



November 2, 2024

Dear Bon Accord!

We are very pleased to present you with your Communities in Bloom Alberta Certificate. Congratulations on achieving a Bloom Rating of 5 - well done!!

Enclosed you will also find your completed evaluation form. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us! Drop an email to sharon@cibalberta.ca. We will respond as quickly as possible!

Don't forget to share the Evaluation with your committee/volunteers! If you would like an electronic version – drop me a note – I will email it out to you!

We would like to have presented awards to your community in person, but our conference plan didn't go as planned, unfortunately. For 2025 we will be planning an Awards event – what shape that takes on and where will depend upon the responses we receive from our survey.

Watch for our Newsletter coming soon – we have lots of news to share!

And – in case you are wondering, the 2025 Communities in Bloom Theme is: Edible Gardens! Stay tuned for more information and ideas coming in our Newsletter and on our website. www.cibalberta.ca

Again, congratulations! We look forward to Growing Great Places Together! with you in 2025!

Sharon E. Miller

Provincial Coordinator

Communities in Bloom Alberta

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Evaluation Form

2024



Growing Great Places Together
Cultivons ensemble de beaux espaces

Bon Accord

2024 Evaluation Form

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Community:

Category:

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	128.00	/	150.00
Environmental Action	120.00	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	170.00	/	150.00
Tree Management	132.50	/	175.00
Landscape	155.00	/	200.00
Plant and Floral Displays	148.00	/	175.00
Total	853.50	/	1000.00

Percentage: 85.35%

Bloom rating: 5 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.

Bloom Levels: National Edition and International Challenge, for evaluated communities only.

82 to 83.9%: 5 Blooms. 84 to 86.9%: 5 Blooms (Bronze). 87 to 89.9%: 5 Blooms (Silver). 90% and over: 5 Blooms Gold

Mention: Guerilla Garden Project

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Heather Edwards Function: CIB Member

Name: Christina Fedora Function: Town of Bon Accord

Name: Dan Atkins Function: CIB Member

Judges

Name: Shelley Batdorf Name: Maureen Sexsmith-West

Evaluation date: July 24, 2024

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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 fact 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 municipalities such as museums, historical sites

Business and Institutions:

Properties owned and managed by

- **Business:** commercial sector, shopping centers, 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

The Community of Bon Accord is small but mighty. It is larger than life and feels vibrant. The committee is celebrating 24 years as a member of the Communities in Bloom Family. You should be very proud of everyone's contributions and accomplishments. The resourcefulness and hard work of all partners have resulted in many delightful landscapes, activities, cultural displays and floral displays.

As the judges approached the townsite the pride and efforts of the community members and the town staff were apparent. The entry signs are regal and give a great first impression of what was to come. Visitors are

enticed to pause, enjoy the beauty, and recharge themselves and their E-car at charging stations.

The clock tower surrounded by stunning blooms and well-kept grounds leads to many treasures including a wildlife view area, parks and a selection of small businesses. The town offers a range of activities throughout the year – all posted on the community noticeboard. The unique attraction of the Dark Sky Trail offers opportunities for sky gazing and a welcome relief from the typical light pollution and sounds of a bigger urban center.



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The Judges appreciated the opportunity to meet with the many staff and volunteers and the welcome address from the Mayor. Town staff gave a wealth of information to help respond to our questions relating to the judging criteria. Having a staff member join us on the tour allowed for more opportunities to learn about the various sites and stops. They were enthusiastic about the accomplishments to date and shared their exciting new projects outlined in the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. The appearance of cooperation between the committee, the town and various supporting organizations is working to make Bon Accord a great community to live and visit. You have a very dedicated and passionate team in both the office and operation teams.

There was continuity in themes, such use of the red Adirondack chairs, signage and banners. We could sense real pride in your agricultural roots. The support of citizens and recognition of their in-kind and financial legacies are recognized through memorial gardens and dedication plaques.

The Bon Accord Agricultural Society is a key financial supporter for many of the town's projects and events. Their support of the community festival including organization of a town's festival are commendable. We appreciated getting to meet and talk to their members at the potluck supper.

With such a small business base, the town needs to work hard to highlight their engagement and efforts. We are pleased to see so many of the past judge's suggestions taken to heart.

Thank you for providing us with such a wonderful and welcoming visit. The well-needed rain did not dampen our spirits. We were fed all day long. Thanks for your hospitality. The Committee provided lots of examples of how the CIB program is being incorporated in all aspects of community life. The town has been very resourceful to find financing through grants and partnerships to realize their vision. Keep up the great work!

Special Mention

The Guerilla Garden Project is fabulous! It really speaks to the spirit of Communities in Bloom – *Growing Great Places Together!*

Congratulations on a brilliant project

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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	8.0
Overall Impressions Order, cleanliness, curb appeal and first impressions	10	8.75
Anti-litter/Graffiti Prevention and Removal Community anti-litter/graffiti awareness programs	10	8.0
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	8.5
Asset Appearance Includes public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)	10	8.75
Municipal Properties Appearance Visual appeal and condition of municipal buildings and municipal owned properties	10	8.5
Business & Institutions		
Overall Impressions Curb appeal, order, and cleanliness	15	12.0
Site Conditions Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	13.0
Furniture/Amenities Appearance Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	3.5
Residential		
Overall Impressions Curb Appeal, order and cleanliness	20	18.0
Property Conditions Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	14.0
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	8.5
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses service groups, and institutions for community clean-up programs.	10	8.5
Community Appearance Total	150.00	128.00

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COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

Observations:

Bon Accord is full of inviting floral displays along the entry way. The highway that dissects the community is maintained by government contractors at a high standard of care that enhances visitors' first impressions. The Welcome signs are all in great repair and the CIB committee keeps the planters full of vibrant colours. The committee appears to have only minimally used orange blooms to highlight the designated colour of the year. Instead, the town planted used a mix of edible plants. It is also evident that the Town staff works very hard to keep the parks and approaches mowed, trimmed and pruned.

We did not detect any graffiti on our route and understand that the Town routinely addresses any incident without haste. The Town has a variety of bylaws to address unsightly yards and businesses but rarely needs to offer citations. Well used created garbage receptacles must be one of the successful ways in which avoid littering. Despite repeated efforts to have a particular utility company's building cleaned up, it remains a concern for the committee. Keep reaching out.

There seems to be pride in ownership of the residential properties. Yards were well kept with diversity of landscaping all demonstrating best practices. Even the back alleys were tidy, and weeds trimmed.

The Judges spotted the new CIB flag proudly on display. Further use of the CIB logo throughout the community highlighting your various initiatives is encouraged.

Recommendations:

The Judges did not notice any significant changes to way signs. Some encouragement to the school with the large garden under their sign could be encouraged to ensure it is kept up during the summer months when students and staff levels are lower.

The drop box in front of the Town Office/Library needs a fresh set of letters.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION		
<p>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.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Sustainable Development Strategies 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	18.0
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	17.0
Water Conservation Use reduction programs such as promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	13.0
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	14.0
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 rainwater 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	8.5
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	7.0
Corporate Environmental Initiatives and Action Innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (for example: environmental clean-up activities, plastic reduction) carbon emissions, green roofs	10	7.0
Residential 8.0		
Participation in Environmental Initiatives 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle), composting	10	8.0
Water & Energy Conservation Practices such as water use reduction, rainwater collection and rain gardens, alternate forms of energy, thermostat reduction	15	9.0
Community Involvement		
Public Participation – Civil Action Participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation	5	3.5
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	7.0
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	8.0
Environmental Action Total	150.00	120.00

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

The Judges were amazed at the level of environmental consciousness for such a small community. We observed and learned about many initiatives that demonstrate sustainability and a real awareness of environmental impacts.

The Solar Panels project was very interesting – showing a new gain in production over usage. The partnership with the Utility company made possible an amazing cost-effective solar farm project. Using the abandoned settling pond was a great use of this space. We understand that maintaining the turf under the panels was quite labour intensive since it requires intricate mowing and trimming. We are encouraged by the ideas investigated such as using livestock. We hope you find a solution to keep your labour investment requirements down. Perhaps a geotextile may be an option worth researching. Having seven E-car charging stations is remarkable, and a community feature to be highlighted to visitors.

Coming from larger centers, the designation as a Dark Sky Community was a new concept to our Judges. The ability to feel safe enjoying the evening star without brightly lit roadways would be lovely. We must drive for several minutes out of town to watch astrological events. Lucky you!

It is good to hear that many of the public buildings have converted to LED and motion censored lighting and bathrooms. The data shared about the reduced ammonia, water usage and other benefits of the ice plant was great to hear. The ice plant upgrades appear to be having a great impact already.

Toxic roundups, composting and water barrel sales were all discussed. Trails were designed to allow connectivity throughout the community.

Planning is well underway for the Storm Park project. A more economical and practical solution is being investigated that utilizes 2 settling ponds and incorporates wildlife protection and the revitalization of habitat for endangered species.

The Town leads the way with water management by adhering to water restrictions needed during drought periods to minimize the impact on regional water supplies.

Recommendations:

Sad to hear that programs such as “Yellow Fish Road” are not being supported due to liability is disappointing. Perhaps finding other ways to promote the prevention of contaminants into the storm water system could be utilized. Public education notices and educational displays perhaps. Signage at the Wetland viewpoint is encouraged. Consider connecting with Ducks Unlimited.

Work on building more partnerships that could benefit your Stormwater Management Plan.

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Your Pollinator Path is a great program. The David Suzuki Foundation has lots of other ideas for projects. <https://david Suzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/>



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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	17.5
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	12.0
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	12.0
Cultural Heritage Activities Initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	11.5
Business & Institutions		
Natural Heritage Assets Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, trails, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	10	6.0
Cultural Heritage Assets Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts including their integration with the built/hard, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	6.5
Residential		
Cultural Heritage Initiatives Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts on residential lands	10	7.5
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	17.0
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	7.5
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	12.0
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	7.5
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	117.00

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

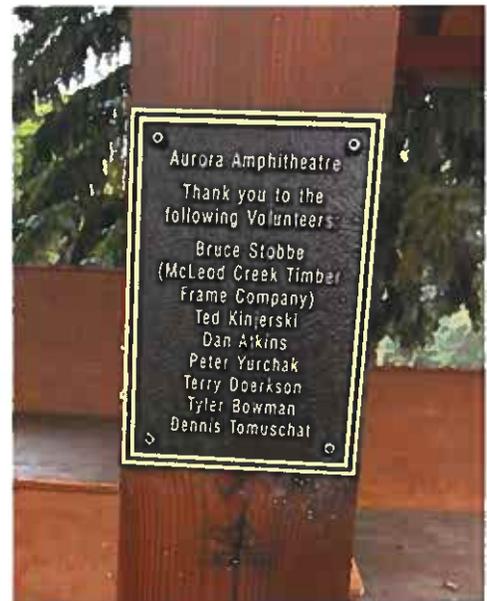
Observations:

Bon Accord has a fabulous resource of natural wetlands. It serves a variety of functions including water management and wildlife sanctuary. The lookout enables a good view of the site and includes some interesting interpretive information.

The International Dark-Sky Community status is something to be very proud of. Well maintained signage marks a walking trail with benches. Dark Sky week involves a lot of related activities for young and old.

Bon Accord is of Scottish heritage and has records of settlement in 1896, the town runs numerous festivals and community events – one per month. We wish we had been able to participate in the Harvest Days event. The tribute to the agricultural roots of the community has been sponsored by the Agricultural Society for over 50 years. The bench shows and the festivities are excellent examples of diverse community engagement. We noted a variety of early farm implements on display throughout town.

The library maintains some local history including displaying the Bon Accord train station sign. There is an absence of a local museum. Perhaps some research can be done and photos and stories through an oral history project. Recording stories from original families and longtime residents would be timely before this history is lost. It would be nice to include a visit to a rural homestead if one exists where an older shelterbelt can be viewed.



The Veterans Memorial Park is a beacon in the middle of town. We look forward to seeing the new plants grow and flourish. It is cared for with the love and respect the local veterans deserve. A time capsule has been put inside the Clock Tower.



Only a few original houses are visible within town limits. An older church building has changed religious ownership over the years. It is good to see the spiritual needs of the community are met by a few different denominations.

The traditional land acknowledgements should be shown in your Heritage Conservation section.

There has been generous support for projects that recognize community members including the Rose Garden as well as at the cemetery. Centennial Park is a central gathering place with now maturing elm trees to offer shade when attending one of the many music events at the Aurora Amphitheatre during

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Music in The Park. The all-wood construction spoke of traditional woodworking skills. There is a beautiful flower and shrub bed, play area and seating. We enjoyed seeing the CIB flag displayed there.

Recommendations:

Bird watching draws millions of visitors annually on a province wide basis. Avid birders will travel many miles to see migratory species. This could be a reliable source of tourism dollars twice per year. Look into the development of a bird watching pamphlet that is downloadable from your website. An additional opportunity is participation in the provincial Christmas Bird Count. It would be great to see more viewpoints and educational information about the aquatic plants and animals, insects and birds. Marketing to photography clubs and art groups to make the journey for a workshop day - perhaps include locally prepared lunches.

Here are some links to natural history information. It could be a good starting point. For ideas of where to identify species in your region, reach out to groups such as:

Entomological Society of Alberta - <https://entsocalberta.ca/>

Alberta Native Plant Council - native plants, wetlands, etc. <https://anpc.ab.ca/>

Alberta Invasive Species Council - <https://abinvasives.ca/>

Start work on oral histories. Don't forget the surrounding rural residents in your profile book and the tour.

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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	8.0
Strategic Plans Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	15	12.5
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	16.0
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	7.5
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	6.5
Public Information Programs Provides information on good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs	15	12.0
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	7.0
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff and/or qualified experienced contractors) and/or in place training programs	5	3.5
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	10.0
Maintenance Quality Programs, best practices with demonstrated results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	6.0
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	13.0
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	7.5
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	15.0
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	8.0
Tree Management Total	175.00	132.50

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TREE MANAGEMENT

Observations:

Zone 2 hardiness limits the options for trees and shrubs selection, but the Judges were impressed by the diversity of the urban canopy. Even some more unique species were seen on private lots. The use of wood chips improves the health of the soil and improves the aesthetic of the beds.

The Municipal Staff should be commended for their excellent tree maintenance efforts. Initial work has been done cataloguing trees for an inventory. This is especially important for elms throughout your community with respect to the potential for Dutch Elm Disease. STOPPED and local Ag Fieldmen are excellent resources. Sign up for their newsletters. Having the support of a local arborist to help with pruning needs and to assist with diagnostic work is fabulous. You are encouraged to plant trees on an ongoing basis and to be as diverse as possible for your region. Trees have been used to recognize special events such the 1967 Centennial.



Sanitation of trees affected by Blackrot and Fire Blight is part of the maintenance program. Boundary trees were a source of focus to help determine ownership and to address encroachment issues for signage, roadways and overcrowding.

Recommendations:

Include links to resources for citizens to better understand proper tree care, pruning techniques and planting. There are a multitude of free online resources at [Treesaregood.org](https://www.treesaregood.org). These can be linked to the town's website. It could include a list of recommended trees and shrubs (with the assistance of a local greenhouse or your contracted arborist).

There are funding grants available through Trees Canada for edible forests, community gardens and School grounds. This would be added throughout town or to expand selections at the community garden.

Consider applying to the Scots Miracle Grow program next spring. Watch the CIB website for dates.

The Canadian Tree Fund also has grants for community-based projects – not tree planting but to bring in a speaker to teach your staff and citizens how to prune properly.

The Alberta Native Plant Council's small grant program may help with some initiatives.

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Keep working on your tree inventory – knowing what you have and what size and condition it is in is the key to a successful management and maintenance program.

Celebrate Arbor Day in May (seedlings available through the province for school students) or National Tree Day in September. Tree Canada has lots of ideas – you can register your events on their website. <https://treecanada.ca/national-tree-day/>. It can be simple things like ceremonial tree planting, colour or art contests, organizing tree crafts or scavenger hunts. There is a wealth of resources online.

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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	12.5
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 wayfaring and directional, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials including use of artificial turf and its protocols	15	13.5
Landscape Plan Integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	8.0
Landscape Management Programs 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	7.5
Landscape Maintenance Policies, Standards, Best Practices and Programs including irrigation water management	10	8.0
Landscape Quality Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specs and best practices, as an example as shown in the Canadian Landscape Standards	5	3.5
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	7.5
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	8.0
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable Designs Energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	6.0
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	7.5
Maintenance Quality Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	6.0
Residential		
Streetscape Appeal Residential yards (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	12.5
Maintenance Quality Lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with demonstrated results)	15	12.5
Plant Selection Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible & pollinator friendly plants)	10	8.5
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	17.5
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	16.0
Landscape Total	200.00	155.00

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LANDSCAPE

Observations:

Bon Accord has a wonderful balance of turf, gardens, shrub beds and landscape furnishings. The cohesive use of repetitive signage and the red Adirondack chairs unifies the design elements. There are well located parks for gathering and remembrance. All are used for community events. The playground equipment was in good repair, and all were accessible.

The Garden recognition signage was funded by a Scott's grant. Such a recognition program helps reward hard work and encourage others to take part.

There were some innovative landscape designs. Many front yards boasted edible plants of all kinds. Good use of space and water utilization for food. The CIB Committee and residents use water barrels to help water sustainably.

We loved the Butterfly project. One person's ideas have turned into a community wide initiative. Keep growing the migratory flower path. The 'guerilla gardening' plot was of great interest to the Judges. We loved how one lone citizen has been working on enhancing an abandoned plot. There were lots of trees, shrubs, decorative stone walls and paths as well as sitting areas. It seemed like a secret garden – an oasis. Nice to see people developing an idea that has so much benefit to others.

The community garden was a great little spot that included plots as well as fruit bearing plants. Look into the Edible Forest grant with Tree Canada so you can add more varieties throughout the community and at school grounds. Good use of a sign to identify which are shared and which are private gardens.



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Recommendations:

Communicate with schools regarding possible maintenance during the summer holidays to avoid weed growth and unsightly spaces.

Using the Bon Accord Community Facebook page or a list at the library could be a good spot for people to post if they have extra apples, etc. for sharing. It could also be used for tips on tree pruning, energy conservation, etc. if it is not suitable for the Town's website.



2024 Evaluation Form

PLANT AND 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	13.5
Diversity of Displays Flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	18.5
Diversity of Plants Annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	8.0
Maintenance Quality Maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	18.0
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	8.0
Business & Institutions		
Concept and Design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	10.0
Overall Plan Contribution to, and integration with, overall community plant and floral program	10	6.5
Maintenance Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc. with demonstrated results.	10	6.5
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	18.5
Maintenance Quality of planting and maintenance with demonstrated results.	15	13.5
Community Involvement		
Public Participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives (including children/youth), outreach programs in plant and floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	13.5
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community plant and floral displays activities	15	13.5
Plant and Floral Displays Total	175.00	148.00

2024 Evaluation Form

PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

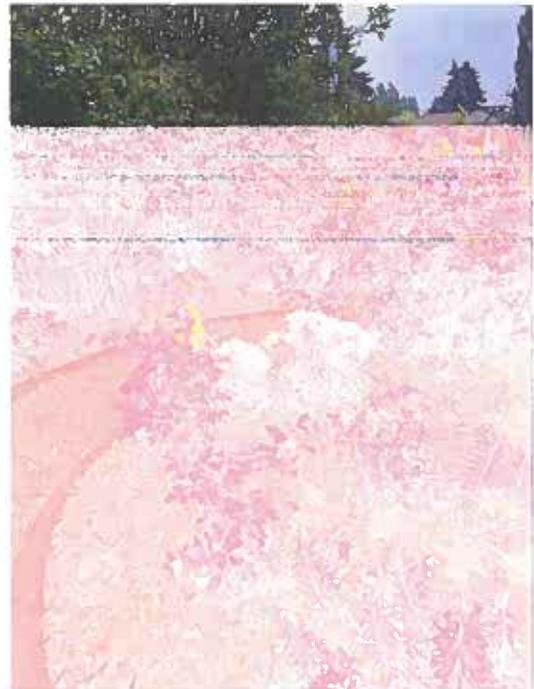
The Judges observed a wide range of floral displays throughout the community. Some prepared and cared for the by Municipality included both flowers and vegetables. The CIB Committee planted and cared for the Memorial Rose Garden and the Centennial Park Garden. The library flower bed with the metal flowers was in transition as many plants had died. This year a few orange and purple annuals were used. The search to find annuals that fit the sun exposure and moisture of this location is progressing. The entry flower bed was a real showstopper again this year. The flower colour of orange, the Communities in Bloom National theme, was incorporated in several locations. Hanging baskets were prepared by an outside company and boasted a variety of vibrant colours.



There is a good blend of in-ground, planters and hanging baskets throughout town. Our tour highlighted numerous beautiful gardens throughout town.

Several yards proudly displayed the "Scott's" signage in them. Don't forget to highlight the CIB projects with signs as well so people can appreciate your hard work.

The business and institution base are small. Some did have some form of landscaping or flowers. A couple needed a wedding. Keep encouraging them to participate as their involvement adds points.



The hanging baskets complimented signage on the posts. The use of banners to highlight community events were cheerful and easy to read.

2024 Evaluation Form



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