

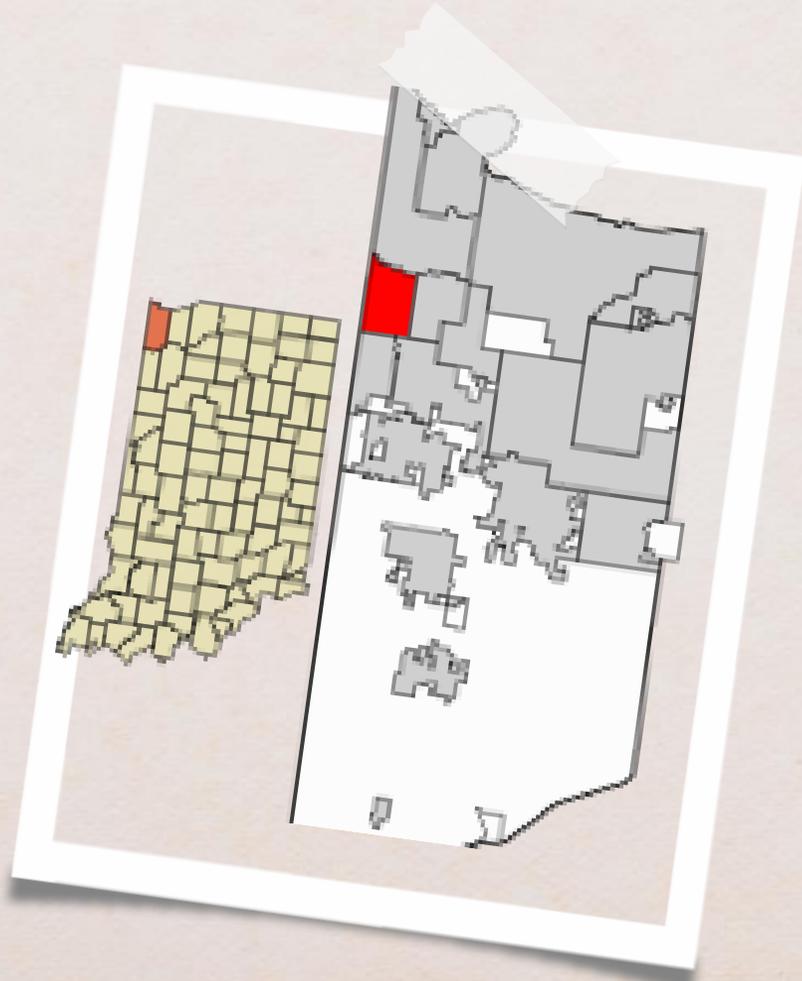
A black spiral-bound notebook is shown from a top-down perspective, lying on a dark wood-grain surface. The notebook's cover is black and features a white spiral binding on the left side. A teal-colored banner with a slightly textured appearance is centered on the cover. The banner has a white, patterned paper strip attached to its top edge. The text on the banner is white and reads "AMERICA IN BLOOM" on the top line and "TOWN OF MUNSTER" on the bottom line. Below the banner, the text "COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE" is printed in white, with "2021" centered underneath it. On the right side of the notebook, a piece of light-colored, braided rope is tied into a bow, with the ends of the rope hanging down.

AMERICA IN BLOOM  
TOWN OF MUNSTER

COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE  
2021

**AT A  
GLANCE**





Town of Munster  
Indiana  
Lake County  
North Township

# POPULATION

22,476

Town of Munster  
Population estimate July 1, 2019

# Introduction to Munster

Incorporated in 1907, the former farm fields evolved into an established and prosperous community of approximately 23,000 residents.





Munster, Indiana is in Lake County, Indiana and is 30 miles southeast of the Chicago Downtown Loop. Since its incorporation in 1907, the Town of Munster has evolved into an established and prosperous community of 22,476 residents and serves as a cultural and medical hub for the greater Northwest Indiana region. Today, Munster is almost completely developed and exists as a stable community of primarily mid to late 20th century neighborhoods with an extensive parks and trails system.

# GOVERNMENT

Council-Manager

5-person elected Council appoint a

Town Manager

Town Finances are overseen  
by the elected Clerk-Treasurer



Kenneth Schoon  
Councilor, Ward 1



Lee Ann Mellon  
Councilor, Ward 2



Chuck Gardiner  
Councilor, Ward 3



Steve Tulowitzki  
Councilor, Ward 4



Dr. Andy Koultourides  
Councilor, Ward 5



Wendy Mis  
Clerk-Treasurer

Dustin Anderson  
Town Manager



# Westlake TOD



The developing Westlake Corridor is an approximate 8-mile extension of the existing South Shore Train Line between Northwest Indiana and Chicago.

# Centennial Village



A sustainable, mixed-use, walkable community at the intersection of Calumet Avenue and 45<sup>th</sup> Street.

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# Calumet-Ridge Streetscape



A recently completed streetscape plan focused on the Calumet-Ridge corridor to create a welcoming environment, reinforce a sense of community, and to absorb stormwater and reduce flooding.

## Livable Munster: Character-Based Code

In 2018, the Town of Munster rewrote the Town's zoning ordinance to promote walkability and high-quality, mixed-use development.



# Town of Munster



June 29, 2021  
Adam Massey



# Community Vitality

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AMERICA IN BLOOM

TOWN OF MUNSTER 2021

# Munster Volunteer Boards

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Nominating Committee –  
Town Council Appointed

Choice Community Council –  
Volunteer and assist Munster  
Police Department



# Munster Volunteer Boards

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Choice Community Council – Volunteer and assist Munster Police Department



# ADA Accessibility in public areas and other Programs for inclusion

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Town of Munster features handicap accessible sidewalks.

Munster High School provides safe passage to athletic fields.



# ADA Accessibility in public areas and other Programs for inclusion

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Chance's Kingdom – Sensory Play Area

Dedicated on September 21, 2019

In Sunnyside Park



# Town of Munster Outdoor Recreation Facilities

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DOG PARK – 3 ACRES OF FUN IN  
BEAUTIFUL CENTENNIAL PARK



DOG PARK MEMBERS ENJOY THE “LAST  
SWIM OF THE SUMMER SEASON”



# Town of Munster Outdoor Recreation Facilities

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COMMUNITY PARK POOL FEATURES ZERO DEPTH ENTRY POOL WITH DIVING BOARD, TWO WATER SLIDES, SAND PLAY AREA, CONCESSION STAND, AND BAGS GAME



# Town of Munster Outdoor Recreation Facilities

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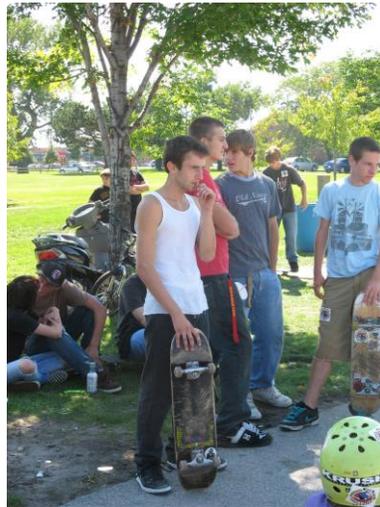
COMMUNITY PARK FEATURES TWO BABE RUTH BASEBALL DIAMONDS, THREE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL DIAMONDS AND FOUR SOFTBALL DIAMONDS



# Town of Munster Outdoor Recreation Facilities

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COMMUNITY PARK IS HOME TO THE TOWN OF MUNSTER SKATE PARK THAT FEATURES FOUR LARGE RAMPS, ONE SMALL RAMP AND A RAIL RIDER



# Town of Munster Play Areas

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# Town of Munster Maintenance

Tiger Den of Cub Scout Pack 936  
from Frank Hammond Elementary  
School assisted with Heritage Park  
clean up on April 13, 2021.



# Town of Munster Walking, Biking and Exercise Trail

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CENTENNIAL PARK STAIRS PROVIDE EROSION  
CONTROL TO LANDFILL CAP



82 FITNESS STAIRS WITH A RISE OF 45 FEET  
OFFER A CHALLENGE AT CENTENNIAL PARK



# Town of Munster Walking, Biking and Exercise Trail

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# Town of Munster Performance Art, Dance, Theater Music and Cinema

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CENTER FOR VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS – BANQUET  
FACILITY



THEATER AT THE CENTER PRESENT 5 ACTORS EQUITY  
PRODUCTIONS AND A VARIETY OF SPECIAL EVENTS



# Town of Munster Public Library

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# Town of Munster Community Market

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# Town of Munster Community Garden

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MUNSTER GARDEN CLUB PLANTS ANNUALLY IN FRONT OF TOWN HALL



**BASIL**

**COMMUNITY  
GARDEN**

**BANANA PEPPERS**

For the past 3 years, Brad Hemingway (Chamber Executive Board Member) has been cultivating the flower beds at the front entrance to Town Hall into our Community Garden. The plants are all started from seed and donated by Planting Possibilities.

This year Brad has been working on the garden with a student and her aid from the S.T.E.P. (Student Transition Education Program) at Munster High School. The garden includes cucumbers, yellow squash, heirloom tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, butternut squash, swiss chard and basil.

With much support from Dustin Anderson, Town Manager, we have added a small but unique feature to our already unique community. We encourage you to sample our garden and enjoy it!

MUNSTER GARDEN CLUB WITH MUNSTER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PLANTED 21 PEAR AND DWARF CHERRY TREES AND 15 RASPBERRY SHRUBS



# Town of Munster Programs for Youth: Parks Department

The Town of Munster offers a large variety of programming for region youth.



# Town of Munster Programs for Youth: Scouts

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# Town of Munster Programs for Youth: Police Department Explorers

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, MUNSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES A POSITIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT. THE EXPLORER HELP AT THE ANNUAL SHOP WITH A COP.



# Town of Munster Programs for Youth: Police Department Explorers

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Town of Munster Programs for Youth: School Town of Munster

**SNOWFLURRY**

# Town of Munster Volunteer Recognition – Munster Police Department Citizenship Award

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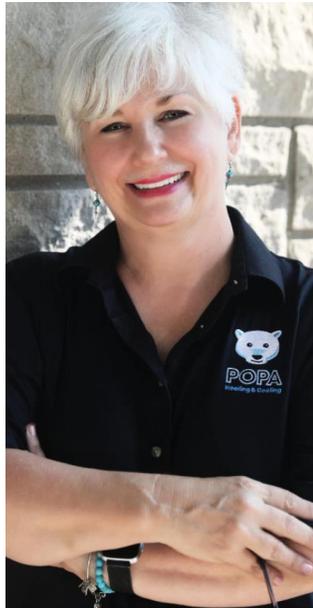
THE CITIZENSHIP AWARD IS PRESENTED TO RECIPIENTS WHO HAVE PROVIDED A GREAT AMOUNT OF WORK OR SUPPORT DURING THE PAST YEAR TOWARDS POSITIVE COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES.



# Town of Munster Munster Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year and Citizen of the Year

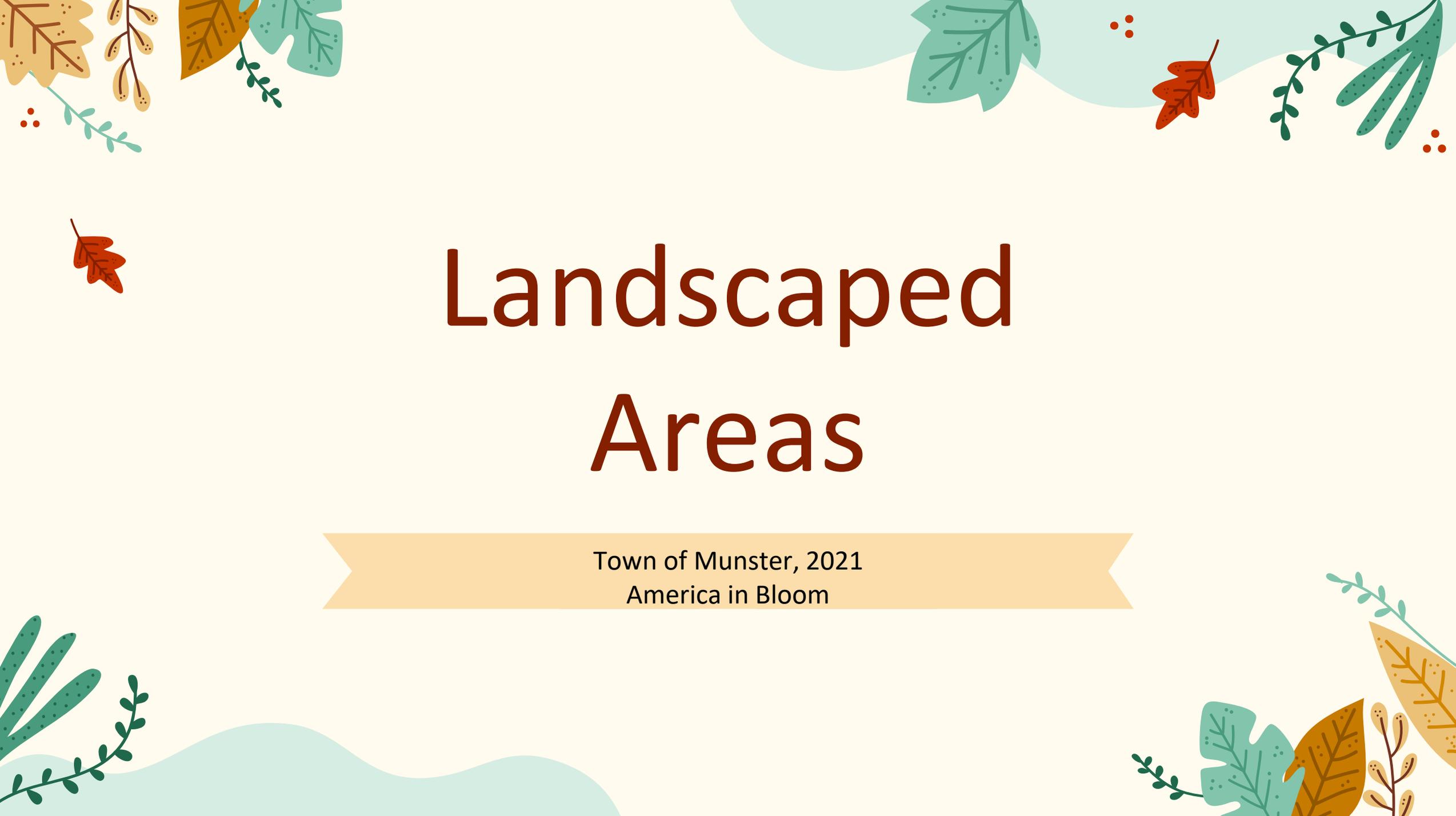
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CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - PAT POPA



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - KATIE SANNITO



The page features decorative floral and leaf patterns in the corners. The top-left and bottom-right corners have clusters of leaves in shades of brown, orange, and teal, with small red berries. The top-right and bottom-left corners have teal leaves and branches. A light teal wavy shape is at the top, and a light teal wavy shape is at the bottom.

# Landscaped Areas

Town of Munster, 2021  
America in Bloom

# Management of Planting Public Landscaped Areas



The Town of Munster manages our parks and open spaces utilizing:

- Park Staff
- Local Lawn Maintenance

# Management of Planting Public Landscaped Areas



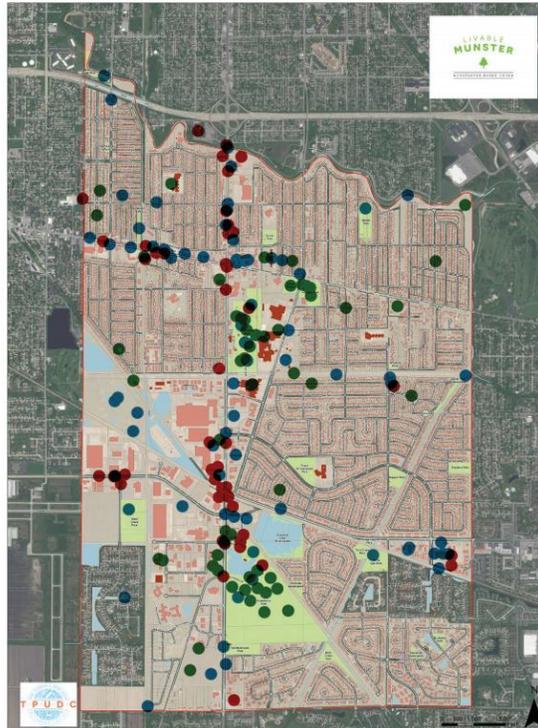
The Public Works Department manages the floral displays and parkway plantings.

The Munster Civic Foundation donated 3,000 tulip bulbs that were planted in parkways throughout the main corridors in Town.

# Municipal Landscape Ordinances

Munster Character-Based Code Zoning Ordinance specifies landscaping requirements for each zoning district.

## OPENING PRESENTATION: HANDS-ON WORKSHOP



- More bike paths
- Improve intersections and pedestrian crossings on Calumet
- Provide consistent sidewalks throughout Town
- Maintain historic neighborhoods
- Maintain excellent reputation for schools and health care facilities
- Preserve and maintain parks and open spaces
- Encourage tech-based businesses to redevelop industrial areas
- Encourage more beautification efforts
- Provide more senior housing
- Support more small, independently-owned shops; fewer chains
- Provide better pedestrian connectivity, walking trails & access
- More parks in the northwest portion of Town
- Focus development activity in the northern part of Town
- Create a downtown around Centennial Village
- Munster can have more than one center
- Consider relationship between parking and the street
- Consider a mountain bike park or outdoor recreation area on the Lansing Country Club site
- More condo-type housing would appeal to younger people
- Reduce speeding, especially on Ridge Road
- Consider a trolley on Calumet
- Improve the gateways to Town
- Allow pockets of mixed-use development in neighborhoods
- Update architecture, enforce building design standards

- Places you love the most
- Places that there are opportunities for improvement
- Places you love the least

# Planning for Restoration of Natural Areas and Management of Invasive Plants



The Town considers natural areas and tries to use them as focal points.

# Demonstration and Display Gardens

## Centennial Park Formal Gardens



# Demonstration and Display Gardens



## Centennial Park Formal Gardens



# Demonstration and Display Gardens

## Garden Walk



# Demonstration and Display Gardens



## Wild Ones



# “Right Plant in the Right Place”

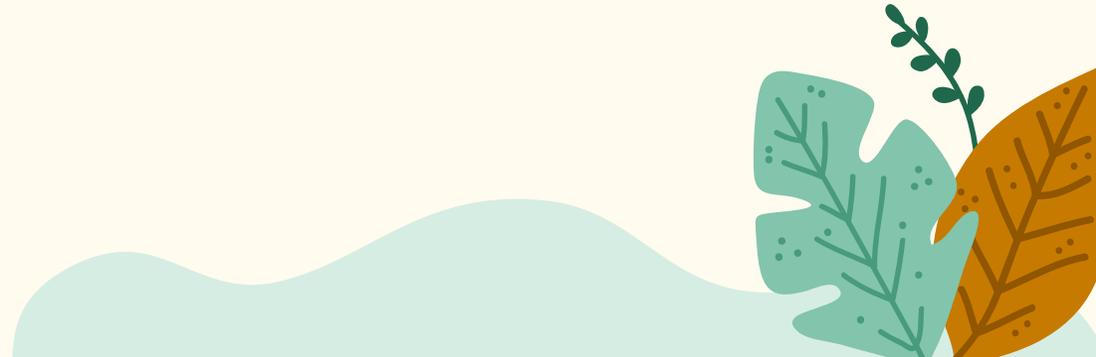
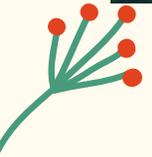
The Town has a 50/50 Tree Replacement Program for trees planted in the parkway in front of your home

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED CULTIVARS</u>
Shadowblow Serviceberry	<i>Acer ginnala</i>	
Apple Serviceberry hybrids	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	
Allegheny Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i>	'Princess Diana', 'Autumn Brilliance'
American Hornbeam	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	
Eastern Redbud	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	(use single-trunk tree form on streets)
Kousa Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	(plant only on sheltered sites, tree form)
Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn	<i>Comus kousa chinensis</i>	
Washington Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli 'Inermis'</i>	
Winter King Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	(only where thorns not problematic)
Rose of Sharon	<i>Crataegus viridis 'Winter King'</i>	
Royal Star Magnolia	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	(a shrub, but tree form is available)
Dr. Merrill Magnolia	<i>Magnolia stellata 'Royal Star'</i>	(a shrub, but tree form is available)
Flowering Crabapple	<i>Magnolia x loebneri</i>	'Merrill', or 'Leonard Messel'
Japanese Tree Lilac	<i>Morus cv.</i>	(Choose disease resistant only)
	<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	'Ivory Silk'



## Recognition Program for Attractive Landscapes

The Munster Chamber of Commerce recognizes extraordinary efforts to beautify our Town. Past award recipients include the Franciscan Health and the Cancer Resource Centre healing gardens



# School Gardening Programs

The Munster Garden Club donated \$1,000 to support the STEM initiative called project GREEN.



# Turf Integrated Pest Management and Weed Management



Community Park, located in the heart of Munster has 2 Babe Ruth Baseball Diamonds, 3 little league Baseball Diamonds and 4 Girls Softball Diamonds. Our facilities host numerous baseball and softball tournaments including the Indiana State Little League Tournament in July 2021. Fields are routinely maintained.



# Community Educational Programs Related to Landscapes



The Parks Department in addition to the Munster Garden Club and Wild Ones will host programs related to gardening for all levels of gardening from novice to master gardeners.



# Volunteer activities related to landscaped areas and turf





# Urban Forestry

America In Bloom  
Town of Munster 2021

# Training for urban forest care and upkeep

- The Public Works Department manages our urban forestry.
- Forest Resource Planning assists with tree planning, grant management, and urban forest management.
- Public Works receives training for trimming trees.



Bieker Woods

# Tree board/commission/department and activities



- The Public Works Department manages the urban forest in Town located at Columbia and Ridge Road.
- The staff monitors the health of street trees.
- The Town seeks grants to procure and plant trees with the public rights-of-way and the parks.
- Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) and the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) offer grants.

# Tree board/commission/department and activities



The Public Works  
Department administers the  
50/50 Residential Tree  
Replacement Program.

# Municipal ordinance for tree preservation and protection of historic trees



The Munster zoning ordinance includes tree preservation.

Trees are required to be replaced at a ratio that corresponds to the trees removed.

Developers can place trees on or off site or pay a fee in lieu which plants trees on public property.

# Munster Indiana - Tree City USA



- The Town of Munster has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for 25 years.
- The Town Council recognizes Arbor Day annually with a proclamation presented at a regular Council meeting.

# Annual tree planting program for public areas



- Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) and the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) offer grants to plant trees in the right-of-way.
- The local utility company, NIPSCO, provides replacement trees for any they remove in the utility right of way.





## Management strategies for tree health and removal of dead, imperiled, and invasive trees in public areas

The Town of Munster monitors the health of all trees in the Town parkways. Diseased or damaged trees are removed. Residents are responsible for regular maintenance. The Town was very responsive and removed over 1,000 diseased Ash trees. Replacement trees were planted the following year.



# Communication to residents of tree - related issues

Education: Publications, Website, and Social Media



## WEBSITE

- [www.munster.org](http://www.munster.org)

## FACEBOOK

- Town of Munster

## ARTICLES IN:

- Town of Munster
- The Times Newspaper
- The Post-Tribune
- News You Can Use
- Weekly Neighborhood Crime Watch Newsletter



# Environmental Efforts

America in Bloom  
Town of Munster 2021



Coming  
Summer of 2021



The Town of Munster had a successful grant application for the installation of a level 2 electric vehicle charging station. The charging station will be installed at Munster Town Hall.

# Stormwater Management Policies



The Town of Munster requires new development to retain stormwater onsite and to install water quality devices upstream of the public storm sewer. A stormwater fee is assessed to commercial and industrial businesses which is based on the amount of impermeable surface onsite.

# Education about Environmental Efforts



- The Town of Munster has partnered with the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission on MS4 stormwater education.
- NIRPC provided print, web, social media postings, and movie theater advertising.

# Education about Environmental Efforts



- The Town of Munster has partnered with the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission on MS4 stormwater education.
- NIRPC provided print, web, social media postings, and movie theater advertising.

# Bio-swales and/or rain gardens to reduce stormwater run-off pollution in place

The Town is completeing the Calumet-Ridge Streetscape. The plan recommends rain gardens within the parkways and strategies to reduce stormwater runoff.

Bioswale plantings + decorative gravel



Rain gardens





Residential curbside trash collection and recycling is available and/or required



# Yard Waste Composting



The Town collects leaves and branches that had been left curbside. Leaves are disposed at a regional composting site.

# Prescription drug drop-off(s), hazardous waste, and plastic bag/foam container collection points:



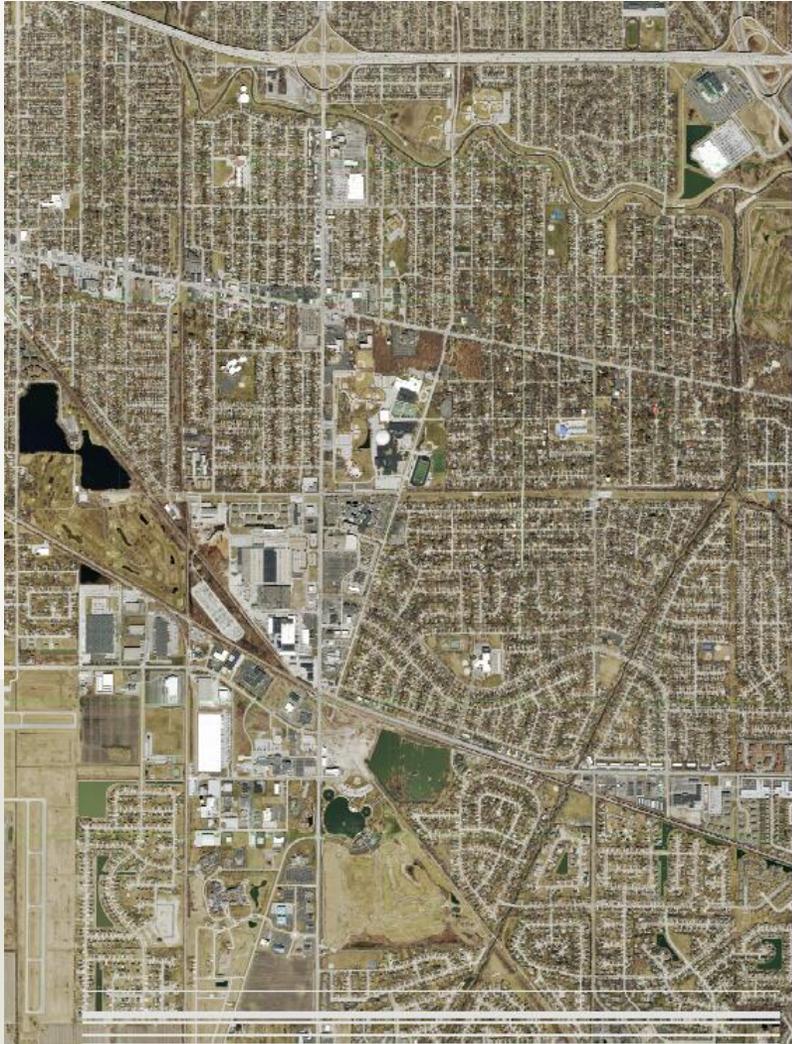
The Town partners with the Lake County Solid Waste District to provide an annual household hazardous waste collection event. The Munster Police Department has a prescription medication drop-off collection box located in their station lobby and participates in regular “Drug Take Back Days”.

## School curricula programs and events to encourage youth involvement



The Munster Garden Club has partnered with Munster High School to promote gardening in education. The Garden Club donated \$1,000 to support a school STEM initiative called project GREEN, which is a 3-to-5-year interdisciplinary project engaging students with learning activities and creating a school garden and orchard. They have two distinct garden spaces at the high school: the north courtyard houses a greenhouse with vegetables grown from seed and transferred into student built raised beds; the central courtyard will house a student designed and created orchard.

Two of the three elementary schools have greenhouses attached to their science lab and integrate gardening into their curriculum.



# Overall Impression

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America in Bloom  
Town of Munster, 2021



# Sign Ordinances

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The Town of Munster zoning ordinance restricts the number, size, and type of permanent and temporary signs

# Ordinances to address Blight

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Munster administers a Property Management Code and Unsafe Building Ordinance. Town staff enforces the maintenance of residential and commercial properties and the removal of trash and weeds.



# Code Enforcement on Staff





## Community Gateway Entry

The Town maintains Town of  
Munster signs and plantings

## Community Gateway Entry

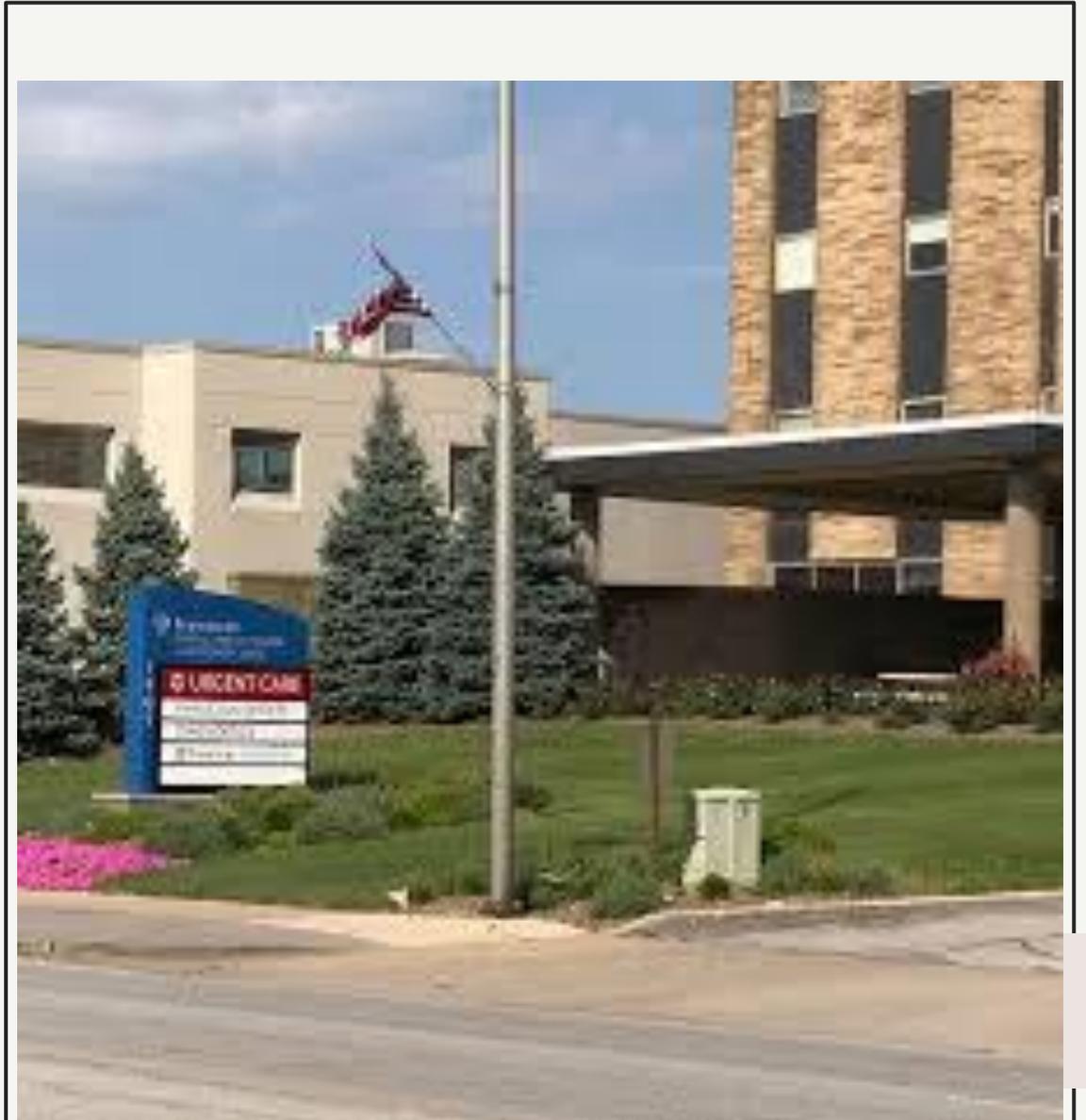
Proposed pedestrian  
bridge in cooperation  
with the City of  
Hammond.



# Banners, Murals and Public Art

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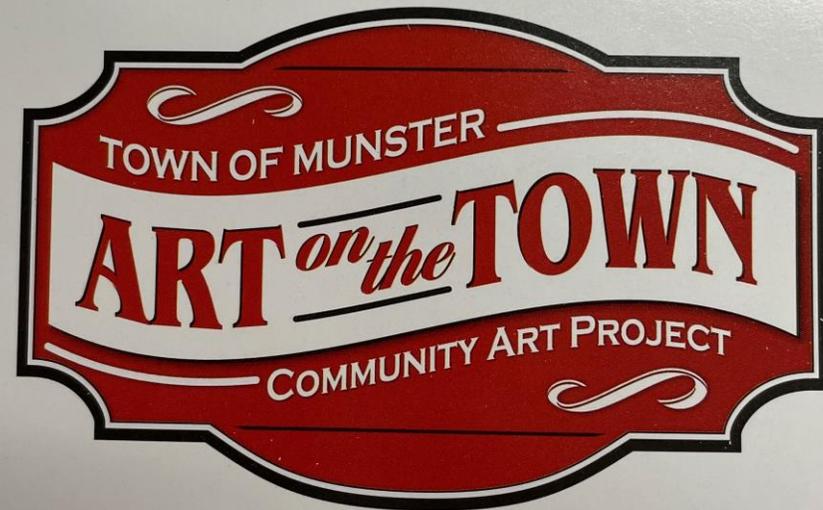
The Town mounts U.S. flags on light poles along Calumet Avenue during the summer months.



# Banners, Murals, and Public Art

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The Town has historically required a percentage of any tax incentive to be used for public art which has resulted in public art sculptures throughout the Town, and which can be viewed at an award-winning public art tour called 'Art on the Town'.



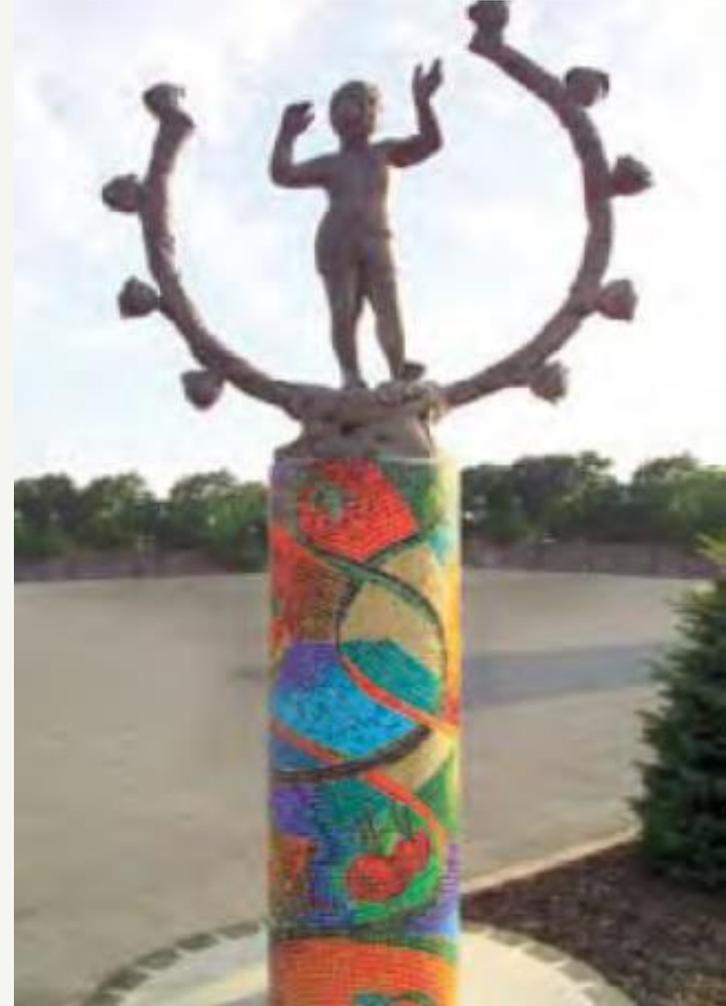
# Banners, Murals, and Public Art

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Growing Up Healthy

Artist: Kathleen Farrell

Sponsor: Strack and Van Til



# Banners, Murals, and Public Art

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Tearin' It Up

Artist: Randolph Rose

Sponsor: Heart to Heart



# Banners, Murals, and Public Art

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Double Sipper/Little Sisters  
Artist: Mark Lundeen  
Sponsor: Pepsi Americas



# Banners, Murals, and Public Art

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Home

Artist: Charlotte Lees

Sponsor: Peoples Bank



# Banners, Murals, and Public Art

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Hoosier Daddy

Artist: Steve Teeters

Sponsor: Collision Revision



# Banners, Murals, and Public Art

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Harvest Moon  
Artist: Steve Teeters  
Sponsor: Whole Foods



# Banners, Murals, and Public Art

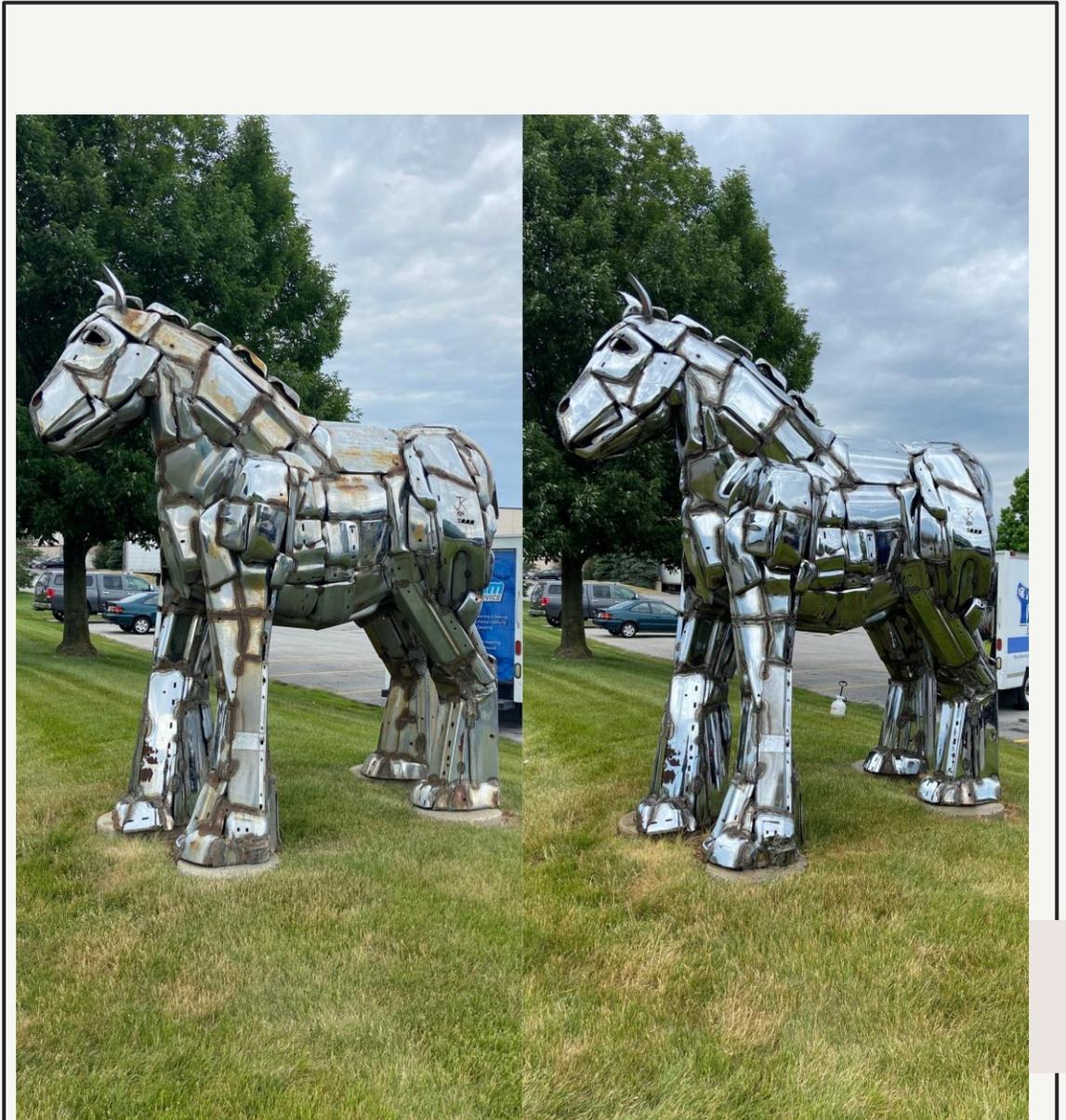
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Horsepower

Artist: John Kearney

Sponsor: Staley General and  
Rockwell Automation

The Munster Civic Foundation performed maintenance to eliminate years' worth of weathering and showcase the shine and rust of the automobile bumpers used in the creation.



# Banners, Murals, and Public Art

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Iron Clad

Artist: John Kearney

Sponsor: Staley General and  
Rockwell Automation

The Munster Civic Foundation performed maintenance to eliminate years' worth of weathering and showcase the shine and rust of the automobile bumpers used in the creation.



# Banners, Murals, and Public Art

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The Baker

Artist: Karl Wirsum

Sponsor: Dawn Foods

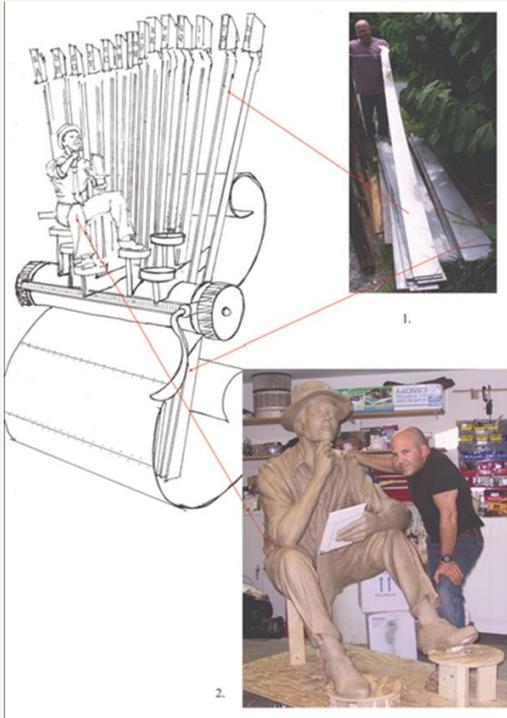


# Banners, Murals, and Public Art

Inspiration

Artist: Zachary Axman

Sponsor: The Times



# Banners, Murals, and Public Art

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Yesterday & Today for  
Tomorrow – Rotary Park



# Banners, Murals, and Public Art

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The Community Veterans Memorial entitled “Defenders of Freedom” is dedicated to the veterans of the wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



# Banners, Murals, and Public Art

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Centennial Park features various pieces of public art through the public walkway along the lake.



# Non-Plant Seasonal Decorations

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## Street Sweeping Schedule

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The Town operates two street sweeper trucks and sweeps every street in Munster four times a year

# Memorial Tree, Plaque, and Brick Programs

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## **Memorial Tree**

To remember that special person or event through the perpetual growth of a tree. Trees can be planted in any Munster Park (excludes Centennial) two times per year in the spring and fall months.

## **Memorial Plaque and Brick**

Creating beautification through the Munster Civic Foundation. Tree plaques (which can be placed at an existing tree) or memorial bricks at the "Together" statue or Half Round Public Picnic Area in the park.

# Thank You

Thank you to all that helped to make  
this presentation filled with so  
many wonderful accomplishments  
of our Town

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by **Slidesgo**,  
including icons by **Flaticon**, infographics & images by **Freepik**