

Evaluation Form

2023

North Bay



Growing Great Places Together
Cultivons ensemble de beaux espaces

2023 Evaluation Form



Community: North Bay

Province: Ontario

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	123	/	150.00
Environmental Action	122	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	131	/	150.00
Tree Management	143	/	175.00
Landscape	163	/	200.00
Plant and Floral Displays	148	/	175.00
	Total		830 / 1000

Percentage : 0.83

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: _____

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Brittney Fortin Function: Co-Organizer

Name: Hariett Madigan Function: Co-Organizer

Name: _____ Function: _____

Judges

Name: Matt Robetrson Name: Cody Cacciotti

Evaluation date: July 25 - 26

2023 Evaluation Form

IMPORTANT NOTES:

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

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

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

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

SECTORS OF EVALUATION

Municipal:

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

Business and Institutions:

Properties owned and managed by

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

Residential:

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

Community Involvement:

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

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

2023 Evaluation Form

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Comments

- The Organizers were extremely well prepared. Each stop had been planned to highlight certain areas of the City and the stops coordinated with the “Brag Book” and relevant CIB criteria.
- All levels of the community were involved at each stop. we met grass roots volunteers, community organizers, participants in the Clean Green Beautiful North Bay STREETSCAPES program, entrepreneurial business leaders, service club members, restaurateurs, conservation officials, Indigenous service workers, post-secondary faculty, post-secondary students, city employees and politicians.
- The Clean Green Beautiful organization is the driver for North Bay’s CIB entrance. Clean Green Beautiful has been a driver at many different levels in the community.
- All of the efforts of the Clean Green Beautiful initiative have resulted in a general vision at all levels of a vitalized North Bay.
- Often the corporate drivers in initiatives such as Clean Green Beautiful are missing. The Organizers have inspired a group of entrepreneurs to develop an investment company that focuses on buying and redeveloping historic merchant buildings in the downtown core. The Judges saw one of the buildings and were very impressed with the vision of restoring old buildings using new, green, energy efficient technologies.
- The Judges were impressed with the inter-generation knowledge sharing. This knowledge sharing was evident in young families and children working alongside older people and seniors all working as volunteers in the Clean Green Beautiful initiative. The other evidence of inter-generational knowledge sharing was in the mentorship evident between Hariett Madigan and Brittney Fortin.

Suggestions

- The judges suggest the Organizers mentor and train a replacement for Hariett Madigan. Hariett is very passionate about the natural environment in and around North Bay. Hariett is a very inspiring leader. Hariett needs support in her role.
- The political support for the Organizers is tremendous. If there was a mechanism the Council could use to support the Clean Green Beautiful even more, it should be used.
- With the work the Organizers have put in to the 2023 Communities in Bloom entrance, the City of North Bay is well positioned for its centennial in 2025. It might be a grand idea to couple the Centennial celebrations with a CIB entrance.

2023 Evaluation Form

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	6
Overall Impressions Order, cleanliness, curb appeal and first impressions	10	6
Anti-litter/Graffiti Prevention and Removal Community anti-litter/graffiti awareness programs	10	9
Regulations Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, private property maintenance by-laws, vandalism, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents	10	8
Asset Appearance Includes public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)	10	9
Municipal Properties Appearance Visual appeal and condition of municipal buildings and municipal owned properties Parks depot	10	9
Business & Institutions		
Overall Impressions Curb appeal, order, and cleanliness	15	13
Site Conditions Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots Student union volunteer	15	13
Furniture/Amenities Appearance Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers – some wooden benches need attention	5	3
Residential		
Overall Impressions Curb Appeal, order and cleanliness - heritage plaque on house, fish ponds,	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	123.00

2023 Evaluation Form

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

Observations:

- Overall, the community was extremely tidy.
- Visiting some residences, the judges were greeted with extensive private gardens, fishponds, statuary, etc.
- The historic plaques strategically placed in public areas were very informative.
- The Judges noticed that there were no major household waste “piles” in front of homes as can happen in outer urban areas.
- Commercial properties visited were clean and tidy.
- Judges noticed that graffiti was minimal throughout the city.
- Clean Sweep Initiative is a great way to engage the business owners to participate in contributing to the betterment of the community’s appearance.

Recommendations:

- Curb side weed removal along boulevards, street sides, etc.
- Some weed removal strategies could be encouraged among business owners in the downtown core.
- Some side streets required weed trimming around the base of road signs and telephone / hydro poles.
- Some private rental properties were quite messy. Some sort of municipal by-law and/or enforcement.
- Judges would like to see municipal buildings in greater detail such as city hall to get a better sense of how the municipality is promoting the appearance of strategic sites in the municipality.
- Is there a graffiti mitigation strategy / policy that the city promotes / participates in that could be included in the profile book?

2023 Evaluation Form

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.	12	18
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	18
Water Conservation Use-reduction programs such as promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies – rain barrels	15	10
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	10
Environmental Initiatives, Innovations and Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation networks such as bike lanes, multi-use commuter pathways, and recreational trails - Horticultural practices such as planned biodiversity, green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bioswales, permeable surfaces and rain water management - Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation - Air quality programs such as alternate energy sources, sustainable design of facilities, sustainable fleet management, reduction of greenhouse gas emission (carbon reduction), anti-idling by-laws. 	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Participation in The Environmental Effort Waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation and audits (fleet management, electric conservation), brownfield management	10	8
Corporate Environmental Initiatives and Action Innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (for example: environmental clean-up activities, plastic reduction) carbon emissions, green roofs	10	7
Residential		
Participation in Environmental Initiatives 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle), composting	10	8
Water & Energy Conservation Practices such as water use reduction, rainwater collection and rain gardens, alternate forms of energy, thermostat reduction	15	12
Community Involvement		
Public Participation – Civil Action Participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation	5	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	8
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	8
Environmental Action Total	142.00	122.00

2023 Evaluation Form

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

- The Judges were not presented with any water conservation initiatives such as a rain barrel program.
- North Bay has a vigorous waste diversion program that has proven successful.
- Brownfields are being re-purposed into public use spaces, parks, splash pads, etc.
- A portion of a brownfield is now an impressive community accessed food producing garden.
- Businesses are re-developing older buildings using green technology, such as Mass Timber Construction
- Main Supply Goods and Refillery, a business in the downtown core, supports sustainable shopping by refilling containers such as laundry soap, etc.
- Canadore college recently launched its “fill it forward” campaign encouraging the use of mugs and sustainably made water bottles on campus.
- The college also operates an off grid grow pod focused on sustainable, local food production.
- The Nipissing University Student Union building is a welcome addition to the campus. A small orchard accompanied by planter boxes and beehives should prove useful in providing hands-on experience for faculty and students in the Biology and Environmental Science Programs
- The wildlife tracker installed at the ski hill further shows North Bay’s commitment to environmental and wildlife stewardship.
- Efforts to preserve milkweed throughout the community for the Monarch butterfly are evident.

Recommendations:

- ◆ The judges noticed a local company designing, installing, and maintaining small scale solar units. Perhaps encouraging the owner to join Clean Green Beautiful and participating in the Communities in Bloom efforts.
- ◆ Promote a rain barrel initiative amongst residents, schools, businesses.
- ◆ If enhancing pollinators is a focus, Clean, Green and Beautiful could look at promoting the installation of bee houses.
- ◆ Improve accessibility to NUSU’s gardens and beehives to enhance inclusivity for seniors and participants with mobility impairments.
- ◆ Judges noted during their aerial tour of the City there was no green roof infrastructure. A Green Roof policy for municipal roof structures and perhaps for private structures would help with storm water management.
- ◆

2023 Evaluation Form

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	18
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	14
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	14
Cultural Heritage Activities Initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	14
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
Cultural Heritage Assets Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts including their integration with the built/hard?, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	8
Residential		
Cultural Heritage Initiatives Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts on residential lands	10	8
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	18
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
Cultural Heritage - Public Participation Participation in community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual cultural heritage programs including year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs.	15	13
Cultural Heritage - Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including historical societies) in community-initiated cultural heritage activities and programs.	10	8
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	131.00

2023 Evaluation Form

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

- ◆ Heritage conservation initiatives are very strong in North Bay.
- ◆ Laurier trails is an example - monthly nature walks led by a naturalist who also happens to be a faculty member at 2 universities.
- ◆ The city has many heritage sites, Kiwanis Park, two historic aircraft displays, the Dionne Quints Museum, historic plaques and many more examples.
- ◆ The Dionne Museum was re-located to the central core and is completely accessible.
- ◆ Many of the historic plaques are accessible online with an audio representation.
- ◆ The refurbishing of the carousel was done in public at a mall to gain public support.
- ◆ There is a steam locomotive the community wants to move to the museum.
- ◆ Memorial Park is a very sacred space. The Judges view it as one of the most impactful parks of its type they have seen. The Veterans who oversee its upkeep ensured the local regimental monument was moved from a different public space to this park.
- ◆ There have been significant upgrades to the cathedral. The architect designing the upgrades also managed to get the local government to change the local road traffic patterns to protect the integrity of the site. A fountain was moved to facilitate the change in auto traffic flow. A byproduct of the changes was a site that is favored by movie producers as a streetscape.
- ◆ Public participation is witnessed at Mikswadesi and the installation at that part of the public space.
- ◆ There are restored private residences of the era of the cathedral that are maintained to their historic heritage.
- ◆ There is much community support of the natural heritage. Canadore has a 650 hectare property they are developing and maintaining. The local conservation authority is very active.
- ◆ There is a forest health survey underway as well as a tree canopy survey.
- ◆ Cultural heritage support is noted by the storefront displays as well as the wrapping of utility boxes in art by local people.

Recommendations:

- ◆ Encourage the building next to Memorial Park (OPSEU?) to improve their space partially to improve Memorial Park's aesthetic but also to show respect to the space.
- ◆ The railway has played such an integral role in the development of North Bay. With a historic steam locomotive present in the community, it could serve as a fitting tribute to the town's ongoing ties to the industry and be a welcome addition to the work being done in and around the museum. North Bay's upcoming centennial may be the opportune time to seek funding for its restoration and relocation.
- ◆ North Bay's Cathedral is an incredible landmark for the community. Its history and restoration are equally as magnificent as the building itself and the area would be a fitting site for a historical plaque explaining its story to residents and visitors alike.
- ◆ Consider featuring CFB's history as part of the tour or in the Community Profile book. The aircraft displays outside of CFB are incredible heritage assets and are worth celebrating.

2023 Evaluation Form

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	13
Urban Forestry Plan Plan, design and inventory management including integration with overall green infrastructure landscape plan, and measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots and managed forests	20	15
Plan of Action Procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy and pollinator habitat tree species, recommended tree list and tree planting standards.	10	8
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	7
Public Information Programs Provides information on good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs	15	10
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	8
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff and/or qualified experienced contractors) and/or in place training programs	5	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	13
Maintenance Quality Programs, best practices with demonstrated results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	9
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
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	8
Community Involvement		
Public Participation Participation (including children/youth) in tree planting and conservation programs such as Green Streets Canada, Arbor Day, Maple Leaf Day, and other tree planting and maintenance programs and activities on public lands (including promotion, organization etc.)	20	18
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation or promotion by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community tree planting and conservation programs on public lands	10	8
Tree Management Total	175.00	143.00

2023 Evaluation Form

TREE MANAGEMENT

Observations:

- ◆ The Judges have expertise in horticulture. The city of North Bay's staff are top notch. Our observations are meant to be constructive.
- ◆ The Urban Forest Plan needs to be formalized. Recognizing North Bay may not have the resources, and also recognizing that their tree survey is underway, it would be prudent to identify any potential issues and have a mitigation plan in place.
- ◆ Public information is available through the tree nursery and through Laurier Woods.
- ◆ Public participation is recognized through the sheer volume of volunteers (+/- 250), the fact there is a Master Gardener assigned to each bed / area as well as the fact the tree nursery sells out every year.
- ◆ Community support is reflected in the many activities accessed as well as the day programming at the ski hill.
- ◆ North Bay Hydro has a tree adoption program that continues to be successful. They are also donating trees annually to improve school yards across the city.

Recommendations:

- ◆ Management encourage staff to attend programs through the ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) and LO (Landscape Ontario) to stay abreast of new pest pressures. In this era of climate change, there are many other pests at our doorstep that are detrimental to our urban and rural tree canopies.
- ◆ The judges did notice some dead trees along a few of the trail systems visited. Is there a strategy in place to remove them as to not cause harm or blockade the trails for users?
- ◆ Encourage and support staff to obtain ISA certification. The Judges understand the City may not have the resources to have a full time arboriculture crew but having Arborist(s) on staff would shorten the response time for critical tree issues such as Spotted Lantern Fly. This would also have the added benefit of increasing the credibility of Park's staff in the eyes of the public.

2023 Evaluation Form

2023 Evaluation Form

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		
<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	13
<u>Sustainable Designs - Hard Landscape</u> Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and public places including considerations for public safety: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, signage including wayfinding and directional, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials including use of artificial turf and its protocols	15	13
<u>Landscape Plan</u> Integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	8
<u>Landscape Management Programs</u> Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate, Invasive Species Management, increased naturalization and adapted maintenance programs	10	8
<u>Landscape Maintenance</u> Policies, Standards, Best Practices and Programs including irrigation water management	10	8
<u>Landscape Quality</u> Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specs and best practices, as an example as shown in the Canadian Landscape Standards	5	5
<u>Qualified Resources</u> Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	8
<u>Year-round use</u> Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and people being active and using parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs and accessible public washrooms)	10	8
Business & Institutions		
<u>Sustainable Designs ()</u> : energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	8
<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	13
<u>Maintenance Quality</u> Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	8
Residential		
<u>Streetscape Appeal</u> Residential yards (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	10
<u>Maintenance Quality</u> Lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with demonstrated results)	15	10
<u>Plant Selection</u> Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible & pollinator friendly plants)	10	7
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	18
<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	18
Landscape Total	200.00	163.00

2023 Evaluation Form

LANDSCAPE

Observations:

- ◆ The Judges were impressed with the maintenance of the ski hill allowing migrating fauna to reproduce in the vegetation. Mowing only occurs late in the season to protect migrating species.
- ◆ A community such as North Bay may not have the resources available to maintain their landscapes in a “sustainable” fashion. The staff at North Bay are using current technology to suppress weeds on public hard surfaces.
- ◆ The turfgrass areas are well maintained.
- ◆ North Bay does not have the resources to have an Arborist on staff. The contractor they have at their disposal is well trained and has the best interests of North Bay in mind.
- ◆ There are many sustainable initiatives in North Bay. There are many food orchards planted in public spaces and school yards, the Empire (A retirement facility) has garden space for residents, Northern Pines Transition House has a community garden, and the new Hospice facility has ample green space along Chippewa Creek.

Recommendations:

- ◆ Encourage the ongoing training of staff through programs such as the Horticultural Technician Red Seal Apprentice Program.
- ◆ Bring “experts” in to lead lectures / seminars. Perhaps a 1- or 2-day conference to enhance parks staffs’ knowledge and skills.
- ◆ A mid-winter educational conference for members of the public.

2023 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
Diversity of Displays Flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	15
Diversity of Plants Annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	8
Maintenance Quality Maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	18
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Design Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	13
Overall Plan Contribution to, and integration with, overall community plant and floral program	10	8
Maintenance Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc. with demonstrated results.	10	8
Residential		
Concept and Design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties including Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens	20	18
Maintenance Quality of planting and maintenance with demonstrated results.	15	13
Community Involvement		
Public Participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives (including children/youth), outreach programs in plant and floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.) -	15	13
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community plant and floral displays activities	15	13
Plant and Floral Displays Total	175.00	148.00

2023 Evaluation Form

PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

- ◆ The colour purple is key to all the public space plantings.
- ◆ The Judges recognize the resource limitations but a floral “carpet bed” would be an excellent tool to advertise to residents and visitors the key theme of the year in North Bay’s parks.
- ◆ The parks have a wonderful diversity of plans while focusing on native plants and plants that support pollinators.
- ◆ The parks staff backed up by a tremendous and supportive volunteer base maintain parks and public spaces to the highest standards.
- ◆ The downtown alleys are being upgraded privately. This will include a subscription-based security system which will, in turn, help keep North Bay safe and inviting for visitors to the downtown core.
- ◆ The local hydro utility is planting trees at schools.
- ◆ Business green spaces are maintained very well.
- ◆ Community support of green spaces is tremendous and reflected in spaces such as the Gathering Place.

Recommendations:

- ◆ Thought and consideration should be made to the ongoing training and upgrading of park’s staff knowledge and skills. Bringing in trainers and/or sending staff to industry learning opportunities.
- ◆ Incorporating a floral or design bed using landscaping materials could be an effective way of celebrating community milestones, promoting events and leveraging sponsorship for local initiatives.
- ◆ The judges heard that nuisance deer are frequenting several local gardens. Educating residents on deer resistant plant selection could help dissuade them from ruining gardens.

2023 Evaluation Form



2023 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