




## 2026 Alexandria Beautification Awards Criteria

### **Criteria Below Applicable to ALL Nominees and Awards**


- 🌳 Judging is limited to properties visible to the public right-of-way. (Backyards not seen from public right-of-way are ineligible.)
- 🌳 Properties that have won an award within the last seven (7) years are ineligible. (Individuals and organizations may win multiple times within 7 years for *different* properties.)
- 🌳 Properties that are listed for sale are ineligible.
- 🌳 Properties with visually appealing, sustainable design and green practices, including:
  - renewable energy
  - water conservation & stormwater/flood management – e.g., rain barrels, rain gardens, etc.
  - native, non-invasive plants (see [PlantNOVANatives.org](http://PlantNOVANatives.org) and [Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia](http://MasterGardenersofNorthernVirginia) for details, including where and what to buy) & natural materials – including pollinator gardens & wildlife certified properties
  - permeable walkways and driveways
  - no-mow lawns and reduction of turf grass
  - elimination of pesticides
  - contribution to tree canopy
  - improvements to community spaces
  - recycling, composting & mulch
- 🌳 Design may include different plant colors, heights, and natural textures (e.g., different types of stone, wood, mulch, plants) and seasonal plants that bloom at different times of the year.


## *2026 Award Categories and Criteria*

### **NEW for 2026: Patriotic Native Plantings**


 Creative plantings of native species in red, white, and blue colors to celebrate America250. Support sustainability by replacing grass with native plants, planting natives in pots by your entrance, etc. For residential, business, or community properties. Preference given to long-term native plant installations over temporary seasonal displays.


### **Residential & Residential Street Beautification Award**

 Private homes that contribute to the beautification of the City through sustainable landscaping best practices as described above.


 Residential streets with at least three (3) properties on one street (1-2 City blocks) that meet the award criteria and collectively enhance the appearance through cohesive design, sustainable landscaping practices, and meaningful contributions to the public-facing streetscape.

### **Community & Commercial Beautification Award**


 Awarded for recognition of businesses, public (e.g., parks or gardens), or publicly-accessible private properties that promote beautification in the community through sustainable landscaping, or other environmentally sustainable practices.

 Awards can also be given to individual or group efforts/activities that promote beautification in the community. Examples include cleanups, invasive plant removals, or other sustainable efforts that contribute to the beautification of the City.

### **Architecture Award**

 Recognizes architecture that enhances the city's visual appeal through creative design, use of sustainable and green materials, and thoughtful integration with the surrounding neighborhood context.

### **Public Art**

 Murals, statues, sculptures, or other public art that have a positive visual impact, community context, and sustainable materials.