



Nominate a Great Place in Missouri

APA Missouri Chapter Is Looking for Great Neighborhoods, Streets, and Public Spaces

APA Missouri Chapter needs your nomination for places that are great and merit such designation. We want you to nominate your favorite streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces across Missouri, whether they are in your own city or town, in a place you've visited, or in a place you otherwise know about.

Places selected for designation as a Great Neighborhood, Great Street, or Great Public Space are recognized by APA Missouri Chapter during the Planners' Day at the Capitol event on March 1, 2023. Nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. January 15, 2023, to be considered.

Make a Submission

Follow these four easy steps:

1. Review the [Great Places in Missouri Designation List](#) which includes all designations to date to make sure your selection has not been previously designated; to view Great Places recognized by APA National, review the [APA Great Places in America – Missouri Honorees List](#).
2. Review the one-page nomination form and an overview of some qualities and characteristics that help make Great Places contained in this document.
3. Visit the American Planning Association [Great Places in America Program](#) webpages to read the characteristics of Great Neighborhoods, Great Streets, and Great Public Spaces to see what APA considers when evaluating nominations. Reviewing summaries and photos of past designations is also useful.
4. Complete the easy, one-page nomination form, make sure you talk about how *planning* made your nomination great. Submit the form by e-mail to aishwaryashrestha@missouristate.edu or mail to:

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
Center for Resource Planning and Management
901 South National Avenue
Springfield, MO 65897

You will receive a confirmation within 24 hours of us receiving your nomination. No fee is required to submit nominations.

What Happens to Submitted Nominations?

APA Missouri Chapter will recognize the winners during the Planners' Day at the Capitol event on March 1, 2023, issue news releases about the designations, and recognize the winners at the State Chapter Annual Conference.

Questions? Direct questions or concerns to [Aishwarya Shrestha](#).

What makes Great Places in Missouri great?

What makes a neighborhood, street or public space a unique, memorable place that works not only for the community, but also as a model others would want to emulate? Great Places in Missouri singles out places of exemplary character, quality and planning; places with a unique identity, cultural interest, community involvement, an environment of inclusion that removes barriers, and a sustainable vision for tomorrow. We all can think of a neighborhood, street, or public place that is unique or memorable, but what makes it special?

How can a Great Places designation benefit your community?

Great Places in Missouri is a way to recognize and honor your community's ongoing commitment to planning and plan implementation, and the role elected officials, community leaders, institutions and citizens play in creating communities that enrich people's lives and offer better choices for where and how people work and live.

Great Places in Missouri are located in all areas of the state. To have streets, neighborhoods, public spaces – or all three categories – designated in your community is a way to gain attention about the benefits, outcomes and lasting value of planning in your community.

Nominate a Great Place in Missouri

APA needs your local expertise, area knowledge and planning perspective to help nominate neighborhoods, streets and public spaces in your community or places you've visited or otherwise know about that you consider outstanding. Your knowledge is critical to identifying and recognizing these exemplary places.

This guidance is designed to help you think about those features, characteristics, qualities and details that separate an ordinary neighborhood, street or public space from one that is extraordinary. Additional information about Great Places can be found on the National APA website at <http://www.planning.org/greatplaces/>. A list of current Missouri designations is available at <https://missouri.planning.org/community-outreach/great-places-missouri/>

Neighborhoods: The Neighborhood Award is intended to recognize communities — whether older or newer — that have deliberately set out to improve their physical surroundings and make their neighborhoods dynamic, sustainable and inclusive places to live. This commitment to place can be found within the design plans of new communities or within a neighborhood association's community improvement plan. Neighborhoods that incorporate infill development or adaptive uses are also desired. If the neighborhood is in a rural or suburban setting, is there any type of public transit nearby? Is there a school located in your neighborhood? Has revitalization of the neighborhood benefited the community economically?

Streets: When considering a street, ask yourself if it accommodates all users – not just motorists but also cyclists and pedestrians? Is the street designated to manage an influx of tourists or other heavy seasonal use as well as local traffic? Designations may involve just a few blocks or something longer, however, there should be few if any vacant lots or buildings in the area nominated. Streets should be connected and vibrant with public spaces nearby. Also consider the architecture of adjoining buildings, density, streetscape improvements, everyday activity level, Smart building codes, mixed zoning, design guidelines and how the street contributes to the local or area economy.

Public Spaces: Consider what makes the space you are nominating stand out over the others in the same city, or why one community's outstanding public spaces might stand above those in a neighboring community? Can the space be reached by public transportation, biking or walking, and is it accessible to persons with physical disabilities? Consider if the space is located adjacent to or in a downtown setting or neighborhood, if it is safe throughout the day and evening, and contributes to the local economy. Is the nominated space used not only for special events but

also everyday activities? Different types of spaces are eligible for designation – plazas, pocket parks, public gardens, even buildings with public spaces (spaces with an admission charge are not eligible).










Characteristics to Consider

Neighborhood	Street	Public Space
Can be based on a specific plan or the result of a more organic process; neighborhoods of all kinds are eligible – downtown, urban, suburban, exurban, town, small village – but should have a definable sense of boundary; must be at least 10 years old.	Comprises entire 3-D visual corridor, the public realm and how it relates to adjacent land uses; ranges from pedestrian realms to arterial roadways with a definable beginning and end; takes into account all who use it.	A free gathering spot or part of a neighborhood, downtown, waterfront, special district, etc.; helps promote social interaction and sense of community; must have qualities that make it stand out
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning – How has the planning process led to what makes the neighborhood great today (vision/goals, public input, outreach, investments made, programs implemented)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning – How has the planning process led to what makes the street great today (vision/goals, public input, outreach, investments made, programs implemented)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning – How has the planning process led to what makes the public space great today (vision/goals, public input, outreach, investments made, programs implemented)?
<input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Receive everyday use
<input type="checkbox"/> Infill	<input type="checkbox"/> Infill	<input type="checkbox"/> Encourages social interaction
<input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment – has your neighborhood been diversified or gentrified, but offers affordable housing and did not displace residents in the process?	<input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment – Street engineering (number or widths of lanes, added public transport), a major redevelopment of the surrounding structures changing the mix of building stock.	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide a sense of comfort and safety
<input type="checkbox"/> Transit Oriented Development – Mixed-use of residential and commercial, encourage use of public transportation.	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Transportation route/stop	<input type="checkbox"/> Reflect community’s character
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed housing stock – Includes single and multifamily housing, close to a downtown or public transportation.	<input type="checkbox"/> % of Locally-owned businesses	<input type="checkbox"/> Create a sense of community – Community involved with future master plans; local artistry displayed; local association maintains property.
<input type="checkbox"/> Brownfield vs Greenfield – Brownfield is preferred as it is more sustainable and follows smart growth principles.	<input type="checkbox"/> Hardscaping/Landscaping – Use of street furniture, plantings, street trees, or other physical elements to create a unique personality.	<input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent to monumental buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Public school(s) located within	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic calming/Wide sidewalks	<input type="checkbox"/> Community involvement
<input type="checkbox"/> Public park(s) located within	<input type="checkbox"/> On-street parking	<input type="checkbox"/> Multigenerational – Grandparents down to grandkids can equally enjoy the park.
<input type="checkbox"/> College/Public institutions within	<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle lanes and racks	<input type="checkbox"/> Convenient location – Near a neighborhood or downtown; accessible by bike, public transport, car, other; within a city or town border.

<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood association	<input type="checkbox"/> Community involvement – Festivals, parades, open-air markets, etc.; community participation in future master plans.	<input type="checkbox"/> New/Innovative Public Features – The only to offer “this or that” in the city, state, country, world.
<input type="checkbox"/> Community involvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Interesting visual experiences – Vistas, natural features, other.	<input type="checkbox"/> Hours of operation
<input type="checkbox"/> Retail located within/nearby	<input type="checkbox"/> Use sustainable infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> New/Innovative public features
<input type="checkbox"/> Public transit runs in/nearby	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial and residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Local and city involvement

Photograph Recommendations

The following illustrates ways to showcase the best qualities of your nominated place. Images must show people in the proposed area or place as well as everyday uses and salient features. Photographs should support the qualities highlighted in the written portion of your nomination.

Neighborhoods	Streets	Public Spaces
 <p data-bbox="196 1150 537 1209">Example of image showing both uniformity and quirkiness of this designated neighborhood.</p>	 <p data-bbox="586 1150 964 1209">Images showing context helpful: sidewalks; cars in street and parked; buildings; people; landscaping; signs; etc.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1013 1150 1414 1209">Pictures that show everyday use of a space and its unique building architecture are important.</p>
 <p data-bbox="196 1476 537 1539">Highlights proximity to neighbors, Example of a designated neighborhood's sidewalks and landscaping.</p>	 <p data-bbox="586 1476 964 1539">Images showing sense and character useful, especially everyday use (parking, pedestrians, architecture styles, etc.).</p>	 <p data-bbox="1013 1476 1414 1539">Photos showing people using candidate public space are essential.</p>
 <p data-bbox="196 1787 537 1845">Image showing waterway, plaza and other features of this downtown neighborhood.</p>	 <p data-bbox="586 1787 964 1845">Images should have a focus. For example, street features and activities (people, outdoor dining, street lighting, storefronts, etc.).</p>	 <p data-bbox="1013 1787 1414 1845">Aerial or bird's eye photos showing an overall view, if available, are dramatic and captivating.</p>