
Germantown “Yard of the Year” Contest

Presented by the Germantown Improvement Club

Purpose

The Yard of the Year Contest celebrates Germantown property owners who take exceptional pride in their homes or businesses and contribute to the beauty, cleanliness, and community spirit of our town. Through this friendly competition, the Germantown Improvement Club seeks to encourage property upkeep, enhance neighborhood appearance, and promote civic pride.

Contest Categories

1. **Residential Best Overall** – Recognizes homeowners who demonstrate outstanding landscaping, creativity, and curb appeal.
 2. **Residential People’s Choice** – Homeowners voted on by the public on Facebook.
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Eligibility

- Open to all Germantown residents and business owners within the Germantown municipal limits.
 - Yards must be visible from the street (no backyard judging).
 - Properties should be maintained primarily by the owner.
 - Prior winners may not win two years in a row but are welcome to participate. Past winners are eligible again after one full contest year has passed.
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How to Enter

- Submit a completed nomination form (self-nominations welcome!)
- Entries accepted via Germantown Improvement Club Facebook messenger, email to GIC@germantownIL.net, or drop off or mail to Germantown Village Hall, Attn: GIC.

Entry Deadline: June 30, 2026

Judging Criteria

Entries will be evaluated by a panel of Improvement Club members using the following point system (total of 100 possible points):

Category	Description	Points
Overall Curb Appeal	General first impression, visual balance, and welcoming appearance of the property.	30
Design and Layout	Effective use of color, space, and landscape elements such as lawns, trees, flowers, shrubs, edging, and walkways.	25
Maintenance and Cleanliness	Lawn care, trimmed edges, weed control, and general neatness of yard and structure.	25
Creativity and Originality	Unique features such as decorative elements, planters, garden art, or creative use of materials.	20

Total Possible Points: 100

Judging Process

- Judging will occur during early July
 - Judges may perform drive-by or on-foot evaluations.
 - Winners will be decided and announced at the July Germantown Improvement Club meeting and featured in the City newsletter, social media, and website
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Awards

Each winner will receive:

- A **“Yard of the Year”** sign for display
 - Recognition in official city and community publications
 - Utility credit from Germantown Village
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Join Us in Keeping Germantown Beautiful!

Your yard—big or small—helps shape the look and feel of our town. We encourage all residents and business owners to showcase their efforts and pride in Germantown.

For questions or nomination forms:

Contact: Germantown Improvement Club

Email: GIC@germantownIL.net

Facebook: Germantown Improvement Club

Germantown “Yard of the Year” Nomination Form Presented by the Germantown Improvement Club

Nominee Information

Property Address: _____

Name of Resident / Business: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

This is a self-nomination

This nomination is submitted by someone else (please complete below):

Nominator’s Name: _____

Phone or Email: _____

Entry Submission

Entries accepted via Germantown Improvement Club Facebook messenger, email to GIC@germantownIL.net, or in person or by mail at Germantown Village Hall, Attn: GIC.

Description of the Property

Describe what makes this yard or property special (creativity, sustainability, community impact, etc.):

Judging Criteria

Entries will be evaluated by a panel of Improvement Club volunteers using the following point system (total of 100 possible points):

1. **Overall Curb Appeal (30 points)** – General first impression, visual balance, and welcoming appearance of the property.
2. **Design and Layout (25 points)** – Effective use of color, space, and landscape elements such as lawns, trees, flowers, shrubs, edging, and walkways.
3. **Maintenance and Cleanliness (25 points)** – Lawn care, trimmed edges, weed control, and general neatness of yard and structure.
4. **Creativity and Originality (20 points)** – Unique features such as decorative elements, planters, garden art, or creative use of materials.

Submission Deadline: June 30th

Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, you grant permission for representatives of the Germantown Improvement Club to visit and photograph the nominated property for judging and promotional purposes.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

 **For questions or nomination forms:**

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