

Evaluation Form

2024

City of North Bay,
Ontario



GROWING GREAT PLACES TOGETHER CULTIVONS ENSEMBLE DE BEAUX ESPACES

2024 Evaluation Form

2024 Evaluation Form



Community: City of North Bay
Province: Ontario
Country: Canada
Category: National Population

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	123.50	/	150.00
Environmental Action	120.00	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	132.00	/	150.00
Tree Management	143.50	/	175.00
Landscape	163.50	/	200.00
Plant and Floral Displays	149.00	/	175.00
	Total		831.50 / 1000.00

Percentage: 83.15%

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: Northern Pines Crisis Centre

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Jamie Lowery Function: CiB Member

Name: Hariett Madigan Function: CiB Member

Judges

Name: Christine Isaac Name: Colleen Stockford

Evaluation date: July 29th 2024

2024 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.

2024 Evaluation Form

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Welcome to the Communities in Bloom National program! We truly enjoyed visiting your community.

The judges would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff and volunteers of the City of North Bay for generously welcoming them into the community and providing a comprehensive tour of the city. The judges were very impressed with all the effort put into the tour and are thankful for the time and dedication of everyone involved. The North Bay community profile book was well-organized and full of excellent information, reflecting the evident pride that the Clean, Green, Beautiful North Bay committee takes in the community. The judges were involved in several discussions about grants and alternative funding sources secured by various community groups. The City of North Bay is fortunate to receive such valuable assistance from the non-profit organizations.

During the tour, the judges observed various aspects of the city and were impressed to learn of the private greenhouse at the hospital, which offers patients the therapeutic opportunity to engage with nature, positively contributing to their recovery. The hospital also benefits from large windows that provide ample natural light, further enhancing the healing environment. The judges were particularly impressed with the City of North Bay's efforts in reclaiming the waterfront brownfield area, which has become a jewel of the community. This space not only boosts tourism and beautification efforts but also serves as a hub for recreation and social opportunities for residents. The accessible amenities, such as the All Wheel Park and the inclusive playground, were standout features of the tour.

In addition, the judges learned about the planting of fruit trees at several school yards, which provide a delightful resource for staff and students. The schools might consider using these different tree types as emergency muster points for various grade levels, marked with appropriate signage.

Memorial Park and its cenotaph were also highlighted during the tour, with the park's beautiful landscaping, diverse tree canopy, and well-maintained floral beds standing out. Many of these beds are maintained by volunteers, demonstrating the community's dedication to maintaining these important spaces. The care and reverence shown at the cenotaph site reflect the community's deep respect and gratitude for their veterans.

The judges also toured a repurposed elementary school that now serves as a business co-workspace, housing forty businesses. The courtyard garden within this space was particularly impressive, providing a serene oasis amidst the bustling work environment.

Lastly, for future tours, the judges suggest using a vehicle with clear windows for better visibility.

Thank you once again for your warm hospitality!

Colleen Stockford and Christine Isaac

2024 Evaluation Form

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE		
<p>Community appearance reflects an overall effort by the municipality, businesses, institutions and the residents throughout the community to create great first impressions and a sense that there is continuous attention and upkeep to critical elements of a community that benefit quality of life and economic vitality Elements for evaluation are: parks and green spaces, medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets; municipal, commercial, institutional and residential properties; ditches, road shoulders, vacant lots, signs and buildings; weed control, litter clean-up (including cigarette butts and gum), graffiti prevention/removal and vandalism deterrent programs.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Gateway Impressions First impressions of the community including gateway/entrance landscape treatments	10	6
Overall Impressions Order, cleanliness, curb appeal and first impressions	10	6.25
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	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	15	13
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	8.25
Community Appearance Total	150.00	123.50

2024 Evaluation Form

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

Observations:

The judges noted some graffiti present in park spaces and throughout the city. Overall, North Bay is an incredibly tidy community with very little garbage or litter. Many residents are often seen picking up litter as they walk along paths or sidewalks.

Flash Mob cleanup events are hosted regularly to assist with garbage cleanups.

Anti-graffiti kits are available in municipal staff vehicles. The municipality is considering applying anti-graffiti products to interpretive and wayfinding signs in parks and green spaces.

The Clean, Green, Beautiful North Bay committee provides education and hosts events to promote the importance of sustainability.

North Bay holds a "goods exchange day" event twice a year, like a city-wide garage sale, where residents exchange unwanted items with each other. These goods exchange events contribute to waste diversion by giving discarded items a new life instead of sending them to the landfill.

Recommendations:

Implement multi-stream waste receptacles in parks and public spaces, including options for garbage, recycling, and compost.

Consider adding a short stop at a municipal building, such as town hall or sports facilities, during future tours to showcase the appearance of municipal facilities.

Develop educational programs on weed control for downtown businesses, outlining options such as chemical, natural, and manual weed removal.

Address the issue of black garbage bags on residential frontages and sidewalks by implementing a bin system where feasible to improve tidiness and deter wildlife from accessing waste.

Develop anti-graffiti education and resources for the community, along with information on bylaws related to graffiti and tagging.

Include a tour of the landfill site in future judges' tours to provide a comprehensive overview of waste management practices.

2024 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		
<u>Sustainable Development Strategies</u> Policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning/vision; effective bylaws/policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities. This includes activities such as: the creation of Active Transportation networks, fleet management, and recognition of the importance of biodiversity to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	20	18
<u>Waste Reduction</u> Reduction of waste going to landfill and results (3-R: reduce, reuse and recycle), municipal composting programs, including activities such as composting sites, yard waste collections, plastics reduction programs, mulching of wood debris (Christmas trees, hedge trimmings, etc.) and reclamation of cut trees. Handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection and reuse of compost material. Officially mandating the greening of public events such as on-site recycling bins, biodegradable drink containers, food service dishes, utensils, etc. to minimize the use of plastic.	20	18
<u>Water Conservation</u> Use reduction programs such as promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	10
<u>Energy Conservation</u> Programs such as alternate forms of energy (ex. geothermal, biomass, wind, solar) and initiatives such as: energy-efficient appliances, shielding for night skies, efficient street lighting	15	10
<u>Environmental Initiatives, Innovations and Actions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation networks such as bike lanes, multi-use commuter pathways, and recreational trails - Horticultural practices such as planned biodiversity, green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bioswales, permeable surfaces and rainwater management - Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation - Air quality programs such as alternate energy sources, sustainable design of facilities, sustainable fleet management, reduction of greenhouse gas emission (carbon reduction), anti-idling by-laws. 	10	8
Business & Institutions		
<u>Participation in The Environmental Effort</u> Waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation and audits (fleet management, electric conservation), brownfield management	10	8
<u>Corporate Environmental Initiatives and Action</u> Innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (for example: environmental clean-up activities, plastic reduction) carbon emissions, green roofs	10	7
Residential		
<u>Participation in Environmental Initiatives</u> 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle), composting	10	8
<u>Water & Energy Conservation</u> Practices such as water use reduction, rainwater collection and rain gardens, alternate forms of energy, thermostat reduction	15	12
Community Involvement		
<u>Public Participation – Civil Action</u> Participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation	5	5
<u>Public Participation in Activities</u> Community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership, etc.)	10	8
<u>Community Support</u> Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	8
Environmental Action Total	150.00	120.00

2024 Evaluation Form

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

The judges observed the use of off-grid solar pods at the university campus, which serve as a model for sustainable energy practices.

The judges noted that the municipality has implemented a water meter program that alerts residents to prolonged or increased water usage, effectively promoting water conservation and helping to prevent large bills from potential leaks.

At Canadore College, the judges saw sorting stations for garbage and recycling, as well as educational programs that help students understand the difference between landfill waste and recyclable items.

The judges were impressed by the numerous orchards planted throughout the community, which contribute to environmental sustainability and local food production.

The judges acknowledged the efforts of municipal staff in developing successful school programs focused on waste management and sustainability, encouraging students to share this knowledge with their families.

The judges observed that recycling bins are available at sports complexes and park spaces, which support waste diversion efforts throughout the community.

The judges commend the City of North Bay for its efforts to address the contamination of Trout Lake with "forever chemicals." They noted that a request for proposal is underway for the cleanup, with the majority of funding coming from the Federal Government, which was responsible for the contamination.

Recommendations:

Develop educational programs to address the significant number of recyclable items currently ending up in the landfill, helping residents better divert these items.

Implement a municipal waste diversion program that includes regular recycling and compost pickups for residential homes.

Introduce a streamer waste system that includes receptacles for both garbage and recycling in public spaces.

Establish a large item pick-up service provided by the municipality twice a year, scheduled to follow the existing "goods exchange" events.

Develop or expand municipal bylaws, policies, and educational programs focused on water conservation to further support sustainability efforts.

2024 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		
<u>Natural Heritage Plans</u> Management and preservation policies, plans, programs and initiatives: including eco systems, eco parks, trail networks, grasslands, naturalization, wetlands, urban agriculture/farming, wildlife and wildlife corridors, protection of sensitive habitats, species at risk and support for at risk pollinators.	20	18
<u>Natural Heritage Promotion</u> Management and promotion of natural heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development/tourism) including year-around activities and programs for education and use of natural heritage sites (including trail networks) for and by the public.	15	14
<u>Cultural Heritage Plans</u> Policies, by-laws, plans, and preservation initiatives for heritage buildings, cemeteries, artifacts, museums, monuments, heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes and landscape	15	14
<u>Cultural Heritage Activities</u> Initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	14
Business & Institutions		
<u>Natural Heritage Assets</u> Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, trails, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	10	8.25
<u>Cultural Heritage Assets</u> Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts including their integration with the built/hard, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	8.25
Residential		
<u>Cultural Heritage Initiatives</u> Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts on residential lands	10	8
Community Involvement		
<u>Natural Heritage Public Participation</u> Participation in community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual natural heritage programs and initiatives including developing policies and plans, site improvements (including trails, eco parks, reforestation and management, maintenance, conservation and education initiatives	20	18
<u>Natural Heritage – Community Support</u> Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including environmental groups) in community-initiated natural heritage activities and programs	10	8
<u>Cultural Heritage - Public Participation</u> Participation in community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual cultural heritage programs including year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	13.5
<u>Cultural Heritage - Community Support</u> Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including historical societies) in community-initiated cultural heritage activities and programs	10	8
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	132.00

2024 Evaluation Form

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The judges were grateful to participate in a smudge ceremony at the Miskawaadesi (painted turtle) site. An original song was performed by an indigenous artist, making it a moving and emotional experience. The judges learned that the logo for the painted turtle (Miskawaadesi) was developed by an Indigenous artist.

Interpretive signage, also created by an Indigenous artist, was in the process of being installed during the tour. Volunteers shared information about the sign, which will be a valuable addition to the site.

The heritage gardens and volunteers at the carousel and along the waterfront area were outstanding.

One garden included a small walking tour with interpretive signage about native plant species and local animals, accessible through QR codes. This site was particularly impressive and is fully maintained by volunteers.

The Dionne Quintuplet Museum and the train museum were incredibly interesting, with well-laid-out exhibits.

The staff and volunteers were knowledgeable and engaging, making the experience enjoyable.

The judges noticed several glass plaques on historical buildings and residential homes.

The story of the original gateway sign was fascinating, and the judges were pleased to learn that the sign is being repaired by a stone mason to preserve its historical significance.

Recommendations:

Consider developing bylaws, policies, and procedures for heritage sites to ensure proper maintenance, repair, and conservation of these spaces.

Recording oral histories from long-term residents could preserve valuable stories of the past for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

The judges recommend providing additional resources, both financial and physical, to the Miskawaadesi (painted turtle) site to support the expansion, development, and maintenance of the medicinal plant beds.

Consider increasing shade opportunities at the amphitheater within the Miskawaadesi site, as it can get very hot. Shade would help visitors stay longer and avoid overheating.

Volunteer groups could develop educational or school-aged programs at the Miskawaadesi site to share knowledge and oral history of the region.

Developing interpretive signage for the medicinal plants in the beds at the Miskawaadesi site would enhance visitors' understanding and appreciation of the space.

2024 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	18.25
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	8.25
Tree Management Total	175.00	143.50

2024 Evaluation Form

TREE MANAGEMENT

Observations:

A variety of fruit trees, including apples, pears, and plums, have been planted at various school sites within the city.

Canadore College and Nipissing University have been recognized for their tree plan, orchards, and environmental initiatives focused on greenhouse gas reduction and research purposes.

The "Grow Our Canopy" program plants 100 trees in residential areas each year to increase the tree canopy within the city.

The Trees of Nipissing community group offers annual pruning workshops to educate residents on tree care.

The judges noted the municipality and residents' efforts to remediate the damage caused by the Emerald Ash Borer beetle. Damaged and dead trees are being removed, and a diverse range of trees is being replanted to prevent similar pest issues in the future.

Recommendations:

Consider developing a pest management program for the tree canopy to maintain tree health and proactively protect against future pest issues or invasions.

As part of the pest management strategy, consider increasing the diversity of the tree canopy.

The judges recommend certifying a staff member as an ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) professional to promote proper tree care practices in the community. Additionally, consider providing ISA training opportunities for staff.

The judges recommend increasing the native tree inventory at the waterfront and in the downtown area.

Consider conducting a tree inventory for the municipality that assesses the general condition and health of the trees. This inventory could be completed by volunteers from Trees of Nipissing or Clean, Green, Beautiful North Bay in partnership with Canadore College or Nipissing University.

Consider increasing shade spaces at the waterfront area, particularly at the inclusive playground, spray park, and along the walking path, by planting more native trees.

2024 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	8.25
<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	18.25
<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	163.50

2024 Evaluation Form

LANDSCAPE

Observations:

The heritage gardens and the volunteers who maintain them are amazing! This passionate and dedicated group of volunteers contributes greatly to the beauty of the waterfront garden spaces.

The parks staff are highly qualified, including specialists in turf management and horticulture.

The city has developed an active transportation plan, and the bike paths are well used by the community.

The judges noted that some downtown benches have been installed facing storefronts, which might affect the overall experience.

A banner program was created for an overpass area near Lee Park, with banners painted by residents, showcasing community involvement.

The judges were impressed by the city's commitment to accessibility, noting inclusive playgrounds, the All Wheel Park, and a wheelchair-accessible mat for beach access. These efforts to make the community accessible to everyone were inspiring.

Many Hallmark movies are filmed in the community, and the municipality actively works to minimize red tape or barriers to support these projects.

The judges toured the Northern Pines facility and were incredibly impressed with not only the resources that are available for the unhoused but also the care and compassion that was demonstrated by the staff. The work taking place at Northern Pines is inspiring and commendable.

Recommendations:

Consider reorienting the benches along Main Street to face the street instead of the storefronts. This would allow people to watch street activity, engage with passersby, and enjoy the view of the surroundings. Facing the street encourages a livelier, more connected atmosphere by enhancing social interaction and creating a more dynamic street experience for both locals and visitors.

Reimagine the existing facade program to reflect the heritage of the buildings and create a unified theme along the downtown corridor. This could be coordinated through the Downtown Improvement Association.

Extend the current banner program to include seasonal flags and banners for the streetlights throughout the city.

Develop landscape standards for the city that include a unified theme for park furniture, amenities, waste receptacles, and seating areas.

Consider developing a public art program for the electrical boxes in the city to enhance beautification and deter graffiti.

The municipality could clear additional paved paths to increase recreational use and active transportation year-round.

2024 Evaluation Form

Consider developing and implementing a "Yard of the Week" program for residents through the Clean, Green, Beautiful North Bay group. The Downtown Improvement Association could also consider a "Beautiful Business" program to assist with city beautification efforts.

Consider including a paved trail between the splash pad/inclusive playground area and the Dionne Museum, as visitors were observed traveling between the sites on the grass.

Install Park name signage at significant park sites within the city for those who may be less familiar with these spaces.

Consider adding entrance features at all city entrances, along with low-maintenance perennial beds featuring native plant species at the existing entrance features.

Increase the number of waste receptacles at the waterfront area to discourage littering when a receptacle is not nearby.

Consider painting the housing units and shelter buildings at Northern Pines with murals to beautify and brighten up the space.

Residents at Northern Pines could collaborate with Communities in Bloom to further develop the community garden space and program.

2024 Evaluation Form

2024 Evaluation Form

PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS		
<p>This category evaluates the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents to design, plan, execute, and maintain plant and floral displays of high-quality standards. Evaluation includes the design and arrangements of flowers and plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses, edible plants, water efficient and pollinator friendly plants) in the context of originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, and harmony. It also pertains to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Floral Display Plan of Action Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	13
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		
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	13.5
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community plant and floral displays activities	15	13.5
Plant and Floral Displays Total	175.00	149.00

2024 Evaluation Form

PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

Pollinator plants have been used effectively within the waterfront gardens.

Excellent work has been done by the heritage gardeners in maintaining and beautifying the waterfront areas.

The floral pots placed along Main Street are pleasing to the eye and are incredibly impressive.

The judges appreciated the diversity of pot sizes used in various groupings, adding texture and visual interest.

The judges observed a notable residential yard that developed an edible garden and extensive floral space after experiencing flooding damage on the property.

Recommendations:

Consider developing a hanging basket program along Main Street to enhance the beautification efforts in the area. It can significantly transform the aesthetic appeal of this vital thoroughfare. By suspending colorful, blooming baskets from lamp posts and building facades, the streetscape will become more inviting and vibrant. These hanging baskets can not only add visual interest but also create a sense of cohesion throughout the area, encouraging visitors and residents alike to explore local businesses and attractions.

Consider using "thriller, filler, and spiller" designs for floral pots, and increase the diversity of plants in planters while maintaining a unified theme. The "thriller, filler, and spiller" design approach presents an excellent opportunity to create visually stunning floral displays. By incorporating a mix of tall, striking plants (thriller) to serve as focal points, mid-sized plants (filler) that add fullness, and trailing plants (spiller) that cascade over the edges, the planters will captivate attention from all angles.

Include edible plants and flowers in floral pots and perennial beds, with interpretive signage, to allow residents to enjoy and sample the plants. This can educate residents about the different plants, their uses, and their benefits, fostering a deeper connection to the local landscape. This initiative not only beautifies the area but also promotes sustainable practices and encourages a sense of community engagement in urban agriculture.

Consider developing a mentorship program at the neighborhood level to help residents with ongoing beautification processes and practices on their properties.

Expand the volunteer gardening program, similar to the heritage gardeners, to include park spaces outside of the waterfront and downtown areas.

2024 Evaluation Form



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT

“Within the context of climate change and environmental concerns, communities involved in the Communities in Bloom program can be proud of their efforts, which provide real and meaningful environmental solutions and benefit all of society.”

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY

The commitment of local, provincial and national volunteers

The support of elected officials and of staff in municipalities

The dedication of our judges, staff and organizations

The contributions of our sponsors and partners