

Evaluation Form

2013

**Vegreville,
Alberta**





Community: Town of Vegreville

Province: Alberta

Category: 5,001 – 10,000

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

Tidiness	123.50	/	150.00
Environmental Action	118.00	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	124.00	/	150.00
Urban Forestry	129.50	/	175.00
Landscape	162.50	/	200.00
Floral Displays	143.50	/	175.00
	Total		801.00 / 1000.00

Percentage : 80%

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 : Lions Spray Park and Playground

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Ellen Johnstone Function : Chair, Vegreville in Bloom

Name: Tony Tymchyshyn Function : Parks & Fleet Manager, Town of Vegreville

Judges

Name: Berta Briggs Name: Jim Baird

Evaluation date: July 16 & 17, 2013

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 (such as YMCA, Legion), private museums, government and crown corporations buildings (such as 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 is considered in each segment of the evaluation

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

Vegreville has been participating and growing within Communities in Bloom since 2000. We heard from the community a pride in their Town and in the changes over the past years. Vegreville is handling the challenges of not just growth in the size of the Town but in the diversity of the population with new businesses and industries.

The Vegreville Communities in Bloom committee is to be commended for creating a 5 year Strategic Plan. At 4 years into the Plan you can look back and see most projects 'done' or well underway. This shows the depth and breadth of your undertakings – you should feel very proud about your many accomplishments.

The town is in the process of creating and getting approval for a Land Use Bylaw. This shows both a brave and visionary Council. People tend to resist change but it is so important to look to the future for the welfare of the next generations; we owe it to them.

Volunteers are critical in smaller towns to create the desired quality of life. Vegreville has an abundance of volunteers, many of whom wear several hats. It is encouraging to see that these invaluable workers are given frequent recognition. Of special note is the fine work accomplished through the service clubs; their cooperation with each other is equally impressive. Efforts to engage new Canadians in projects is great – this is one of the most effective ways to make people feel welcome and to integrate into the community.

The CiB's door hangers to show appreciation and recognition to home or businesses that do even small improvement toward beautification are most attractive. The fact they are made in house is commendable. The thank you from not only CiB but from the Mayor and Council will make many people feel very good and be inspired to continue to do more. A nice project!

Vegreville plans community activities for every season of the year. Pond skating at Pysanka Park sounds very popular.

The compost project whereby the organic materials collected in the Town are used to generate power at a nearby facility is an enterprise that will be closely watched. Good luck and congratulation on the environmental award!

The Profile Book is very attractive, but to be more useful for the judging process have information under each criteria that has been recently accomplished along with some information on how it was accomplished and the value to the community. It is useful for the judges to receive the Profile Book in advance so that we can absorb information before we arrive and have an idea what we need to learn more about during the tour. The evaluation tour was well planned – we particularly appreciated the round-table meeting in the morning; it was a way to learn a lot in a brief period of time.

Thank you very much for your kind and generous hospitality and for shoring your community with us. Your collective work makes Vegreville a great place to work and play. And, thank you for your continued participation in Communities in Bloom.

TIDINESS		
<p>Tidiness includes an overall tidiness effort. Elements for evaluation are green spaces (parks, etc.), 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 and vandalism programs.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions	15	12.5
Community anti-litter awareness programs	5	4
Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, graffiti prevention and eradication, appropriate and attractive signage	10	8
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, etc.)	15	13
Condition of urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers	15	13
Business & Institutions		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions	15	12
Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	12
Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	4
Residential		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	16
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	12.5
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	8
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community clean-up programs	10	8.5
Tidiness Total	150.00	123.50

TIDINESS

Observations:

The Town of Vegreville entrance sign is well done and creates a good first impression of the community. The adjacent commercial areas are not cluttered with obtrusive signs – this may be thanks to the Community Standards Bylaw.

The downtown area sidewalks have all been redeveloped and are being maintained in a manner that will be a credit to the Town for many years to come. The inclusion of adequate waste receptacles and butt containers is well integrated into the overall design.

The recycling bins provided for community use are spotless, and in the judges view the Materials Recovery Facility as one of the cleanest and most orderly they have seen.

Some of the industrial sites (such as ATCO) that have substantial outside storage have ensured that their materials are neatly arranged. Some of the other businesses and industries should try to emulate this example.

Recommendations:

While the Town was generally litter free, there are areas on the perimeter of the box store development where litter has blown into the landscaped areas and it appears to have been for some time. The owners of these commercial establishments should be encouraged to play a greater role in litter clean up in their area. Bear in mind that this is a 'first impression' place along with gas stations, hotels, and restaurants – encourage all these spots to be tidy and present some curb appeal.

Small industries are an important part of any community and they, by nature, aren't always tidy. Encourage places such as body shops to screen their yards with tidy fencing or trees. Virginia creeper or honeysuckle on chain link fence is a good example of what works.

The signs for the Rotary Peace Park and the "Buck for Wildlife" naturalization area need to be replaced or spruced up.

Continue working with Chamber of Commerce and with industrial operations to ensure that the drive-by impact of their operations is a positive one.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION		
Environmental action includes efforts and achievement with respect to: policies, by-laws, programs and best practices, 3-R initiatives (reduce/reuse/recycle), waste reduction, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, naturalization, and environmental stewardship activities under the guiding principles of sustainable development pertaining to green spaces.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Sustainable development strategy: policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning / vision; effective bylaws / policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities	20	16.5
Waste management programs such as 3-R (recycling, re-use, reduce), composting (backyard and municipal), landfill site management, and including activities such as composting sites yard waste collections, shredding of Christmas trees, handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection	15	13
Water conservation and use-reduction programs: efficient appliance incentives or promotion, efficient irrigation and use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	11
Energy conservation programs such as alternate forms of energy (ex. geothermal, biomass, wind, solar), and initiatives such as, shielding for night skies issues, efficient street lighting and energy audits.	10	7
Environmental initiatives, innovations and actions such as: Development and expansion of bike lanes and recreational pathways. Green roofs, green walls; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands and bio-walls. Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation. Air quality programs such as anti-idling.	10	7.5
Business & Institutions		
Participation in the environmental effort : such as waste management (recycle, reuse, reduce), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	10	7.5
Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities (Ex. Environmental clean-up activities)	10	7.5
Residential		
Participation in the 3-R (recycle, reuse, reduce) initiatives and composting	20	17
Adoption of water conservation practices & policies including rainwater collection	15	12
Community Involvement		
Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	4
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including, promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership), etc.)	10	7.5
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	7.5
Environmental Action Total	150.00	118.00

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

The Vegreville Materials Recovery Facility is an impressive and clean operation. The bales of product waiting to be shipped are well sorted and, as stated in the profile book, represent an impressive tonnage of product diverted from the landfill. The introduction of compost and recycle bins in residential alleys is another step in the process which will undoubtedly yield even higher rates of diversion. Keep up the good work and continue to expand the program.

The diversion of organics to Growing Power Hairy Hills where electricity is produced using a digester in the process is an innovative approach to handling municipal organics. Careful monitoring should be carried out to see if this can be replicated in other jurisdictions.

The Town demonstrates its commitment to environmental protection and promotion through the Town Municipal Plan sustainable developments. Additional projects should be highlighted during the CiB evaluation tour to reinforce these policy statements.

Recommendations:

The town has a reliable water supply and users are metered, but further consideration should be given to the benefits of water conservation. Constant simple reminders can be effective. Each liter of water saved is a liter that does not have to be processed at the waste treatment plant.

The Landfill Site accepts most products for recycling, however some of the stock piles are quite muddy: hard surfaces are recommended in these areas.

Alternatives to chemical soil sterilization should be considered for aesthetic uses such as the around machinery displays at the Pioneer Park.

Consider undertaking an energy audit of major facilities and power users. Many municipalities have realized substantial savings by focusing their efforts where they can have the most impact.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Heritage Conservation includes efforts 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, 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.
- As well, the participation of groups such as Historical societies, Conservation groups are considered.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Heritage policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs	15	11.5
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
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	13
Interpretative and signage programs, walking tours, festivals/celebrations (year round)	15	12.5
Activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites for and by the public	15	12.5
New programs and initiatives to promote local heritage	10	7.5
Business & Institutions		
Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and grounds	15	12.5
Promotion of local heritage, including heritage gardens, native plants, and heritage trees	15	12.5
Residential		
Conservation / restoration and reuse of sites / buildings	10	8
Conservation of cultural and heritage elements pertaining to their own private lands and structures.	5	4
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 and customs	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 and customs.	10	8.5
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	124.00

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The Town of Vegreville is justifiably proud of its heritage and celebrates it in many ways. The Pioneer Museum is well done and provides a very complete picture of the various cultures and contributors to early life in the area. The facilities are top notch and are used by the community for many and varied functions.

The downtown area has many significant buildings, including the Post Office which the Town owns and utilizes for other uses in addition to the post office. The County Building is also an impressive addition to the area. The streetscaping, including light standards, trees with tree guards, as well as waste receptacles and butt containers all highlight an active historic downtown.



The use of murals is well done, especially at Rendezvous Park. The older murals are well maintained.

The impressive (world's largest) Pysanka in the large and well maintained Elk's/Kinsmen Park is the location of various cultural festivals and events. The location is inviting to visitors and citizens alike.

Recommendations:

The existing commercial buildings in the downtown area are still vital to the community. Work with local business groups to develop design guidelines to help the community retain this part of its heritage.

Continue the excellent job of maintaining the downtown streetscape elements, especially the pavers. This type of work shows the town cares about its downtown and encourages local businesses to do the same.

The train station represents an important part in the history of the community. If the existing uses fail to prosper the location is well suited to be the site for a public use such as a small art or craft gallery that would support the adjacent commercial area.

URBAN FORESTRY		
Urban Forestry includes the efforts 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	7.5
Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	10	7
Urban forestry planning and design, including integration with overall landscape plan	10	7
Measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots	10	7
Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy species, recommended tree list	10	6.5
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 program on good planting techniques and maintenance programs	10	6.5
Qualified personnel and/or crew training	10	7.5
Business & Institutions		
Design, species diversity and planting of trees in landscapes	15	12
Maintenance programs and best practices: watering, pruning, IPM	10	7
Inclusion of diversified (including native), hardy species for planting on properties	10	7
Residential		
Design, species diversity and planting of trees in landscapes	15	12.5
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	7
Urban Forestry Total	175.00	129.50

URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

It is evident in Vegreville that the planting of trees was taken seriously in years past with a good distribution of mature trees throughout the older parts of the Town. There are many tree lined streets and the older parks have mature trees. It appears that it has been many years since there was an active tree planting program.

The Pioneer Park Museum property is nicely treed with some excellent specimen trees (such as the Scots Pine) as well as four memorial trees.

The Town participates in the provincial Stop DED (Dutch Elm Disease) program. They are in the process of replacing the trees on Main Street. Furthermore, as required, trained arborists are hired for pruning. It was in Vegreville that the very popular Patmore Ash was developed and it has since become one of the most used ash trees on the Prairies.

Recommendations:

The Town of Vegreville is encouraged to start creating a tree plan or policy that addresses the protection of existing trees and the planting and maintenance of trees into the future; recognizing that trees are a tangible asset for the municipality. A great start has been made to create a tree inventory with the tree count. To continue developing an inventory all planted municipal trees should have their exact location indicated along with information on the year the tree was planted, any health concerns, each time it is visited, each pruning, and its' assessed value. Many Alberta communities find the itree program of the U.S. Forest Service a useful tool (www.itreetools.org) for urban forest management.

It is good to see that the street trees on the main street are being replaced. Assure that the correct protocols are used for planting in pits. The judges have some concerns about using green ash with the impending threat of the emerald ash borer. And, if ashes are considered the best choice, why not select the locally developed Patmore Green Ash?

There is a considerable problem with trees interfering with power lines. In some cases the trees have been awkwardly pruned around the lines or in some cases, such as on 49th street, they have been pollarded – it could be preferable to remove the trees and replace them with shorter varieties appropriate for under lines.

Consider placing a landscape clause in development permits and/or as part of building permits to allow for tree planting. It appears that some of the commercial developments have planted trees but not necessarily done properly; an example is the trees planted beside the Canadian Tire in the bottom of a drainage ditch where they had no chance of survival. A landscape clause should stipulate the plantings be healthy after at least a year.

The judges saw a number of trees in both residential and on public property that were carefully planted then forgotten – stakes should be left no more than one year and assure that all tags or binding plastic ribbons are removed so as not to cut into the bark (an example are the trees beside the fire hall). Perhaps, once a year, some tree tips or reminders could be included with a monthly utility bill. Or, have a tip of the week about home and yard care on the town website.

Continue the practice of mulching around trees to conserve moisture and retard weed growth, but more importantly, to prevent damage from lawn mowers and weed trimmers. Take care not to heap mulch around the trunk of the tree – think “donuts, not volcanoes”; the damage to trees is similar to planting a tree too deep.

Promptly remove dead trees or dead limbs from trees on public property – they are not only unsightly but pose a liability risk. One area that needs attention is the dead trees in Pysanka Park.

Many communities place a link on their town's website to list hardy trees and shrubs for the area along with tree planting and maintenance information.

LANDSCAPE

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 all 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.

	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Landscape Plan: integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	8
Turf management programs, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate, increased naturalization, adapted maintenance programs and water management	10	8
First impressions of the community including gateway / entrance treatments	10	8
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	7.5
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	8.5
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
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	5	4
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers	10	8
Contribution to urban and civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains & innovation in concept & design	15	12
Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	8
Residential		
Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	13
Maintenance of properties: lawn care, tree and shrub maintenance	15	12.5
Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, including edible gardening)	10	7.5
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community programs such as: "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination & decoration (including promotion, organization etc.).	15	12.5
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	13
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	162.50

LANDSCAPE

Observations:

Vegreville has a good distribution of landscaped areas throughout the town including a number of parks, several playgrounds, and a variety of sport fields. A trail system is being developed to improve the connectivity to all parts of the Town. The trails are dotted with benches and refuse containers for the convenience and comfort of users.

The Lions Spray Park and Playground is exceptional as demonstrated by being the judges' Special Mention. The location, the quality of the park and installation plus the input by so many community groups and businesses is outstanding!



The entrances to Vegreville are bold and very attractive with background trees and tidy foundation plantings around the west entrance sign. The east entrance is to be revamped in similar fashion. Having the Town flag flying beside the Canada and Alberta flag shows great pride in the community.

The north side of the Museum property is nicely landscaped with some artifacts. And, there are stretches of lawn dotted with trees, and mature foundation beds around the building. There are some significant trees and donated memorial (centennial) benches.

Rotary Rendezvous Park is a fine example of tasteful and functional hard and soft landscaping. The playground and park behind the library is beautifully designed and a lot of fun as demonstrated by the many children playing and laughing. The park-like landscaping around the fire hall is very attractive and well maintained making it a great gathering spot for social activities of the volunteer fire fighters and families.

The main street is nicely landscaped with public buildings (including Town Offices, Court House, Post Office and the County of Minburn Building), professional buildings and retail businesses contributing floral components. And, there are a good number of benches for pedestrians to rest and enjoy the street.

The ATCO yards are an example of good industrial landscape.

Recommendations:

Try to find some way to encourage “first impression” places like service stations, restaurants, and hotels to work on a little landscaped curb appeal. The fact is that they will find it the most cost effective advertising they will ever do. And, it will give visitors a great welcome.

Pioneer Park is coming along very nicely; and is a wonderful way to use that utility right of way. There are quite a few trees and attractive floral beds but it is a vast area and still seems a little “empty”. Since this will always be a passive park, consider creating islands or groupings of trees and shrubs to create impact that is proportional to the property as well as easy to mow around. The same suggestion goes for the grassed area across from the spray park and near the Sunshine Club – islands of trees and mowing only every couple of weeks could work for this area as it is too wet to be actively used.

There are many areas of turf throughout Vegreville under the management of the town. Carefully assess the function of each area and try to come up with a zoned mowing plan whereby some areas such as sport fields and active parks require mowing weekly while other areas such as boulevards or fairgrounds could go 2 weeks between cuts; yet other areas that are rarely used could be cut a couple times a year for fire safety.

Some of the sport fields would benefit from active remediation. Also, it may be worth looking at delineating grassed areas from parking areas – as it is now parking appears to be somewhat random and often on the grass.

A skateboard park is a great asset in any community. Consider adding seating, and perhaps some shade, for the public to watch these amazing athletes. Perhaps some programming could be created for demonstrations or competitions. This could be a good area for a community bulletin board coupled with some simple rules for using the park.

The Pioneer Park Museum grounds are generally attractive with mature foundation plantings that have huge potential. The beds to the east have dense mats of knapweed and horse tails that really should be eradicated. Once the weeds are gone the trees and shrubs could be thinned and pruned, a thick layer of newspaper or cardboard laid to inhibit weed growth then a thick layer of wood mulch applied to give a clean look with minimal maintenance. To add colour to these areas perhaps lilies and daylilies that have been developed in Central Alberta would be hardy and appropriate for a heritage museum. Similarly, hardy roses from the Explorer or Artist series would add colour and be easy to care for. The management of the turf at this museum is exceptional.

FLORAL DISPLAYS

"Floral Displays" evaluates efforts 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	13
Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	16
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	17
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	10	7.5
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	7.5
Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	15	12
Residential		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties	15	12.5
Quality of planting and maintenance	15	12.5
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.).	15	13
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	143.50

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

There is a good distribution of floral features throughout town. The quality and number of good florals in residential front yards shows that the citizens of Vegreville do value attractive landscaping. Exceptional floral displays on the main street are at the funeral home and the accountant's offices – these are not only beautiful but spur on others to follow suit.

The municipal floral displays are contracted out and are of good design and flowers are healthy and well maintained. The Town has carefully selected the areas of the community that most benefit from floral displays.

The perennial bed at Pioneer Park is very well done and serves as a demonstration garden to inspire and educate. Vegreville is blessed to have Madeleine Melenka (who has had her garden featured in a national garden magazine) to freely advise and share her expertise and plants to help create this perennial garden.

Most churches had exceptional landscaping with very attractive floral components. The judges were pleasantly surprised to see this standard of curb appeal at churches; very often this is a part of the community that lacks floral.

Our Lady of the Highway is a special spot and the floral displays designed, planted and maintained totally by volunteers contribute to the serenity of the site (the love shows).

It is encouraging to see many backyard vegetable gardens. And, the community garden at the museum is well subscribed and very clean.

Recommendations:

Pioneer Park is the playground of the CiB committee and, like most gardens, it is a work in progress. The flower beds that are part of the plough display are pretty but, consider making it a really 'wow' bed by creating a design with larger plants, less detail and a specific colour scheme. Colour blocking is effective for beds that are to be focal points – this is well done at the entrance signs to the Town.

The outdoor fitness park is fantastic – this would be a good site for some floral to be more inviting and thus enhance the experience of the users. There are floral features nearby in Pysanka Park but something in the area of the fitness park and skateboard park would draw people.

There are cold and lonely looking banks of postal boxes around town. They are very neat and tidy but consider if an adopt plan and perhaps a competition between neighbourhoods could be implemented to add a floral component to these areas.



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