



2026 YARD OF DISTINCTION CONTEST

The City of Waterloo, Waterloo Garden Club and the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce are pleased to announce the City of Waterloo Yard of Distinction Contest. This contest has been designed to honor the citizens of Waterloo who work so hard to beautify their yard. Their dedication and pride in making their yards beautiful help make Waterloo a more appealing place to live.

The Contest is open to any residence or apartment in the City of Waterloo. Entry forms are available at City Hall, Chamber of Commerce Office, or online at www.waterloo.il.us. You may enter your own yard or nominate a neighbor. Judging will be done by the Waterloo City Garden Club on Monday, June 22, 2026.

Rules:

1. The Yard of Distinction competition is open to all homeowners or rental tenants within the City of Waterloo. Winning yards of the previous two years are not eligible.
2. There will be three categories: Large Yard (*R-1 which is 18,000 sq. ft. or larger*), Medium Yard (*R-2 which is 14,000 to 17,999 sq. ft.*), and Small Yard (*R-3 which is a single family dwelling 10,500 to 13,999 sq. ft. AND R-5 which is a multi-family dwelling 10,500 to 13,999 sq. ft.*).
3. Judging will take place June 22nd, with winners announced at the City of Waterloo Council meeting on July 6, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. Winners will be asked to attend the meeting to receive their award and pose for a photograph.
4. Entry deadline is June 15th.

Elements of Consideration:

- 1-Does the front yard have good curb appeal?
- 2-Is the property weed and clutter free and neatly mown?
- 3-Are trees and shrubs trimmed and a good size for the space?
- 4-Are plants lush and healthy?
- 5-Is there color and a variety of plants, shapes and sizes?
- 6-Does the space look inviting and interesting?



YARD OF DISTINCTION ENTRY FORM

Date Submitted: _____

Nominee Name: _____

Nominee Address: _____

Nominee Phone: _____

Has the nominee been notified of the nomination (if yes, check box)

Location (subdivision or cross streets):

Large Yard (R-1)

Medium Yard (R-2)

Small Yard (R-3 & R-5)

Nominator
(if different from above): _____

Nominator Phone: _____

*****To facilitate in the judging process, please provide the additional information below:

Judging will be done on a drive-by or walk-around basis, based on input from the homeowner.

--Would you like to give the judges a tour of your property during the judging process? ____yes ____no

--Judging will be conducted June 22nd.