

Evaluation Form

Competitive,
Evaluated Friends, and
Novice Categories

2024



Communities
in Bloom

Collectivités
en fleurs

Saskatchewan

Provincial Partner



Saskatchewan Parks
and Recreation
Association

THE SASKATCHEWAN PARKS AND
RECREATION ASSOCIATION INC. (SPRA)

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Funded By



SASK LOTTERIES

Program Disclaimer

Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) staff, volunteer judges and all personnel associated with Communities in Bloom (CiB) will not be held liable for any observations, suggestions, or recommendations made in this Evaluation Document or at any time during the delivery of the CiB program. This will also include any resulting activity or events related to participation in the CiB program.



Community: Outlook

Province: Saskatchewan

Category: Competitive

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	119.50	/	150.00
Environmental Action	116.50	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	117.50	/	150.00
Tree Management	126.00	/	175.00
Landscape Plant and Floral Displays	149.00	/	200.00
	Total		760.00 / 1000.00

Percentage: 76%

Bloom rating: 4 Blooms

Bloom rating: Provincial, National and International Participants

Up to 55% 1 bloom	56% to 63% 2 blooms	64% to 72% 3 blooms	73% to 81% 4 blooms	>82% 5 blooms
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Mention: Efforts to Build Community Involvement

Representative (s) of Community

Name:	<u>Megan Anthony</u>	Function:	<u>Community Development Director</u>
Name:	<u>Whittney Greig</u>	Function:	<u>Administrative Assistant</u>
Name:	<u>Maureen Weiterman</u>	Function:	<u>Mayor</u>
Name:	<u>Kevin Trew</u>	Function:	<u>CAO</u>

Judges

Name: Cathy Joyner Name: Cheryl Harmsworth

Evaluation date: July 24 and 25, 2024

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.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Congratulations on your second year in the Communities in Bloom Program and moving from the Evaluated Friends to Competitive Category. Thanks for a thorough and excellent tour. It was very helpful to be able to talk to a variety of people and get different perspectives on what is happening in Outlook. One of the local representatives on the tour commented that we are a community that is “always growing” and that was evident in our tour of the community.

Outlook’s involvement in Communities in Bloom is an endeavour of Town Council. The leadership provided by the Mayor, CAO, and staff is appreciated and there seems to be a momentum building and expanding in the community through your efforts.

Outlook provides its citizens with a vast array of opportunities. The Jim Kook RecPlex offers a range of year-round recreational opportunities. A beach volleyball court was recently added. There is also a diverse range of businesses in the community.

The Town is setting a good example with regards to tree management by identifying and removing trees impacted by Dutch Elm disease and allocating a dedicated disposal area at the landfill. As well, there are efforts to prune public trees such as those at the Kinsmen Park to achieve good tree health, beautification, and community safety. Part of tree management is the management of wood waste, and through their chipping program, the community locally recycles this valuable resource, which can then be used to mulch trees and beds, thereby contributing to both water conservation and weed control.

There are a significant percentage of residents who show pride and creativity in landscaping and beautifying their yards. As with other communities, some neglected and uncared for yards were noted but they were overshadowed by those that were neat, tidy, and well-maintained.

The efforts you are making to involve residents and businesses in beautifying the community is commended. Keep up these efforts and continue to find creative contests and ways to get people involved.



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	8
Overall Impressions Order, cleanliness, curb appeal and first impressions	10	8
Anti-litter/Graffiti Prevention and Removal Community anti-litter/graffiti awareness programs	10	8
Regulations Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, private property maintenance by-laws, vandalism, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents	10	8
Asset Appearance Including public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage, and furniture such as benches, litter, and recycling containers etc.)	10	8
Municipal Properties Appearance Visual appeal and condition of municipal buildings and municipal owned properties	10	8
Business and Institutions		
Overall Impressions Curb appeal, order, and cleanliness	15	12
Site Conditions Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks, and parking lots	15	12
Furniture/Amenities Appearance Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter, and recycling containers	5	3.5
Residential		
Overall Impressions Curb Appeal, order, and cleanliness	20	16
Property Conditions Condition of buildings, grounds, and yards	15	12
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	119.50

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

Observations:

Overall, Outlook presents as a neat, tidy, and well-maintained community. Both gateway signs are attractive and provide a good first impression. The grass in the ditches was mowed. There is minimal litter and graffiti noted.

The recent addition of Town maps at each gateway entrance is excellent. Paper copies of the maps are available at businesses and an online version is on the Town of Outlook website.

The Veterans Memorial Park is a very visible and attractive site. The shrubs are neatly trimmed, grass is healthy and mowed, and the benches are high quality. The Town Office on the opposite corner of the highway is also well maintained.

It is evident the Town has its own street sweeper as the streets are clean and neat. Weed control is done 1 or 2 times per year. There were weeds observed on some curbs, so we encourage you to continue weed control in these areas.

The Town of Outlook is commended for providing yard waste pick-up for free three times per year and offering free access to the landfill in spring. These practices enhance the appearance of the community.

There are a significant number of residential properties in the community that are very well maintained, clean, neat, and beautifully landscaped. Of course, as we expect there are a few less cared for properties but overall, the appearance of the residential areas is noteworthy. It was noted that the Town did encourage residents to mow their lawns and trim trees in advance of our visit.

Efforts continue to be made to enhance the appearance of the Town Office. Shrubs are neatly trimmed, the grass mowed, and the flags are in great condition.

Kinsmen Park is a well used area for children. The equipment is in good shape, bathroom facilities are provided, and there is a combination of grass and sand areas. It is beneficial that tables and benches are provided, and many are in shady areas of the park.

Recommendations:

As we discussed on the tour, there is an ample supply of garbage receptacles dispersed throughout the community but very few recycle containers. The concern you expressed about the improper use of recycle containers is noted, however it is suggested this is a good practice to promote in the community. Consider adding recycle containers in high use areas and implement education and awareness on how to properly use the containers through your website and Facebook page. There are also many great decal options that could be placed on the recycling bins in order to specify the type of recycling that is acceptable.

The benches and tables in the Regional Park would benefit from some TLC. Some require repair, while others simply need a coat of paint.

To further enhance the attractiveness of the Gateway sign at the east entrance, consider giving the shrub on the left side of the sign a significant trim.

The smoking receptacle at the Rec Plex appears to be close to the minimum requirements from the door. It is suggested you move this receptacle an additional two or three metres from the entrance to the building.

As you are aware, the pizza restaurant directly across the street east of the town office is a bit of an "eye-sore" that detracts from the beauty of the community. It is in such a visible location. Please continue to encourage them to clean up their property and you may also wish to offer to plant a row of shrubs along the sidewalk to hide the property from view.

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	15
<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	12
<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	12
<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 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	6.5
<u>Business & Institutions</u>		
<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	7
<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
<u>Residential</u>		
<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
<u>Community Involvement</u>		
<u>Public Participation – Civil Action</u> Participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation	5	3
<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	116.50

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

The Town of Outlook's community plan includes objectives and policies relating to source water protection, alternative transportation, walkability, connectivity, natural areas, and open spaces. Recently updated bylaws no. 1 (2023) "Regulate and Control Disposal of Waste" and no. 4 (2023) "Promote Proper Waste Management..." address household hazardous waste collection, oil recycling, construction waste, littering, recycling, and composting as well as collection of branches, shrubs, and stumps. It was noted during the tour that Outlook lacks a dedicated bylaw enforcement officer.

With the recent reopening of the landfill in 2023, Outlook demonstrates leadership in waste reduction and waste management. There is no charge for disposal of diversion program materials, compostable materials, and clean wood waste, and the Town offers compost back to residents free of charge. The Town rents shredding equipment every two years to process clean wood waste which is used for cover at the landfill. There is a recycling guide posted on the website and the staff at the landfill are available to answer questions and provide guidance.

The Town also looks for ways to reduce waste by offering e-billing and opting for recycled materials when possible, such as the recycled asphalt used to pave the parking lot adjacent to Kinsmen Park. In addition, there are donation bins in the community and the promotion of community events such as town-wide garage sales.

As the "Irrigation Capital of Canada," water is integral to Outlook. CSIDC provides expertise on irrigation best practices, promoting "more crop per drop" and better enabling local production of food, such as the berry crops at Husbandry Farms. Several water conservation strategies were observed including residential rainwater collection, xeriscaping of yards and businesses, drip irrigation at Veteran's Memorial Park and the community garden, and irrigation of the golf course using non-potable water. As explained by the water operator during an excellent tour, when necessary, the Town implements water restrictions (reduction in lawn watering).

A few examples of energy initiatives were observed including solar power at the Post Office, gateway signs, and pedestrian crossing. We were also informed about a recent lighting upgrade at the RecPlex and an energy audit at the water treatment facility.

Another noted environmental initiative is the idle free zone at the gateway map.

Recommendations:

We encourage Council and Administration to continue to explore options for incorporating sustainable development strategies within official community planning, bylaws, and education programs. Education programming relating to water conservation, such as residential rainwater collection, might be a suitable area of focus that connects with the irrigation culture of the community. Demonstrations of water collection at municipal facilities might serve as effective examples. An area for further exploration might be the recycling of water used at the spray park, which was seen to be a very well used facility during our tour.

Municipal buildings might also serve as examples of energy conservation practiced through the implementation of motion sensor control of lighting in, for example, dressing rooms or meeting rooms.

There was some discussion of the need for an improved parking surface at the RecPlex. We encourage exploration into low impact development options that may align with stormwater management strategies. You might find the information available at The City of Calgary website on bioswales and permeable pavement to be a useful starting point for exploring this idea: <https://www.calgary.ca/water/stormwater/bioswales.html> and <https://www.calgary.ca/water/stormwater/permeable-pavement.html>.

Given the way that the parking lots drains with water collecting in a central strip already, it may be appropriate to add a row of trees and natural grasses to the center of the parking lot where water collects. This would act as a bioswale, provide a space for the water to collect, and also add a new generation of trees to the parking lot which is currently surrounded by many trees of a similar age. The parking lot is large enough that a feature such as this may also help guide parking rather than impede it as well.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

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

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Natural Heritage Plans Management and preservation policies, plans, programs and initiatives, including eco systems, eco parks, trail networks, grasslands, naturalization, wetlands, urban agriculture/farming, wildlife and wildlife corridors, protection of sensitive habitats, species at risk and support for at risk pollinators.	20	15.5
Natural Heritage Promotion Management and promotion of natural heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development/tourism) including year-around activities and programs for education and use of natural heritage sites (including trail networks) for and by the public.	15	11
Cultural Heritage Plans Policies, by-laws, plans, and preservation initiatives for heritage buildings, cemeteries, artifacts, museums, monuments, heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes and landscape	15	13
Cultural Heritage Activities Initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	13
Business and Institutions		
Natural Heritage Assets Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, trails, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	10	7
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	7
Community Involvement		
Natural Heritage Public Participation Participation in community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual natural heritage programs and initiatives including developing policies and plans, site improvements (including trails, eco parks, reforestation and management, maintenance, conservation and education initiatives	20	15
Natural Heritage - Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including environmental groups) in community-initiated natural heritage activities and programs	10	7
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	117.50

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The community plan includes policies relating to integration of natural features and the protection of provincial and municipal heritage and intangible cultural resources.

Although our short visit to Outlook did not permit time to venture out on the walking/cycling trails, we were made aware of the trails located in the regional park which are an important part of the community's natural heritage. These trails, as well as the sky trail, are part of The Trans Canada Trail system and can be found on The Trans Canada Trail app.

There are abundant examples of cultural heritage in Outlook including the sky trail, B.O.B. (Big Orange Bridge), Veterans Memorial Park, Train Station Museum, Bounty Theatre, and the cemetery. The Veterans Memorial Park at the centre of the community is an inspiring and well-planned initiative; the signage at the location helps to connect visitors to the local history.

The museum has been focusing on providing rotating exhibits to generate more interest and it is at the museum that visitors can start to understand that irrigation is not simply a technology being demonstrated in Outlook but rather a key element of the local culture. The Bounty Theatre has become an important gathering place for the community, including newcomers. A multicultural group has been established and events such as Taste of Outlook have proved popular.

There is a committee to direct the use of the local cemetery, which has a gravesite dating back to 1908. A clean-up day was held in June, and metal crosses produced by local students are used to commemorate veterans.

Murals celebrating the local culture are seen at several locations and the Town's website provides information about the history of the community.

Recommendations:

Although we did not visit the bank stabilization project within the Regional Park, this may be noteworthy as an element of efforts for restoration of natural heritage within the community and could be included on future tours.

Some graffiti was visible at the Big Orange Bridge, particularly on the barricades, and this could be cleaned. It is unclear how the community plans to use this asset in the future and perhaps some strategizing with local and regional community members could generate suitable ideas. As well, we understand that there are significant challenges relating to the safety of the former railway bridge (sky trail). Future plans relating to this unique asset are likely of great interest not only to residents, but also to those in the larger region as this bridge links recreational trails on both sides of the river.

Plans for a potential future extension of the trail network eastward to the museum along the former railway line would create more walkability in the community and further celebrate the history of the railroad. Perhaps additional signage, landscape features, or art that draws on railway themes could be appropriate.

In order to reduce the possibility of inappropriate vehicle use on the wide trails adjacent to the food forest, you might consider installing bollards at a few strategic locations.

Signage at the Bounty Theatre celebrating the preservation of this building by local community members, explaining its history, and containing a map showing the location of the former community of Bounty relative to Outlook would help to tell the story to visitors and residents.

Efficient operation of a heritage building such as the train station museum is an understandable challenge. An area of concern is the windows which are falling into disrepair. In order to maintain the architectural heritage of the building, the museum committee might explore the feasibility of repairing the wood frames and reinstalling missing storm windows before replacing the windows entirely. You may also consider using a product such as this wood restoration kit for repair of any rotted window sills/windows: <https://ucoatings.com/products/wood-restoration-kit>. We are familiar with others who have used this product for similar purposes with good results.

An on-site map at the cemetery (in addition to an online directory) would help to orient visitors to the cemetery. A landscaped meditation area with benches could be a welcome addition.

TREE MANAGEMENT (formerly Urban Forestry)		
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	11
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	13
Plan of Action Procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy and pollinator habitat tree species, recommended tree list and tree planting standards	10	7
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 Provision of information on good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs	15	9.5
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	7
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff and/or qualified experienced contractors) and/or in place training programs	5	4
Business and 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	10
Maintenance Quality Programs, best practices with demonstrated results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	6.5
Residential		
Tree Planting Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties	15	13
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	7.5
Community Involvement		
Public Participation Participation (including children/youth) in tree planting and conservation programs such as Green Streets Canada, Arbor Day, Maple Leaf Day, and other tree planting and maintenance programs and activities on public lands (including promotion, organization etc.)	20	14.5
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	126.00

TREE MANAGEMENT

Observations:

The community has many examples of healthy trees, while a few trees, particularly in the residential area, are showing signs of drought damage. Notable areas with trees include the RecPlex grounds, Kinsmen Park, and the Food Forest along the trail system.

The Food Forest, a community initiative, includes a variety of apple, cherry, and pear trees. Caging is in place to protect the trees from damage caused by deer. There is significant damage to a number of these trees caused by gophers. Several strategies have been attempted in the community to manage gophers, including CO₂/smoke bombs and ultrasonic repellent devices, with limited success.

Dutch Elm surveys are completed on a regular basis and this year nearly 100 diseased trees were flagged for removal. Diseased trees are managed at the landfill site.

Multiple tree waste pickups are offered by the Town through the spring, summer, and fall. Pruning appears to be effective and has been done well in the cemetery. Recent pruning of both trees and shrubs at Kinsmen Park has been completed with good results.

Recommendations:

Council and Administration, with input from the community members, are encouraged to develop a tree management plan which would identify heritage trees and explore ways to expand the diversity of trees and encourage suitable plantings within residential and public areas. Surveying the existing trees would help to generate a list of the species that grow well in the local conditions and should be encouraged. The Town may wish to provide a list of recommended trees to residents and developers. The City of Saskatoon "request a tree" website may serve as a helpful example: <https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/housing-property/city-owned-trees/request-boulevard-tree>.

Several public spaces may benefit from additional trees, particularly shade trees. For example, the land between the museum and Bounty Theatre could have tree plantings incorporated in the landscape design; however, this will need to be carefully planned so that the requirement for outdoor space to host larger events would not be impacted. One or two carefully sited shade trees might also be considered for Veterans Memorial Park. Although there is good shade provided by the trees on the south side of Kinsmen Park, perhaps some additional trees on the west side would help to make the park even more enjoyable in the late afternoon and during summer evenings.

Additional pruning on the parking lot side of Kinsmen Park might be appropriate to improve appearances.

Labels and any supports tied onto trees in the food forest should be removed to ensure that growth is not restricted. Also, a number of these trees, particularly those damaged by gophers, will need to be removed and replaced if possible.

Perhaps a workshop on pruning could be hosted to educate the committee as well as community members on the strategies and techniques for pruning fruit trees so that pruning could be completed in early spring 2025. Avoidance of string trimming tools for lawn maintenance will be important for the long-term health of these trees. Mulching the

areas immediately under the trees to retain moisture, prevent grass, and eliminate the need for grass cutting near the trunks may also be a good option.

If you are interested in planting new trees throughout the community, the Planting for Tomorrow Grant from Trans Canada Trail, <https://tctrail.ca/planting-for-tomorrow-program/>, may be a great option for your community. This grant is available to all communities in Canada whether you have Trans Canada Trail or not and eligible expenses include many tree related costs (such as mulch and watering costs) in addition to the actual trees.

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		
Sustainable Designs – Soft Landscape Sustainable designs: energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties (including pollinator friendly), traffic calming, bank stabilization	15	11.5
Sustainable Designs - Hard Landscape Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and public places including considerations for public safety: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, signage including wayfaring and directional, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials including use of artificial turf and its protocols	15	11.5
Landscape Plan Integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	6.5
Landscape Management Programs 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	7.5
Landscape Maintenance Policies, standards, best practices and programs including irrigation water management	10	7
Landscape Quality Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specifications and best practices, as an example as shown in the Canadian Landscape Standards	5	3.5
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	7
Year-round use 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 and Institutions		
Sustainable Designs Energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	7
Integrated Plan Contribution to urban and civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains and innovation in concept and design	15	10
Maintenance Quality Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground and asset management, rehabilitation and replacement) of all landscape elements	10	7
Residential		
Streetscape Appeal Residential yards (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	12.5
Maintenance Quality Lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with demonstrated results)	15	12.5
Plant Selection Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible and pollinator friendly plants)	10	7
Community Involvement		
Public Participation Participation 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	16
Volunteer Succession Plan and Recognition 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	14.5
Landscape Total	200.00	149.00

LANDSCAPE

Observations:

Residential properties display a range of landscape designs from xeriscaping to cottage garden designs. Overall, yards are well-maintained with mowed grass, neatly trimmed shrubs and trees, and a variety of plant materials. The Canadian flag is displayed in a number of yards and on balconies of apartment buildings.

Landscaping on business properties was less evident. While most properties are neat and clean, there is opportunity in Outlook for many businesses to better contribute to the appearance of the community through landscaping efforts.

Landscaping at the Veterans Memorial Park is excellent. It displays a nice variety of neatly trimmed shrubs, Karl Forster grasses, poppies, and roses. The arch, benches, and plinths are beautifully arranged. There is a cohesion at this corner of the highway with the attractive landscaping at the Town Office on the opposite corner.

Outlook has a significant number of churches. Most of the churches are very well maintained and nicely landscaped. It is suggested you include a drive-by of these churches as a part of your next year's Communities in Bloom tour.

Flags and flagpoles throughout the community are all in excellent condition. They exhibit a pride in community and country.

The efforts to control gopher infestation around the community is noted.

It is impressive to see two community gardens in Outlook. The volunteer and community effort to develop and maintain these gardens is noted.

The golf course is a hidden gem. It is in a beautiful location along the river, boasts lush grass fairways, healthy trees, and native plants.

Congratulations on hosting the Residential Yard and Storefront contests. These contests promote and encourage residents and businesses to enhance their landscapes and recognizes landscaping excellence in the community. There are some very talented gardeners and landscapers in Outlook who could serve as a resource to service groups and on Town initiatives related to landscaping.

Recommendations:

The use of banners is a great idea, however the text on the banners is quite small making it difficult to read from a distance or when driving by. As you design future banners, consider making them larger with brighter colours and bigger print.

Continue to encourage businesses to enhance their business-fronts with soft and hard landscaping. The three businesses in the contest did have neat xeriscaped areas with flower planters.

Consider hosting a volunteer appreciation event to recognize the efforts of residents and business owners who have participated in local initiatives that contribute to enhancing the community in all the Communities in Bloom categories.

Designing and implementing a landscape plan for the Bounty Theatre area will greatly enhance the appeal of this building. You have a blank canvas to work with which will allow for lots of creativity befitting of this building.

The use of green walls on some of the chain link fences around businesses and storage areas, such as the Home Hardware, will hide any messy or unattractive areas from the public eye. Virginia creeper is a cheap and easy to grow vine that would work well as a green wall.

As discussed, your vision to create a quiet gathering place at the cemetery is excellent. With the guidance of your cemetery committee, implementing a plan to achieve this vision will be a worthwhile endeavor. The addition of benches (including memorial benches), gazebo, and trees to provide shade in the area closer to the river could be part of that plan.

PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS (Formerly 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		
Floral Display Plan of Action Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design, including sustainable design	15	11.5
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	7
Maintenance Quality Maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	14
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	7.5
Business and Institutions		
Design Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	11
Overall Plan Contribution to, and integration with, overall community plant and floral program	10	7
Maintenance Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc. with demonstrated results.	10	7.5
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	16
Maintenance Quality of planting and maintenance with demonstrated results.	15	12
Community Involvement		
Public Participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives (including children/youth), outreach programs in plant and floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	11
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community plant and floral displays activities	15	12
Plant and Floral Displays Total	175.00	131.50

PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

The efforts you have made to distribute your floral displays throughout the community is noteworthy. While the focus is displays along the highway and Franklin Street, it is a pleasant surprise to see floral displays at the cemetery, Rec Plex, and Water Treatment plant. The planters at the cemetery are self watering and are very attractive.

The Art in the Park events are a great way to introduce children (6 to 16) to gardening. The opportunities provided for kids to make succulent planters and Floral window hangers sounds very interesting.

It is so sad to see you had lost most of the flowers in your hanging pots. Clearly a lot of effort was put into planting them, and they would have enhanced the beauty of the drive along Saskatchewan Ave.

The planters on the ground around town look to be doing much better than the hanging baskets and are being well maintained. As discussed, the colours of flowers were subtle and muted. Some more vibrant coloured flowers would have enhanced their visual appeal.

The floral display, especially the lilies, is stunning at the CSIDC facility.

Kudos for saving some of the seeds from your poppies that are planted at the Veterans Memorial Park. It is also impressive that some of these seeds are being sold as a fundraiser.

It is encouraging to see that businesses along Franklin St. had planters of flowers. They appeared well cared for and add to the overall appearance of the community.

Recommendations:

Creeping bellflower is evident in many yards in Outlook. There are several gardens filled with this noxious weed. It is suggested you begin an education campaign through your website and Facebook page to make residents aware of what this weed is and how to try and deal with it. A weblink has been provided below that provides more information

[How to Identify and Remove Creeping Bellflower \(thespruce.com\)](http://thespruce.com)



It will be advantageous to determine why the hanging baskets died to help ensure next year's baskets are more successful. While it appeared the hanging baskets were overwatered, obviously the wind played a role in killing the plants. Consider using plants such as Supertunia Mini Vistas (pink/white, mauve, pink or purple) or Calibrachoa in your hanging baskets next year. As discussed, select more vibrant colours that will be more noticeable and eye-catching as people walk or drive by.

It is evident that Outlook has some talented gardeners. Consider requesting some of them to help with selecting plants and planting the hanging baskets and planters next year. As recommended last year, the planting technique to consider is the use of "thrillers, spillers and fillers" for each planter, particularly for your larger planters. It is also suggested you choose vibrant, easy to maintain plants such as Bordeaux Petunia and/or Supertunias, such as the Bubblegum variety to brighten up some of your displays. These plants cascade nicely down the side of planters creating a more dramatic look. Lantana would complement the petunias in the planters, and they come in a range of beautiful colours. Lantanas thrive in hot, dry beds or containers.

As you expand the Sky Trail towards the museum, consider planting a wildflower garden that will attract bees and butterflies. Wildflowers could also be added to the existing flower beds on the trail behind the Legion to provide a more long-lasting floral display at this seating area.



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