

Evaluation Form

2019

**Town of Indian Head,
Saskatchewan**



2019 Evaluation Form

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Community: Town of Indian Head
Province: Saskatchewan
Category: Class of Champions - Small

Tidiness	129.50	/	150.00
Environmental Action	122.00	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	130.25	/	150.00
Urban Forestry	155.50	/	175.00
Landscape	169.25	/	200.00
Floral Displays	152.25	/	175.00
	Total		858.75 / 1000.00

Percentage : 85.88%

Bloom rating: 5 Blooms – Bronze

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: Community Garden

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Ruth Anne Rudack Function: Chair, Communities in Bloom
Name: Gwen Johner Function: Communities in Bloom
Name: Donna Thompson Function: CIB/Historian

Judges

Name: Berta Briggs Name: Larry Hall

Evaluation

date: July 16 – 17, 2019

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IMPORTANT NOTES:

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

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

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

SECTORS OF EVALUATION

Municipal:

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

Business and Institutions:

Properties owned and managed by

- **Business:** commercial sector, shopping centres, commercial streets, 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

Community Involvement:

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

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

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GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Congratulations, Indian Head! You have won the Class of Champions Small for 2019. Since beginning your journey with Communities in Bloom in 2004 with 4 Blooms you have worked and grown hard to improve and grow your Town to be the National winner for your size category in 2015 to now achieving 5 Blooms Bronze and top in the country in the Class of Champions. Good job! You deserve to be very proud.

The broad based support you receive within the community must be attributed in a major way to the excellent job you do in giving recognition and showing appreciation for every effort, be it small or large. Communities in Bloom is very prominent in Indian Head – there are many but subtle signs everywhere and you offer so many programmes and become involved in a myriad of projects in Town.

The trees continue to offer a big comforting hug as one enters Indian Head. And the love of trees is palpable within the CiB Committee. You have both tree lovers and tree experts on your Committee as well as in the community.

The new Community Garden for which you have received the Special Mention exemplifies all that is special about your CiB. It is carefully planned to be in an excellent location, it was prepared in a professional manner, it is impeccable, and it represents all parts of the community to be a learning garden as well as produce abundantly. It is truly a garden of the community.

A community project that impressed us is the “out to lunch” programme that assures that seniors get out for a social gathering and a good meal at least once a week. It involves the cooperation of many people and agencies. It quietly falls under the radar and just seems to happen to ward off loneliness which is identified as one of the greatest risks to the mental health of seniors.

We applaud your CiB for the outreach and support to neighbouring communities. The gift of the tree to each community is symbolic of the friendship and mentoring you offer. One of the greatest strengths of CiB is the network it builds. So thank you for all you do to build that network.

Your Community Profile is an excellent record of all you have done over the years as well as placing the spotlight on projects this year. Such a good idea to have the complete Profile as well as the ‘light’ version. Hopefully both are well distributed to inspire, enlighten and inform.

The evaluation tour was very well planned to allow us to see and to learn about all criteria under evaluation. We particularly appreciated meeting so many key people and volunteers.

Thank you for your kind hospitality and for sharing your community with us. We look forward to a continuing relationship with Indian Head in Communities in Bloom.

Berta and Larry

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TIDINESS		
<p>Tidiness includes an overall tidiness effort by the municipality, businesses, institutions and the residents throughout the community. 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		
Overall Impressions Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions	10	9
Anti-litter Community anti-litter awareness programs	10	8.5
Regulations Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, unsightly private property maintenance by-laws, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents	10	8.25
Cleanliness Of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)	15	13.5
Municipal Properties Appearance Visual appeal and condition of municipal buildings and properties (including city hall grounds),	15	13.5
Business & Institutions		
Overall Impressions Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions	15	12.75
Site Conditions Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	12.5
Furniture Appearance Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	3.75
Residential		
Overall Impressions Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	17.25
Property Conditions Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	13.5
Community Involvement		
Public Participation In community, neighbourhood or individual street tidiness, 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 and institutions for community clean-up programs	10	8.5
Tidiness Total	150.00	129.50

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TIDINESS

Observations:

To help maintain the high standards of tidiness in Indian Head there is a town wide clean up organized by the Town partnering with Communities in Bloom. Most schools and youth groups work with other volunteers. Appreciation is shown to the volunteers with donated gifts including water bottles, tree seedlings and seed packets.

The main street is particularly clean and tidy. The curbs are kept well painted and this offers a crisp and clean appearance. There is little evidence of litter or graffiti.

The dog park and the community garden area are exceptionally clean and tidy – these are often areas that are ‘let go’ a little bit.

Communities in Bloom certainly has a presence in Indian head with very attractive yet discreet signage throughout the Town; many are recognition signs, others are information signs while others simply reflect pride of place. All signs are in very good condition and speak well for the community.

The window displays in otherwise empty buildings are informative and attractive. One is done by CiB and one by another organization. These bring life to the area to serve both the landlord and the contributing organization.

SARCAN has received many awards; among them are one for being a very tidy and well run site.

The private campground is one of the biggest businesses in Indian Head and it is very clean and tidy to be most inviting.

With the new dugouts and bleachers, the sport fields appear very fresh and tidy.

Recommendations:

A great deal of effort has been made with unsightly properties with one case even being in the courts. Continue with your efforts especially in prominent places such as the entrance to the Town.

The old Fire Hall could use a coat of paint, it is peeling rather badly.

Monitor all murals regularly to assure they are maintained at a satisfactory standard. When new murals are proposed there should be an agreement regarding maintenance as well as the end of life of the mural, be it a time designation or condition of the piece.

Weeds are not a huge problem but suggest to businesses that they may want to tend to the weeds beside their buildings as well as in front. Encourage businesses to take care of the sidewalk weeds in front of their building.

The garden area at the hospital is rather weedy. Staff volunteers look after it; perhaps suggest they dedicate a half hour a week when they can come together and look after it – group effort is more fun and effective.

The temporary window displays in buildings on Grand Street add life to the area. Another way to have that street appear occupied is to assure the second floor windows are clean and in good condition. It was indicated that there are few vacancies in Indian Head. Encourage the property owners to renovate if necessary, and rent out the apartments above the shops; this would revitalize the downtown core.

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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: 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 environmental stewardship 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	20	16.5
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, mulching of wood debris (Christmas trees, hedge trimmings, etc.) & reclamation of cut trees. Handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection and reuse of compost material.	20	17
Water Conservation Use-reduction programs such as promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	12.5
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	12.5
Environmental Initiatives, Innovations and Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation network such as bike lanes and multi-used pathways; - Horticultural practices such as green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bio-swales, permeable surfaces and rain water management - Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation - Air quality programs such as anti-idling, reduction of greenhouse gas emission (carbon reduction). 	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Participation in The Environmental Effort Waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	10	7.75
Corporate Environmental Action Innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (for example: environmental clean-up activities)	10	7.75
Residential		
Participation in Environmental Initiatives 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle), composting	10	7.75
Water Conservation Practices such as water use reduction, rainwater collection and rain gardens	15	12
Community Involvement		
Public Participation – Civil Action Participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	3.75
Public Participation in Activities Community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership, etc.)	10	8
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	8.5
Environmental Action Total	150.00	122.00

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

Since 2015 there has been curbside recycling. The system is regularly tweaked to make it work as effectively as possible for Indian head.

SARCAN is the agency that oversees recycling and they operate to both collect recyclables as well to educate the public. They work very hard to collect as much as possible and find buyers for the product. Beverage container collection is very effective and the return of deposits helps support many local organizations.

The golf course is an excellent model of water reuse and conservation. Storm water is directed into dugouts and used to irrigate the greens. Even the water from the spray park is directed to become irrigation water for the golf greens.

The landfill site is constantly being improved and upgraded with items well sorted and there is active composting of yard waste. Many trees have been planted to screen the property, reduce wind and improve air quality.

The Cubs/Scouts willow project beside Sunbeam Creek is exceptional as a great environmental project as well as an excellent learning opportunity for the community. Heritage willow cuttings were planted along the riparian area of the creek so the future of the willows are assured. Plus, the banks are stabilized, any contaminates from the previous livery/blacksmith area era are removed, the creek serves as a bio swale to filter water and it becomes a beautiful and much used area.

The CiB and the Town have partnered to produce many information brochures on topics ranging from recycling to water conservation, recommended plants, and responsible use of the landfill.

The CiB is promoting rain barrel use and gives workshops on composting. The new community garden will be the site of a composting demonstration and the compost system will remain there.

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Recommendations:

There are non-invasive phragmites in the Sunbeam Creek along with information on the difference between these and the very invasive and destructive species. Be vigilant that the nasty one does not establish, and continue the awareness efforts so the public knows the difference and the risks.

The rain barrel beside the Community Hall is a good demonstration model, perhaps more rain barrels could be used on municipal buildings to encourage the practice. In future the concept could be expanded to water harvesting from large roof surfaces for irrigating adjacent landscapes.

The arena has converted their lighting to LED's; perhaps as a next step, solar panels on the arena could reduce energy costs and provide a good working example of the value of solar energy.

Globally there is a prevailing anxiety among youth about climate change and a feeling of helplessness. Do all possible within the school to demonstrate that efforts are underway; initiate composting and have rain barrels at the school garden; make them aware of the energy saving features that were incorporated in the school construction. Most importantly is to give the students a voice, perhaps sponsor a forum where they can suggest actions in their town that would address the carbon footprint. Be sure that it is a free and open forum for ideas without anyone defending the status quo that would shut down their concerns and potential solutions.

It could be enlightening to have an analysis that demonstrates what portion of the carbon footprint of Indian Head is mitigated by the trees. This could be a solid project for a college or university student.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION		
<p>Heritage conservation includes efforts to preserve 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 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 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, protection of sensitive habitats, species at risk and support for at risk pollinators.	20	17
Natural Heritage Promotion Management and promotion of natural heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development/tourism) including activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites (including trail networks) for and by the public.	15	13.25
Cultural Heritage Plans Policies, by-laws, plans and preservation initiatives for heritage buildings, cemeteries, artefacts, museums, monuments, heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes and landscape	15	13.5
Cultural Heritage Activities Initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	12.75
Business & Institutions		
Natural Heritage Assets Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, trails, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	10	8.25
Cultural Heritage Assets Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artefacts including their integration with the built/hard?, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	8.75
Residential		
Cultural Heritage Initiatives Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artefacts on residential lands	10	8.75
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	17.5
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	8.25
Cultural Heritage - Public Participation Participation in community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual cultural heritage programs including year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	13.5
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	8.75
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	130.25

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The Natural Heritage Society is doing remarkable work to recognize, preserve, protect and educate about the natural heritage of the region. They started many years ago with doing a bird count and since then their scope has expanded to lobbying for site preservation, both public and school tours and even building nesting stands in the wetlands. CiB has mounted one of their very recognizable red boxes that contains information pamphlets prepared by the Heritage Society and CiB to inform the public about the wonderful birds, plants and wildlife they are seeing right beside the Visitor Information.

There is a CiB red box beside Sunbeam Creek that offers information about the native plants in the riparian area. This site is also attracting more native birds and small animals and reptiles back to a natural area. Bird houses at the cemetery are increasing the bird population there.

The cultural history of Indian Head is well documented and is well promoted through local historians such as Donna Thompson.

There are five heritage buildings with provincial designation and one with federal designation. Significant efforts are continuing to preserve these buildings – the most prominent one is perhaps the Grand Theatre. The community interest and volunteer efforts to keep the Theatre as an active cinema and performance facility while preserving the historical integrity of the site is inspiring.

There is a long list of memorial monuments, gardens, buildings, and plantings that assure that people, events and significant buildings are not forgotten. The replica of the Bell barn is used as an event facility as well as telling the fascinating story of that era in history complete with a garden representative of the time and grain plots showing the wheat varieties developed at the research station. Indian Head is very good at bringing stories together.

The base of an old elevator evaded the wrecking ball and has been moved to the Campground to be repurposed as an activity centre for youth.

The Museum serves both to house and display local artifacts as well as an archive particularly for the work of the Dominion Forest Nursery Station. A new special Metis exhibit is currently being developed.

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Recommendations:

It may be worth investigating whether the golf course might be interested in becoming a registered Audubon golf course. It would marry golf with nature and possibly attract new golfing enthusiasts.

There have been some recent overtures to recognize the First Nations history and the important role they have always played in the region. The First Nations Cultural Days in 2018 is a great start but more year around efforts are advisable. Seek out ways to further recognize and to reconcile; after all, the Town owes its name to the First Nations.

There have been many excellent brochures and pamphlets developed by CiB as well as others that support both natural and cultural heritage. Try to have these available on the Town website and be easily accessible – at present they seem somewhat difficult to find online.

The Heritage Society is an excellent resource in the community. They should be given support to develop more interpretive boards to encourage others to learn more about their natural surroundings. They are developing trails and sites that are ripe for storyboards that tell about the rich natural history of the area. Consider placing a sign on the red box at the Red Hat so people know it contains pamphlets they can take and enjoy.

The Museum may require more municipal support to help the volunteers keep the displays fresh and appealing to foster repeat visits. And, it is recommended that storage of both archives and certain artifacts be in a climate controlled setting.

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URBAN FORESTRY		
<p>Urban forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, pollinator-friendly tree selection, tree inventory, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM), heritage, memorial and commemorative trees.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Overall Impression Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	9
Strategic Plans Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	15	13.5
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	20	18
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	9
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	8.5
Public Information Programs Provides information on good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs	15	13.5
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	8.75
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff and/or qualified experienced contractors) and/or in place training programs	5	4.5
Business & Institutions		
Tree inventory Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees, on properties owned by businesses and institutions.	15	13.25
Maintenance Quality Programs, best practices with demonstrated results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	8.5
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	13.5
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	8.75
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	17.75
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	9
Urban Forestry Total	175.00	155.50

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URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

The motto of “Beleaf in the Future – Plant a Tree” is so very fitting for Indian Head.

Indian Head is like a forested oasis in the middle of the prairies. Over the decades tens of thousands of trees have been planted. It helps that Indian Head was home to the federal “Forestry Farm” that attracted people who loved trees and took their work home with them and planted a huge variety of trees in their yards and gardens. The Town was also used to trial many trees and shrubs for hardiness.

The Community Forest was planted in the ‘90s as a PFRA project then sadly neglected until tireless volunteers breathed new life into it a few years ago. It is now a great food forest with both standard varieties of fruiting trees and shrubs as well as an ongoing trial site for new varieties. Kids are involved in new plantings and are rewarded with tastes of the harvest. The Forest hosts workshops on fruit preserving.

It is so refreshing to see youth involved in many planting projects to continue the tradition of tree lovers in the region; for example, the Cubs and Scouts have done the willow project at Sunbeam Creek, kids help plant at the Community Forest, and have helped with many other plantings over the years.

The Reeves and Mayors Trees have been planted this year with the first Mayor and first Reeve being honoured with an oak tree and the individuals since being represented with trees from the CiB holding nursery. The holding bed developed and overseen by Gordon Howe has produced thousands of trees that have found homes in Indian Head and beyond. This year the Indian Head CiB gave trees to neighbouring CiB towns to recognize and foster a stronger and more collaborative network.

Some trees from the holding nursery are used as center pieces in tub planters for a season then planted in a permanent setting in the fall. Genius!

There is an excellent tree and shrub bed near the Visitor Information honouring John Walker and the many trees he introduced during his career.

The Campground tries to plant upwards of 150 trees and shrubs annually.

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Recommendations:

A record of trees planted and their location is a good start to a tree inventory. Consider developing a proper and up to date tree inventory linked with the GIS system of the Town. Such an inventory would give tree variety, history, ongoing care and an asset value. Aside from the benefits of being part of a tree strategy, the trees become an asset on the books of the Town – the true value of the tree canopy is recognized.

Most trees are expertly planted and maintained. However, there are some cases where the tree tags or bands are left on and are cutting into the bark of the tree; for example some of the Mayor and Reeve trees. At this same planting there are some volcano like mulch applications rather than a donut configuration – mulch should not be stacked against the trunk. Also, there are a few instances in Town of tree stakes being left past the recommended 2 year period.

There are some dead trees on the corner of Boyle Street and Hwy. 56. This is probably private property but it could be suggested to the owner to handle them appropriately. It may be useful to let residents know when a tree removal company is planning work in town so they can book them.

The standard of maintenance of trees on private property is excellent but there is some pruning required; it may be useful to offer a pruning workshop for residents.

The dog park could be a good space to plant trees to offer shade to humans and dogs alike.

Where practical label trees in highly public areas as to their specie; the entire Town of Indian Head is like an arboretum and people want to learn from these trees. The book “Trees of Indian Head” by Bill Schroeder is excellent and it is good to see it is readily available.

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LANDSCAPE		
Landscape includes planning, design, construction and maintenance of parks and green spaces suitable for the intended use and location on a year-round basis. Elements for evaluation include: native and introduced materials; balance of plants, 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. 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		
Gateway Impressions First impressions of the community including gateway/entrance treatments	10	8.25
Sustainable Designs – Soft Landscape Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties (including pollinator friendly) , traffic calming, bank stabilisation	10	8
Sustainable Designs - Hard Landscape Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and public places: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, signage, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials	10	8.75
Landscape Plan Integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	8.5
Turf Management Programs Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate, increased naturalization and adapted maintenance programs	10	8
Landscape Maintenance Policies, Standards, Best Practices and Programs	10	8
Landscape Quality Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specs and best practices.	5	4
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	8.5
Year-round use Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs)	10	8.25
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable Designs (Seasonally adjusted year-round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	7.5
Integrated Plan Contribution to urban & civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains & innovation in concept & design	15	12
Maintenance Quality Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	8
Residential		
Streetscape Appeal Of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	13.5
Maintenance Quality Lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with demonstrated results)	15	13.75
Plant Selection Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible & pollinator friendly plants)	10	8.75
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 & decoration (promotion, organization, etc.)	20	17.75
Volunteer Recognition 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	17.75
Landscape Total	200.00	169.25

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LANDSCAPE

Observations:

There is a very pleasing distribution of landscaped and greenspaces around Indian Head. There is a trail that connects many of the Town's features.

Farm machinery is featured in a number of places as a nod to the importance and history of agriculture in the area. Similarly, there are several tributes to the grain elevators that used to dot the prairies.

There is a variety of monuments, gardens, trees, signs, pocket parks, etc. that honour notable residents and significant events. These all contribute to the overall beauty and landscape of Indian Head.

There are cute art bits around town including hubcap flowers, metal tiger lilies, and attractive banners. All are in good condition, as are the flags.

The hard landscape items such as benches, refuse and recycle containers and bike racks are fairly consistent in design. The bike racks dotted around town were manufactured and donated by Vale Industries, a good corporate citizen.

Turf areas were all very green, thanks to the recent rains. It appears that good turf management practices are in place to keep the turf healthy in times of normal summer drought. The golf course greens are particularly lush thanks to good practices and irrigating with raw water.

The community garden is exceptional, especially being in just its first season. It is located in a very accessible area, it is a good size and it is immaculately maintained by the users. The variety of plantings in the plots is impressive. Good job!

The newly renovated Elk's playground is safe and fun and now children can easily move between the spray park and the playground. The engineered wood chip base should provide protection for years.

The Campground contributes greatly to the landscape with well-planned and designed floral and shrub beds, tree plantings, vegetable garden and the many amenities to make campers welcome and comfortable.

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Recommendations:

The playground is meant to be fully accessible; one thing missing is provision for visually impaired children. Steps in a solid colour are difficult for visually impaired children to navigate. Just painting each step edge or tread a contrasting colour can make a big difference.

At the playground/spray park/skateboard area work toward installing year around washroom facilities. At present the only permanent ones are in the pool area which is locked much of the time. Thanks to some parents, there is a portable toilet there this summer.

The Poppy Patch serves to bring a street corner to life. It has an interesting variety of hardy plants that could be labeled as many people would like to know what plants are in the bed to try at home.

Create a trail strategy so that as time and resources allow it can connect all areas of the Town. The trail surface should be suitable for all – walkers, cyclists, wheelchairs and baby strollers.

The entrance sign on the north end of Town is beautifully framed with foundation shrubs and trees as a backdrop. All entrance signs should be similarly landscaped.

Xeriscape is an approach to a garden that involves careful site preparation, the selection of plants that tolerate dry conditions and a mulch to inhibit weeds and conserve moisture. Using rocks with few plants to cover an area is better described as rockscape. A rockscape can be attractive and useful in some areas, but it should not be confused with xeriscape which is plant based and contributes to a healthy environment.

2019 Evaluation Form

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FLORAL DISPLAYS		
<p>Floral displays evaluates efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents to design, plan, execute, and maintain 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 This 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	13.25
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	8
Maintenance Quality Maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	17.5
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	9
Business & Institutions		
Design Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	12.5
Overall Plan Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	10	8.25
Maintenance Quality Of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc. with demonstrated results.	10	8.25
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	17.75
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 floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	13.75
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities	15	13.5
Floral Displays Total	175.00	152.25

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FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

The baskets and planters in Indian Head are beautifully designed and expertly maintained. A local greenhouse plants the 20 baskets to be ready for the Town crew to hang each spring. There is a planting bee organized for the planting of the planters. This is an incredible feat of organizing to have the correct plants at the right place at a specific time. The event turns out to be a great social time as well as a very productive one.

Congratulations to CiB for great floral designs and meticulous planning! CiB volunteers keep both the baskets and planters watered and fertilized for the entire summer. The water truck is donated by a local dealership.

The flower beds are equally well designed, planted and maintained. The RBC Garden is large and is a great example of ornamental and edible. Passersby are encouraged to help themselves to the greens.

Other areas with exceptional beds planted by volunteers include Millennium Park, the Veteran's Memorial park, the Gazebo Bed, the Poppy Patch and the Grad Park.

The Veteran's Rose garden and the roses at the Grad Park feature great Prairie hardy roses that are well cared for.

Recommendations:

Consider sharing through social media the proposed designs for the planters and for the baskets as some community members may wish to match them. The China Garden Restaurant that copies the planters is a good example of why it may be a good idea.

As well as sharing the designs, it may be worth sharing the maintenance techniques that make the containers and gardens so lush and attractive. Perhaps inviting interested people to a workshop could be paired with an invitation to adopt a spot or to join the CiB volunteers. Often people just need the confidence to become engaged.

Continue to work with businesses to encourage them to enhance their frontages with a planter and to take responsibility for the care. They would learn that flowers are very effective advertising. Flowers send the message that you are friendly and open for business; they are like a big smile.

The incorporation of edibles into the garden design could be expanded. Be sure there is enough abundance of the crop so people have no reluctance in harvesting a little lettuce or a bundle of chard. Signage is important to indicate what the vegetable is and that taking some is encouraged. The RBC Garden is a fine model that could be replicated.

If a garden bed of annuals is too high maintenance create a strategy to convert it over time into a shrub/perennial bed with perhaps some vegetables.

2019 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

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