



# Huntsville Ranked One of Top Ten “Green Cities” in U.S.

## *The Green Guide’s* Top 10 Green Cities:

1. Eugene, OR
2. Austin, TX
3. Portland, OR
4. St. Paul, MN
5. Santa Rosa, CA
6. Oakland, CA
7. Berkley, CA
8. Honolulu, HI
9. **Huntsville, AL**
10. Denver, CO



*Mayor Loretta Spencer, joined by City Council members, described the city’s environmental initiatives and thanked individuals and organizations playing an integral role in earning this distinction.*

Mayor Loretta Spencer revealed details, at a press conference held in Big Spring Park East, of what put Huntsville above many other cities across the nation in *The Green Guides*, national ranking of “Green Cities”.

“This is a big accomplishment for our city, our businesses and corporations and our residents,” Mayor Spencer stated. “Ranking 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation shows that in Huntsville we are committed to environmental excellence and recognize the importance of protecting our local and global environments and natural resources.”

The Planning Department’s initiative in designing North Huntsville Industrial Park’s new phase focusing on preserving sensitive attributes of the property caught the attention of the judges. Working with TVA, Garber Engineers and land planners from the Center for Economic Development and Resource Stewardship, the department designed a conceptual plan allowing the development of the park to facilitate groundwater recharge of the aquifer and minimize the impact of storm water runoff at the site.

“This is another first for Alabama and will serve as a model for future industrial parks in the region,” the mayor added.



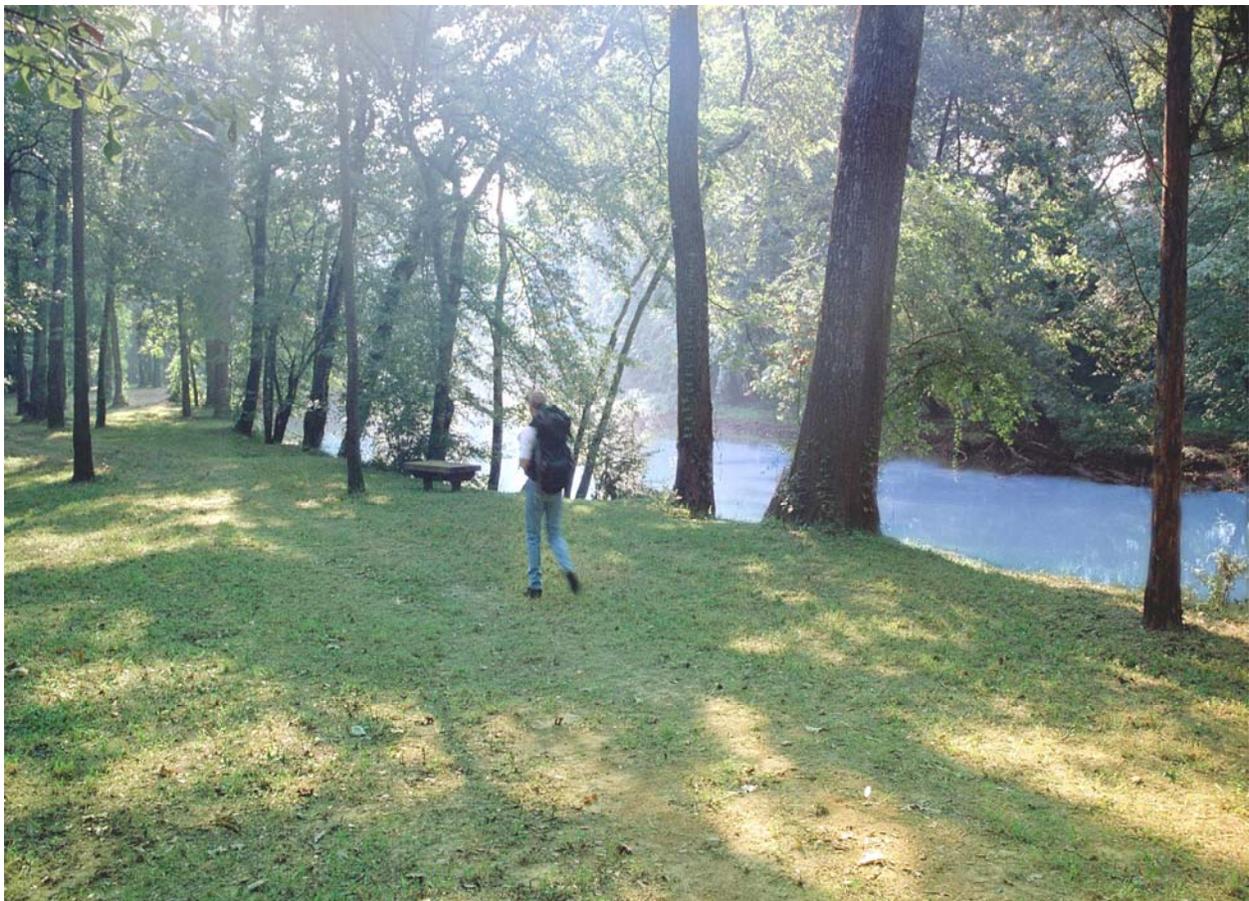
The city's General Services Department retrofitted lighting in 47 city buildings, comprising about 80 to 85 percent of the total square footage. The project included both electrical reduction and water conservation. The project will have a total savings in excess of \$1,909,000 over ten years and more than \$3 million over 20 years.

Huntsville's Operation Green Team has involved the community with approximately 12,000 volunteers cleaning up, greening up and beautifying Huntsville.

"Mobile had an Environmental Court and I wanted Huntsville to have one also," the mayor stated. The Environmental Court, allowing Huntsville to enforce ordinances, was another factor in the judges' decision.

Having a public transportation system resulting in reduced emissions was another factor the judges considered. As well as the city's Landscape Management department that helps beautify and maintain thousands of acres of greenways and dedicated preserves, parks, nature trails and bike paths.

Earning this distinction is also due largely to Huntsville's green space.



*Huntsville has more than 36,050 acres of green space.*

"Donations of land made this possible," the mayor stated. "These areas are enjoyed by residents, and visitors as athletic fields, parks, public gardens, greenways and bike trails."



Donations of land have been made by the following:

- \*James Ledbetter (first private donation to The Land Trust)
- \*Goldsmith Schiffman Family (Goldsmith Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary)
- \*John Hays and Jimmy Hays (JD & Annie Hays Nature Preserve)
- \*Carolyn Blue, Elizabeth Lowe and Ray Jones (Jones Family Park)
- \*David Slyman and Todd Slyman (Indian Creek Greenway, The Village of Providence)
- \*Claude N. Buchanan, Jr.
- \*The Boots Ellett Family

Other agencies and organizations playing a part in Huntsville winning this award are:

The Land Trust with its members' efforts to secure land as permanent green space.

The Solid Waste Disposal Authority which makes curbside recycling possible through its contract with Allied Waste Industries.

Huntsville Utilities' award winning water quality, Green Power switch and energy right program were also contributing factors.

Other cities ranking in the Top 25, in order:

11. Boston, MA
12. Lexington, KY
13. Springfield, IL
14. Irvine, CA
15. Cambridge, MA
16. Anchorage, AK
17. Syracuse, NY
18. San Francisco, CA
19. Minneapolis, MN
20. Milwaukee, WI
21. Rochester, NY
22. Albuquerque, NM
23. Ann Arbor, MI
24. Seattle, WA
25. Kansas City, MO