduced cost. Send out reminders in utility bills that they are available and let everyone know what they could save by switching.

The city's environmental efforts are exceptional and include but not limited to:

- The Riley Seed Project/ Battery replacement program
- Mulch Mountain for the community
- The Invasives Project
- The Repair Café
- Reclaimed Oak benches will be used in the Village Green Park and 2/3rds of the plantings will be native
- The Daffodil drive
- Recycled Halloween costumes
- The Pollinator Pathway

We mentioned above Pound Ridge's innovative "Invasive Project—Pound Ridge" (IPPR). The most ambitious aspect of the program is that it will send teams out to walk private properties to ID invasive as well as desirable plants, and provide advice on the control of the bad guys. It is estimated that 20—30% of land in the Town has been assessed.

In order for Pound Ridge to be a destination for travelers, you will need to add a few more charging stations in and around the town. There is starting to be an uptick in the sales of electric vehicles and you will want to be ready with the ability to take care of all electric cars and trucks that drive into you town.

HeatSmart Bedford-Lewisboro-Pound Ridge is a limited time campaign that provides support to homeowners looking to make their homes energy efficient through added insulation, air-sealing and upgraded heating and cooling system. Let your residents know about this opportunity by adding information to the utility bills that go out to your residents. Help them understand what an air source heat pump or geothermal heat pump can do for your home!

Congratulations on completing the Village Green Park. What was once an eyesore in the heart of your downtown will now breathe new life into this area.

| Celebrating Heritage Criterion Definition | Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored) | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 6. CELEBRATING HERITAGE (CH): recognition, designation, protection, commemoration, and celebration of historical, cultural, natural, agricultural, and industrial resources | Not Applicable N/A | Not Started (0 pts) | Launched (1 pt) | Achieved (2 pts) | Surpassing (3 pts) | Excelling (4 pts) |
| a. Leadership and Policy | | | | | | |
| CH.a.01 - Historic preservation ordinance effectively provides commercial and residential designation and protection from demolition | | | NS | X | NS | NS |
| CH.a.02 - Incentives offered to promote preservation: tax credits, waived permit fees, eased setbacks, rebates, etc. | X | | | | | |
| CH.a.03 - Historic Preservation and/or Architectural Review Board in place and effective | | | | | X | |
| CH.a.04 - Historical Society is active | | | | | | X |
| b. Plan of Action | | | | | | |
| CH.b.01 - Effective communication of ordinances, policies, and restoration methods | | | | | X | |
| CH.b.02 - National Register of Historic Places district and/or individual designations in place | | | | | X | |
| CH.b.03 - Natural and/or agricultural areas are protected | | | | | | X |
| CH.b.04 - Archives, artifacts, cemetery records, and/or oral histories collected, properly stored, or preserved | | | | | X | |
| CH.b.05 - Education: historical publications/websites, interpretive signage, tours, and programs in place | | | | | X | |
| CH.b.06 - Programs in place to encourage youth involvement, including curriculum-designated tours and available to multiple age levels | | | | | | X |
| c. Commemoration | | | | | | |
| CH.c.01 - Signage in place for historic neighborhoods and/or structures | | | | | X | |
| CH.c.02 - Historical museum(s) and/or interpretive displays maintained | | | | | | X |
| CH.c.03 - Cemeteries, monuments, and/or plaques in place and well-maintained | | | | | | X |
| CH.c.04 - Community heritage promoted through tours (guided or self), brochures, Smartphone apps, etc. | | | | | X | |
| CH.c.05 - Parades, festivals, events, programs commemorating a community's heritage are held | | | | | | X |
| d. Community Involvement | | | | | | |
| CH.d.01 - Volunteers participate in planning and implementing recognition of a community's heritage through historical tours, parades, festivals, etc. | | | | | | X |
| CH.d.02 - Volunteers participate in maintaining historical sites and structures | | | | | | X |

| f. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|----------------------|----|--|-------------------|
| CH.e.01 - Advisors to enter text below | | NS | NS | NS | | X |
| Pound Ridge has 46 colonial and colonial revival buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. | | | | | | |
| Totals: | | Possible Points | Actual Points | | | Percentage |
| 6. Celebrating Heritage (CH) | | 66 | 59 | | | 89.39% |

Celebrating Heritage (CH) Recommendations:

The only thing Pound Ridge loves more than its rural atmosphere is its history. Heritage is respected and cherished in Pound Ridge and it permeates everything. It's ALL about the history of the city and its region. You cannot drive in, around, or through Pound Ridge without getting a healthy dose.

It starts with the Pound Ridge Historical District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, contains 46 colonial and colonial revival buildings dating between 1758 and 1852.

Thought the district is condensed and covers most of the "hamlet" area, there are dozens of additional historic buildings elsewhere that don't yet have landmark status. Historically significant homes, barns, commercial buildings, and stonewalls are everywhere you look. "History," says the Town of Pound Ridge website, "is out in the open here..." Their historic preservation law says that such efforts are, "a public necessity and...required in the interest of the prosperity and welfare of the people." *Make sure all eligible buildings that deserve historic preservation status are recognized.*



The Pound Ridge Historical Society (PRHS) may be the most active we've seen. Its mission to discover, collect, preserve, and transcribe material about the Town and the area is manifest in everything they do. They operate a charming one-room museum (in a building that is itself on the National Register of Historic Places) that features both permanent and rotating exhibits and conduct tours, programs and special exhibits. A major effort has catalogued the museum's collections, formally accessioned them in a database that is available to the public online. The museum has new exhibits every year and is open to the public with regular hours and by appointment. The society is educating constantly with tours, presentations, lectures at the museum, library and other places.

The PRHS also publishes a seasonal newsletter, maintains a viable presence on the internet, and produces wonderful exhibit catalogues like: "Tell Me a

Story: 50 Objects/ 50 Stories of Pound Ridge," which shares the background on 50 people, places and things; and "Pound Ridge 20/20 a brief history of the town by the historical society.

Tours are also memorialized. "At Home with Hiram Halle: A tour through is architectural legacy in Pound Ridge" is a printed catalogue of a historical bus tour taken in celebration of his 90th anniversary of Halle's arrival. Halle is often recognized for revitalizing Pound Ridge's economy during the Depression. He renovated dozens of homes in his own version of Colonial Revival style, and helped the Town build its fire department and elementary school. He is credited with, "...turning a Depression-weary farming community into a picturesque—and idealized—version of an early New England town. A historical bus tour is so popular it often has a waiting list!



Despite Halle's efforts, Pound Ridge IS an early New England town. Indigenous peoples lived here as long as 13,000 years ago. European settlers were poking around as early as the mid-1600's, and finally settled in Pound Ridge in 1718, well before the Revolutionary War.

Not every municipality has a massacre named for it, but Pound Ridge does. This 1644 tragedy, where English and Dutch soldiers killed hundreds of native people, is one of the less savory aspects of area history, but is recognized by the PRHS in its publications.

If there is an overall feel to Pound Ridge, it is Colonial and Revolutionary. Though not a hotbed of activity during the Revolutionary War, "Tarleton's Raid" is still celebrated today. In 1779, Colonel Banastre Tarleton and 200 soldiers engaged in an effort to cow locals into submission. It was frustrated by resistance and Tarleton responded by taking his company on a spree, burning homes, barns, and a church before leaving the area.



Heritage and history are always combined but Pound Ridge's designation of "Basket Town" is a unique example. By the mid-1800s Pound Ridge for known for its oyster baskets. About 80 families were engaged in weaving baskets for farmers, fishermen and the oystermen on nearby waters. By the 1950s, the industry was gone, but memories of it are preserved.

Markers recognizing the history and heritage of Pound Ridge a peppered throughout the Town but concentrated in the Hamlet because of its historical district designation.

In a town so defined by its history and heritage, it isn't an easy task to make recommendations. *We can heartily recommend that Pound Ridge and its historical society keep doing what they are doing to bring history alive to residents and visitors.*

Because not all historic homes and buildings are recognized in a formal manner, *we recommend that the Town and PRHS jointly compile a list of historic/significant homes, barns, and other buildings on an informal basis and open a dialogue with owners to consider formal listing.*

If enough interest can be generated, *the Advisor's recommend that a tour of historic homes be arranged, either at the holidays or when the weather is more cooperative. It could include homes designated historic or those that are, but not formally. It could have a fund-raising component for the PRHS and its efforts.*

An important part of the history and heritage of Pound Ridge is told by its most silent residents, the many stone walls that crisscross its 25 square miles. *We recommend that the PRHS in collaboration with the town create a registry of historic and/or significant stone walls in the community and assist the public in understanding the protection afforded them.*

In light of one of the most fascinating aspects of Pound Ridge history, and its heritage as a basket-making area, *we recommend that the Town consider a contest resulting in the commissioning of a public art piece to be located between the Hamlet and the Scott's Corners Business District, recalling and celebrating the "Basket Town" epithet of Pound Ridge.*

Oral histories are being done in Pound Ridge but the program could be expanded. Our veterans have a deep and moving story to tell and being able to hear what life was like when they were growing up can be very powerful to a child listening to that story being told in their own voice. These residents are dwindling daily so time is running out to capture these powerful interviews.

Festivals are off the chart in Pound Ridge bringing residents to town with their family to enjoy other neighbors and friends and all that the town has to offer. Community celebrations include:

- Earth Day Everyday Festival
- Harvest Festival
- Lobster Festival
- Memorial Day Parade
- Pound Ridge Proud Day
- 4th of July Fireworks
- Antiques and Artisans Shows

Festivals, parades and events not only focus on the heritage of the community but also on its diversity. *Maybe a Neil Simon Festival is in order.*



| Overall Impression (OI) Criterion Definition | Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored) | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 7. OVERALL IMPRESSION (OI): adequate and effective amenities are provided in good condition, and the community is welcoming and attractive | Not Applicable N/A | Not Started (0 pts) | Launched (1 pt) | Achieved (2 pts) | Surpassing (3 pts) | Excelling (4 pts) |
| a. Leadership and Policy | | | | | | |
| OI.a.01 - Signage ordinances enacted and enforced | | | | | X | |
| OI.a.02 - Ordinances in place to address overgrown lots, abandoned vehicles, unscreened dumpsters, public nuisances, unregulated garage sales, empty storefront windows, etc. | | | | | X | |
| OI.a.03 - Code enforcement/compliance officer on municipal staff and codes are enforced | | | X | | | |
| OI.a.04 - Design style determined, applied, and consistent for site furnishings, crosswalks, gateway entry features, banners, wayfinding signage, etc. | | | | | X | |
| b. Amenities | | | | | | |
| OI.b.01 - Site furnishings in place: water features, lamp posts, benches, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles, containers, planters, and cigarette receptacles | | | | | | X |
| OI.b.02 - Crosswalks well-marked | | | | | | X |
| OI.b.03 - Public restrooms available | | | | | X | |
| OI.b.04 - Effective community gateway entry features | | | | X | | |
| OI.b.05 - Effective use of banners, murals, and/or public art | | | | | | X |
| OI.b.06 - Effective wayfinding signage | | | | | X | |
| OI.b.07 - Effective use of non-plant seasonal decorations (lights, ornaments, etc.) | | | | | X | |
| c. Condition and Maintenance | | | | | | |
| OI.c.01 - Condition of structures, buildings, decks, patios, etc related to lack of vandalism, graffiti, peeling or faded paint, and rust | | | | | | X |
| OI.c.02 - Condition of infrastructure: roadways, road shoulders, curbs, medians, sidewalks, railroad crossings, crosswalks/pavement markings, transformers, and utility poles related to lack of weeds, vandalism, litter, graffiti, peeling or faded paint, and rust | | | | | X | |
| OI.c.03 - Condition of signs and site furnishings: water features, lamp posts, benches, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles, containers, planters, and cigarette receptacles | | | | | | X |
| OI.c.04 - Condition of vacant lots, stormwater retention ponds, and swales | | | | | | X |
| OI.c.05 - Control of excessive stake signs, billboards, and posted flyers | | | | | | X |
| OI.c.06 - Regularly scheduled street sweeping | | | | | | X |

| d. Community Involvement | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----|---|---|
| Ol.d.01 - Volunteer participation and/or funding of community revitalization and improvement initiatives, such as Adopt-A-Spot, Habitat for Humanity, River Sweep, home repair programs (CHIP), disaster relief, clean-up days, etc. | | | | | | X |
| Ol.d.02 - Process is available for residents to fund public amenities such as memorial benches, brick pathways, etc. | | | | | | X |
| e. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note | | | | | | |
| Ol.e.01 - Advisors to enter text below | | NS | NS | NS | X | |
| Story book panels installed in Town Park. | | | | | | |
| Totals: | Possible Points | Actual Points | Percentage | | | |
| 7. Overall Impression (OI) | 80 | 67 | 83.75% | | | |

Overall Impression (OI) Recommendations:

Entering Scott's Corners for the first time, one is struck with a feeling of quaintness, charisma, and a desire to stop and stay for a while. Beauty shines through the details like the planted beds and baskets, the banners, and the overall cleanliness. You'll find a town with unique buildings, charming shops and areas beautifully landscaped. What you won't see are billboards, stake signs, (except as elections are happening), litter or graffiti. The entire community is well maintained, and with the brush strokes provided by nature, a beautiful place to visit or to call home.



Shelly's walk around the pond in Town Park is a serene place where additional benches would give walkers the opportunity to sit a while and enjoy. The trail will need some repair work as there are areas that have washed out and the chance for someone to trip and fall or a biker to have an accident is very real. This would be a liability to the town so it would be best to try to repair areas in need of work sooner rather than later when it may be too late. The trail head at Halle Preserve needs some repair work as well in order to be able to navigate your first few steps on the trail.

Banners in the town are relatively new and are not typical. In black and white, they have clean lines, do not compete with the colorful hanging baskets, and quietly provide a call to action to shop, dine, stroll, tour, enjoy, etc. *Support these banners by adding QR codes around town that will direct residents and visitors to a website for more information on shopping, dining, touring, etc. For a change of pace the colors can also be reversed with a black background and white lettering.*

As you enter Pound Ridge, the welcome signs are well done. *However, the area around the sign is void of any type of landscaping. Adding landscaping and floral elements to gateway signage makes a statement as well as a tremendous difference in initial impressions. You have done a wonderful job revitalizing Scott's Corners. Now extend that same landscaping to your entryways. The use of pollinator plants and/or the additional of an irrigation system will keep the areas looking beautiful.*

In order to add to the beauty of your community, be sure to *create an ordinance to hide the trash receptacles in and around the city which will help to keep the beautiful views of your streetscape clean and attractive. Many large dumpsters were left out in the open and made what could be an attractive area unappealing. Trash bins for businesses should be kept behind attractive enclosures, not in the open. In addition to screening large dumpsters, don't forget the footprint you have in the parking lots behind the businesses. These areas can be created to be an additional experience rather than just a place to park your car.*



20 storyboard panels are about to be installed in Town Park which will certainly spark the interest of the children that visit. Plans are to routinely change the books to continue to keep their interest. *A contest for the children to create their own book can find the winning story appearing in these storyboards. Spark the curiosity and excitement of children by creating the legend of Big Red which could be the first children's book contest theme.*

The Village or City Green is an example of tremendous patience and collaboration and the time is almost here to celebrate the completion of this beautiful and what we are sure will be a well-used addition to the community. Congratulations!



The memorial brick program in Town Park is a wonderful way to memorialize someone very special to you. Imagine, however, how one might feel if their memorial brick was encased in weeds. *The Advisors recommend that you take the time to clean up any areas where there are memorial bricks and try to keep the area weed free and clear of debris.*

| Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions (ET) Definition | Metrics Ratings (NS = Not Scored) | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 8. EVALUATION TOUR PREPARATION AND ACTIONS (ET): community's readiness prior to and the action during the Evaluation Tour | Not Applicable N/A | Unmet (0 pts) | Met (1 pt) |
| a. Prior to the Evaluation Tour | | | |
| ET.a.01 - Community Profile provided to Advisors at least two weeks prior to the first official tour date | | | X |
| ET.a.02 - Community Profile includes contacts with emails | | | X |
| ET.a.03 - Community Profile from a returning community makes it clear what is new and/or implemented from Advisors' recommendations (scored as N/A for a new community) | X | | |
| ET.a.04 - Evaluation Tour Itinerary and Community Map with boundaries provided to Advisors at least two weeks prior to first office tour date | | | X |
| b. During the Evaluation Tour | | | |
| ET.b.01 - Evaluation Tour provided a representative cross-section of the community | | | X |
| ET.b.02 - Advisors met with elected/appointed municipal leaders and/or staff | | | X |
| ET.b.03 - Advisors met with the business and/or non-profit community | | | X |
| ET.b.04 - Advisors met with the media | | | X |
| ET.b.05 - Advisors met with volunteers | | | X |
| ET.b.06 - Advisors were asked to give a presentation(s) | | | X |
| c. Final Wrap-Up | | | |
| ET.c.01 - Enough time was allotted for Advisors to work on the Evaluation Tour Report in a quiet place with adequate Wi-Fi availability | | | X |
| ET.c.02 - Community participated in a wrap-up session at the end of the Evaluation Tour | | | X |
| ET.c.03 - Evaluation Report metrics were adequately addressed in the Community Profile and/or Evaluation Tour Itinerary and during the Evaluation Tour | | | X |
| d. Advisors' Discretion: Recognition by the Advisors of an item of special note | | | |
| ET.d.01 - Advisors to enter text below | | NS | X |
| Pound Ridge went above and beyond in preparation for the America in Bloom Advisors visit and provided a well-orchestrated tour. | | | |
| Totals: | Possible Points | Actual Points | Percentage |
| 8. Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions (ET) | 13.00 | 13.00 | 100.00% |

Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions (ET) Recommendations:

As a first-year community, the preparation and details that went into the America in Bloom visit were off the chart. Preliminary documents and information took us on a tour of Pound Ridge even before stepping into your community for the first time bringing it to life and it continued throughout our visit. The tour of Pound Ridge was well thought out covering all criteria and flawlessly executed. Questions were thoroughly answered and additional stories added to the tour. *In the future it would help the Advisors if everyone participating in the tour could wear name tags as we want to remember everyone's name.*

Now that you have received your evaluation for 2022, *work through the recommendations that have been made with your entire committee and determine which can be done immediately, which are longer term projects and which recommendations may not be something that your community is able to approach at this time. This will help you to get started right away.*

Be sure to share the Evaluation with the officials of your community. The recommendations can be worked into their business plan which can help you to get support both from a budgetary standpoint and from potential volunteers.

You will also want to take this time to work on your Community Profile to enhance this important document. Meet with a number of the residents in your community of different ages and backgrounds to help you identify all the great things that Pound Ridge is known for and all the great things they are doing. Do the same with the businesses in Pound Ridge. Use the box at the top of each category on this evaluation to generate questions and through your discussions you may be able to discover additional opportunities, thoughts, and ideas.

Add photographs to bring your Community Profile to life and highlight or italicize all the new projects, programs, and great things that you have accomplished over the years to show you are a community on the move. A real effect way to show your success is to add before and after photos. A picture is worth a thousand words and the side-by-side photos will say it all. The Community Profile is a living document that will serve you well and will inspire other businesses and families to come and visit. Post it on the city website, keep it routinely updated, and consider having your own Pound Ridge in Bloom page on the town website.

Due to the logistics of the community, the Advisors were not able to take a few moments to freshen up after being out in the heat. While the library worked well for our paperwork, *it would be appreciated if the Advisors had a place to clean up and perhaps change before attending the wonderful evening events that you put together.*

Congratulations Pound Ridge! Well done indeed!!

DISCLAIMERS:

1. Communities are responsible for addressing the metrics in the Community Profile, Evaluation Tour Itinerary, and during the Evaluation Tour. Please note that the metric calculations contained herein are final, and each community is encouraged to focus on any changes during the following year's entry in the America in Bloom National Awards Program.
2. All information is given to the best of America in Bloom's knowledge and is believed to be accurate. Your conditions of use and application of recommendations and/or suggested products are beyond our control. There is no warranty expressed or implied regarding the accuracy of any given data or statements. America in Bloom specifically disclaims any responsibility or liability relating to the use of the recommendations and/or suggested products and shall under no circumstances whatsoever, be liable for any special, incidental or consequential damages which may arise from such use.
3. Reference herein to any specific commercial products, processes, or service by trade named trademark manufacturer or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation or favoring by America in Bloom. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein shall not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes.

2022 Community Recognitions

Community: Pound Ridge, New York

Recognized Criterion: Celebrating Heritage

Now and then you encounter a community that is an absolute standout for one of the criteria, and Pound Ridge is one of them. Perhaps nowhere is history and heritage so visible, so loved and cherished, and so celebrated as this Town. Heritage permeates everything in Pound Ridge. It's ALL about the history of the city and its region.

It starts with the Pound Ridge Historical District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, contains 46 colonial and colonial revival buildings dating between 1758 and 1852. Though the district is condensed and covers most of the "hamlet" area, there are dozens of additional historic buildings elsewhere that don't yet have landmark status. Historically significant homes, barns, commercial buildings, and stone walls are everywhere you look. "History," says the Town of Pound Ridge website, "is out in the open here..." Their historic preservation law concludes that such efforts are, "a public necessity and...required in the interest of the prosperity and welfare of the people." If there is an overall feel to Pound Ridge, it is Colonial and Revolutionary.

Noteworthy Project or Initiative: Invasive Project

Pound Ridge is to be commended for its "Invasive Project—Pound Ridge" (IPPR). This effort is a public/private partnership to "encourage and coordinate efforts to reduce existing infestations and to prevent new ones from occurring through scientific study, education, early detection and rapid response". It's a model program that would be of great use to other communities.