

Evaluation Form

2016

**Town of Hanna,
Alberta**



2016 Evaluation Form

2016 Evaluation Form



Community: Town of Hanna

Province: Alberta

Category: Up to 4,500

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

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------|----------------|
| Tidiness | 121.50 | / | 150.00 |
| Environmental Action | 115.00 | / | 150.00 |
| Heritage Conservation | 123.00 | / | 150.00 |
| Urban Forestry | 136.50 | / | 175.00 |
| Landscape | 166.00 | / | 200.00 |
| Floral Displays | 149.00 | / | 175.00 |
| Total | 811.00 | / | 1000.00 |

Percentage : 81.10%

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.

National and International Edition, for evaluated communities only.

82 to 83.9%: 5 Blooms. 84 to 86.9%: 5 Blooms (Bronze). 87 to 89.9%: 5 Blooms (Silver). 90% and over: 5 Blooms (Gold).

- A community does not have to be entered in a competitive category, but will need to be evaluated.

Mention : Community Garden

Representative (s) of Community

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Name: | <u>Lou Lallier</u> | Function : | <u>President CiB Committee</u> |
| Name: | <u>Gwen Snell</u> | Function : | <u>Director of Community Services</u> |
| Name: | <u></u> | Function : | <u></u> |

Judges

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|
| Name: | <u>Roger Younker</u> | Name: | <u>Karri Loadman</u> |
|-------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|

Evaluation

date: July 28, 2016

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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 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

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 and citizen groups – 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
- Service clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Optimist
- Participation (financial and/or in-kind or employee participation) by the municipality, businesses and institutions.

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GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Thank you to Angela McGillian, Community Services Program Director, who oversees the many activities in the community, for picking the judges up at the airport.

The Town of Hanna has been involved with the Communities in Bloom program for many years and it sees the benefits of being involved in the program to set the tasks to be done to improve their community. The Hanna in Bloom Committee is very active in assisting with programs such as the barrel planters, urban forest management and landscaping. The Special Mention of "Community Garden" is clearly evident in every aspect of the community. Not only is there the 'community garden', there are gardens on almost every property. Residents are embracing urban agriculture and growing a variety of fruits and vegetables.

Thank you to Kim Neill, CAO Community Services, who took the judges to various outlying and key locations in Hanna upon arrival to the Town to give them a sense of the place, layout and general location of various properties such as the Roundup Center Farmer's Market. Kim is a long-time resident of Hanna who left for education and experience and then brought that home a few years ago to share with his hometown. Kim is the person to get things done when situations arise.

We enjoyed the visit to the Hanna Golf and Country Club with extremely well-maintained fairways and trees.

The official evaluation day began with a Meet and Greet at the Town Office where several public works employees, Communities in Bloom Committee members, Hanna staff members and Councillors were in attendance.

Jordan Moench is a youth member of the Hanna in Bloom Committee. He is appointed to Hanna Town Council as well as an adviser for facilities and parks spaces. Jordan is heavily involved in the design and planning of the new modernization of J.C. Charyk School. When finished it will be K-12 and have open room concepts, outdoor classrooms, and video conferencing with surrounding schools to provide a complete education for the students.

The Communities in Bloom Committee members in attendance included Lou Lallier, President, who can also be seen planting, weeding, and watering the plants around Town on municipal properties during the summer. Pam Berry is instrumental in the Blooms to You and Winter Blooms programs. Pam does many of the winter displays throughout Town. Patty Blocksom has been with the committee since 2005 and has a passion for excellence. She is not afraid to share that interest with everyone in Hanna. She is determined to see the end of unsightly and unsafe areas around Town and to stop these areas from creeping into Hanna.

Council members in attendance included Cathy Watts who also sits on the Medical Society Board; Larry Stickle who organizes and supports many organizations in Town and was instrumental in the success of Hanna Lodge for seniors; Jason Smith who is involved in many organizations and sits on the Palliser Regional Board as a Liaison for Hanna. Jason drove the judges around on evaluation day. He provided them with a fun filled day of meeting people and seeing key locations in Hanna. Richard Preston is a resident and avid volunteer with the Community Garden.

Hanna staff members in attendance included: Rhonda Lund of Corporate Services who is instrumental in promoting the memorial bench program; and, Brent Oleson, Director of Public Works, is in charge of maintaining infrastructure and snow removal. Brent works hard to provide a safe road and sidewalk network in Hanna. Kevin Olson is the Community Services Foreman, Level 2 Master Technician, facility management accreditation that includes turf grass, arena and pool maintenance. The judges congratulate the Town of Hanna for supporting Kevin in his education achievements. Laurie Armstrong, Director of Business and Communications, provides

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information for the public on activities and services and has a broad knowledge of Hanna; and, Gwen Snell, Director of Community Services who is actively involved in the Hanna in Bloom Committee, and in particular interested in managing the tree inventory, species diversity and succession plantings.

Chamber of Commerce President, Will Warrick, is also on the Community Services Board and 4th generation Home Hardware Owner joined the judges for the morning tour.

During the evaluation tour, the judges had the good fortune of having a home cooked fried chicken meal with all of the fixings. Violetta Link, an energetic octogenarian, cooks everything from fried chicken to roast beef Thursday to Sunday. The 'Doll House' she operates is packed with people on these days with residents and visitors coming in to get their lunch to go, and patrons tailgate in the parking area while eating delicious food and absorbing great scenery. Congratulations Violetta on creating such a dynamic and welcoming environment for the residents and visitors of Hanna.

J.C. Charyk School is a modern school with glass walls, living walls, and outside classrooms, plus video conferencing and a life skills training facility. Principal Audra Limpert will be managing both Hanna schools until they are combined under one roof. Jordan Moench, one of the seven Student Wellness Action Team (SWAT) members, is heavily involved in the design, planning and operation of the new modernized school as well as other initiatives in Hanna. He and Audra gave the judges a tour in the midst of the construction that is underway to complete as much as possible before the students return in September. There is a concession at the school run by Bridget Benoit. Bridget can also be seen at the Visitor Center in the summer months. She is passionate about providing meals to students and making sure that no one goes hungry. In partnership with the Canalta Hotel, money is provided for the food program at the school.



The judges would have liked to have more opportunities to meet the people operating the facilities, see the interior of the public buildings and churches, as well as the senior housing project.

The judges recommend that the Communities in Bloom Committee expand their group to include new comers to further the program into the future. The Profile Book could benefit greatly by the inclusion of other information provided by a wider voice.

Thank you to Hanna in Bloom Committee for a well-informed and easy to ready Community Profile book. The judges are thankful for receiving the Profile Book in advance of the tour and your efforts were greatly appreciated.

We suggest that the recommendations in this evaluation be copied into a do-list format. Then use the list as your strategic plan for following years. Complete the list and identify what was done, what was possible, what was not possible, and what is planned for the future.

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It is also very beneficial to make sure that everyone has access to the Profile Book and evaluation so that they can add valuable input to the program. Spending time at the CiB website to learn about possible awards, programs and sponsorship would greatly raise the profile of Hanna.

The judges also wish to encourage that the Communities in Bloom Committee travel as a group to all of the facilities and factors that are referenced in the evaluation grid. This would include the public works yard, land fill site, cemetery, and other properties. As well, it would be beneficial to have everyone walk the trails to provide feedback for improvement and potential CiB projects.

The judges thank the CiB Committee, and the Town, for the hospitality shown to us during our visit to Hanna.

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| TIDINESS | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <p>Tidiness includes an overall tidiness effort by the municipality, businesses, institutions and the residents throughout the community. Elements for evaluation are parks and green spaces, medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets; municipal, commercial, institutional and residential properties; ditches, road shoulders, vacant lots, signs and buildings; weed control, litter clean-up (including cigarette butts and gum), graffiti prevention/removal and vandalism deterrent programs.</p> | | |
| | Max | Actual |
| Municipal | | |
| Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions | 10 | 8.50 |
| Community anti-litter awareness programs | 10 | 8.50 |
| Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, unsightly private property maintenance by-laws, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents | 10 | 8 |
| Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.) | 15 | 12 |
| Visual appeal, and condition of municipal buildings and properties (including City Hall grounds), | 15 | 12.50 |
| Business & Institutions | | |
| Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions | 15 | 11.50 |
| Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots | 15 | 11.50 |
| Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers | 5 | 3.50 |
| Residential | | |
| Tidiness, order and cleanliness | 20 | 16 |
| Condition of buildings, grounds and yards | 15 | 12.50 |
| 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 | 8.50 |
| Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community clean-up programs | 10 | 8.50 |
| Tidiness Total | 150.00 | 121.50 |

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TIDINESS

Observations:

The Hanna Town Office is tidy and clean and gives a positive first impression on the corner of Main Street. There is very little litter visible along this area.

Hanna is fortunate to have By-laws, programs and policies and a By-law Officer to follow up on enforcement. There are unsightly private property maintenance by-laws that are being managed using communication and clean up, rather than fining.

Cleanliness of public green infrastructure including parks, planters, furniture, litter containers are in very good conditions. However, some sidewalks are uneven and weedy and some of the street signs are worn and faded.

The Town Office, Public Works Yard and other municipal buildings are in very good condition and provide good visual appeal. Memorial Park is neat and tidy with well-maintained grounds.

The businesses have several issues with general tidiness, order and cleanliness. Some of the buildings have worn paint and trim, there are weeds in the parking area, tall grass and weeds at the perimeter, and many do not have any landscaping or floral displays. This does not give a pleasing first impression. Only a few businesses have litter, recycling or cigarette butt containers.

Many of the residents are taking great care of their property. Several homes are in need of tidiness, order and cleanliness, improvement to the buildings and surrounding grounds. A few homes appear to be in need of removal or demolition for health and safety reasons.

The public participates in an annual tidiness program and there is financial support from the municipality, businesses and institutions for community clean-up programs.



Recommendations:

The Town By-law's Officer has the tools to manage unsightly properties, including businesses and residential, and it would be wise to be proactive and not allow the problem properties to continue to stockpile debris.

Providing repairs to the sidewalk should be done and weeds could be removed to improve the aesthetics. It is understood sidewalk maintenance is troublesome in light of the extreme freezing and thawing conditions.

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Replace faded, twisted and worn out street signage where needed to improve the visual aspect of the streetscapes. It may be possible to create a theme to be carried throughout Town, such as the western motif planned by the Chamber of Commerce for the highway billboard spaces.

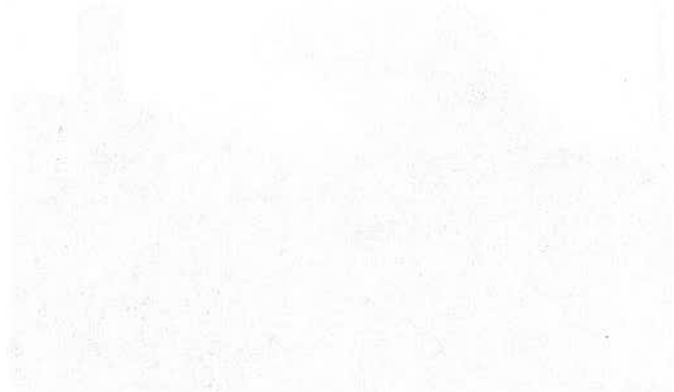
The businesses at the entrance to the community, as well as along the main corridor, could improve the condition of their properties by mowing the tall grasses, weed control in the parking lots, and the installation of litter, recycling and cigarette butt containers.

The Town should consider taking a more active role in the removal of derelict buildings both commercial and residential.

When graffiti does appear remove it promptly. Anti-graffiti paint would help prevent future artists from displaying their talents. This paint could also be used when repainting benches, playground equipment, and signs.

Continue to recognize and award those in the community who are making a definite effort to keep their spaces neat and tidy.

Install recycle stations, additional trash cans and cigarette butt containers in key problematic areas.



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| 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: 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 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 | 14 |
| Waste reduction to landfill and results (3-R : reduce, reuse and recycle), municipal composting programs, including activities such as composting sites, yard waste collections, mulching of wood debris (Christmas trees, hedge trimmings, etc.), reclamation of cut trees, and handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection and reuse of compost material | 20 | 17 |
| Water conservation and use-reduction programs such as or promotions, efficient irrigation, 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: efficient appliances initiatives, shielding for night skies issues, efficient street lighting | 15 | 11 |
| Environmental initiatives, innovations and actions such as: - Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation network such as bike lanes and multi-used pathways; Horticultural practices such as green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bio-swales, permeable surfaces and rain water management - Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation - Air quality programs such as anti-idling, reduction of greenhouse gas emission (carbon reduction). | 10 | 7.50 |
| Business & Institutions | | |
| Participation in the environmental effort : such as waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management | 10 | 7.50 |
| Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities (ex. environmental clean-up activities) | 10 | 7.50 |
| Residential | | |
| Participation in the 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle) initiatives and composting | 10 | 8 |
| Adoption of water conservation practices such as rainwater collection and rain gardens | 15 | 12 |
| Community Involvement | | |
| Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues | 5 | 3.50 |
| Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership), etc.) | 10 | 8 |
| Support – 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 | 115.00 |

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

The Town of Hanna utilizes a waste depot and transfer station. There is a privately owned recycling depot in Town. The Town promotes waste reduction to landfill including activities such as yard waste collections, reclamation of cut trees and other clean wood for burning, and handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection.

Shane Luiders, has taken the landfill site from an unsightly 'dump' appearance to an organized and well-maintained waste depot and transfer station. Each section is clearly separated by large concrete blocks and those entering the site are monitored to ensure proper procedures are being followed. Shane is a fine example of a municipal worker taking great pride in their work and he should be recognized for his efforts in providing a pleasant landfill experience.

The Town of Hanna does not have water conservation and use-reduction program or promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water or water restriction policies. All homes are metered and users pay rates dependent on their usage. There appears to be encouragement to utilize water to capitalize on the rate model designed to include capital upgrade money for every cubic meter of water used. Water conservation is not a prime concern in Hanna because putting in restrictions is believed to be counterproductive to attracting business investment and new residents.

The water treatment plant is a well-kept facility that provides potable water to the residents of Hanna. The UV system has level 3 and 4 attendants monitoring the facility and the water towers in the area that feed into the plant.

The Town of Hanna is to be commended on their environmental initiatives and actions for the development of sustainable mobility and active transportation network such as the multi-used pathway network that connects neighbourhoods together and also on to Fox Lake.

There does appear to be some participation in the environmental effort by businesses and institutions such as waste management and clean-up activities.

The exception to the lack of participation by businesses and organizations is the proactive group of the Ladies Auxiliary who have put on 130 rummage sales. This twice a year event is contributing greatly to the 3R program. Congratulations on your success for the past 65 years. Keep up the good work!

Residents demonstrate participation in the 3-Rs of reduce, reuse and recycle, and composting. While there is no formal water conservation policy in place, many homeowners are adopting water conservation practices such as rainwater collection. At the landfill there are many old fridges, stoves, dishwashers, as well as washers and dryers, demonstrating that homeowners are switching to energy efficient appliances.

The public does participate in cleanup efforts, waste management, and ownership of their streets.

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Recommendations:

The Town of Hanna would be wise to develop policies, programs, planning and bylaws to inform and educate the public on the importance of environmental stewardship.

The Town could benefit from creating a program for residents to come and collect composted materials for their gardens, or provide the reuse of compost material for the community garden.

Mulching trees that are removed from the Hanna landscape and then utilizing that mulch for municipal properties would be an excellent use of resources.

Continue to encourage the good work being done at the landfill site to provide a welcoming and well-organized depot.

While there seems to be a message of 'use the water as much as you want' in Hanna, the Town would be wise to develop water conservation policies and by-laws. The encouragement to use water puts a burden on the water treatment plant infrastructure which could be costly to upgrade in the future.

Promote the use of rain barrels to businesses, institutions, and residents to reduce the need for additional water for planters and gardens.

Developing policies on surface materials for commercial parking areas would be a prudent move on the part of Hanna as seen in the change from a permeable to solid parking surface. The area is prone to water retention and standing water pools.

While the Town of Hanna encourages the demolition of buildings that have been neglected, much of this material ends up in landfills. It would be beneficial to encourage businesses and residents to take a more proactive approach to the maintenance, conservation and re-use of materials and stewardship of the existing built spaces.

Since there are many standing water sites that are breeding grounds for mosquitos, it may be a good investment for the Town of Hanna to purchase small water pumps with a fountain attachment. This would not only keep the water moving to discourage mosquito habitat, they would add to the aesthetics of the area. This is especially important at Town entrances such as near the newly constructed Tim Horton's.

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The cost savings to utilize solar for heating the pool would be worth the investment in creating a membrane system on top of the skating arena adjacent to the site. In other towns where this method has been utilized to heat the outdoor pool, they have cut the use of non-renewable energy source by half.

Continue to use the planters on the main street at intersections to act as traffic calming. The 'Blooms to You' organizers may want to consider adding more planters in a row of various sizes to the middle of the street in front of the stop signs.

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| HERITAGE CONSERVATION | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <p>Heritage conservation includes efforts to preserve 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 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 and conservation groups are considered.</p> | | |
| | Max | Actual |
| Municipal | | |
| Natural heritage policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs | 10 | 7 |
| Natural heritage management plans and preservation initiatives: including eco systems, eco parks, protection of sensitive habitats, species at risk, support for at risk pollinators, grasslands, naturalization, wetlands, urban agriculture/farming, and wildlife | 15 | 13 |
| Management and promotion of natural heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development / tourism) including activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites for and by the public | 15 | 12 |
| Cultural heritage policies, by-laws and plans and preservation initiatives for heritage buildings, cemeteries, artefacts, museums, monuments, heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes and landscape | 15 | 12.50 |
| Cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs | 10 | 8.50 |
| Business & Institutions | | |
| Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes. | 15 | 12.50 |
| Conservation, restoration and, reuse of heritage buildings and artefacts including their integration with the built/hard, streetscapes and green landscapes | 10 | 8 |
| Residential | | |
| Conservation / restoration and reuse of heritage buildings, artefacts on residential lands. | 10 | 7.50 |
| Community Involvement | | |
| Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual natural heritage programs including developing policies and plans, site improvements and management, conservation and education initiatives. | 15 | 12.50 |
| 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. | 15 | 12.50 |
| Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual cultural heritage programs including year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs | 10 | 8.50 |
| 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 | 8.50 |
| Heritage Conservation Total | 150.00 | 123.00 |

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The Storefront Improvement Incentive Program is newly developed and should prove to be beneficial for businesses and the attractiveness of the downtown core area. The re-use of the former church that now is the funeral home is a great example of using the existing building inventory.

The Town of Hanna and local organizations do an excellent job of providing cultural heritage events throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs. The gem of the community is the Heritage Museum.

The judges were welcomed to the Heritage Museum by Sheila Taylor who has been with the Historical Society for three years and has made huge strides in documenting, displaying and educating visitors on local history. The Museum has seen its patronage grow from approximately 200 to well over 1,000 in that short time span. Sheila and her team of volunteers are actively involved in the fall fair, tea on Tuesday, ghost walk tours, working with the schools and creating a strong online presence. Sheila shared with the judges her passion for her work of cataloguing the many artefacts, "if you aren't engaging and teaching then you might as well lock the doors". The judges were able to visit several of the heritage buildings, see the buffalo rubbing stone, and hear about the 'dirt to dairy' initiative where Sheila had a group of students who learned what it was like to arrive on the prairies and have to move dirt, build a home, plant and harvest grain, and milk cows.

Businesses and institutions are following the example set by the municipality by not displaying any need for conservation, restoration and integration of natural or built heritage with the exception of the work being done by the Hanna Roundhouse Society.

Hanna Roundhouse Society is working to preserve the last remaining roundhouse. The building was constructed in 1914 with an addition done in 1928. It was actively used until the 1960s when Calgary also had a roundhouse and was closer to the larger movement of goods. Today this site has undergone a structural integrity study and has seen some urgent repairs. This building and turntable is the backdrop to many photographs, including the 2016 High School graduating class. While the judges applaud the efforts of saving this structure, the pace of making the necessary repairs and the deterioration of the structure do not favour the latter.

There is some effort on the part of homeowners to conserve, restore and reuse the homes in Hanna. Many homes display farming artefacts on their residential property tying their home to the history of Hanna.

There is a high level of public participation in year-round heritage community events, activities, festivals and celebrations along with the preservation of traditions and customs. These events are supported financially by the municipality, businesses and institutions, in Hanna. The Historical Society Museum, Fall Fair, and Taste of Culture are just a sample of the cultural heritage activities and programs that residents support. Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the Fall Fair.

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Recommendations:

The Town of Hanna would benefit from developing natural heritage policies, by-laws or heritage management plans and preservation initiatives including the protection of sensitive habitats, wetlands, and wildlife in Hanna and promote natural heritage including activities and programs for education and use of natural heritage sites.

The water tower came down in 1988. Around the base of where the tower was located in Memorial Park there are many plaques depicting the history of the water tower, the goose migration route, and other important historical items. These plaques are now fading, missing letters or completely gone all together. The base is also disintegrating. It is suggested that the Town refurbish the base of the former water tower and install new plaques.

It would be wise to develop cultural heritage policies, by-laws or preservation initiatives for heritage buildings, cemeteries, artefacts, museums, monuments, heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes and landscape in the Town of Hanna.

The Heritage Museum is a great asset to Hanna. More identification on the entrance roadways with directional signage and highway signs would be useful. The Museum could benefit with its own washroom facility. It is currently using the ball diamond toilets due to the poor condition of the ones at the Museum.

The Museum is in need of a space for archives. The possibility of another building that could be moved to the site to house the archives and create an office space for the staff would be greatly appreciated and beneficial to continue the good works being done.

Create a program to document heritage homes and commercial buildings in Hanna before some are gone from the landscape.

It would be prudent for the Town of Hanna to determine the desired use of the elementary school space before the building is demolished in 2017. The removal of the building will leave another entire block of land empty and that emptiness may prove to have a negative impact on the community. As a connection between the old primary school and the new modernized J. C. Charyt School, maybe there is a way to reclaim the bricks from the primary school when it is demolished and use them to create the outside patio space for Junior and Senior High School Students in the garden area, as many of these students would have attended the primary school.

There are many directional signs outside and inside the community to key attractions however, there is room for additional signage to promote the many venues the Town has to offer. Remember to place signage for directions from all three entrance points in the community as well as all entrances to parks.

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The Visitor Center should have Hanna materials front and center and the remaining items from neighbouring communities in alphabetical order. The current set up is confusing and Hanna is lost among other areas on the information racks.

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| URBAN FORESTRY | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Urban Forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, 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, pollinator friendly tree selection, tree inventory, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM), heritage, memorial and commemorative trees. | | |
| | Max | Actual |
| Municipal | | |
| Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest | 10 | 8 |
| Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands | 15 | 12 |
| Urban forestry plan and design, including integration with overall green infrastructure landscape plan, and measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots. | 20 | 14 |
| 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 | 7.50 |
| Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases | 10 | 8 |
| Public information programs: good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs | 15 | 12 |
| Maintenance best practices with proven results | 10 | 8 |
| Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs | 5 | 4 |
| Business & Institutions | | |
| Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees, on properties owned by business and institutions. | 15 | 11 |
| Maintenance programs, best practices with proven results: watering, pruning, IPM | 10 | 7.50 |
| Residential | | |
| Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties | 15 | 12 |
| Maintenance best practices with proven results | 10 | 7.50 |
| Community Involvement | | |
| Public participation 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 | 16.50 |
| 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 | 8.50 |
| Urban Forestry Total | 175.00 | 136.50 |

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URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

The overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest of Hanna is good. Traditionally this land is not prone to tree growth as evident in photographs from the early 1900s. The Town of Hanna currently does not have policies, regulations and tree by-laws. Tree protection and planting guidelines have not yet been developed.

The Town of Hanna recognizes they have challenges in maintaining and increasing the urban forestry without having plans and design guidelines, including measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand the overall tree inventory.

Traditionally poplars have been planted in Hanna. They do well in the climate and landscape, however many are starting to die and many were damaged in previous storms. The Town of Hanna is moving towards developing a plan of action including the procurement of species to create diversity and selection of hardy tree species. There are tree planting standards from SaskPower, showing how to plant a tree, and in particular in areas underneath power lines.

There are many elms in Hanna and they are currently involved in the capture program of the elm bark beetle to assist in the pest detection and control of Dutch elm disease.

Very few businesses in the downtown core and outlying areas have trees on their properties and only a very few are contributing to the overall tree canopy.

Most residential properties in Hanna are contributing to the tree inventory and there is some consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees. With the exception of a few poplars needing attention, the maintenance of these trees appears to be good.



Recommendations:

To protect the urban forest and to encourage the continuation of building a tree canopy, the Town of Hanna would be wise to develop policies, regulations and tree by-laws, for tree protection and planting practices on both public and private properties.

When developing an urban forestry plan and design standards, the Town should include the integration of new plantings with the overall green infrastructure and also create desirable landscape plans.

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The J.C. Charyt School could be involved in the development of policies and measures to preserve, protect, manage the trees by utilizing earth science classes to document, map and photograph the current trees canopy in Hanna. This would be a great way to involve the youth and develop a tree inventory.

Continue to be actively involved in the elm bark beetle pest detection program to assist in keeping the elms in Hanna in a healthy condition and not allowing the spread of 'sac fungi' into the community by the bugs. The American Elm is the largest stand of disease free elms in the world, therefore it is important to be vigilant in the firewood being brought into the community for Fox Lake and at the landfill to keep out pest species.

Provide the good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs for trees under powerlines by promoting the SaskPower information.

Work with qualified personnel and provide training programs for current Parks staff to expand their knowledge of tree management.

2016 Evaluation Form

| LANDSCAPE | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <p>Landscape includes planning, design, construction and maintenance of parks and green spaces 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 along with turf management.</p> | | |
| | Max | Actual |
| Municipal | | |
| First impressions of the community including gateway / entrance treatments | 10 | 8.50 |
| Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties (including pollinator friendly) , traffic calming, bank stabilisation | 10 | 8.50 |
| Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and public places: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, signage, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials | 10 | 8.50 |
| Landscape Plan: integrated and implemented throughout the municipality | 10 | 7 |
| Turf management programs, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate, increased naturalization and adapted maintenance programs | 10 | 8.50 |
| Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs | 10 | 8.50 |
| Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specifications and best practices. | 5 | 4 |
| Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs | 10 | 8.50 |
| Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs) | 10 | 8.50 |
| Business & Institutions | | |
| Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture | 10 | 7 |
| 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 | 7 |
| Residential | | |
| Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed) | 15 | 13 |
| Maintenance of properties: lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with proven results) | 15 | 13 |
| Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible and pollinator friendly plants) | 10 | 8.50 |
| Community Involvement | | |
| Public participation in community programs such as: urban agriculture, community gardens, "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination & decoration (promotion, organization, etc.) | 20 | 17.50 |
| Recognition (by municipality and/or by volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in all aspects of the Communities in Bloom Program including activities in all evaluated criteria | 20 | 17.50 |
| Landscape Total | 200.00 | 166.00 |

2016 Evaluation Form

LANDSCAPE

Observations:

The Town of Hanna presents a good first impression of the community including the three highway gateways and electronic sign. The digital sign has a base of planters, upright junipers and grasses that give the sign an anchor and further draws the eye to the sign. The Hanna Town Administration Office is a spectacular example of anchoring a corner block with the rocks, planters and hanging baskets in the new bed.

The municipal properties are a good example of using green materials and naturalization. Some of the properties are incorporating xeriscaping and suitable plant varieties. There are numerous public places for people to enjoy and they have a variety of flags and banners, including the official Communities in Bloom banner. Several areas include public art, benches and picnic tables. Most areas have appropriate signage in good condition. The sculpture at the pool area illuminating the western theme onto the wall is an excellent example of incorporating a theme through the community.

Memorial Park in the downtown core is well maintained with trees and a wide variety of plant material. This is the former location of the water tower and current home to the Cenotaph. Remembrance Day ceremonies are in the Legion due to weather conditions at that time of year. The park has benches, picnic table, trash cans and dog debris dispensers. The judges noticed grass clippings left on the sidewalk after maintenance.

Both the Community and Catholic Cemetery are well-maintained. There is some deterioration at the Community Cemetery including headstones and sinking grave markers.

Fox Lake Park is a gem in Hanna. The campground is pristine and provides a great spot to stay during events in Town. The site has good signage, area map, new playground, ½ court basketball, beautiful scenery and water sport opportunities. Adjacent to the Fox Lake is the Helmer Dam area which was named for the first municipal people who had visions of building reservoirs in the area. The Helmer Dam is stocked with fish by Alberta Fish and Wildlife and Ducks Unlimited. There is an on-site attendant, who takes great pride in keeping this Hanna asset in pristine condition.

Hector King Hunter Park is stellar and a major asset to the central area of Hanna. The park is heavily utilized by residents during Canada Day Celebrations, Music in the Park and featured in many wedding pictures. The area is well maintained and features newly planted trees to replace those damaged in the wind storm a couple of years ago.

The Visitor Center and Caboose are in extremely good condition with floral displays and a well-groomed grass area. Bridget Benoit calls this place home in the summer months and provides a friendly face to travelers in the area. Amy assists in greeting over 65 people on a daily basis. The two promote local area attractions and dispense delicious ice cream. The flag poles feature motifs of the geese to tie into the 'Land of the Goose' theme.

Even though many of the playing fields have had struggles with the changing weather and rain, the turf, and sports fields in general, are in excellent condition.

The Triplex is an amazing sporting venue for soccer, baseball and other activities. The area has a user fee for organizations and an event fee for out of town patrons, coming in for tournaments. There is a concession stand that organizations can use during their events. The area is heavily utilized most weekends during the summer.

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Residential areas offer appealing streetscapes and most are keeping their lawns, trees, and shrubs in good condition. There is a variety of plant material and edibles used in flower beds and pots.

Overall the public participation in community programs including urban agriculture, community gardens, maintenance, and decoration is very good.



Recommendations:

The wooden gateway signs on the highway are lost amongst the signs for the businesses and therefore could be larger with a more prominent paint choice and design to capture the attention of motorists.

In addition to a freshened paint on the signs, creating a base at all three highway signs that are similar in design to the base at the digital sign consisting of planters, upright junipers and grasses would give the sign an anchor and further draw the eye to the sign.

Continue to maintain, and add where feasible, xeriscaping and suitable plant varieties, flags and banners, public art, benches and picnic tables.

The rear entrance to Memorial Park would benefit from a sign similar to the main entrance. Visitors to the park from the back side would not know that this is Memorial Park until they left the area.

The municipality may want to consider creating a set of landscape plan design guidelines for commercial properties such as the requirement to provide plants, diversity, furniture, and public art.

Continue to maintain the high standards of excellence in the management of the turf, and sports fields.

The Triplex and other venues that rent out their space, may want to consider implementing a damage deposit program (if not already in place) where if the space is not cleaned up and damage repaired the money would be used to do the work. This way the taxpayers are not paying for the repairs and there is not the additional burden placed on Parks staff.

The walking trail network is an excellent opportunity to place signage, heritage and wildlife species information plaques, mileage markers, maps with 'you are here' on them. Create loops of various distances and name them to commemorate pioneers, farming and other key heritage facts. Mileage markers to downtown businesses could be added.

2016 Evaluation Form

| FLORAL DISPLAYS | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Floral displays evaluates efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents 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, edible plants, water efficient and pollinator friendly plants) 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 | 17 |
| Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants | 10 | 8.50 |
| Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc. | 20 | 17 |
| Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs | 10 | 8.50 |
| Business & Institutions | | |
| Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds | 15 | 12 |
| Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program | 10 | 8 |
| Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc. | 10 | 8 |
| Residential | | |
| Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties | 20 | 17 |
| Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens | | |
| Quality of planting and maintenance with proven results. | 15 | 13 |
| Community Involvement | | |
| Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.) | 15 | 13.50 |
| Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities | 15 | 13.50 |
| Floral Displays Total | 175.00 | 149.00 |

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FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

Integration into the overall landscape plan and distribution through the community of floral displays is excellent. The concept and designs are suitable for the area and offer a colourful streetscape. There is some diversity in the displays including the flowerbeds at the library and Caboose; raised beds, planters, and hanging baskets at the Town Administration Office.

Many of the displays include plant diversity with the integration of annuals, perennials, and grasses. The team of staff that maintain these entities have done a very good job. The watering, weeding and deadheading has been done very well. Some plants have suffered due to the amount of rain.

Residents are also including interesting arrangements, diversity, colour of displays and plant placements on their properties. Several have pollinator plants in gardens.

There is a very high level of public participation in community projects and volunteer initiatives in floral displays and financial support by the municipality.

Barb Burgemeister, Community Garden volunteer, is passionate about the project that is growing in size. Currently there are 33 plots with an expansion underway to increase to 50 or 60 plots. The location next to the senior's home is a great location for the activity and an accessible strawberry patch is a welcome sight. There are policies and procedures on the use and maintenance of the garden. Water is provided in partnership with the hospital, soil and improvements, and a composter donated by a local business.

The primary school is slated for demolition in 2017. Andrea Olsen a resident of Hanna for 15 years is the catalyst for the school vegetable and floral garden planted by the students. They planted late in the season so that in September there will be food to harvest and then cook for the students to enjoy. They also planted gladiolas for wonderfully colourful center pieces during their feast.

Thank you to Deb Grantham for allowing us to visit her back yard where she has created interesting vignettes. Also, thanks go to Leona Bond who has created a peaceful oasis in her backyard.



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Recommendations:

Continue the integration of floral displays into the overall landscape and distribution throughout the community.

Where possible create a high degree of diversity of displays with a variety of colours in flowerbeds, raised beds, planters and hanging baskets.

When adding plant material residents and staff might consider the versatility of using perennials, bulbs, grasses, and woody plants.

The business sector of Hanna could be more involved in the floral displays to attract business to their storefront, improve the streetscape and add aesthetic value to their space.

The Hanna in Blooms Committee may want to consider organizing workshops during the winter months on planting techniques for the community garden such as square foot gardening, companion plantings, soil enhancements and pest management.

The Community Gardeners may want to consider having a harvest event where everyone cooks a dish with their bounty and get together to share a meal and fellowship.

The backyards of Deb Grantham and Leona Bond, and most likely others in Hanna, should be encouraged to enter the Home Hardware Backyard Contest.

Food for thought: 'If you don't know who is going to look after it, don't plant it'. Maintain what you have before taking on new projects to continue with the standard of excellence seen in floral displays.

Continue to promote and expand the 'Blooms to You' program.

Planting 'Bees Matter' seed packages in gardens at the heritage museum would tie heritage flowers to the site.

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TECHNICAL EVALUATION

1. Technical skills: The participant demonstrated a high level of technical proficiency in the execution of the task, showing a strong understanding of the underlying principles and concepts.

2. Problem-solving: The participant effectively identified and analyzed the problem, demonstrating a logical and systematic approach to finding a solution.

3. Creativity: The participant showed a high degree of creativity in developing a unique and innovative solution to the problem, demonstrating a strong ability to think outside the box.

COMMUNICATION EVALUATION

1. Communication skills: The participant demonstrated excellent communication skills, effectively conveying their ideas and thoughts to the audience in a clear and concise manner.

2. Teamwork: The participant worked effectively as a member of a team, demonstrating a strong ability to collaborate and contribute to the overall success of the group.

3. Leadership: The participant demonstrated strong leadership skills, effectively guiding and motivating the team to achieve their goals.

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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