

Evaluation
Form

2022



**Communities
in Bloom**

**Collectivités
en fleurs**

Saskatchewan

2022 Evaluation Form

Program Disclaimer

Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) staff, volunteer judges and all personnel associated with Communities in Bloom (CiB) will not be held liable for any observations, suggestions, or recommendations made in this Evaluation Document or at any time during the delivery of the CiB program. This will also include any resulting activity or events related to participation in the CiB program.

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Community: **Eston**
 Province: **Saskatchewan**
 Category: **Competitive**

**CiB recognizes efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change which is reflected in several criteria including:
 Environmental Action; Preservation of Natural Heritage; Tree Management and Landscape**

Community Appearance	118.00	/	150.00
Environmental Action	120.00	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	120.00	/	150.00
Tree Management	131.00	/	175.00
Landscape	159.00	/	200.00
Plant and Floral Displays	144.00	/	175.00
	Total		792.00 / 1000.00

Percentage : 79%

Bloom rating: 4 Blooms

Bloom rating: Provincial, National and International Participants
 Up to 55%: 1 bloom. 56% to 63%: 2 blooms. 64% to 72%: 3 blooms 73% to 81%: 4 blooms. >82%: 5 blooms.

Mention: Environmental Action - including water treatment plan, the landfill and tree planting

Representative (s) of Community

Name:	<u>Val Mohan & Ellen Owens</u>	Function:	<u>CiB</u>
Name:	<u>Glenn Goheen</u>	Function:	<u>Mayor</u>
Name:	<u>Mitch Lonnberg</u>	Function:	<u>Facilities Director</u>

Judges

Name:	<u>Marion Kelly</u>	Name:	<u>Kathleen Sproat Mickelson</u>
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Evaluation date: August 10, 2022

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IMPORTANT NOTES:

Evaluation is adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the community.

Evaluation is also adjusted to match the capacity of a community population to the achievements in all criteria – i.e. evaluate what they do (achieve) with what they have (population/ resources).

Some aspects of the evaluation might not be applicable: scoring will be prorated.

The score will vary from the previous year based on the facts that the evaluation form is subject to modifications each year and that the scores are based on the perception of the current judges.

SECTORS OF EVALUATION

Municipal:

- Municipal properties, parks and green spaces, streets, streetscapes
- Properties owned and run by municipality such as museums, historical sites

Business and Institutions:

Properties owned and managed by

- **Business:** commercial sector, shopping centres, Business Improvement Areas (BIA), , industrial parks, manufacturing plants
- **Institutions:** schools, universities, churches, hospitals, service and community organization buildings (such as YMCA, Legion), private museums, Government and Crown Corporations buildings (such as Canada Post, provincial and federal parks, etc.)
- **Tourism bureaus and Chamber of Commerce offices**
- **Farms:** in rural communities, farms can be considered in this section

Residential:

- Citizens and citizen groups acting within their own properties
- Residential property owners, rate payer groups including condos and co-ops

Community Involvement:

The principle of community involvement is so fundamental to the program that it is considered in each segment of the evaluation.

- Individuals, community organizations, citizen groups (includes youth programs) – all contributing to various aspects of community improvement, including municipal spaces maintained through the efforts of volunteers and community
- Organized clubs such as horticultural societies, garden clubs, community associations, school groups
- Service clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Optimist
- Participation (financial and/or in-kind or employee participation) by the municipality, businesses and institutions.

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GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Congratulations on earning four blooms this year with a high score of 79%. Thank you very much for the great hospitality and wonderful tour. The day was very well organized and we had ample opportunity to ask questions. You have made some good progress this year, some highlights being the major renovations to the landfill which is completed and the water treatment plant which will be coming on stream later this year. The other very big improvement is the commitment to your urban forest with the huge number of trees and shrubs planted as well as the start of a tree nursery.

It has now been twenty-two years since Eston first registered in the CiB program and you are to be highly commended for your continued efforts to build your community through CiB. The ongoing maintenance, attention to detail, upgrading and new projects takes a huge amount of work and commitment. Volunteerism in Eston is great and your relationship with the RM is a benefit to all.

You deserve to be recognized as well for achieving a high level of communication with your community both on paper (such as the monthly newsletter) and online. Sharing priorities, goals, progress and so on with residents is so worthwhile in terms of gaining their support for projects.

The CiB group has a very strong core of members and there have been a few new members that have shown some interest. It's important to continue to find ways to “grow your group” if you can, so it is sustainable in the long term. You have been exceptionally successful over twenty-two years so let's hope you are able to continue your winning formula!

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COMMUNITY APPEARANCE		
<p>Community appearance reflects an overall effort by the municipality, businesses, institutions and the residents throughout the community to create great first impressions and a sense that there is continuous attention and upkeep to critical elements of a community that benefit quality of life and economic vitality Elements for evaluation are: parks and green spaces, medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets; municipal, commercial, institutional and residential properties; ditches, road shoulders, vacant lots, signs and buildings; weed control, litter clean-up (including cigarette butts and gum), graffiti prevention/removal and vandalism deterrent programs.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Gateway Impressions First impressions of the community including gateway/entrance landscape treatments	10	8
Overall Impressions Order, cleanliness, curb appeal and first impressions	10	8
Anti-litter/Graffiti Prevention and Removal Community anti-litter/graffiti awareness programs	10	9
Regulations Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, private property maintenance by-laws, vandalism, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents	10	8
Asset Appearance Includes public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)	10	7
Municipal Properties Appearance Visual appeal and condition of municipal buildings and municipal owned properties	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Overall Impressions Curb appeal, order, and cleanliness	15	12
Site Conditions Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	11
Furniture/Amenities Appearance Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	4
Residential		
Overall Impressions Curb Appeal, order and cleanliness	20	15
Property Conditions Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	12
Community Involvement		
Public Participation In community, neighbourhood or individual streets, clean-up programs, activities and annual maintenance (including promotion, organization, innovations involving youth and seniors, etc.)	10	8
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses service groups, and institutions for community clean-up programs.	10	8
Community Appearance Total	150.00	118.00

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COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

Observations:

Eston continues to present as a very well tended, cared for town. You have made good progress with your new weed control policy and hopefully can continue to stay on top of this issue. The town has shared a list of noxious weeds of most concern in the community and adopted a proactive model rather a reactive model to bylaw enforcement.

The town has been able to take action on a number of derelict properties and return them to a well kept state. Five buildings have been taken down. The town is doing an excellent job of setting the standard for a well organized and tidy maintenance yard.

The CiB in partnership with local K-12 school and local residents hosted “Pitch in Canada” a spring community cleanup followed by a hotdog lunch.

New garbage boxes have been built and added to main street.

The Lions club just recently installed a new bench at the post office. Other benches are in pristine condition while a few need some upgrading. The checkerboard table at the park has been refurbished and the benches are awaiting their upgrade.

The library wall, painted blue adds an attractive backdrop to the imagination garden.

Sidewalks continue to be an issue but they are gradually being removed in some areas and replaced in other key areas.

The town has made some good progress on road repair.

The “adopt a lot” is an innovative idea and hopefully more than a couple residents will take advantage of the opportunity in the future.

Recommendations:

While the weed situation is fairly under control in most areas there are still a few spots that need attention. One in particular was the new CO-OP which has invested in some attractive landscaping but has not been able to take care of the weeds in their rock and shrub bed. The weeds include the noxious “Kochia” which has a very bad reputation for spread.

A lot of your signage has been nicely updated but one particular sign needs to be updated, the museum sign on railway avenue seen as you drive east. This sign does not give the impression of a well kept, up to date museum and could dissuade potential visitors.

We did not see much evidence of recycling containers for cans or bottles and wondered if this was something that should be considered. Some CiB groups have used these containers (locked of course) as a source of revenue particularly in locations such as campgrounds or sports grounds.

Mulch used in perennial beds at a depth of 2 to 3 inches can reduce the growth of weeds, make the ones that do grow easier to pull out and conserve moisture. A good example of where this mulch might be helpful is the bed in front of the dentist’s office.

<https://gardening.usask.ca/articles-and-lists/articles-healthysoils/mulch--more.php>

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION		
Environmental action pertains to the impact of human activities on the environment and the subsequent efforts and achievements of the community with respect to: environmental stewardship, policies, by-laws, programs and best practices for waste reduction and landfill diversion, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, energy conservation, and activities under the guiding principles of sustainable development pertaining to green spaces.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Sustainable Development Strategies Policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning/vision; effective bylaws/policies & their enforcement; and public education programs & activities. This includes activities such as: the creation of Active Transportation networks, fleet management, and recognition of the importance of biodiversity to mitigate & adapt to climate change.	20	15
Waste Reduction Reduction of waste going to landfill and results (3-R: reduce, reuse and recycle), municipal composting programs, including activities such as composting sites, yard waste collections, plastics reduction programs, mulching of wood debris (Christmas trees, hedge trimmings, etc.) and reclamation of cut trees. Handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection and reuse of compost material. Officially mandating the greening of public events such as on-site recycling bins, biodegradable drink containers, food service dishes, utensils, etc to minimize the use of plastic.	20	17
Water Conservation Use-reduction programs such as promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	12
Energy Conservation Programs such as alternate forms of energy (ex. geothermal, biomass, wind, solar) and initiatives such as: energy-efficient appliances, shielding for night skies, efficient street lighting	15	13
Environmental Initiatives, Innovations and Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation networks such as bike lanes, multi-use commuter pathways, and recreational trails - Horticultural practices such as planned biodiversity, green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bioswales, permeable surfaces and rain water management - Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation - Air quality programs such as alternate energy sources, sustainable design of facilities, sustainable fleet management, reduction of greenhouse gas emission (carbon reduction), anti-idling by-laws. 	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Participation in The Environmental Effort Waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation and audits (fleet management, electric conservation), brownfield management	10	8
Corporate Environmental Initiatives and Action Innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (for example: environmental clean-up activities, plastic reduction) carbon emissions, green roofs	10	7
Residential		
Participation in Environmental Initiatives 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle), composting	10	8
Water & Energy Conservation Practices such as water use reduction, rainwater collection and rain gardens, alternate forms of energy, thermostat reduction	15	12
Community Involvement		
Public Participation – Civil Action Participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation	5	4
Public Participation in Activities Community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership, etc.)	10	8
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	8
Environmental Action Total	150	120

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

Tremendous effort and finances have gone into the landfill renovation/upgrade and water treatment plant coordinated with the rural municipality. Great forward thinking on both.

Energy conservation efforts with conversion to LED has continued and is mostly completed.

A number of speed zone lights are distributed throughout the community to enhance safety for pedestrians.

The solar panels at the swimming pool have been judged to be irreparable and unfortunately there are additional major repairs needed sooner rather than later.

Upgrades are continually taking place such as replacing the floor/boards at the rink with community help and providing full service (50 amp) at the campgrounds.

There are multiple examples of the reuse of materials in the community. There is also water reuse (grey water) from Hanson Lake for irrigation of the school football field and transfer of used pool water to a local oil business.

Recommendations:

While Eston doesn't seem to be short of water at the present time a water conservation policy and education as to efficient irrigation is still recommended. Water is a precious resource and needs to be treated as such. Being able to monitor individual water usage in such a way that will help residents discover any leaks is a good service.

Rain water is far superior to treated water for use on plants. It is always a good idea to promote rain collection and consider rebates for rain barrels.

The swimming pool seems to be a valuable resource in your community and encourages families to stay in the community or visit the community in the summertime. Expensive but maybe a project that is easy to fundraise for to ensure its survival. Other communities have found both solar energy and pool covers /liquid solar covers to help their costs in the longterm. The spray park is of course a great idea as well but not quite the same offering and wouldn't it be great to have both!

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION		
<p>Heritage conservation includes efforts to preserve and protect both natural and cultural heritage within the community. Preservation of natural heritage pertains to policies, plans and actions concerning all elements of biodiversity including flora and fauna ecosystems and associated geological structures and formations. Cultural conservation represents the “persona” of a community and refers to the heritage that helps define the community including the legacy of tangible (built/hard assets) elements such as heritage buildings, monuments, memorials, cemeteries, artifacts, museums and intangible elements such as traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations. The participation of groups such as historical societies, traditional cultural groups, and conservation groups is considered.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Natural Heritage Plans Management and preservation policies, plans, programs and initiatives: including eco systems, eco parks, trail networks, grasslands, naturalization, wetlands, urban agriculture/farming, wildlife and wildlife corridors, protection of sensitive habitats, species at risk and support for at risk pollinators.	20	16
Natural Heritage Promotion Management and promotion of natural heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development/tourism) including year-around activities and programs for education and use of natural heritage sites (including trail networks) for and by the public.	15	12
Cultural Heritage Plans Policies, by-laws, plans, and preservation initiatives for heritage buildings, cemeteries, artifacts, museums, monuments, heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes and landscape	15	13
Cultural Heritage Activities Initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	13
Business & Institutions		
Natural Heritage Assets Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, trails, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	10	7
Cultural Heritage Assets Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts including their integration with the built/hard?, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	9
Residential		
Cultural Heritage Initiatives Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts on residential lands	10	7
Community Involvement		
Natural Heritage Public Participation Participation in community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual natural heritage programs and initiatives including developing policies and plans, site improvements (including trails, eco parks , reforestation and management, maintenance, conservation and education initiatives	20	14
Natural Heritage – Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including environmental groups) in community-initiated natural heritage activities and programs	10	7
Cultural Heritage - Public Participation Participation in community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual cultural heritage programs including year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	13
Cultural Heritage - Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including historical societies) in community-initiated cultural heritage activities and programs.	10	9
Heritage Conservation Total	150	120

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The local library has started a seed exchange which includes seeds that have been harvested as well as unused seed packets.

The museum is a treasure for sure and hopefully will continue to attract visitors.

Historical buildings in your community have plaques but we didn't get a sense of how many there are.

The artwork in the windows of the vacant buildings is very attractive and definitely adds to main street.

There is very nice recognition in your community for people that have made various contributions but also for those who have been lost earlier in life than expected.

"Kick Off to Summer" 2022 sounded like a good success.

The cemetery which is maintained by the RM of Snipe Lake appears to be very well cared for.

Recommendations:

Are there heritage houses or heritage properties in your community in addition to the three official municipal heritage buildings? Consider developing a walking tour of your community which could include all the heritage sites and perhaps link to the museum. Visitors or school groups might make use of the tour. Quite a few communities in Saskatchewan have developed smartphone audio tours.

The heritage garden at the museum is a very good idea. The signage for the plants would benefit from some upgrading (currently not all readable) and the plants do need some attention to keep them off the pathway as well as some trimming to maintain their attractiveness in a garden setting. Is there any additional interesting information about these native/pollinator plants that could be added to the signage?

We wondered if there was a map or inventory of the gravesites at the cemetery available online.

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TREE MANAGEMENT (formerly Urban Forestry)		
Woodlands, Canopy Management, Urban and Rural Forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management protection (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, pollinator-friendly tree selection, tree inventory including heritage, memorial, and commemorative trees, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Overall Impression Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	7
Strategic Plans Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	15	13
Urban Forestry Plan Plan, design and inventory management including integration with overall green infrastructure landscape plan, and measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots and managed forests	20	16
Plan of Action Procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy and pollinator habitat tree species, recommended tree list and tree planting standards.	10	8
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	8
Public Information Programs Provides information on good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs	15	12
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	7
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff and/or qualified experienced contractors) and/or in place training programs	5	4
Business & Institutions		
Tree inventory Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory and canopy, management of hedgerows and forests, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees, on properties owned by businesses and institutions.	15	10
Maintenance Quality Programs, best practices with demonstrated results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	6
Residential		
Tree Planting Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties	15	12
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	7
Community Involvement		
Public Participation Participation (including children/youth) in tree planting and conservation programs such as Green Streets Canada, Arbor Day, Maple Leaf Day, and other tree planting and maintenance programs and activities on public lands (including promotion, organization etc.)	20	14
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation or promotion by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community tree planting and conservation programs on public lands	10	7
Tree Management Total	175	131

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TREE MANAGEMENT

Observations:

400 new trees and shrubs have been planted, some with drip lines added.

A number of trees were taken down this spring, some after the recent wind storm.

A tree nursery has been started. Lists of recommended species of trees and shrubs has been adopted as well as recommendations for planting.

Two town staff have received training in caring for the trees and the town is ready to bring in a crew to help with trimming/pruning as necessary.

The orchard is looking better and hopefully will live up to expectations with continued care.

Recommendations:

The trees which are planted at Henry Hamilton park would benefit from mulching. Use of organic mulches (wood chips) will conserve soil moisture, buffer soil temperature extremes, control weeds and other competing vegetation and replenish organic matter and nutrients to the soil. All these benefits lead to improved root growth. The size of the area to mulch depends on the size of the tree (the wider the better) and should be at least two inches deep after settling. Do not allow the mulch to cover the base of the trunk and check yearly to ensure it has not bunched up against the trunk.

<https://www.treesaregood.org/treeowner>

<https://gardening.usask.ca/articles-and-lists/articles-healthysoils/mulch--more.php>

Organic mulch will improve the health of the trees in the long term.

Consider developing a tree inventory starting with your new additions this year. Trees are assets and should be managed as such.

When planning future planting days consider inviting some school students to volunteer their help to enable them to learn about the trees.

A shrub pruning workshop might be an appreciated event in your community.

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LANDSCAPE		
<p>Landscape includes planning, design, construction and maintenance of parks, green spaces and cemeteries suitable for the intended use and location on a year-round basis. Elements for evaluation include: native and introduced materials; biodiversity, materials and constructed elements; appropriate integration of hard surfaces and art elements, use of turf and groundcovers. Landscape design should harmonize the interests of all sectors of the community and provide safe and secure public spaces. Standards of execution and maintenance should demonstrate best practices, including quality of naturalization, use of groundcovers and wildflowers along with turf management.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Sustainable Designs – Soft Landscape Sustainable designs : energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties (including pollinator friendly) , traffic calming, bank stabilization	15	12
Sustainable Designs - Hard Landscape Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and public places including considerations for public safety: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, signage including wayfinding and directional, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials including use of artificial turf and its protocols	15	12
Landscape Plan Integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	8
Landscape Management Programs Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases & infestations when appropriate, Invasive Species Management, increased naturalization, adapted maintenance programs	10	8
Landscape Maintenance Policies, Standards, Best Practices and Programs including irrigation water management	10	8
Landscape Quality Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specs and best practices, as an example as shown in the Canadian Landscape Standards	5	4
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	8
Year-round use Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and people being active and using parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs and accessible public washrooms)	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable Designs: energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	7
Integrated Plan Contribution to urban & civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains & innovation in concept & design	15	12
Maintenance Quality Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	8
Residential		
Streetscape Appeal Residential yards (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	11
Maintenance Quality Lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with demonstrated results)	15	13
Plant Selection Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible & pollinator friendly plants)	10	8
Community Involvement		
Public Participation in community programs (including children/youth) such as: urban agriculture, community gardens, "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination and decoration (promotion, organization, etc.)	20	16
Volunteer Succession Plan and Recognition Succession Plan and Recognition (by municipality and/or volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in all aspects of the Communities in Bloom program including activities in all evaluated criteria	20	16
Landscape Total	200	159

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LANDSCAPE

Observations:

The “return” of the gopher seems to be a success. Having “gopher signs” at some of the plantings is a creative idea. The landscaping around the “big” gopher is well done.

Your spaces for people on main street are very inviting. The play structure, tables, benches and checkerboard table all work to invite residents to Hamilton Park. Another great place for people is the walking trail around Hanson Lake.

The tree placement around the ball diamonds will make a big difference to the users enjoyment of the events held there. The nice addition of the outdoor rodeo grounds gives the potential for more events in Eston.

The school grounds are looking very attractive and we were told that a local resident has been helping out with the maintenance of the grounds.

Last fall a Miracle Gro Best Garden Selection was held with 5 community gardens chose to receive prizes.

Recommendations:

Since Hamilton Park is reported to be the main park that residents gravitate to it makes sense to give it extra attention. The sprinkler system has just had a repair job so hopefully that will help grow the grass. Some of the benches need some renovations. The brick pathway is getting a little uneven. It is common practice to ‘lift’ brick work and relay it in order to even out older brick installations. The labour is significant but the capital investment is minimal. Would there be a possibility to install an actual bathroom rather than a portapotty? While this is an investment, it is a long term benefit that many would surely appreciate. Keep an eye out for grants available.

The heritage garden has been very successful in featuring native/pollinator plants but even these plants need some control at times so it continues to be possible to walk through the garden. There is black plastic coming up through the pathway that really should be removed. Plastic is not recommended for this type of use as it eventually fails and creates a huge task for removal.

There was the mention of the creation of a permanent location for a farmer’s market close to main street. This is a good idea and would create a great community space that could be used for other events, and especially useful if there is some overhead protection from the elements.

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PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS (Formerly Floral Displays)		
<p>This category evaluates the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents to design, plan, execute, and maintain plant and floral displays of high quality standards. Evaluation includes the design and arrangements of flowers and plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses, edible plants, water efficient and pollinator friendly plants) in the context of originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, and harmony. It also pertains to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Floral Display Plan of Action Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	12
Diversity of Displays Flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	16
Diversity of Plants Annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	8
Maintenance Quality Maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	18
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Design Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	12
Overall Plan Contribution to, and integration with, overall community plant and floral program	10	8
Maintenance Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc. with demonstrated results.	10	8
Residential		
Concept and Design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties including Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens	20	16
Maintenance Quality of planting and maintenance with demonstrated results.	15	13
Community Involvement		
Public Participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives (including children/youth), outreach programs in plant and floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	12
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community plant and floral displays activities	15	13
Plant and Floral Displays Total	175	144

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PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

Good selection of plants throughout the community.

Watering is shared between CiB and the town.

140 new tulip bulbs were added in October 2021

There are efforts being made to create winter interest with solar fairy lights placed in the planters near the gopher and in centennial park.

The addition of edible plants in the planter in front of the library is a great idea.

Credos to the businesses who are showing a high level of participation in the floral display.

Recommendations:

Consider adding more plants to some of your planted beds to keep the ground fully covered and easier to maintain. The aforementioned mulch could help in some of the beds as well.

Consider using more native plants and grasses in your outlying planting areas. Once established these plants are more acceptant of dry conditions and are usually pollinator friendly. It would showcase the beauty of a more natural landscape and give opportunities for residents to see the range of plants that are native to the western prairies.

Is there a way to encourage more involvement of the young people in your “floral display”? Some ideas might be planting a sunflower house, a corn field maze or rows of dahlias or glads that could be later picked and sold or given away. Could an empty lot be used for this purpose? We have heard of some communities having Sunflower Growing Competitions that are popular with all ages. SPRA grants such as the Parks for All Action Grant could support this type of initiative.

Consider a perennial plant exchange in the spring or the fall. It might help out residents as well as the CiB maintained beds.

CiB is doing such a great job of managing their Facebook page. We noted that some of the perennials are being featured during their prime blooming time. This is a great learning opportunity which we would highly recommend that you continue!

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT

“Within the context of climate change and environmental concerns, communities involved in the Communities in Bloom program can be proud of their efforts, which provide real and meaningful environmental solutions and benefit all of society.”

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY

The commitment of local, provincial and national volunteers

The support of elected officials and of staff in municipalities

The dedication of our judges, staff and organizations

The contributions of our sponsors and partners