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BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

RECORD BOOK 80 Unit II

# Virginia 4-H Community Improvement

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Year \_\_\_\_\_

Years in Club Work \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Leader's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Extension Agent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# Virginia 4-H Community Improvement (Including the Home Grounds)

J C Garrett

To the 4-H Club Member:

This program area of nationwide concern is planned to encourage you to do a better job of improving your home grounds, your community, and your appreciation for better surroundings in general. While being a part of such worthwhile interests, you have the opportunity to achieve much through your individual efforts and as a member of a group of interested young citizens.

Seek the advice and guidance of others such as your parents, your 4-H leaders, your extension agents, and the many other people who are anxious to be helpful. Make the most of your opportunities to grow individually while developing into a better citizen for serving your community.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Year \_\_\_\_\_

Years in Club Work \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Leaders' Name \_\_\_\_\_

Extension Agents' Name \_\_\_\_\_

Objectives:

1. To respond to the national challenge for each community throughout the State and Nation to remove ugliness from the countryside by:
  - a. Controlling litter and combating vandalism
  - b. Encouraging individuals, organizations, public officials, industrial leaders, and others to remove or conceal ugly objects or places under their supervision.
2. To add beauty to our surroundings by:
  - a. Making all community surroundings more attractive
  - b. Improving each members' home grounds
  - c. Gaining a fuller knowledge and appreciation for plants, their habitat, their effective uses, and their general maintenance
  - d. Encouraging preservation of our national surroundings.
3. To develop better citizens through:
  - a. Development of leadership talents and good character
  - b. Development of family and group relationships by working with others on a program of nationwide concern and importance.
4. To explore career opportunities in the related fields of land use planning, creative design, and conservation of natural resources.

Your 4-H Club can take the lead in making other local young people interested in improving the appearance of the community. Ask your parents, adult leaders, professional workers in community beautification, leaders of organizations, and others for ideas and guidance for worthwhile activities.

Note: At the beginning and during the progress of projects or activities, 4-H Club members are urged to make good photographs for publicity and promotion, records, and other uses.

#### Individual and Group Activities:

Project requirements are in 2 parts:

- a. Home Grounds Beautification (individual activities)
- b. Community Beautification (individual and group activities)

#### A. HOME GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT

Complete at least 1 of the 3 activities listed under Required and at least 4 of the activities listed under Optional Activities for each year of work in Unit II. To the left of the activity number, write the project year (example 1967 - 1, 1968 - 2, etc.) in which you are doing the work. Practice neatness, imagination, accuracy, and thoroughness.

##### Required:

1. Map Your Home Grounds to Scale.

Instructions: a. Use a scale such as 1" = 10'; 1" = 8'; or 1" = 20'

- b. Use a sheet of paper large enough for the map plus a border area of three to four inches.
- c. Following the mapping instructions in Extension Bulletin 217, "Design of Home Grounds" and/or 4-H Teaching Aid, "Mapping to Scale".
- d. Fold the map so it can be fastened within the covers of the Record Book.
- e. Complete the following information in addition to the map:

(1) General information:

Define scale: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Which scale did you use? \_\_\_\_\_ inch \_\_\_\_\_ feet.

Distance to nearest neighbor's house \_\_\_\_\_  
(from your house)

Describe the setting for your house: (wooded, hilly, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) The yard (site): \_\_\_\_\_

Shape of your yard (square, rectangle, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Size: Length \_\_\_\_\_ ft.; width \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

Slope: (Check ) level \_\_\_\_\_, steep \_\_\_\_\_,

rolling \_\_\_\_\_, other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) The soil: (See Extension Bulletin 253,

"Soil", for more soil information)

General quality: good \_\_\_\_, fair \_\_\_\_, poor \_\_\_\_

Topsoil depth (to rock, tight clay, etc.)

\_\_\_\_ inches.

Type: Sandy loam \_\_\_\_, heavy clay \_\_\_\_,

deep sand \_\_\_\_, other (describe) \_\_\_\_

Drainage (rate of water movement down through

soil) good \_\_\_\_, fair \_\_\_\_, poor \_\_\_\_

(4) The house:

Style (Early American, Ranch, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Walls or siding material (brick, wood, etc.)

Color: roof \_\_\_\_\_, siding \_\_\_\_\_, trim \_\_\_\_\_

How many outside doors \_\_\_\_\_

How many first floor windows \_\_\_\_\_

How many basement windows \_\_\_\_\_

(5) List of other buildings within 100' of

the house: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(6) Plants in your yard:

How many trees \_\_\_\_\_. Names: \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

How many evergreens \_\_\_\_\_. Names \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

How many flowering shrubs and vines \_\_\_\_\_.

Names: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

(7) List special interest natural areas or features:(rock outcroppings, good views, brook and  
others)

List and briefly describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Survey and make an organized check list of needs for your home grounds. Consider usefulness, attractiveness, and problems. Check each need in the order of importance such as 1st, 2nd, etc., regardless of the order of the record book check sheet listing. Also, add other items if needed.

\_\_\_\_\_ General clean-up

\_\_\_\_\_ Improved entrance-way

\_\_\_\_\_ Better drive

\_\_\_\_\_ Parking and turning area



- \_\_\_\_\_ Build or improve walk
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Yard fence, build or repair
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Painting, house and other buildings
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Remove worthless plants
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Grade for better drainage
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Establish a vegetable garden location
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Level the soil surface
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Build a retaining wall
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Make a better lawn
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Plant trees
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Screen unsightly views
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Provide outdoor lighting
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Develop an outdoor living area
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Plant flowers
- List other needs \_\_\_\_\_
- 

Read: Extension Bulletin 217, "Design of the Home Grounds", Extension Circular 824, "Attractive Driveway Entrances", and Circular 622, "Landscape Slopes".

3. Know more about the State Flower (tree).

Common Name \_\_\_\_\_

Scientific Name \_\_\_\_\_

Size: Average height \_\_\_\_\_ feet      Spread \_\_\_\_\_ feet

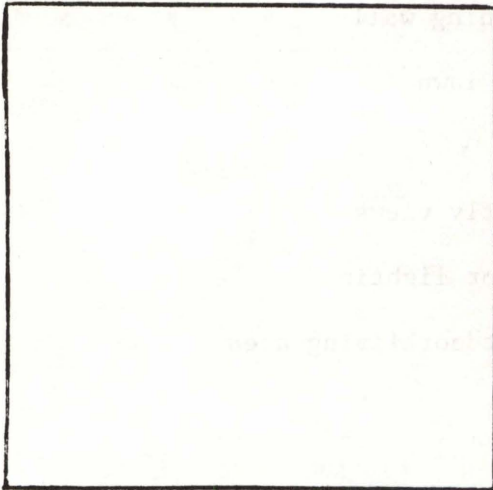
Type of branching habit \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers:

Color or colors \_\_\_\_\_

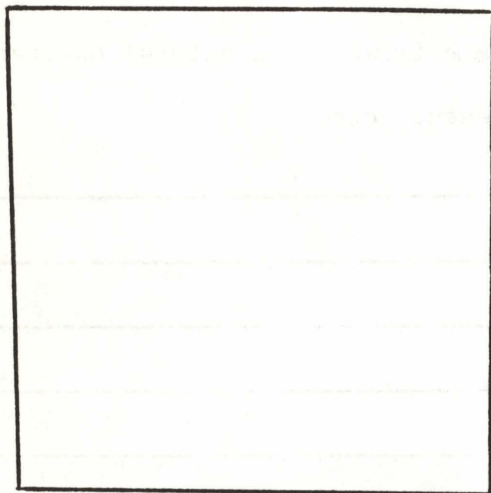
Season of flowering \_\_\_\_\_

Draw the following sketches in the blocks and draw lines connecting the flower parts listed:



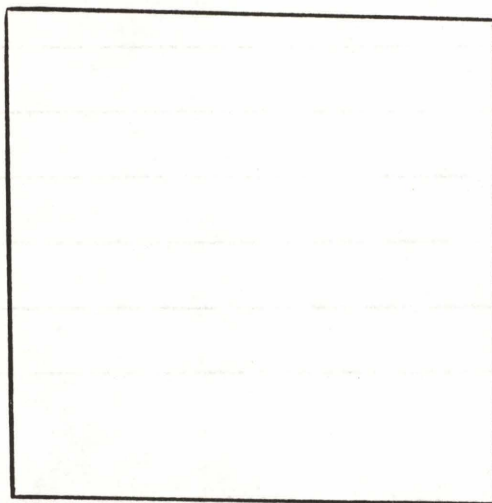
Petal  
Stamen  
Pistil  
Stem

Flower



tip bud  
side bud  
side branch or twig  
main stem

Stem and side branches



margin of leaf  
mid-rib of leaf  
petiole  
bud  
stem

Leaf with stem section

Fruit:

Color: Summer \_\_\_\_\_ Fall \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of fruit \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Write a short essay (250 words or less) about the state flower (tree) including: Why it is the state flower, its natural habitat, special problems, landscape uses, legend, etc.

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Optional Activities:

Do any 4 of the following each year: (in addition to at least one of the "required").

4. Prepare a scrapbook or notebook of Home Grounds Improvement Ideas.

Include: Cover for 8½" x 11" sheets or regular scrapbook sheets. Attach the sheets in the cover. Use the cover title: "Home Grounds Beautification Ideas". In the lower right corner of the cover have your name, county, address, age, name of your 4-H Club, years of club work.

Prepare an index of subjects: Include 1 to 3 pictures of your home grounds.

Write a one-page summary of your home grounds experiences and views (what was done, cooperation, future plans, what you learned, etc.)

5. Plan, plant, and care for a flower bed or border. Use at least 3 different annuals, or 3 perennials, or 3 bulb plants, or a combination.

Make a sketch of your flower bed or border:

Show: Length and width; arrangement of flowers by names; colors; height. (Attach the sketch to this report and label Flower Border).

When were flowers planted? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of first flowers: \_\_\_\_\_

Special uses of flowers: \_\_\_\_\_

Pest problems: \_\_\_\_\_

Controls used for pests: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of times cultivated or hoed: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Explore a career. Write to 3 universities or colleges, in or out of the state; and ask for descriptive outlines of courses and career opportunities in 3 of the following:

- |                           |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Landscape design       | d. City planning                      |
| b. Horticulture           | e. Outdoor recreation                 |
| c. Sociology and land use | f. Conservation and natural resources |

List the schools contacted: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How many schools sent materials? \_\_\_\_\_

Write a paragraph about each of the 3 fields for which you requested information. (Attach to this sheet.)

7. Visit a plant nursery, florist shop, or arboretum. Write a brief account of what you saw and learned.

Include: Name and location of place or place visited \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Type of Establishment: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of training needed to manage the establishment:

\_\_\_\_\_

Your impressions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Prune a flowering or evergreen shrub, using recommended methods.

Name of plant or plants: \_\_\_\_\_

When did you prune it? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you prune it? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you get pruning information? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Help groom the home grounds.

List the things done during the year: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Prepare a photographic story of home grounds beautification accomplishments.

You may use the entire yard area for the story or parts of the yard. Make each pair of "before" and "after" pictures from the same location. Use not more than 8 pictures mounted on heavy weight paper and fastened in the record book. Carefully plan the photographs so that a minimum of words are needed to help tell the story. Use a descriptive title for the picture story.

11. Plant or transplant trees and/or shrubs.

How many plants were planted? \_\_\_\_\_

How many plants were transplanted? \_\_\_\_\_

Name the plants \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When was the planting done? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe briefly the method used and what you learned:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Make a pressed leaf and/or flower collection. Review Extension Circular 795, "Pressing Leaves and Flowers."

After the plant specimens are prepared, fasten them in a folder or scrapbook. On the front cover, use a descriptive title. In the lower right corner of the cover include: your name, county, address, age, name of your 4-H Club, and years of 4-H Club work. Prepare and include an index page. Include a minimum of 10 plants. For each plant, prepare the following information:

Common name \_\_\_\_\_

Where collected \_\_\_\_\_

Date collected \_\_\_\_\_

Is it a native plant? \_\_\_\_\_

Landscape use \_\_\_\_\_



Brief description of natural growing conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Give a demonstration or make a talk on some phase of home grounds beautification or ornamental horticulture.

Some suggested topics are: (Imaginative titles are encouraged.)

Making a Home Grounds Map to Scale

Pruning Plants with a Purpose

Developing a Landscape Plan

Transplanting Trees and Shrubs

Care of Landscape Plantings

Planning the Flower Border

Growing House Plants

And you can think of additional topics.

#### B. COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION

Participate in one or more of the following activities each year. (Credit can be given for a project lasting more than one year.)

1. Clean-up and/or litter control activity or campaign for a public or special area. Special Note: Be sure, if possible, that action photographs are made during the planning and action phases of the program. Also, be sure that accurate records are kept of meeting dates, number of participants, etc.

Describe the area dealt with \_\_\_\_\_

Clean up \_\_\_\_\_, litter control \_\_\_\_\_, both \_\_\_\_\_

Number of 4-H Club members involved \_\_\_\_\_

Number of other youth organizations represented \_\_\_\_\_

Number of members \_\_\_\_\_

How many 4-H adult leaders were involved \_\_\_\_\_

Other leaders \_\_\_\_\_

Date of first planning meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly, what happened? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of first action meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly, what happened? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think the activity was successful and worthwhile?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the activity to be continued or repeated? \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss briefly \_\_\_\_\_

2. Help survey your neighborhood or community (or other selected area) for general appearance. Note: Mark the outline on a map or make a sketch of the area viewed.

Name and general location of the area \_\_\_\_\_.

	Good	Fair	Poor
General impressions (entire area).....			
Appearance of buildings (public and private-including homes) .....			
Appearance of grounds .....			
Absence of dangerous intersections.....			
Street markers (in towns).....			
Mailbox appearance and names..... (rural mail delivery)			
Condition of vacant lots .....			
Roadside appearances .....			
Control of trash & litter .....			
Other .....			
Individual Total			
Team or group total			

What are your conclusions? \_\_\_\_\_

What does your group recommend? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Give a demonstration or talk on community beautification to an organized group or for a special occasion.

Some suggested topics:

Remove Ugliness from Your Community

Add Beauty to Your Community

Are Adults Setting Good Community Examples?

How Tourists View the Community

Beauty and Economic Values

Restoring and Preserving Historic Sites and Places

How to Organize and Conduct a Clean-Up Campaign

Community pollution Problems

Litter Control Costs

Vandalism and the Community

The Natural Beauty Program

You can think of many other worthwhile topics for demonstrations or illustrated lectures. Emphasis should be placed on such important factors as conditions for more enjoyable living, economic values, citizenship, careers, and others. Employ the use of such tools or visuals as maps, charts, photographs, models, drawings, samples, and other aids.

4. Help develop a program for restoring a historical place of interest in your area or community.

Virginia has a rich background of historical interest to be found in every community. If all areas are not of a state or national acclaim type, they can have a local historical importance. Such interests might include: churches, cemeteries, public or semi-public buildings, special trees or plants, old mills and mill ponds, waterways, war relics or areas, covered bridges, and many others.

Included in the organized information:

Name of the site, place, or article \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of importance \_\_\_\_\_

Why is it considered to be of special interest? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the source of information? \_\_\_\_\_

How are you impressed by the place, site, or article of interest? \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Some good sources of background information are elderly residents of an area. Some direct comments or quotations should be used, when possible, in the report.

Selected photographs (copies of prints) or original pictures of places and articles should be used when possible.

4-H youth interests could result in the preservation or restoration of worthwhile historic areas, places, or things.

- 5. Involve an organized youth group (other than 4-H) in a cooperative community improvement project with your 4-H group.

Name of the group or groups involved \_\_\_\_\_

How many individuals were involved? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the special activity? \_\_\_\_\_

How did the combination of efforts come about? \_\_\_\_\_

How many adult leaders were involved? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you consider the cooperative efforts satisfactory? \_\_\_\_\_  
or unsatisfactory \_\_\_\_\_?

Are the cooperative efforts or similar ones to be continued? \_\_\_\_\_

How many organized youth groups are there in your community? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you belong to others than 4-H? \_\_\_\_\_

What are your views about cooperative efforts by different youth groups on Community Beautification activities? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Visit, with a group, a place of recognized historical interest, Natural Beauty, or landscape design. Write a brief report (250 to 500 words) about your observations and what you learned. Include:

Why the particular site was visited \_\_\_\_\_

Why is it considered outstanding? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the high points of interest? \_\_\_\_\_

Who of importance was involved? \_\_\_\_\_

How did it affect you as to outlook, appreciation,  
changing of opinions? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Make a list of state and/or national parks, historic places, or forest recreation areas in your county or city. For each listing, give the source of information and write a paragraph statement describing the area, its use, and importance.

