

The Forum of Civics Building, home of the River Oaks Garden Club, features five gardens of different styles, all showcasing the azalea.

In addition, each of the four private homes featured represents different garden and architectural designs offering the best of Houston's estates.

The River Oaks Garden Club also has experts on hand during the event to answer visitor's questions about azaleas and other topics specific to the Houston area. These topics often include local plant ideas, fertilization and watering, and the increasingly popular topic of organic gardening. These experts play a vital role in the educational responsibility that the Garden Club and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, have to the community.

Taking part in the Azalea Trail is a tradition enjoyed by thousands every year. This event helps to educate, enlighten, and entertain Houstonians of all ages about the beauty of the azalea. Houston invites everyone to help welcome in spring at this year's 72nd annual Azalea Trail. Go to www.riveroaksgardenclub.org for hours, ticket prices, and other information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Houston, Texas

www.riveroaksgardenclub.org

McComb, Mississippi

Ph: (601) 249-0116

Nacogdoches, Texas

Ph: (888) OLDEST-TOWN or
www.visitnacogdoches.org

Palatka, Florida

Ph: (386) 329-0195 or www.flazaelafest.com

South Gate, California

Ph: (323) 563-9502

Tyler, Texas

Ph: (800) 235-5712 or www.tylerazaleatrail.com.

How to Become a Certified Azalea City

One of the principal goals of the Azalea Society of America is to promote the appreciation of azaleas in public and private landscapes. To help achieve that goal, we put an Azalea City program into place in early 2004 to find, recognize, and certify those municipalities that promote and display azaleas as Azalea Society of America Azalea Cities.

We invite you to explore the requirements to be recognized and certified as an official Azalea City. In general, successful applicants for Azalea City status will have shown a dedication to highlighting azaleas through proclamations for an Azalea Week, festivals, tours, and the prominent display of azaleas in public gardens and landscapes.

When you become certified as an Azalea City:

- we will provide you with a news release package appropriate for local media;
- an Azalea Society member will present your representatives with an official certificate suitable for hanging in a prominent location; and
- we will document your certification as an Azalea City in our quarterly journal, *The Azalean*.

You could reasonably expect the certification and accompanying publicity to result in increased tourism. The certification period is for five years, contingent upon a continuing azalea emphasis in your municipality. At this time, there is no fee for application and certification as an Azalea City.

The ASA welcomes all municipalities to apply for official designation as an Azalea City. To aid your

municipality with their application, please carefully read the following guidelines before filling out the application. While we do want you to receive our official designation as an Azalea City, we have certain requirements to qualify. Since we wish any municipality receiving our Azalea City designation to consider it a distinct honor and recognition by a national association, we bestow that designation only after careful consideration of your application.

Each section of the Guidelines correlates to the same section in the application.

Section A: This section requires the legal municipality name, County/Parish, State, mailing address, and the name and title of the application maker.

Section B: In this section, please provide a narrative of how, when, and where your municipality has promoted and/or celebrated Azaleas in public and private spaces over the past three years, or how your municipality is striving to rejuvenate or begin an interest in azaleas, designate a week to celebrate azaleas, plant or re-plant azaleas in public spaces, encourage new interest by the public to use azaleas in their private landscapes, and/or encourage gardens and arboreta to celebrate azaleas. Proof of your narrative is covered in Section C.

Section C: In this section, please itemize and summarize your exhibits of proof. They may be, but are not limited to, copies of Municipal Proclamations, newspaper clippings with source citations, magazine articles, photographs with captions and source citations,

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