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America in Bloom judges visit Springfield

By John Bedell @ July 9, 2010 5:58 AM [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(1\)](#)

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio -- The City of Springfield has spent the last few weeks carefully manicuring landscaping around the city and sprucing up in preparation for this week as the city is judged in the "America in Bloom" contest.

Evelyn Alemanni and Bill Hahn, both America in Bloom judges, began two days of evaluating Springfield in the national beautification competition.

So far, the judges like what they see. Alemanni told our partners at the Springfield News Sun that she was "absolutely blown away . . . I had no idea the treasures (Springfield) has, it's incredible."

Hahn agreed, saying, "I'm very impressed with downtown. There are a lot of historical buildings that have been well maintained."

Alemanni and Hahn spent Thursday visiting parks, gardens, museums and historical sites, accompanied by members of Springfield in Full Bloom, a steering committee created to prepare the city for the competition, and local experts who gave presentations and provided information about stops on the tour.

The two judges will also spend today touring Springfield and will rank the city on eight criteria -- community involvement, floral displays, environmental awareness, heritage preservation, landscaped areas, tidiness, turf and ground covers, and urban forestry -- and compare it to two other cities with similar populations.

Bloomington Ind., and Fayetteville, Ark. are other cities that Springfield is matching up against.

The winners will be announced at the America in Bloom symposium, scheduled for September 30 to October 2 in St. Louis.

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