

Evaluation Form

2025



Bon Accord

2025 Evaluation Form



Community: Bon Accord
Province: Alberta
Country: Canada
Category: Member - Evaluated

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	118.50	/	150.00
Environmental Action	114.50	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	110.00	/	150.00
Tree Management	127.50	/	175.00
Landscape	149.50	/	200.00
Plant and Floral Displays	135.00	/	175.00
Total	755.00	/	1000.00

Percentage: 75.50%

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.

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

Community Highlight: The strong relationship between the Communities in Bloom Committee and the Bon Accord and District Agricultural Society

Representative (s) of Community

Name:	Christina Fedorak	Function:	Community Services Coordinator, Town of Bon Accord
Name:	Falon Fayant	Function:	Town of Bon Accord
Name:	Dan Atkins and Myrna Ross	Function:	Communities in Bloom members

Judges

Name:	Cathy Kremer	Name:	Colleen Bohan
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Evaluation date: July 30, 2025

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GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Bon Accord has participated in Communities in Bloom for 25 years – what an accomplishment! Congratulations on your dedication and unwavering support of the Communities in Bloom Alberta program. It is the small communities of Alberta who exemplify community spirit and cooperation, integral components to the growth and sustainability of a community especially during challenging times. Congratulations on achieving 4 Blooms!

The Bon Accord Communities in Bloom Committee is comprised of a group of enthusiastic, experienced, and passionate gardeners who are not shy to say they are very proud of their small community. This passion also includes members of the town administration and the Bon Accord and District Agricultural Society. Collectively, all parties ensure Bon Accord continues to be a jewel in the Prairie landscape.

We were very pleased to hear about the upcoming Nature-Based Stormwater Management project. The current wetland site near the highway will be converted to a nature-based stormwater park, an environmental solution which will revitalize the wetland, prevent flooding, support drought resilience, and create a fantastic community amenity.

As the members of the Communities in Bloom are aging, a succession plan to engage youth and younger adults would be advisable. The Town Library is a fantastic hub of youth activities and engagement. Approach the librarian about creating a Junior Garden Club to encourage interest and knowledge of horticulture in the younger generation. Other avenues you could explore are the schools and the youth groups in the community. The Alberta School Garden Group Facebook page is a fantastic resource for ideas for school children as well as Agriculture for Life. www.agricultureforlife.ca/ediblegardens. Children take great pride in their efforts. With over 400 children in the community, a few “Gardeners in Training” apprentices could become a huge labour asset to the committee members.

In addition, continue with the Bon Accord Communities in Bloom Facebook page postings to encourage volunteers of all ages for assistance with planting and maintenance activities. An approach of “*give what you can, when you can*” is an effective tactic for recruiting more volunteers. Recognition of volunteers is crucial to ensure continued support. Be sure to acknowledge volunteers, and especially the youth who continue to contribute to the community.

Thank you for your very warm hospitality and sharing your community with us. We look forward to your continued participation in Communities in Bloom Alberta and to witnessing new projects on our next visit.

Cathy Kremer and Colleen Bohan

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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		
Gateway Impressions First impressions of the community including gateway/entrance landscape treatments	10	7.5
Overall Impressions Order, cleanliness, curb appeal and first impressions	10	8
Anti-litter/Graffiti Prevention and Removal Community anti-litter/graffiti awareness programs	10	8
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	8
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	10
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	3
Residential		
Overall Impressions Curb Appeal, order and cleanliness	20	18
Property Conditions Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	13
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	118.50

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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 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
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	17.5
Water Conservation Use reduction programs such as promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	11
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	12
Environmental Initiatives, Innovations and Actions - 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
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	6
Corporate Environmental Initiatives and Action Innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (for example: environmental clean-up activities, plastic reduction) carbon emissions, green roofs	10	6
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	10.5
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	7.5
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	7.5
Environmental Action Total	150.00	114.50

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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		
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	11
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	11
Cultural Heritage Activities Initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	11
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
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
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	15
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
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	110.00

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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
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	16.5
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	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	6.5
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff and/or qualified experienced contractors) and/or in place training programs	5	3
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	9
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	11
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	175.00	127.50

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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	12.5
<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	12
<u>Landscape Plan</u> Integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	7.5
<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	6.5
<u>Landscape Maintenance</u> Policies, Standards, Best Practices and Programs including irrigation water management	10	7.5
<u>Landscape Quality</u> Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specs and best practices, as an example as shown in the Canadian Landscape Standards	5	3
<u>Qualified Resources</u> Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	7
<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	7.5
Business & 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 & civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains & innovation in concept & design	15	10
<u>Maintenance Quality</u> Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	7
Residential		
<u>Streetscape Appeal</u> Residential yards (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	12
<u>Maintenance Quality</u> Lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with demonstrated results)	15	12
<u>Plant Selection</u> Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible & pollinator friendly plants)	10	8
Community Involvement		
<u>Public Participation</u> 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	14
<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	149.50

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The Heritage Rose Garden contains majestic shrubs, the largest of these are on the west side of this space. In some cases, the shrubs are blocking the light for the perennials underneath them. Consider downsizing these shrubs. In addition, the lilacs have several old wood stems which, if removed, would enhance their appearance and improve their longevity.

Another proposed initiative from the Parks and Trails Committee is a new picnic shelter. The location was not disclosed. It would be a wonderful addition to the Heritage Rose Garden to have a covered picnic shelter close to this garden which is next to a neighbourhood green space. Currently there are picnic tables adjacent to the park, but they are not covered. On a very warm day, there is not enough shade to linger in this area.

The Parks Team has a significant amount of turf area to maintain. The creation of a municipal policy to encourage more natural areas with native plants would not only reduce the amount of CO² consumption but also encourage the education of native plant material which is less dependent on water and encourages biodiversity.

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PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

The Town and the Communities in Bloom Committee totally embraced this year's theme of *Edible Gardens*. Many stunning planters throughout the community featured vibrant vegetables mixed with herbs of various scents and bright annual flowers. They included plant stakes with the names of plants to help educate the community, which were made by a young person.



The flowerbed adjacent to Centennial Park included striking Swiss chard. Citizens were encouraged to take what they wanted and enjoy the fresh and healthy selections. Great job of educating and encouraging community interaction!



The highway frontage of Bon Accord has been greatly improved with the planting of trees and shrubs. They are now reaching mature size and effectively disguise unsightly businesses and parking lots. This initiative was worth the expense to mitigate a negative impression of the community as people pass by on the highway.



At the Bon Accord Community School, there is a project in transition to replace old wooden raised beds with oval galvanized troughs. We'd like to suggest that perhaps a different type of garden bed container. A company out of Lacombe Alberta creates garden containers from 100% recycled plastics. These are most durable, and don't hold the heat like the galvanized troughs – important in reducing watering. The company is Grey Is Green <https://www.greysisgreen.com/> A grant you may be eligible for, for this project, is the Green Cities <https://www.gcfoundation.ca/grants>.

There is also a Butterflyway project at this school identified by signage. The collection of native and non-native plants encourages pollinator activity. This is the perfect site to educate the younger generation about the importance of pollinators.

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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