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# Keep Woodland Park Beautiful

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## NOV. 2, 2017 - CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REVIEW

Once again, KWPB was honored to accept the *Keep America Beautiful President's Circle Recognition and Affiliate Good Standing Award* for standards of excellence achieved in 2016/17.

In 2017, the committee met no less than ten times and welcomed five new members. The year began with a January strategic planning session at which opportunities were identified for the 2017 work year. Members resolved to improve community outreach and consider how to address weeds, cigarette litter and graffiti. In addition, the Committee resolved to maintain the following existing and successful programs.

**Art Protection:** With the Woodland Park Arts Alliance, Park State Bank and Main Street, KWPB established a written policy to manage the collection, upkeep and storage of mobile public art (i.e. benches and upright photo boards).



**Bear Aware:** With Columbine Elementary School, the Forest Service and the Public Library, KWPB again reached out to promote bear awareness. Over 167 entries were

submitted for the drawing contest and the winning art was displayed at the Woodland Park library. KWPB also redirected budget funds for the purchase of a bear-proof container for Memorial Park.

**Recycle Bins:** This program has been very successful due to a great partnership with Parks, Building & Grounds, North Teller Build-a-Generation, and hard-working and devoted Woodland Park Teen Center kids who sort aluminum, glass and other recyclables collected from blue recycle bins located throughout the City. This year has been all about strategizing how to get a small recycle depot built to make sorting easier for all involved.

**Outreach & Awareness:** Foxworth again provided 25% coupons to incentivize mowing and weed control. KWPB booths were located at the winter and summer Farmer's

Markets and other community events as part of their communications drive and numerous articles highlighting various programs and events were published in local newspapers. 2017 beautification awards were presented to Adopt-a-Gardeners who worked hard this year to plant, weed and maintain numerous flower beds throughout the City. KWPB also facilitated independent cleanups along



Fountain Creek (with the Creek Week regional effort), Forest Edge and other neighborhoods (by Victory Life Church), and Bergstrom Park (Midland Depot paint day).

**Adopt-a-Garden & Adopt-a-Spot:** While no new gardens or spots were adopted, the existing 4 gardens and 26 spots continue to be planted and cleaned by a network of diligent volunteers. Both these programs continue to be funded in the KWPB budget. Kudos to the teens from the Teen Center who have adopted the spot along Henrietta Ave. and collected 360 gallons of trash this year!

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Clean-up:** On May 7, KWPB conducted a litter index which rated the City a 1.98 out of 4 (with 1 being no litter and 4 being most litter). This is one of the lowest ratings the City has received since the KWPB began doing litter indexes. In conjunction with Focus on the Forest, on June 17, 2017, over 140 people gathered at the Midland Pavilion for the annual cleanup – a KWPB signature event. The cleanup included a beautification effort at History Park where young children picked up nearby litter and learned about planting as a way to beautify. Be sure to reserve May 19 for the 2018 annual cleanup.

**Recommendations:** In 2018, KWPB intends to continue to apply for grants as opportunities become available, maintain existing programs and expand them as feasible, collaborate with other groups on new projects, and explore new ideas to address weeds and graffiti.