



YARD OF THE MONTH PROGRAM

A KEEP FOREST HILL BEAUTIFUL Project

The City of Forest Hill Parks, Recreation, and Clean City Commission (PRCCC) is proud to sponsor the “Yard of the Month” (YOM) program for residents and businesses of the City of Forest Hill. The PRCCC is currently accepting applications. YOM has been established to promote good will and community pride through the look of well-manicured, maintained, and design landscaping of yards throughout Forest Hill for residents and businesses.

Judges will use the general criteria and procedures below when choosing YOM. These are only guidelines and the final decision is based on the evidence of the homeowner’s and business owner’s pride in their property.

ELIGIBILITY

- Properties are eligible to receive the YOM once in a 12 month period (calendar year).
- Property may be personally or professionally maintained.
- Properties may be residential or commercial.
- Properties must be located within the city limits of Forest Hill.

CRITERIA

- Yard is well groomed (mowed, edged and minimal weeds).
- Yard is attractive - pleasing to the eye (e.g. green lawn, variety of plants with various heights and colors).
- Yard has no visible Code Violations (e.g. litter, junked or inoperable vehicle, furniture, etc.).
- House numbers are attractively displayed.
- Only the portions of the yard viewed from the street will be judged.

PROCEDURE

- YOM will be awarded each month between June and October.
- Photos of the yard, with permission of the property owner, shall be shown in the Forest Hill newspaper and on the city’s website.
- A YOM sign will be provided to the winner to be placed in their yard during the 30 day period recognizing the honor.
- Each yard will be limited to winning the award only once in a 12 month period (or each calendar year).
- Should a homeowner or business owner decline to participate upon notification of winning, the second place yard will become YOM.
- While a yard is being recognized as YOM, the winning property/location is expected to maintain the yard in the same manner that allowed them to win the honor.

YOM NOMINATION

Nomination Procedure(s): Nominations may be for your own property/residence, neighbor, or business.

- The nomination process begins by completing/submitting an application which is available on the city’s website or at city hall on the forms rack (front entry). It is attached to this document.
- You, the submitter, will write a short narrative about your nominee (why chosen, what attracted you to this given location).
- Many homeowners and businesses take pride in their property, lawn, and flower gardens throughout the year. If you feel your residence or business should be entered, you may nominate your yard, a neighbor’s yard or business.

- Nominations are provided by observers and volunteer judges to successfully implement this program. The volunteer observers and judges will represent a cross-section of the city (e.g. the city neighborhood watch patrol, police and fire departments, etc.) to help identify any given recommendation for follow-up. These are organizations that frequent various sectors of Forest Hill. We expect watchful helpers from the library district, senior citizens, business owners, City Council and other civic organizations, and individual
- Nominees will be notified of their being considered.
- Nominations must include:
 - A picture of the property under consideration along with:
 1. The name and telephone number of the person nominating the yard;
 2. The exact physical address of the property nominated;
 3. An explanation why this property deserves the award.
 - Nominations must be made by the 15th of the month to be considered for the following month.
 - Time table for selection will be ten (10) days after all nominated sites are visited and voted upon. Majority selection is required.
- ✓ All residential and business properties within the city limits are automatically eligible. However, you may choose not to participate. We sincerely hope you will permit us to acknowledge your very attractively beautiful location/property as part of our Keep Forest Hill Beautiful Program.
- ✓ Winners (either residential or business properties) are chosen north and south of I-20 running through our city. Four winners for residences and two winners for businesses will be identified each month.

Residence Judging Criteria

Business Judging Criteria

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Yard is well groomed (mowed, edged and minimal weeds) ❖ Yard is attractive - pleasing to the eye (e.g., green lawn, variety of plants, shrubs, colors) ❖ Yard has no visible Code Violations (e.g., litter, junked or inoperable vehicle or furniture) ❖ House numbers are displayed ❖ Only the portion of the yard viewed from the street will be judged. ❖ Overall appearance is pleasing and inviting <p>Lawn: Property may or may not have grass</p> <p>Landscape: Neat design, theme or natural appearance</p> <p>Walkway/Driveway: Clean, debris moved, trash containers / products are not obstructing the property's beauty or is aesthetic view</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upkeep may be by individual or landscaper or professional groundskeeper ➤ Judged solely on exterior store front or side if applicable view ➤ Enhanced curb appeal (balanced use of color) ➤ No Code Violations (e.g., trash, graffiti) ➤ Consistent maintenance ➤ Tasteful, creative landscaping ➤ Overall appearance is pleasing and inviting
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Who are the judges?: Volunteer judges will review and critique all nominations and submit them to the Commission. The judges represent a cross section of business persons and individuals within the city, such as Citizens on Patrol, Public Works, Code Enforcement, City Council members, Celebration Committee members, Lions Club, Library Board, Senior Citizens, and two Parks Commissioners, etc.) .

Venue for recognition: We look forward to showcasing the winners. All award winners receive an official City of Forest Hill "Yard of the Month" sign to place in their yard for the duration of the month. The winner is featured in the next community newsletter and a picture of their home is displayed on the website.

At year-end, we will host a "Thank You" celebration for all winners as well as select the "Best in City - Yard of the Year Award" from the monthly winner's list.



Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Do I have to be a City of Forest Hill resident or have my business located within the city?

Answer: Yes

Question: What if I rent the property, but it is not listed to me as the owner?

Answer: Selection of the property is based on the current occupant.

Question: Will the city help me with my water bill should I participate? And what about watering when I choose?

Answer: No. We ask that you follow the watering guidelines the city has in place. Watering guidelines are adhered to by all residents and businesses. Please visit the city's website if questions.

Question: When is the judging?

Answer: May (initial viewing). The Keep Forest Hill Beautiful Yard of the Month program is judged in June, July, August, September and October. We plan to host a winners' celebration/recognition event at end of year.

Question: Do I need to be home to receive the award?

Answer: Yes, but not for the judging. The Keep Forest Hill Beautiful Yard of the Month program committee chair will notify the winner(s) and schedule a time to place the Yard of the Month Sign in your front yard and take a photo for the city's website and newspaper. The City Secretary or designee will schedule a time to have you come to a City Council meeting to receive a certificate signed by the Mayor.

Question: How is the Yard of the Month selected?

Answer: A panel of volunteers representing residences and businesses will judge the yards solely on the total exterior appearance of the property and front/side yards as viewed from the street. General upkeep of the yard and property is paramount. Factors include the overall appearance, tidiness, good use of seasonal greenery, and neatness of the front of the property as evidence by pruned, trimmed, and shaped foliage edged and defined lawns, and borders and flowerbeds.

Question: If I win, what awards do I receive?

Answer: A beautiful Yard of the Month sign will be displayed in the winner's front yard, along with a certificate signed by the Mayor. A picture of the winner's yard will be published on the City of Forest Hill website and in the city newspaper. Monthly winners are eligible for entry in the "Best in City - Yard of the Year Award."

Question: How long do I keep the "Yard of the Month" sign?

Answer: The Yard of the Month sign will be awarded to the winners at the beginning of the month. At the end of the month, the Yard of the Month sign will be retrieved by a city staff person. Prior to removing the sign, a courtesy notification pick-up call will be made three business days in advance.

Question: What should I do if the "Yard of the Month" sign is damaged or stolen?

Answer: Immediately call the Public Works Dept. at (817) 531-5700 or Lisa Cabrera at (817) 806-4701.

Question: Does a person need to be on the Parks, Recreation, and Clean City Commission to be a Keep Forest Hill Beautiful Yard of the Month judge? If I want to serve, what do I need to do?

Answer: No. Volunteer judges commit to serve for a full program season/cycle (7 months long), and nominate yards on a monthly basis. If you want to volunteer, please email Pearl Jones, Commission Chair at lemارة8@yahoo.com.

Question: Didn't Forest Hill have something like this before? How did all of this come about?

Answer: Yes, there was a program years ago. To once again urge our citizens and businesses to participate and help boost community and civic pride, we are offering the program today. Also, in response to a visit from Councilmember Brigitte Mathis asking for our leadership and design of a Yard of the Month program for our city, Committee Chair Pearl Jones secured volunteers from within the commission to coordinate our project.

Question: What should I do if I *don't* want my residence or business to be considered for YOM?

Answer: Let us know & we will omit that specific property/location. Please notify Lisa Cabrera via email at lcabrera@foresthilltx.org or you may contact Pearl Jones at lemارة8@yahoo.com for removal. Be sure to identify yourself and the location/address of property to be removed.

Participation is voluntary, however where possible, we hope each resident and or business owner will participate and help promote community and civic pride.



Yard of the Month Nomination Form

Residence or Business (One entry per form)

The program is designed to recognize those residences or businesses that have taken the time and effort to beautify and maintain their property. Please complete the form below. Be sure to answer the question and give us contact information for you.

Date: _____ Nomination for: (circle one) **Residence** **Business**

Person making nomination: _____

May we contact you? If yes, please provide:

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Address of property being nominated: _____

Zip Code: _____

What caught your eye to nominate this particular location?

Only the portions of the yard viewed from the street will be judged. (General upkeep, aesthetics, landscaping and curb appeal are paramount).

Questions?

Contact Roberto Duenes, Public Works Superintendent @ 817.531.5700 or Lisa Cabrera, City Planner @ 817.806.4701.