

Evaluation Form

Competitive,
Evaluated Friends, and
Novice Categories

2025



**Communities
in Bloom**

**Collectivités
en fleurs**

Saskatchewan

Provincial Partner



**Saskatchewan Parks
and Recreation
Association**

**THE SASKATCHEWAN PARKS AND
RECREATION ASSOCIATION INC. (SPRA)**

100-1445 Park Street

Regina SK S4N 4C5

Toll Free: 1-800-563-2555

Direct: (306) 780-9262

Funded By



SASK LOTTERIES

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.



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	117.50	/	150.00
Environmental Action	121.50	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	123.00	/	150.00
Tree Management	131.00	/	175.00
Landscape	160.00	/	200.00
Plant and Floral Displays	149.50	/	175.00
Total:	802.50	/	1000.00

Percentage: 80.00%

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
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Mention: Plant & Floral Displays

Representative (s) of Community

Name:	<u>Val Mohan, Edna Williams</u>	Function:	<u>CiB committee</u>
Name:	<u>Jody Schmidt</u>	Function:	<u>CAO Town of Eston</u>
Name:	<u>Eric Rutherford, Dayton McIvor, Jason Brewer</u>	Function:	<u>Recreation Director, Town Foreman, Councillor</u>

Judges

Name:	<u>Katheen Sproat-Mickelson</u>	Name:	<u>Michele Kralkay</u>
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Evaluation date:

July 29, 2025

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:

- **Businesses:** 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.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Congratulations on achieving the four-bloom category this year. Eston has undergone two major flooding episodes this summer which required massive cleanup efforts and made it difficult to move on with plans to further develop the ball fields and certainly set back timelines for other projects. There were sites that we were unable to visit during the tour due to the wet conditions. One of the things that is very much appreciated in Eston's tour plan is the opportunity to meet with town officials.

The CiB committee is expressing increased stress in trying to maintain past projects and feeling very limited in being able to support new ideas/developments. Some of the members of the committee cannot contribute as much as they used to and it has been difficult to attract new members who have the time and energy to contribute. Municipal staff appear to be very supportive, and some ideas were floated today that may be helpful.

Eston's profile book continues to be a great source of information as well as a wonderful historical log of all the efforts and achievements that have taken place since Eston first joined CiB.

The Town of Eston and the RM of Snipe Lake have just launched a new shared website that is very attractive and easy to navigate. Information is still being added. There are plans to create some promotional videos/clips that can be used on the site as well as elsewhere to feature the various assets of Eston. Town staff shared 2025 strategic priority highlights which demonstrate the ongoing commitment to improve the aesthetics and safety of Eston as well as meet the needs and desire of residents for recreation/leisure activities. Plans are to review the official community plan from 2017 in the next year.

Eston has been very successful in achieving grants this past year. The Economic Development committee gained information and grants to support a new daycare "Nurture and Grow Childcare Cooperative" which will open this fall across from the school. Two grants were secured from SGI, one to add two solar crosswalks from the daycare to the school and another to replace the sidewalk from downtown to the school. It was nice to hear that the community is actively looking into replacing the swimming pool and will be trying to update the design to suit a wider range of age groups. The town and CiB committee continue to make good efforts to communicate events/information/updates to residents through a variety of means including Gopher Bites, social media and notices posted on bulletin boards.

It is always such a pleasure to visit Eston. You have a lot to be proud of and every year it is interesting to hear the new ideas and developments in your community. Thank you for a great day and we look forward to your continued participation in CiB.

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

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.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
<u>Gateway Impressions</u> First impressions of the community including gateway/entrance landscape treatments	10	6
<u>Overall Impressions</u> Order, cleanliness, curb appeal and first impressions	10	8
<u>Anti-litter/Graffiti Prevention and Removal</u> Community anti-litter/graffiti awareness programs	10	9
<u>Regulations</u> 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	9
<u>Asset Appearance</u> Including public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage, and furniture such as benches, litter, and recycling containers etc.)	10	8.5
<u>Municipal Properties Appearance</u> Visual appeal and condition of municipal buildings and municipal owned properties	10	8.5
Business and Institutions		
<u>Overall Impressions</u> Curb appeal, order, and cleanliness	15	12
<u>Site Conditions</u> Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks, and parking lots	15	12
<u>Furniture/Amenities Appearance</u> Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter, and recycling containers	5	3
Residential		
<u>Overall Impressions</u> Curb Appeal, order, and cleanliness	20	16
<u>Property Conditions</u> Condition of buildings, grounds, and yards	15	11
Community Involvement		
<u>Public Participation</u> In community, neighbourhood or individual streets, clean-up programs, activities, and annual maintenance (including promotion, organization, innovations involving youth and seniors, etc.)	10	7.5
<u>Community Support</u> Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses service groups, and institutions for community clean-up programs.	10	7
Community Appearance Total	150.00	117.50

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

Observations:

It is obvious that much effort is being put into maintenance, street sweeping, sidewalk replacement, back-alley rejuvenation, curb painting, lifting benches and tables to relevel the ground, crack sealer and the list goes on. The town continues to offer spring and fall back-alley pickup for yard refuse. Municipal buildings were noted to be exceptionally tidy and well kept.

Eston appears well mowed for the tour considering the degree of flooding which has been sustained. Weeds are mostly under control. A fantastic cleanup by volunteers was noted in the parklet (Meagan McNabb Memorial flower bed) by the school. This area had been overgrown with tree suckers.

Signage on the east and west sides of Eston are visible but could be enhanced.

A bylaw officer hired through the Commissionaires comes from Saskatoon every two weeks and has had good success in handling some nuisance complaints in the community.

We did note one of the plants on your noxious weeds list – Common Tansy – in the heritage garden.

Recommendations:

Signage is one of the first items visitors notice when they enter town. New signage is already being discussed at town council, and it would likely be a good investment. Consider a solar feature as well as the signage would be easier to see at night.

Town cleanups in the spring and fall especially when they involve school groups are always a good idea and help to keep everyone aware of the benefits of tidiness.

The CiB committee works hard to maintain several beds around town. Make sure that your signs are clearly visible so people passing by are reminded of your efforts. In some cases, it might be a simple trimming of plant material, so the sign is visible.

The appearance of buildings on main street can be an asset or a detraction. In the past you have had good success with adding artwork to the windows of vacant buildings. There was some thought that the present artwork could be upgraded or added to. Another suggestion was to install narrow fencing between buildings to hide garbage that collects between the buildings. The installation of some green walls with a vine such as Virginia Creeper was another idea to green the downtown.

This year CiB arranged with a resident to volunteer to care for the campground flower bed for the season. This has worked very well. It would be a nice gesture to have a sign in the bed thanking this volunteer for her service and it may entice others to offer a similar gift of their own service. This could be a simple homemade sign... it doesn't need to be expensive and fancy... just effective.

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		
<u>Sustainable Development Strategies</u> Policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning/vision; effective bylaws/policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities. This includes activities such as: the creation of Active Transportation networks, fleet management, and recognition of the importance of biodiversity to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	20	17
<u>Waste Reduction</u> 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	18
<u>Water Conservation</u> Use-reduction programs such as promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	14
<u>Energy Conservation</u> 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	12
<u>Environmental Initiatives, Innovations and Actions</u> - 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		
<u>Participation in The Environmental Effort</u> Waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation and audits (fleet management, electric conservation), brownfield management	10	8
<u>Corporate Environmental Initiatives and Action</u> Innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (for example: environmental clean-up activities, plastic reduction) carbon emissions, green roofs	10	7
Residential		
<u>Participation in Environmental Initiatives</u> 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle), composting	10	8
<u>Water & Energy Conservation</u> Practices such as water use reduction, rainwater collection and rain gardens, alternate forms of energy, thermostat reduction	15	11
Community Involvement		
<u>Public Participation – Civil Action</u> Participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation	5	3.5
<u>Public Participation in Activities</u> Community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership, etc.)	10	7
<u>Community Support</u> Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	8
Environmental Action Total	150.00	121.50

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

The truck modified for curbside pickup is innovative and reported to be working well.

The town hires a chipper to come make mulch out of trees trimmed by town staff. Other tree trimmings are piled at the landfill.

There is a concrete surround for organic waste on the edge of town and when full, the waste is transported to the landfill.

Plans are to upgrade the irrigation at Hamilton Park, and this will help keep the trees and green space in good condition. The town is contemplating adding irrigation at the ball fields.

No water Wednesdays is still in effect. Wednesday is the day that the town usually waters municipal property.

Listening to discussions between CiB and the town staff, it sounds like funding may be found for a few more desert planters to replace some of the wood barrels as they deteriorate.

Recommendations:

Consider the value of being able to convert some of your organic waste into compost which could be used to enrich planted beds around Eston. A similar comment applies to the tree trimmings piled at the landfill. The mulch created with a chipper could be shared by the town and residents. Residents may be willing to pay a reasonable sum for the mulch which would help to pay for the chipper.

Rain barrels are still a valid recommendation. Rainwater is a rich source of nutrients for plants. Consider reusing large plastic blue drums such as those that contain sodium chloride at the water treatment plant to make rain barrels. Some communities host a "build your own rain barrel" workshop. There are lots of online videos about how to retrofit a barrel.

When the pathway at Hamilton Park is upgraded, consider ways to reuse the bricks perhaps in another part of the park such as under benches or picnic tables to make mowing less work. Ensure that you create a very solid base under the bricks so they will not be inclined to shift.

Continue to support ongoing education in the community on water conservation and the value of trees/shade in lowering local temperatures. This could be just the simple reminders in gopher bites or more in-depth information via educational posters or talks at the library. One community has taken advantage of funding through "Parks for all" action grant to host seminars at the library on topics such as permaculture, drought resistant perennials, tree planting, getting the most from soil and water, composting and pollinators & bees.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION		
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.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
<u>Natural Heritage Plans</u> 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	17
<u>Natural Heritage Promotion</u> 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
<u>Cultural Heritage Plans</u> 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
<u>Cultural Heritage Activities</u> Initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	14
Business and Institutions		
<u>Natural Heritage Assets</u> Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, trails, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	10	7
<u>Cultural Heritage Assets</u> Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts including their integration with the built/hard streetscapes and green landscapes	10	8
Residential		
<u>Cultural Heritage Initiatives</u> Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts on residential lands	10	7
Community Involvement		
<u>Natural Heritage Public Participation</u> 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	15
<u>Natural Heritage – Community Support</u> 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
<u>Cultural Heritage - Public Participation</u> 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	14
<u>Cultural Heritage - Community Support</u> 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	150.00	123.00

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The cemetery is maintained by the RM of Snipe Lake and is noted to be very tidy. There is an inventory which can be accessed on the website.

This year the Summer Bull Bash Minor Sports Day and Bull-A-Rama was a combined event with the town, district and rodeo committee. It was reported to be a huge success.

The Prairie West Historical Centre continues to be active in the community with events throughout the year. The wildflower garden has reached an unmanageable state and will need a major renovation to return to its former glory.

Recommendations:

The history of Eston has been documented and there are several historical plaques around town in various locations. Consider ways to ensure that this history is more common knowledge. Little interesting historical tidbits in gopher bites might be interesting. The library could assist in developing "question of the week", "how did Eston get its name?" or "what was the first business to set up in town?"

The volunteers at the historical centre have done a great job to date to create interesting exhibits and involve the community in celebrating various events as well as liaising with the school population. If it hasn't already been discussed a succession plan might be considered in coordination with an investigation into how other museums in the province are being successful in keeping their museums relevant to the population in their area as well as getting younger people involved in the maintenance and programming.

We wondered if it would work to redevelop the heritage garden as a pollinator garden as it is mostly a pollinator garden already. This may lead to you receiving some help from the school as bees and pollinators are huge current concerns in the world of science. Rejuvenating the garden in the spring is a big project but once cleaned up and replanted, maintenance can be an easier task.

TREE MANAGEMENT

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	8
Strategic Plans Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	15	12
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	15
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	7
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	7
Public Information Programs Provision of information on good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs	15	10
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	8
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff and/or qualified experienced contractors) and/or in place training programs	5	4
Business and 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	11
Maintenance Quality Programs, best practices with demonstrated results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	7
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	11
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	8
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	15
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	8
Tree Management Total	175.00	131.00

TREE MANAGEMENT

Observations:

It was evident that good care is being taken of the urban forest in Eston. There were instances where trees needed to be trimmed but with the recent flooding this will be delayed. A local arborist is available to trim as needed or to inspect for disease. Eston did host a tree pruning workshop in 2023.

More trees were planted in the fall of 2024. There is mulch placed around all the trees in the sports field area. The trees are looking healthy. Town staff are keeping track of all the trees and types of trees planted in the past few years. Documents are available to residents to explain tree planting policies and recommended varieties.

The Town and CiB have concluded that the orchard is unsalvageable and not a priority for their community. The space could potentially be used for another purpose but there are no plans at the present time.

Recommendations:

Take care to regularly check the mulch around your trees especially after a hard rain since it may have shifted. The mulch should not rest up against the trunk of the tree.

With irrigation at Hamilton Park, you should have more success in growing trees in the park. Consider planting a few more trees around areas where people sit as on a hot or windy day, it would be much appreciated.

Involving students in your tree planting efforts may take more time but it builds knowledge and hopefully develops an appreciation for your urban forest.

We weren't aware if the town had any policy to encourage residents to plant trees especially in new subdivisions. People often comment on how lovely a tree canopy is but seem to lack the knowledge or energy to plant trees to produce a "new canopy" in their neighborhood.

Grants that you may want to look at for tree planting include:
SPRA Parks for All Action Grant – for educational tree planting initiatives
Trans Canada Trail Planting for Tomorrow program – for planting native tree species in communities across Canada regardless of their proximity to the trail

Continue to plant some new trees on an ongoing basis. It is important to have a multi-age tree canopy. In shelterbelt settings be sure to use drip irrigation system as watering is the key to tree survival!

LANDSCAPE		
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.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
<u>Sustainable Designs – Soft Landscape</u> Sustainable designs: energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties (including pollinator friendly), traffic calming, bank stabilization	15	14
<u>Sustainable Designs - Hard Landscape</u> 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	13
<u>Landscape Plan</u> Integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	8
<u>Landscape Management Programs</u> Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate, Invasive Species Management, increased naturalization and adapted maintenance programs	10	8
<u>Landscape Maintenance</u> Policies, standards, best practices and programs including irrigation water management	10	8
<u>Landscape Quality</u> Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specifications and best practices, as an example as shown in the Canadian Landscape Standards	5	4
<u>Qualified Resources</u> Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	8
<u>Year-round use</u> 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	7
Business and Institutions		
<u>Sustainable Designs</u> Energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	7
<u>Integrated Plan</u> Contribution to urban and civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains and innovation in concept and design	15	10
<u>Maintenance Quality</u> Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground and asset management, rehabilitation and replacement) of all landscape elements	10	8
Residential		
<u>Streetscape Appeal</u> Residential yards (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	13
<u>Maintenance Quality</u> Lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with demonstrated results)	15	13
<u>Plant Selection</u> Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible and pollinator friendly plants)	10	7
Community Involvement		
<u>Public Participation</u> 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
<u>Volunteer Succession Plan and Recognition</u> 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	200.00	160.00

LANDSCAPE

Observations:

Eston took part in the miracle gro best garden selection program. There were some lovely gardens featured with signage "Scott's best garden display 2025".

Credos to Jubilee Lodge this year where we noted healthy edible plants in their planters, celery included! Both residents who came outside when we visited made mention of the tomatoes and strawberries which were ready for picking.

We noted that the school community council green project has had water lines installed, grass is growing and nets/goal posts in place. A very good example of community sharing resources.

The fairground project continues with two more ball diamonds to be added this year.

Recommendations:

If the plan develops to fix the pathway at Hamilton Park, consider making the pathway out of another material such as crushed concrete and adding to the width of the path as well as it is quite narrow. The bricks could be used for another project.

There is now a lovely new sidewalk in front of Jubilee Lodge but next to the sidewalk is a "boulevard" of dirt. It looks like the area has been rototilled. We wondered if this area could be grassed or covered in mulch. Even if the plan is to plant some vegetables, the section where people step out of their car could be covered in mulch.

The sunflower field is currently infested with rust, and the upkeep is significant. One suggestion was to create a green space by encouraging Virginia Creeper to grow up the wall using a backing of wire. Virginia creeper also grows along the ground as well, but the main feature would be the wall.

When we looked at the pocket park on Main Street next to the church, we noted that there were no benches. A bench in this park may invite someone to stay for a while.

Do check to see if anyone might be interested in the development of a community garden where you have perhaps ten or more plots. The orchard area might be an option as there is already some water service available. You might consider redeveloping the rest of the orchard area into another park which may please the folks who donated trees to the original orchard. Perhaps the town would benefit from a second playground (there are playgrounds developed for different ages), a community group picnic area with a large barbecue feature or a rest stop for travellers. All these ideas are ways in which the orchard could continue to be a community space.

PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS

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.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Floral Display Plan of Action Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design, including sustainable design	15	13.5
Diversity of Displays Flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	17
Diversity of Plants Annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	7
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 and Institutions		
Design Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	14
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	17
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	13
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	175.00	149.50

PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

All the CiB plantings are in good shape, healthy and attractive. There was some inclusion of edibles as it was the theme for this year.

We were pleased to hear at the library that the children had chosen the plants for the planter in front of the building – sunflowers, beans, peppers and nasturtiums. The children have shown good interest in watching the growth of their plants. The RM of Snipe Lake had some very attractive planters as well as the credit union and the museum. It was nice to see that Jubilee Lodge was making good use of their planters this year as they are fortunate to have quite a variety of options.

Plants are bought at the greenhouse on main street, and the owner is kind to offer the leftovers to the CiB group at the end of his season.

The CiB committee reports that they usually have lots of help to plant the flowers in spring. Town staff and the committee share watering duty over the spring and summer. The spring and fall cleanups are big jobs for the CiB group.

Recommendations:

You are having very good success with your current plantings. However, we wondered if you might be interested in adding some different plants and grasses to your planted beds which are known for attracting pollinators, bees and butterflies as well as feeding the birds. Many of these plants are drought tolerant once established. There is lots of information available on the best plants for your location. One site that may be helpful is wildaboutsaskatoon.org. This site has plant suggestions for sun versus shade, creating a pollinator or native garden and where to obtain the plants/seeds.

You are likely in a position to offer advice on noxious or invasive weeds in your area. We noted both common tansy (*Tanacetum Vulgare*) and creeping bellflower (*Campanula Rapunculoides*) in your community. Find the best way to inform residents of these weeds and what can be done to eradicate them.

A spring perennial plant exchange in combination with a seed swap might be welcome in your community. Some residents who grow plants from seed may have extras that they would like to share as well.

Keep up with your “educational bites” on Facebook featuring plants that are currently blooming, new varieties of annuals or vegetables (anyone heard of biquinho peppers?), possible infestations such as lily beetles to watch out for, the green wall in progress, and many other interesting tidbits. Some of these “bites” may encourage someone to take a closer look at a CiB planted bed!



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