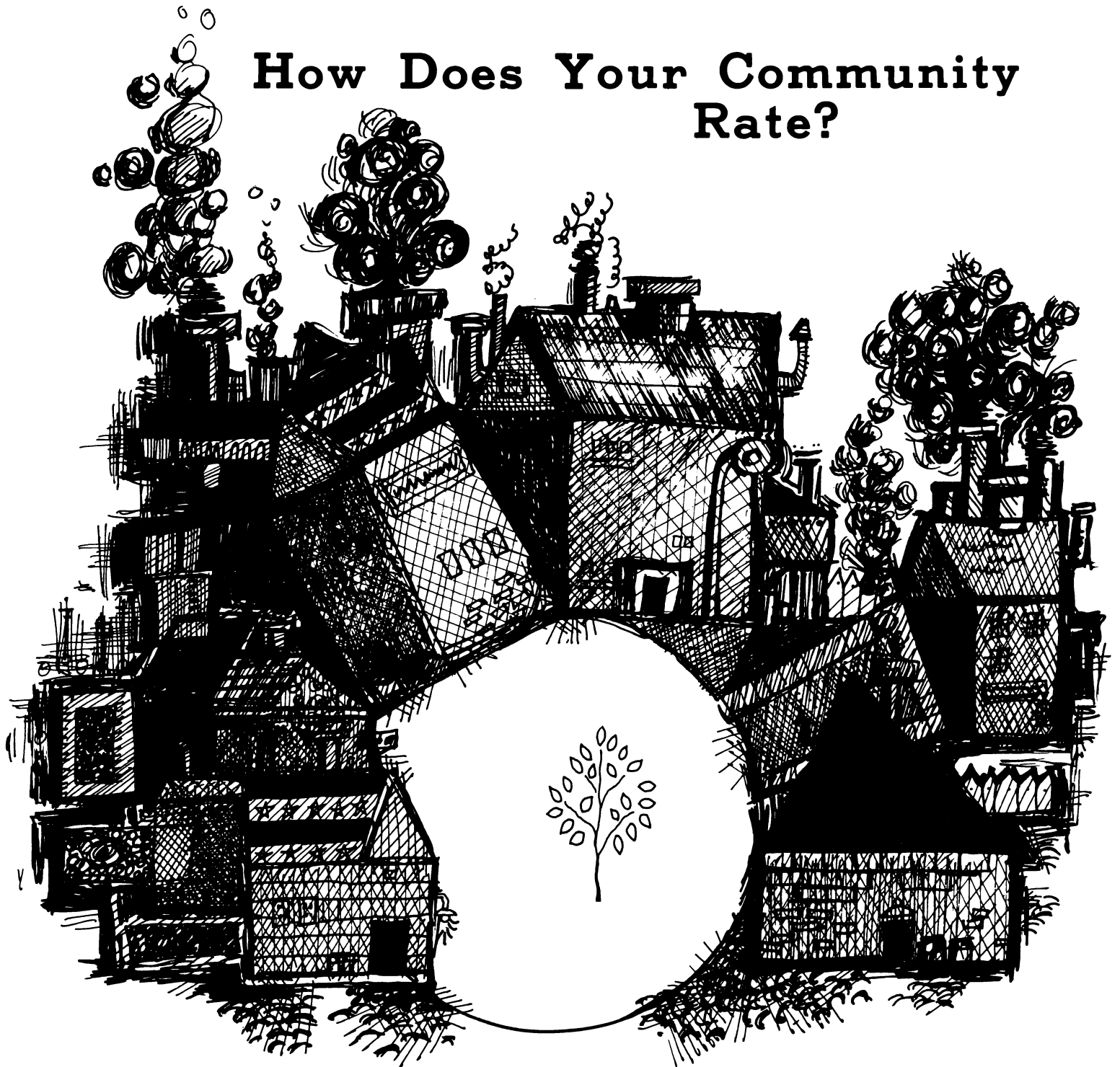


# How Does Your Community Rate?



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# HOW DOES YOUR COMMUNITY RATE?

Prepared by J C Garrett, Extension Specialist  
Community Landscape Improvement

## Introductory:

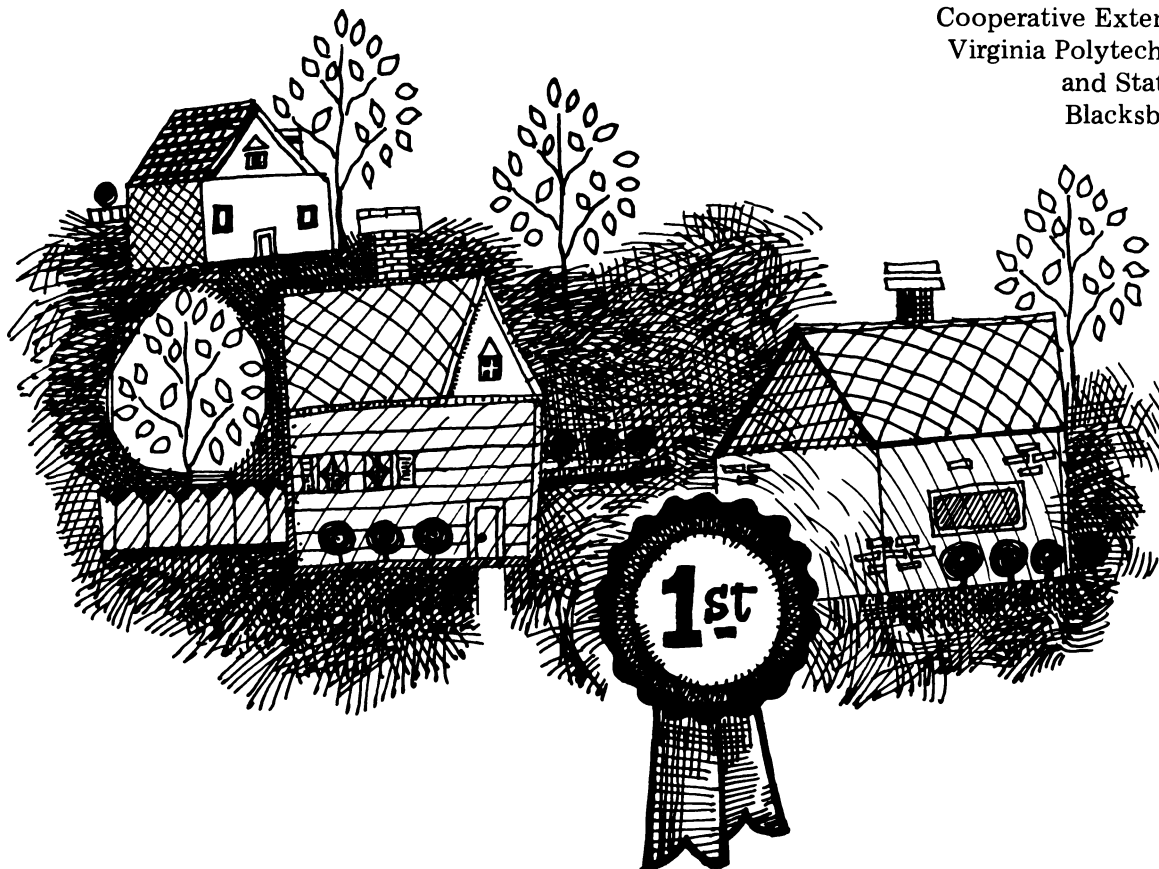
We are living in an age of accelerated urbanization, extensive mobilization, and rapidly increasing population numbers. Complicated environmental changes are made more pronounced by evidenced degeneration of respect for public authority. Our traditional practice of concern for the welfare of the individual community, the state, and the nation tends to get pushed aside in the name of progress.

For so many years we have been blessed with adequate space to the extent that complacency is common. Changes can come so rapidly that too many mistakes can be made before corrective measures can be instigated.

This survey sheet is designed to help direct attention to an overall view of a community's existing conditions, its potentials, and to provoke serious improvement studies. Representatives of organizations or individuals can use the survey information for actual team surveys and scoring of surrounding or the sheet can serve as a guide for discussion purposes.

In addition to the areas listed, other observations and suggestions should be listed as they are noted. A careful review of the completed sheets and other notations should help reveal areas where improvements can be made. **SOLUTIONS CANNOT BE MADE BEFORE PROBLEMS ARE RECOGNIZED.**

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## How Does Your Community Rate?

### I. First Impressions:

A. Is the community neat, uncluttered, and attractive as viewed from the air; from a train; from a car? . . . . .

#### B. Areas:

1. Are highway right-of-ways well kept? . . . . .

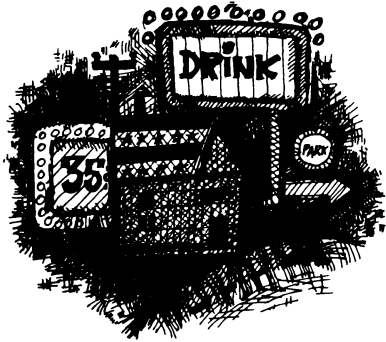
2. Are there objectionable billboards or signs? . . . . .

3. Are there shoddy roadside stands? . . . . .

4. Are there unscreened, unsanitary dumps? . . . . .

5. Are there automobile graveyards? . . . . .

C. What is the outlook from hotel, motel, and restaurant windows? . . . . .



### II. Detailed, Lasting Impressions:

A. Residential: general appearance . . . . .

1. Are the houses tastefully designed, painted, well-maintained? . . . . .

2. Are the grounds: attractively designed, not cluttered or crowded, well-maintained? . . . . .

3. Are road and street markers easily seen, readable, and in good repair? . . . . .



Good

Average

Poor

|   | Good | Average | Poor |
|---|------|---------|------|
| 4. Are mailboxes (rural delivery areas) neat and painted with easy to see and readable names? . . . . .           |      |         |      |
| 5. Are there intersection lists of community residents?   |      |         |      |
| B. Parks and Playgrounds: general appearance . . . . .  |      |         |      |
| 1. Adequate in size and distribution? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| 2. Well-developed in relation to natural features and needs of the people? . . . . .                              |      |         |      |
| 3. Planned for use, attractiveness, and ease of maintenance? . . . . .  |      |         |      |
| 4. Are they well-maintained? . . . . .  |      |         |      |
| 5. Are new areas being reserved for use as needs develop? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| C. Public and Semi-Public Buildings and Grounds: general appearance (schools, libraries, municipal, church, etc.) |      |         |      |
| 1. Buildings in good state of repair, attractive? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| 2. Landscape: well-planned, attractive, good maintenance? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| 3. Is there a place to display the American flag? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| D. Cemeteries: general appearance . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| 1. Good location and fitted to the site? . . . . .  |      |         |      |
| 2. Attractive and peaceful in general appearance? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| 3. Are trees, shrubs, and flowers located in accord with the cemetery board rules? . . . . .                      |      |         |      |
| 4. Does good general maintenance prevail? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| 5. Has space been provided for future expansion needs?  |      |         |      |

III. Planning, Zoning, Ordinances, Public Services:

A. How adequate is the community development plan for future development and expansion of the area? . . . . .



|  | Good | Average | Poor |
|--|------|---------|------|
| 1. How well are zoning ordinances based on the community plan? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| 2. Is there an effective board of appeals to enforce, or an enforcement method for intelligently determining, the use of private property to protect the interests of property owners? . . . . . |      |         |      |
| 3. How effective is the building code and inspection service? . . . . .  |      |         |      |
| 4. Is the garbage and refuse collection service adequate and satisfactory? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| 5. Is the community dump satisfactory? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| 6. Is the air-pollution control adequate? . . . . .  |      |         |      |
| 7. Is the supply and quality of water supply adequate? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| 8. Is the sewage disposal system adequate? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| 9. Is there a community school bus service? . . . . .  |      |         |      |
| 10. Is the street or road maintenance service adequate?  |      |         |      |
| <b>IV. Extras That Make Your Community Outstanding:</b>  |      |         |      |
| <b>A. Civic Center or special square? appearance . . . . .</b>   |      |         |      |
| 1. Is it well planned, attractive, well-maintained? . . . . .  |      |         |      |
| 2. Is it being protected from parking encroachments? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| 3. Are the buildings or structures in good repair and well-maintained? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| 4. Are the trees, shrubs, flowers, and lawns in good condition and well-maintained? . . . . .  |      |         |      |
| 5. Is there a well-maintained area for honoring local or national individuals or groups? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| 6. Are facilities adequate for community activities such as concerts, celebrations, pageants? . . . . .  |      |         |      |
| 7. Display of the American flag? . . . . .   |      |         |      |
| <b>B. Historical Interests: appearance . . . . .</b>   |      |         |      |
| 1. Have worthwhile places or sites been adequately preserved or restored? . . . . .  |      |         |      |



|   | Good | Average | Poor |
|---|------|---------|------|
| 2. Have the surroundings been planned and maintained in harmony with the point of interest? . . . . . |      |         |      |
| 3. Is the historic background adequately explained by quality tabs or signs? . . . . .                |      |         |      |
| C. Natural Features: (lakes, streams, mountains, etc.)<br>How well utilized? . . . . .                |      |         |      |
| 1. Has the most been made of special features? . . . . .  |      |         |      |
| 2. Have viewing areas been provided? . . . . .  |      |         |      |
| 3. How about the absence of low grade commercialism in the area or areas? . . . . .                   |      |         |      |
| 4. Have plans been developed for future emphasis on the natural feature or features? . . . . .        |      |         |      |
| Individual's Total  |      |         |      |
| Team/Individual's Total   |      |         |      |
| Totals  |      |         |      |

Note: How did you use the rating sheet?

Community tour and rating combined \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion and rating, but no tour \_\_\_\_\_

Rating by majority of members \_\_\_\_\_

Rating by representative team \_\_\_\_\_

Other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Was a specified area on a map or within specified boundaries rated?

V. Does your community, or town, or city have a comprehensive development plan?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is the plan up-to-date: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is there evidence that such a plan is needed? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Other observations and/or comments:

