

APPLICATION



City Name Walnut Grove

Population Under 10,000 Over 10,000

Category Public Safety Planning & Economic Development

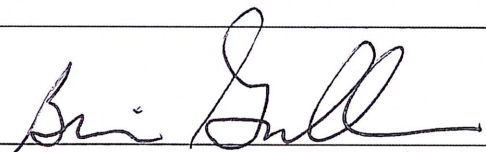
City Spirit Public Works

Title of Entry Celebrate the Spirit of Christmas in the 'Grove

Description of Project attached

Project Summary (use additional pages if necessary) attached

Signature of Chief Elected or Appointed Official


MAYOR

Please provide the following information in case of questions about the application.

Contact Name Brian Gomillion

Title Mayor

Address PO Box 69

City Walnut Grove Zip 39189

Phone 601-826-6020 Email mayor@walnutgrove-ms.com

Project Description

Walnut Grove has strived to make the town of just over one square mile and 510 people a warm and inviting place at Christmas. Most of the decorations are made by volunteers from Keep Walnut Grove Beautiful and the Volunteer Fire Department. Due to a very limited budget, volunteers created decorations from discarded items collected that would likely be destined for a landfill. Thanks to their tireless efforts and creativity, the town was filled with the Spirit of Christmas.

Project Summary

Walnut Grove is a small in population with just 510 and area with just over one square mile. There is a small business community and several government related operations that draw people to the Town daily. Keep Walnut Grove Beautiful has joined Town leadership for several years in improving the appearance of the properties and right of ways the Town owns and encouraging others to do so and enforcing existing ordinances.

This year the Town of Walnut Grove, Walnut Grove Volunteer Fire Department, and Keep Walnut Grove Beautiful took a special spin on the annual Christmas decorations throughout the town.

With limited budget, the Town was did not purchase new decorations for the season but volunteers worked to recycle collected items that the Town or others would have had to pay to discard likely going to landfills.

From September through November, items created included

- oversized Christmas ornaments and trees out of old wood pallets cut to shape, painted, and lighted.
- 3 life-size snowmen made from various size tires, flowerpots, and old broom handles
- 12' and 14' (x2) Christmas Trees made of tractor to atv size tires bound, painted, and lighted. These trees were used as focal points rather than purchasing large live trees to be cut down at tree farms.
- * Christmas Wreaths out of old tractor tires
- * Reindeer out of old, large tires and dead wood for antlers

- Sidewalk Pole Lights in the Triangle Park and Fitness Trail at the Library were transformed into “Candles” with leftover orange trash bags from Great American Clean-up several years ago.
- Four municipal flagpoles were transformed into Christmas Light Trees using old pipe from the public works department and string lights.
- Artificial poinsettias salvaged from Christmas 2021 were placed in the 40 plus hand painted pots around Town.

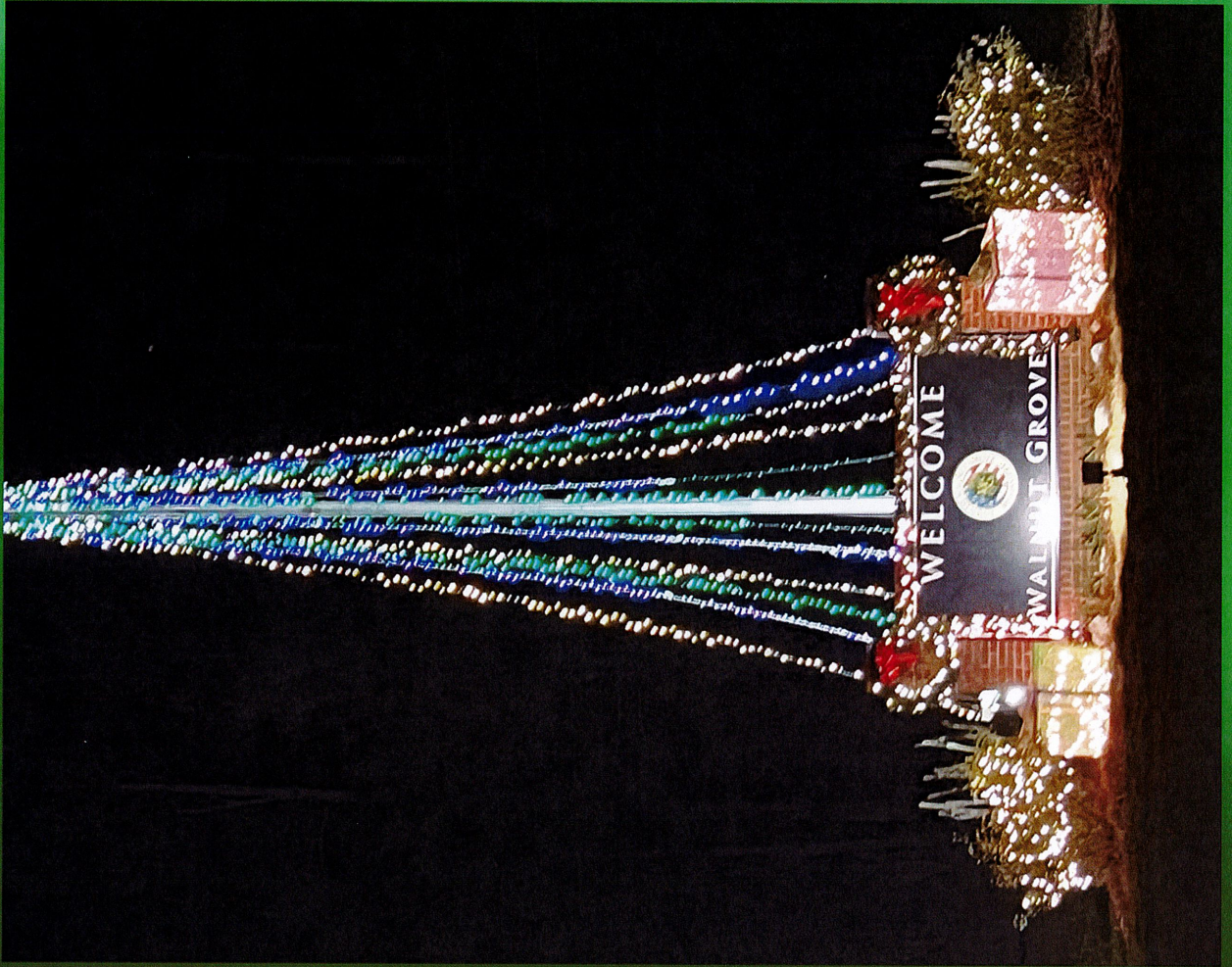
Over 25 volunteers worked on the project in various capacities from age 8 to 81. Some donations were received to complete the decorations. Volunteers and sponsors were recognized at "A Grateful Gathering" the Sunday before Thanksgiving where over 30 local cooks prepared soups, stews, chili, and more for a "tasting." It was the first large community event for 2022 with over 150 people in attendance at the fire station. During the event, the community was lit up.

The project brought community members together to construct and place these decorations for the special season of the year. However, it was one of the first town-wide project since the end of the pandemic. Rubbish and debris were salvaged rather than sent to the landfill. The Town saved money two-fold: 1) not having to pay to dispose of old tires and pallets. 2) Not having to buy new, commercial Christmas Decorations in a lean, budget year.

These "homemade" items are a source of civic pride by those who worked to make them and then place them. Hundreds drove through to enjoy the decorations throughout the Town including these new pieces. Evidenced on social media, many stopped to take Christmas photos at our centerpiece, the decorated triangle, a half town-square, in the heart of our downtown.

Creativity abounds in the hearts and minds of our volunteers so the Spirit of Christmas in the 'Grove will be shared by their labors in 2023.

- Keep Walnut Grove Beautiful was recognized for 1st Place in Recycling Award for this project in April by Keep Mississippi Beautiful





KWGB
keepwalnutgrovebeautiful
KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

