



Evaluation Form

2012



Community: City of Thompson

Province: Manitoba

Category: Over 5,000

The evaluation is based on 8 criteria, divided into the 6 following sections, assessing 4 sectors of the community:

Tidiness	118.75	/	150.00
Environmental Action	126.50	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	123.75	/	150.00
Urban Forestry	136.25	/	175.00
Landscape (including Turf & Groundcovers)	164.50	/	200.00
Floral Displays	139.75	/	175.00
* Community Involvement is included in each of these sections			
	Total		809.50 / 1000.00

Percentage : 80.95%

Bloom rating: 4 Blooms

Bloom rating:

Up to 55%: 1 bloom. 56% to 63%: 2 blooms. 64% to 72%: 3 blooms 73% to 81%: 4 blooms. >82%: 5 blooms.

Mention : Urban Forestry brushing initiative

Representative (s) of Community

Name: _____ Function : _____

Name: _____ Function : _____

Name: _____ Function : _____

Judges

Name: Carol Bender Name: Elizabeth Werner

Evaluation date: 2012

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Evaluation is adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the community.
- Some aspects of the evaluation might not be applicable: scoring will be prorated.
- The score will vary from the previous year based on the facts that the evaluation form is subject to modifications each year and that the evaluation is based on the perception of the current judges.

SECTORS OF EVALUATION

Municipal:

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

Business and Institutions:

Properties owned and managed by

- Business : commercial sector, shopping centres, commercial streets, industrial parks, manufacturing plants
- Institutions : schools, universities, churches, hospitals, service and community organization buildings (YMCA, Legion), private museums, Canada Post
- Tourism bureaus, Chamber of Commerce offices
- Farms : in rural communities, farms can be considered in this section

Residential:

- Citizens and Citizen groups acting within their own properties
- Residential property owners, rate payer groups

Community Involvement:

The principle of community involvement is so fundamental to the program that it deserves to be evaluated in each of the sections of evaluation. Community Involvement will continue to be a highlight of the awards ceremony.

- Individuals & Service and citizen groups – all contributing to various aspects of community improvement
- Organized clubs such as horticultural societies, garden clubs, community associations
- Social 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

It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet the dedicated volunteers and all the people involved in the beautification efforts taking place in Thompson. Your determination to showcase to the world the growing diversity of your economics and a four seasons playground of outdoor activities is an inspiration for other communities.

We would like to thank all those involved on the tour days especially Bruce Holmes, Bruce Krentz, Angie and Jim English for being such gracious tour guides. It was evident that there was tremendous planning involved in order to cover all the areas that were visited and appreciate all the hospitality received everywhere we went.

Your community profile book was an excellent tool to get further details of the on- going projects taken on by the CIB committee and supporting organizations.

Your city has so many beautiful qualities for residents and for those visiting. The recreation facilities (both indoors and out) available truly are impressive, what a fantastic draw for families and tourists. You have a wonderful group of individuals on your Communities in Bloom committee and commend all the supporting agencies that help move these initiatives forward.

Manitoba Communities in Bloom is humbled to have Thompson on board with the program and look forward to strengthening communication and the sharing of ideas.

SPECIAL MENTION

Urban Forestry Brushing Initiative

Firstly, it was difficult at first to choose a Special Mention as there were so many great initiatives that are happening simultaneously in Thompson and at a progressive pace. However after careful consideration, the brushing of the immediate tree line that wraps around the entire city as well as the urban parks found within Thompson is an undertaking that benefits the community on so many different levels.

Fire prevention for the residents in the event of nearby forest fires. The collaboration with the Manitoba Conservation wildfire crews brings further awareness on fire prevention and in identifying beneficial and nuisance vegetation. This exchange of knowledge will be a continued benefit for city officials. It is also an opportunity for other communities in the area to take example from.

Increased safety for pedestrians especially for the school children as more eyes are able to monitor and witness the area and its users.

Helps in reducing litter as the cleared areas become more visual and waste receptacles are moved in.

Removes dead trees and unwanted understory brush.

Encourages healthier living by being more active when using trails.

Provides a visually appealing quality to the entire area as it "frames" the city.

This undertaking is all about the benefit, safety and enjoyment of Thompson's residents. A great vision that started in 2005 and is being well received by residents, encouraging continued efforts. Well done to all involved and look forward to its progress.

TIDINESS

Tidiness includes an overall tidiness effort made by the municipality, businesses, institutions, and residents of the community. Elements for evaluation are green spaces (parks, etc.), medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets, municipal, commercial, institutional and residential properties, ditches, road shoulders, vacant lots and buildings and signage, with regard to weeds, maintenance and repair, litter clean-up (including cigarette butts and gum), graffiti and vandalism.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions	15	12.5
Community anti-litter awareness programs	5	3.5
Effective bylaws & policies and enforcement; for litter control, graffiti prevention including notices & posters	10	8
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, etc.)	15	11.5
Cleanliness of urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers	15	12
Business & Institutions		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions.	15	11.5
Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	11.5
Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	3.75
Residential		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	14.5
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	12
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street tidiness, clean-up programs, activities and annual maintenance (including promotion, organization, innovations involving youth and seniors, etc.)	10	9
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community clean-up programs	10	9
Tidiness Total	150.00	118.75

TIDINESS

Observations:

The first glance of the area was impressive. The rich boreal forest serves as one of the best backdrops any city could hope for. Entry ways into the city were pronounced and tidy providing a warm welcome.

Thompson's spring cleanup efforts providing services like compost site drop off, e-waste collection and having numerous waste receptacles and recycling bins throughout the city make it easy for residents to take part in tidiness efforts.

Great to hear about a local business such as Robin's Donuts supporting the volunteers who cleanup plastic bags throughout the city.

Tanna at the Heritage Museum organizing weekly clean ups are a great way to continue consistent organized tidiness efforts.

Very little graffiti was witnessed a testament to the dedication to those who help with the cover-up services. Great to see the creative harness of local talents where graffiti can be a welcomed art form as displayed at the skate park. This kind of outlet for youth will hopefully help more of them to respect the facility that is provided for their enjoyment.

The Downtown Ambassador Program is a fantastic partnership effort between the City and MLCC. It was a pleasure to speak and listen to Nina on the merits that this program has already brought to Thompson in crime prevention services to the downtown area.

Recommendations:

It was mentioned that some businesses are slow to take on beautification efforts of their property and it was also observed by the judges. However, this is a common issue for most communities as businesses, especially in the industrial areas, are slower to adopt. Your *Yard of the Week* efforts will continue to grow every year as businesses learn of the positive attention that they can receive so do not despair. Your categories targeting apartment complexes, industrial area, institutional, business, and residence encourages participation from all levels.

Understandably Thompson has several challenges to deal with in regards to infrastructure upgrades notable sidewalks and boulevard areas and they are starting to be repaired or replaced as this is a huge undertaking that will have to be integrated over time. The progress from to year every year will be encouraging to see.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION		
Environmental action includes efforts and achievement by the municipality, businesses, institutions, and residents of the community, with respect to: policies, by-laws and best practices, 3-R initiatives (reduce/reuse/recycle), waste reduction, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, naturalization, environmental stewardship activities, and environmentally friendly transportation, under the guiding principles of sustainable development.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Sustainable development strategy: policies, guidelines, long-term planning / vision; effective bylaws / policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities.	20	16
Waste management programs such as 3-R (recycling, re-use, reduce), composting and including activities such as landfill site management, shredding of Christmas trees & handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection	10	9
Water conservation and reduction programs: efficient appliance incentives or promotion, efficient irrigation and use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	10	8
Energy conservation programs such as alternate forms of energy (ex. geothermal, biomass, wind, solar), efficient street and signal lighting and shielding for night skies issues & promotion of energy audits	10	8
Environmental actions such as: Greening of operations fleet for park maintenance: such as conversion to higher efficiency vehicles, use of alternative fuels and air quality programs: monitoring, anti-idling advisory / bylaws, efficient use of vehicle fleet such as use of crew cabs, bicycles, any other energy-saving transportation. Development and expansion of bike lanes and recreational pathways. Initiatives and Innovation, such as: green roofs, green walls; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands and bio-walls. Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation.	20	16
Business & Institutions		
Participation in the environmental effort : such as waste management (recycle, reuse, reduce), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	10	8.75
Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities (Ex. Environmental clean-up activities)	10	8.75
Residential		
Participation in the 3-R (recycle, reuse, reduce) initiatives and composting	20	18
Adoption of water conservation practices & policies including rainwater collection.	15	13
Community Involvement		
Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	3.5
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including, promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership), etc.)	10	8.75
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	8.75
Environmental Action Total	150.00	126.5

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

Thanks to Geoff Lamontagne for providing an in-depth look of the impressive upgrade underway of the water treatment plant. These efforts in conjunction with Thompson charging for water for the first time in 2011 is witnessing a notable reduction in water usage extending the life of nature's natural resource and making users more conscious of unnecessary water usage.

Area residents are taking advantage of the compost site for grass clippings and leaves. This resource enables the city to use this material to make great compost and have already utilized the beneficial product at Cliff Park. Encouraging to hear that additional compost sites are in the plans for the future.

Recycling and waste receptacles were really noticed at all your parks, high foot traffic areas, and your residents benefit from the larger rolling residential blue bins.

The undertaking of Manitoba Hydro to rebuild and secure the eroding shoreline was no small undertaking. Another positive step to beautifying the area by protecting it!

Vale seems to be working hard to turn around former old habits as they strive to be more environmentally conscious and working with the City on various improvement initiatives. (They also had a beautiful landscaped entry way to their main building.)

Well done to the Lions Club on collecting 16 pallets of car batteries and using those funds raised to reinvest in Thompson and surrounding areas.

The Millennium Trail that currently boasts 15 km of multi-purpose trails for non-motorized activities is wonderful. Bruce Krentz and other volunteers have every right to be proud, these beautiful trails that can be enjoyed year round promoting a healthier and active life style.

Recommendations:

We encourage individuals to pass along to school educators about www.nutrientsforlife.org . It is a great resource that educates the youth (and adults) about the conscious use of fertilizers and how they play a role in the world food production. There are also some great opportunities to get materials for free for classrooms to aid in their education.

Billie-Jo at the Recycling Centre provided great information on the successes of the city's recycling facility that outlying communities take advantage of as well. A recently built holding area for pallets of recycled material ready for transport really relieved the pressure of having to house them in the recycling facility. We hope that Billie-Joe gets to see the addition of an enclosed area where the recyclables are dumped into the hooper to reduce litter being blown around on the grounds and provide a safer and more efficient work area. Congratulations on producing almost 1,000,000 kgs of recycled material in one year!

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Heritage Conservation includes efforts made by the municipality, businesses and institutions, and residents to preserve heritage within their community. Priority in evaluation is given to natural heritage, as well as the integration of landscape and streetscapes as it pertains to the built heritage of a community. Also consists of preservation of cultural heritage which includes monuments, memorials, artefacts, museums and history, archives, traditions, customs, heritage foods and the arts and festivals and celebrations. The evaluation includes:

- natural heritage management plans: sites, parks, cemeteries, heritage gardens and trees, native plants;
- the relationship of the landscape to the built heritage;
- overall preservation of traditions and customs through year-round festivals and celebrations, events and parades, heritage foods and the arts.

As well, the participation of groups such as the Historical Society is considered.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Heritage policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs	15	12
Natural and cultural heritage management plan and preservation initiatives: including cultural landscapes, use of native plants, heritage gardens, heritage trees, cemeteries, museums, heritage sites	15	13.75
Management and promotion of heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development / tourism) including natural and cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year, and preservation of traditions, and customs	15	12
Interpretative and signage programs, walking tours, festivals/celebrations (year round)	15	13.5
Activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites for and by the public	15	13.5
New programs and initiatives to promote local heritage	10	9
Business & Institutions		
Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and grounds	15	13
Promotion of local heritage, including heritage gardens, native plants, and heritage trees	15	11
Residential		
Conservation / restoration and reuse of sites / buildings	10	6
Conservation of cultural and heritage elements pertaining to their own private lands and structures.	5	3
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual in cultural and natural heritage programs including heritage community events/activities, including year round cultural festivals & celebrations and preservation of traditions, customs, food, music, dance and crafts (including promotion, organization etc.).	10	8.5
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions (including Historical Societies) in community initiated, natural and cultural heritage activities and programs including cultural festivals & celebrations throughout the year and preservation of traditions, customs, food, music, dance and crafts.	10	8.5
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	123.75

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

A multitude of events held throughout the year celebrate the rich history of the area and highlight the diverse background that founded the community.

The Thompson Spirit Way really highlights the uniqueness of Thompson. The volunteers who head up this project have done remarkable displays and enhancements along the walkways surrounding the city. With continued ambitious projects like Wolf Capital development, the international tourist community will grow in numbers to enjoy all your efforts. Really looking forward to further developments of the Wolf Capital project - what a multilevel project.

The Heritage North Museum captures the area's history with many visual displays and provides great information for visitors.

McLean Park is in the process of getting a facelift with the use of reclaimed bricks which is a resourceful and economical option. Looking forward to the finished grounds as many cultural events will surely take place here.

Recommendations:

Everyone involved advancing efforts under heritage have done remarkable projects in such a short time, there is little to suggest that you haven't already started or plan to implement. Being a young community of approximately 57 years the preservation efforts already undertaken is impressive. This category will surely bring Thompson more of the much deserved recognition in the coming years.

URBAN FORESTRY

Urban Forestry includes the efforts made by the municipality, businesses and institutions, and residents with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, tree inventory, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), heritage, memorial and commemorative trees.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	7
Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	10	7.75
Urban forestry planning and design, including integration with overall landscape plan	10	7.75
Measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots	10	8
Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy species	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	6.5
Public information program on good planting techniques and maintenance programs	10	6.5
Qualified personnel and/or crew training	10	7.75
Business & Institutions		
Design, species diversity and planting of trees in landscapes	15	13
Maintenance programs and best practices: watering, pruning, IPM	10	7.5
Inclusion of diversified (including native), hardy species for planting on properties	10	7.5
Residential		
Design, species diversity and planting of trees in landscapes	15	13
Inclusion of diversified (including native), hardy species for planting on residential properties	10	8
Maintenance best practices	10	8
Community Involvement		
Public participation in tree planting and conservation programs such a Green Streets Canada, Arbour Day, Maple Leaf Day, and other tree planting and maintenance programs and activities on public lands (including promotion, organization etc.).	15	12
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
Urban Forestry Total	175.00	136.25

URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

There were big improvements in this category that really needed the deserved recognition not only for the ongoing improvements but also because of the degree of challenges that mother nature presents to the foresters and public works staff. Still moving forward with continued urban tree plantings, maintenance, and education efforts, Thompson is seeing firsthand the beautification efforts of those involved in this category.

Opportunities are being taken advantage of through the Manitoba Hydro Forest Enhancement program and are being noticed along many routes in Thompson.

Great partnerships between the Manitoba Conservation Fire Program and the City to fell dead trees and allow residents to have access to firewood. A win-win-win situation for all involved.

Station Road and Train Station Enhancement projects featured in your community profile book are great examples recording the progress of these projects.

Great respect is maintained, integrating a growing urban life with mother nature.

Recommendations:

Permafrost, thin soils that aren't naturally rich in nutrients and a shorter growing season make it difficult to establish new plantings. New plantings take longer to take hold as they are sourced from a more temperate climate and go through some transplant shock once in the cooler soils. These challenges are unique to Thompson compared to any other community participating in MCIB at present time. As a result it is important for future judges to learn from Thompson.

We commend Bruce Holmes, Jim English and others involved in finding solutions as to what trees work best in your area. Perhaps there would be some merit to explore the idea of working towards a climate test initiative for plant life. There is little research taking place about the boreal forest and since Thompson is already the Winter Testing Capital of North America, this can just be a different extension of the same concept.

LANDSCAPE (Parks & Grounds, Green Spaces, Streetscapes - including Turf & Groundcovers)		
This section of the evaluation supports all efforts to create an environment showcasing the overall surroundings. The overall plan and design must be suitable for the intended use and location on a year-round basis. Elements for evaluation include: native and introduced materials; balance of plants, materials and constructed elements; appropriate integration of hard surfaces and art elements, use of turf and groundcovers. Landscape design should harmonize the interests of municipal, commercial and residential sectors of the community. Standards of execution and maintenance should demonstrate best practices, including quality of naturalization, use of groundcovers and wildflowers, turf management and maintenance. The evaluation will consider how the spaces create a sense of place within the community, actively utilized year-round.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Landscape Plan: integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	7.5
Turf management programs, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate, increased naturalization, alternate mowing frequency and water management	10	7
First impressions of the community including gateway / entrance treatments	10	8.5
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	7
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties	10	7.5
Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and public places: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials	10	9
Landscape maintained to appropriate standards and specifications	10	8
Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (parks and recreation programs, city festivals and events)	10	8.25
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	5	3.5
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers	10	7.75
Contribution to urban and civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains & innovation in concept & design	10	7.75
Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	7.75
Residential		
Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	11.75
Maintenance of properties: lawn care, tree and shrub maintenance	15	13
Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, including edible gardening)	15	13.75
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community programs such as: "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination & decoration (including promotion, organization etc.).	15	14
Recognition (by municipality and/or by volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in all aspects of the Communities in Bloom Program including tidiness, environmental action, urban forestry, landscape, floral and natural & Cultural Heritage activities .	15	14
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community landscape programs and activities	10	8.5
Landscape Total	200.00	164.5

LANDSCAPE

Observations:

Lots of great things are underway in Thompson in this category - hard to list them all! Your CIB committee have been very busy. The adoption of the Thompson Pride Challenge is one of the most effective ways to recognize individual efforts and bring such a positive spotlight to the cause. Keep up the great effort involved and every year you will see more come on board.

The gardens and grounds at the Northern Spirit Manor are marvelous. The creative use of vegetables and different perennials and annuals at the Zoo were great to witness. Love the growing demand and use of the community garden beds, great educational and healthy component.

The Thompson Community Centre is an outstanding facility. UCN is fast underway as well. Once all the construction is done this area will be a hub for great youth opportunities on many levels.

Continued efforts for expanding and improving the skateboard park, tennis and basketball courts for youth to have a safe recreation option are encouraging as Thompson boasts a high youth demographic.

The Cliff Park Redevelopment project has a great vision that is coming alive. Great to see this project is a Community Pride Project submission.

The Rotary Park was especially heartwarming to witness as so many families were enjoying this park when we toured. Hats off to the Rotary Club and to Wayne Hall for building such an amazing play park. Lots of thought went into water conservation as well.

So many monuments and notable stops along the Spirit Way - love the painted wolves throughout the city, the King Minor, Wolf Mural, and the stunning wolf rock sculptures.

Thanks to Blake for introducing us to the Our Home Kikinaw project and showing us the two homes that have already been built for families that would otherwise not be able to acquire a home.

Another ambitious undertaking is the cemetery expansion that Jim English is very involved with. Already much work has been done and the bringing in of boulders outlining the parking area maintains such a natural quality to the environment. Brush clearing, road rebuilding and plot enhancements are well underway.

Recommendations:

The boulder and banner features really spruce up the areas and are one of the best ways to keep maintenance really low without comprising aesthetics. With a high mortality of plants in your area more exploration on the creative use and positioning of large boulders can do just as good if not better job of making areas beautiful. Banners are inter-changeable, and although do have a higher initial cost they often provide several years of return before replacing. With so many talented artists in your area creating more banners featuring these artists is another great way to showcase your city.

We encourage perhaps using mulch around the painted wolves sculptures found throughout the city. These are magnificent pieces of art, frame them with either mulch or larger attractive pebbles to keep weeds at bay as it does distract negatively from the wolves. Placing a weed barrier under the mulch/rock will also help with weed control efforts. (Mainly the ones that have already been boxed by a chain fence around them).

FLORAL DISPLAYS

"Floral Displays" evaluates the efforts made by the municipality, businesses and institutions, and residential sectors of the community to design, plan, execute, and maintain floral displays of high quality standards. Evaluation includes the design and arrangements of flowers and plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses) in the context of originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, and harmony. This pertains to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	12
Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	15	12
Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora	10	7.5
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	15
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	10	8.5
Business & Institutions		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	12
Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	10	7
Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	10	7.75
Residential		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties	15	11
Quality of planting and maintenance	15	11
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.).	10	9
Volunteer recognition (by municipality and/or by volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in floral displays	15	14
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions in community floral displays activities.	15	13
Floral Displays Total	175.00	139.75

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

More residents seem to be taking up gardening and are buying more annuals as selection becomes readily available in the area. Pops of color always adds drama to any area, nice to see them utilized throughout the city.

Mulch is becoming also more available for municipal use in flower beds to conserve water and reduce weeds. As more mulch becomes available residents and businesses will also follow suit buying into the beautification efforts.

Look forward to seeing more planting projects by the CIB and the School District of Mystery Lake collaboration.

Recommendations:

We encourage you to explore Alpha Pots created by Equinox Industries in Winnipeg. They carry an extensive line of hanging baskets and planters geared for municipal use.

Many communities are switching from the traditional concrete planters mainly due to water conservation and easier handling as they are molded out of plastic and have a water reservoir requiring less watering. For Thompson perhaps you may gain an added benefit as concrete retains cold longer than plastic. You may get a little extra root protection on some of your plantings.

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 contribution of our sponsors and partners