



The Governor's Community Achievement Awards program is one of the most prestigious annual environmental awards in Texas. Each year, ten winning communities share \$2 million in landscape awards from the Texas Department of Transportation for their outstanding overall efforts to keep their communities beautiful.

Complete application for the 2012 Governor's Community Achievement Award, which includes submission and formatting rules, will be available on www.ktb.org by September 15, 2011.

<p>Community Leadership & Coordination (12 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe your community and its specific characteristics (i.e. brief history, demographics). • Is your community affiliated with any state or national organization(s) related to litter prevention, beautification, community improvement and/or waste reduction? • How are your programs funded? Include annual operating budget, matching grants, foundation grants, government funding and how funding is obtained. • Describe staff support for your programs. Are they run by volunteers and/or full-time or part-time paid staff? • Describe any training that is provided to the board/committee members of your programs.
<p>Public Awareness (12 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how you made your community aware of your goals and programs through the use of media, speeches, workshops, bulletin boards, technology and/or printed materials. List measurable results. • How has your local program worked with area media to promote the Don't Mess with Texas campaign? • Describe local awards and recognition programs. Specify awards given and awards received.
<p>Education (12 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What educational events, projects or programs are available in your community to teach the general public about recycling, waste reduction, litter prevention or beautification issues? • What types of environmental education do your schools offer? Describe what kind of programs or special events are offered for youth and your community's involvement. (Include any youth, preschool, elementary, secondary, college and university programs in your community.) How do your schools use environmental curricula such as WIP, Project Wild and/or other educational activities?
<p>Beautification & Community Improvement (12 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe beautification efforts such as tree and flower planting, native or adaptive landscaping, and landscape maintenance. • How has your program worked to improve the appearance of your community, instill pride, and provide a positive impact on the economic development and prosperity of your community? • How many Adopt-a-Highway miles does your city maintain? Does your city perform mowing or maintenance activities on state rights-of-way, if applicable?
<p>Litter Prevention & Cleanup (12 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your community conduct any type of study/survey to determine a litter problem? • Describe your community's litter prevention and cleanup campaign. • Describe how your community addresses the seven sources of litter: pedestrians, uncovered trucks, construction sites, improperly handled residential waste, commercial waste containers, motor vehicles, and loading docks.

<p><i>Litter Prevention & Cleanup (con't.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was your community involved with the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off, Great American Cleanup, Adopt-a-Highway, and/or Texas Waterway Cleanup Program? What was the impact on the environment and/or the public's attitude toward litter prevention and cleanup? List the number of cleanups and measurable results, including the number of volunteers.
<p>Solid Waste Management (12 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe your community's involvement in solid waste management, including work with local waste haulers, businesses, civic groups, and citizens. Describe how your community has supported source reduction, recycling, reuse, and composting. List measurable results if applicable.
<p>Litter Law & Illegal Dumping Enforcement (12 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe community efforts to educate and work with law enforcement personnel (city, county or state) to review and enforce local and state litter laws including litter abatement and/or illegal dumping. Describe community efforts to reduce nuisance issues such as graffiti, grass and weed violations, dilapidated structures, junked cars and similar issues.
<p>Conclusion (6 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how your community's overall environmental efforts have made your community a better place to live, work and play. Do not need to include conclusion page in supplemental notebook.
<p>Supplemental Materials (10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplemental material will be used to verify responses to the questions in each section.

DEADLINE: 5 p.m. Tuesday, February 7, 2012 (*Applications received after 5 p.m. will not be considered or judged*)

APPLICATION DEFINITIONS:

Community – A community is defined as a region or regions with shared or adjoining boundaries whose beautification and litter abatement programs are administered by common groups (i.e. local affiliates, city departments, garden clubs, schools, organizations etc.).

Programs –are defined as any projects, activities, and/or initiatives within a community that address goals stated in the seven topic areas of the GCAA.

ELIGIBILITY: All Texas communities are eligible to apply. Communities receiving the highest score in each population category (*see below*) will be named the winners. Reporting period is January 1 – December 31, 2011.

LANDSCAPE AWARDS BY POPULATION SIZE CATEGORIES: Population based on the Texas State Data System.

http://txsdc.utsa.edu/tpepp/2010_txpopest_place.php Use January 1, 2011 estimates.

CATEGORY	POPULATION	LANDSCAPE AWARD
1	Up to 3,000	\$90,000
2	3,001-5,500	\$110,000
3	5,501-9,000	\$130,000
4	9,001-15,000	\$160,000
5	15,001-25,000	\$180,000
6	25,001-40,000	\$210,000
7	40,001-65,000	\$250,000
8	65,001-90,000	\$270,000
9	90,001-180,000	\$290,000
10	181,001+	\$310,000
	TOTAL:	\$2,000,000