

Evaluation Form

2026



2026 Evaluation Form

2026 Evaluation Form



Community:

Province:

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	0.00	/	150.00
Environmental Action	0.00	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	0.00	/	150.00
Tree Management	0.00	/	175.00
Landscape	0.00	/	200.00
Plant and Floral Displays	0.00	/	175.00
Total	0.00	/	1000.00

Percentage : 0.00%

Bloom rating: _____

Bloom rating: Provincial, National and International Participants

2026 Evaluation Form

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:

Function:

Name:

Function:

Name:

Function:

Judges

Name:

Name:

**Evaluation
date:**

2026 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.

2026 Evaluation Form

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

2026 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	
Overall Impressions Order, cleanliness, curb appeal and first impressions	10	
Anti-litter/Graffiti Prevention and Removal Community anti-litter/graffiti awareness programs	10	
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	
Asset Appearance Includes public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)	10	
Municipal Properties Appearance Visual appeal and condition of municipal buildings and city owned properties	10	
Business & Institutions		
Overall Impressions Curb appeal, order, and cleanliness	15	
Site Conditions Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	
Furniture/Amenities Appearance Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	

2026 Evaluation Form

Residential		
<u>Overall Impressions</u> Curb Appeal , order and cleanliness	20	
<u>Property Conditions</u> Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	
Community Involvement		
<u>Public Participation</u> In community, neighbourhood or individual streets , clean-up programs, activities and annual maintenance (including promotion, organization, innovations involving youth and seniors, etc.)	10	
<u>Community Support</u> Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses service groups, and institutions for community clean-up programs.	10	
Community Appearance Total	150.00	0.00

2026 Evaluation Form

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

Observations:

Recommendations:

2026 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	
<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	
<u>Water Conservation</u> Use-reduction programs such as promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	
<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	
<u>Environmental Initiatives, Innovations and Actions</u> - 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	

2026 Evaluation Form

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	
<u>Corporate Environmental Initiatives and Action</u> Innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (for example: environmental clean-up activities, plastic reduction) carbon emissions, green roofs	10	
Residential		
<u>Participation in Environmental Initiatives</u> 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle), composting	10	
Water & Energy Conservation Practices such as water use reduction, rainwater collection and rain gardens, alternate forms of energy, thermostat reduction	15	
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	
<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	
<u>Community Support</u> Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	
Environmental Action Total	150.00	0.00

2026 Evaluation Form

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

Recommendations:

2026 Evaluation Form

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Heritage conservation includes efforts to preserve and protect both natural and cultural heritage within the community. Preservation of natural heritage pertains to policies, plans and actions concerning all elements of biodiversity including flora and fauna ecosystems and associated geological structures and formations. Cultural conservation represents the “persona” of a community and refers to the heritage that helps define the community including the legacy of tangible (built/hard assets) elements such as heritage buildings, monuments, memorials, cemeteries, artifacts, museums and intangible elements such as traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations. The participation of groups such as historical societies, traditional cultural groups, and conservation groups is considered.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
<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	
<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	
<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	
<u>Cultural Heritage Activities</u> Initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	
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	
<u>Cultural Heritage Assets</u> Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts including their integration into new builds, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	
Residential		

2026 Evaluation Form

<u>Cultural Heritage Initiatives</u> Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts on residential lands	10	
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	
<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	
<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	
<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	
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	0.00

2026 Evaluation Form

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

Recommendations:

2026 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		
<u>Overall Impression</u> Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	
<u>Strategic Plans</u> Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	15	
<u>Urban Forestry Plan</u> 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	
<u>Plan of Action</u> Procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy and pollinator habitat tree species, recommended tree list and tree planting standards.	10	
<u>Integrated Pest Management</u> (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	
<u>Public Information Programs</u> Provides information on good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs	15	
<u>Maintenance Quality</u> Best practices with demonstrated results	10	
<u>Qualified Resources</u> Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff and/or qualified experienced contractors) and/or in place training programs	5	
Business & Institutions		
<u>Tree inventory</u> Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory and canopy, management of	15	

2026 Evaluation Form

hedgerows and forests, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees, on properties owned by businesses and institutions.		
<u>Maintenance Quality</u> Programs, best practices with demonstrated results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	
Residential		
<u>Tree Planting</u> Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties	15	
<u>Maintenance Quality</u> Best practices with demonstrated results	10	
Community Involvement		
<u>Public Participation</u> 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	
<u>Community Support</u> 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	
Tree Management Total	175.00	0.00

2026 Evaluation Form

TREE MANAGEMENT

Observations:

Recommendations:

2026 Evaluation Form

LANDSCAPE

Landscape includes planning, design, construction and maintenance of parks, green spaces and cemeteries suitable for the intended use and location on a year-round basis. Elements for evaluation include: native and introduced materials; biodiversity, materials and constructed elements; appropriate integration of hard surfaces and art elements, use of turf and groundcovers. Landscape design should harmonize the interests of all sectors of the community and provide safe and secure public spaces. Standards of execution and maintenance should demonstrate best practices, including quality of naturalization, use of groundcovers and wildflowers along with turf management.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
<u>Sustainable Designs – Soft Landscape</u> Sustainable designs : energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties (including pollinator friendly) , traffic calming, bank stabilization	15	
<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	
<u>Landscape Plan</u> Integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	
Landscape <u>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	
<u>Landscape Maintenance</u> Policies, Standards, Best Practices and Programs including irrigation water management	10	
<u>Landscape Quality</u> Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specs and best practices, as an example as shown in the Canadian Landscape Standards	5	
<u>Qualified Resources</u> Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	

2026 Evaluation Form

<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	
Business & Institutions		
<u>Sustainable Designs:</u> energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	
<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	
<u>Maintenance Quality</u> Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	
Residential		
<u>Streetscape Appeal</u> Residential yards (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	
<u>Maintenance Quality</u> Lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with demonstrated results)	15	
<u>Plant Selection</u> Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible & pollinator friendly plants)	10	
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	
<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	
Landscape Total	200.00	0.00

2026 Evaluation Form

LANDSCAPE

Observations:

Recommendations:

2026 Evaluation Form

PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS

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.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
<u>Floral Display Plan of Action</u> Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	
<u>Diversity of Displays</u> Flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	
<u>Diversity of Plants</u> Annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	
<u>Maintenance Quality</u> Maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	
<u>Qualified Resources</u> Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	
Business & Institutions		
<u>Design Concept</u> and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	
<u>Overall Plan</u> Contribution to, and integration with, overall community plant and floral program	10	
<u>Maintenance Quality</u> of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc. with demonstrated results.	10	

2026 Evaluation Form

Residential		
<u>Concept and Design</u> (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties including Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens	20	
<u>Maintenance Quality</u> of planting and maintenance with demonstrated results.	15	
Community Involvement		
<u>Public Participation</u> in community projects, volunteer initiatives (including children/youth), outreach programs in plant and floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	
<u>Community Support</u> Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community plant and floral displays activities	15	
Plant and Floral Displays Total	175.00	0.00

2026 Evaluation Form

PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

Recommendations:

2026 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