

Evaluation Form

2017

**Town of Hanna,
Alberta**



2017 Evaluation Form

2017 Evaluation Form



Community: **Town of Hanna**

Province: **Alberta**

Category: **Up to 4,500**

Tidiness	124.75	/	150.00
Environmental Action	122.50	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	125.00	/	150.00
Urban Forestry	143.50	/	175.00
Landscape	171.00	/	200.00
Floral Displays	154.00	/	175.00
Total	840.75	/	1000.00

Percentage : **84.08%**

Bloom rating: **5 Blooms - Bronze**

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: **Seasonal Planters**

Representative (s) of Community

Name:	<u>Lou Lallier</u>	Function:	<u>Chair, local CiB Committee</u>
Name:	<u>Gwen Snell</u>	Function:	<u>Director of Community Services</u>
Name:	<u>Jason Smith</u>	Function:	<u>Council Member</u>

Judges

Name:	<u>Lucy Chang</u>	Name:	<u>Louise Dumouchel</u>
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Evaluation

date: July 25th 2017

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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

The judges evaluated Hanna as it was experiencing extreme drought condition, which is not unexpected for a community located in the Palliser Triangle, an area of southern Alberta prone to droughts and damaging wind storms. This evaluation is done with that context in mind.

It was a pleasure to meet so many volunteers of the Hanna in Bloom Committee and supporters from all sectors of the community that believed in the benefits of the CiB program. At that Meet and Greet session, it was inspiring to hear from each person how the CiB program has positively impacted citizens' wellbeing.

After the Meet and Greet session, it was noteworthy to see so many interested and enthusiastic participants at the presentation on common insect pests of trees and shrubs given by the judges upon request of the CiB Committee. The participants were clearly eager to expand their knowledge on various aspects of plants health and care that promote safe alternate solutions to insect pest problems and diseases.

The judges were very pleased to receive a comprehensive and well produced Community Profile Book and read that "By partnering with local citizens, the town of Hanna has made a commitment to making improvements through CiB not just for one or two days of the year, but all year long." There is no doubt that guided by CiB's judges' recommendations, Hanna has made substantial "People, Plants and Pride" improvements year by year.

We think highly of The Hanna in Bloom Committee's systematic and intelligent approach to every CiB judges' report as recorded in the excerpt from the Profile Book:

"What is doable?" (Within our resources)

"What is practical" (Can we tackle it this time?)

"What is affordable" (do we have the financial resources to address?)

"Is this within our area of responsibility? (If not, can we work with others to achieve the end result?)

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We are aware that Town Council took over leadership of the CiB program because it realizes the positive values of the program that the community is experiencing.

Promotion of Hanna in Bloom initiatives through the electronic and print media including the town's website probably explains how well informed the community at large is about the CiB program.

With so much accomplished on the town's beautification projects and greening goals of the environment, perhaps the time is ripe for Hanna to invest in the service of a professional town planner to pull together all the widely dispersed gems – beautiful parks, revitalized townscape, enviable recreational facilities and railway icons – into a seamless image of a green and vibrant oasis that is truly **“Worth the Drive”**.

Thank you for your generous hospitality and a well conducted tour of your community. We wish you the best that the future can bring to Hanna.

Lucy Chang and Louise Dumouchel
CiB national judges, 2017

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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	8.50
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)	15	13
Visual appeal, and condition of municipal buildings and properties (including City Hall grounds),	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	3.75
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	124.75

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TIDINESS

Observations:

Hanna projects a very fresh and welcoming image on first approach to the Town and that is attributed to the overall tidiness of the community, devoid of noticeable unkempt areas and brimming with floral colors. The judges discerned a conscious effort behind all the following motivational strategies to promote and maintain the town's inviting look all year round:

- Unsightly premises by-laws with a complaint process that leads to appropriate enforcement;
- Stringent graffiti removal policy;
- Additional garbage bins and dog waste bags in parks and green spaces;
- Unsightly Vacant Properties Demolition Incentive Policy that offers monetary rebate to property owners to cooperate with demolition and redevelopment of properties;
- Adherence to the provincial comprehensive waste management policies;
- Support for bottle-drive fundraising ventures;
- Garnered support (some hands-on and some in-kind) from all sectors of the community in the annual Pitch In Clean-Up campaign;
- Wide distribution of cigarette butt containers in business and other vulnerable locations.

It was encouraging to hear that the Minor Ball and Soccer Teams voluntarily undertook a mass clean-up of the sport fields.

Well mown roadsides and ditches had no remnant weeds or piles of long cut grass on site to indicate irregular care. Likewise, turfs in public sites and green spaces were well maintained.

Recommendations:

The judges encourage the town not to relax its efforts to maintain the town's pristine environment even in adverse economic conditions that tries the community's enthusiasm for the above highlighted activities. It is vital to retain that vibrant and safe family atmosphere of Hanna.

There may be more need to pursue, proactively, other creative means to mitigate the negative image of business closures and associated vacant premises in light of the impending closure of the local coal mines. We sincerely hope that such a scenario may not come to be.

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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	16
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 promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	12.50
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	12
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	8
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	13
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	8.50
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	8.50
Environmental Action Total	150.00	122.50

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

Hanna is on top of all the required waste management practices as regulated by the province of Alberta. Wastes from paper to electronic products to toxic materials are strictly managed. Even more reassuring is the fact that the community accepts the 3Rs as routine actions. Small family businesses such as the Willow Café are examples of a reused building. Students of J.C. Charyk School collected bricks from the demolished old school and reused them in the school garden at the new school.

In a drought prone environment as Hanna is, water conservation is encouraged. The Town is hopeful that the high water rates will deter consumption. One of the water saving incentives is an annual free draw for 3 rain barrels, which ironically is beneficial when it does rain. Another is solar operated irrigation timing for early morning watering of town's public turfs. Judges noted that many residential front lawns and turfs in public recreational areas are not suffering from drought or restrains from water costs.

The judges were pleased at the community's keen regard for the wildlife that regularly appeared in and around Hanna – owls, hawks, ducks and geese, foxes, coyotes and pronghorn antelopes.

The community is enjoying the therapeutic benefits of a large community garden adjacent to the town's hospital from which it draws water. Town council lends its support with tilling and mulch supply. A business corporation, Enguard PC, donated a composter in 2016. Extra harvest is donated to a local food bank. Seedy Saturday which is a venue for seed and perennial exchange and the accompanying edible garden workshop complement the community garden project.

Recommendations:

The abundant wildlife in Hanna presents a wonderful opportunity to educate students and residents about the natural environment and the benefits of protecting it.

The attractive xeriscapic landscaping in front of the new town hall is commendable and a style of landscaping to be encouraged widely in a drought prone environment.

It would be helpful to inform future judges about the type of alternative "environmentally friendly" weed control spray used by your contracted service on Hanna's public turfs, roadsides, ditches and recreational green spaces.

The judges understand that the black knot disease is becoming a concern. Check out the sites below for advice on and control of this fungal disease:

https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/pestsblack-knot.aspx

<http://www.salisburygreenhouse.com/black-knot/>

There is a widespread goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*) groundcover on one of the perennial beds at King Hunter Park. It is a very invasive species so you may be wise to rout it out at an opportune time when there are less critical gardening duties to take care off.

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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 is 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	12.50
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	13
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	9
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	9
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	125.00

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

Hanna Pioneer Village and Museum continues to operate with loyal volunteer support. There are plans to introduce and promote more interactive events to attract more visitors.

Hanna is endowed with several other heritage assets such as:

- The privately owned “heritage homes”, a fine example of which is “That Country Place” Bed and Breakfast, an adapted farmhouse;
- The railway station turned Hanna’s Visitor Information Centre and the caboose nearby;
- Historical water tower, which is now a focal point of Memorial Park.

The 1912 CN Roundhouse achieved Provincial Heritage designation this year. Restoration is processing in fits and starts.

A Memorial Bench Program was recently adopted by Town Council to encourage the donation of quality approved memorial benches installed in public spaces.

Heritage events such as the Agricultural Fair in August, Rodeo (fundraising) BBQ in September, weekly Farmers’ Market and Light-at-Night every December are highlights of the year that the community and returning families look forward to.

The judges are delighted to hear that the community will continue to cultivate the Canada 150 red and white tulips theme, 1200 of which were planted in Memorial Park and King Hunter Park this anniversary year.

Recommendations:

When resources are available to install historical plaques in identified heritage properties, think of a way to connect and highlight all of Hanna’s heritage assets – perhaps, a tourist brochure, web page or self-guided tour map?

Have any residents been preserving heritage plants (perennials or vegetable from pioneer gardens) through seeds and cuttings?

The local coal mine is slated to be closed down – any thoughts on turning appropriate sections/buildings into a museum as a memorial to an industrial way of life that is disappearing?

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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	15
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	8
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	13
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	13
Maintenance programs, best practices with proven results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	8
Residential		
Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties	15	13
Maintenance best practices with proven results	10	8
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	17
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	143.50

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URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

The judges were very impressed at the extent of the tree canopy cover and the diversity of tree species in Hanna. Many private yards are landscaped with at least one broad-leaf or coniferous tree. Lou and Dennis Lallier are among the homeowners commended for their selection of trees such as oaks and conifers for their private garden.

The Town has a boulevard policy that encourages residents to care for and plant trees and shrubs on their residential portion of the boulevard and it will help with planting if requested.

Hanna may rightly boast of several well treed parks - Memorial Park, Hector King Hunter Park, Fox Lake Park and Playground, Winkler Park, and other smaller playground parks – that offer cool shade much to the pleasure of residents and visitors alike, especially in the searing heat of summer in a region prone to desert like condition.

As necessary of communities in that southern part of Alberta, Hanna has learned to cope with recurring drought and severe stormy weather. Downed or uprooted trees and broken branches are usual weather casualties so it is reassuring to know that the town has an active tree planting program to maintain or improve the tree canopy.

In 2016, the Town replaced the loss of 29 poplar trees at Fox Lake Trail with the creation of a “community orchard” that started with fruit trees dedicated to the past, present and future volunteers of Hanna. Special emphasis was placed on native fruit trees – Saskatoon, choke cherry and high bush cranberry. These will eventually be supplemented with hardy apple and other cultivated fruit trees and shrubs such as gooseberry and raspberry.

A professional arborist is contracted to maintain the Town’s Urban Forest Canopy twice a year. His service is also available to interested homeowners.

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Recommendations:

Due to the number of trees, especially the poplar trees, damaged by the recent wind storms, you may need to budget for extra maintenance service from the arborist. Pruning ought to be taken sufficiently early to promote tree health, improve tree appearance and protect people and property.

In Winkler Park, where elms are contemplated for future planting, it is advisable to select cultivars or clones of American elms that have proven to be resistant to Dutch elm disease. Stay active with the Dutch elm disease monitoring program.

Continue to support and promote the tree planting initiative along the trail to Fox Lake not only to provide shade but also to lend a more naturalized feel to a man-made recreational area. Are there any possibilities of organizing special fund raising events to address the budget issue that has put this project on the back burner temporarily?

Frequent summer dry spells are hard on newly-planted trees, so it is doubly important that you nurture them diligently until they are well established and grow to be part of the green landscape of Hanna. It may be worthwhile to experiment with tree watering bags that are designed to release water slowly for gradual absorption by the tree's root system. This irrigation method is low maintenance and prevents unnecessary runoffs while reducing transplant shock and drought stress.

A windbreak around the open baseball and soccer field would provide physical comfort to players and audience. If you are interested in pursuing the suggestion, it wouldn't hurt to have professional advice on tree and shrub selection, density of planting and number of rows necessary to establish an effective and durable shelterbelt.

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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	8
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	8.75
Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs)	10	8.75
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	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	13
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, 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	18
Landscape Total	200.00	171.00

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LANDSCAPE

Observations:

The highway entrance sign to Hanna (as were the other entrance signs) was redesigned by local artist, Donna Brink. Though informative and attractive enough, the judges felt that the impact was diluted by the long distance between the sign and the turn off for the town. The next signature entrance icons are the three giant “goose monuments” that have also been rejuvenated with new paints by the same artist. New landscaping (2016 judges’ recommendation) with floral displays is certainly a visual improvement.

A very tidy streetscape softened by a variety of colorful floral displays adds to the Town’s appeal as do the well-kept lawns and front yards in the residential areas.

Regular upkeep that helps to maintain the Town’s streetscape in good condition contributes to a positive image of the community. It was pointed out to the judges that the town has an annual dedicated budget to repair cracked sidewalks, patch pavement and fill potholes.

The judges’ attention was drawn to the improved signage to identify civic buildings and recreational facilities that were installed in response to 2016 judges’ recommendation.

The Storefront Improvement Incentive Program assists business owners and business tenants to have storefronts redesigned to project a dynamic and positive image of the community. *Business of the Week* competition and the *Blooms to You Awards* (one for business and one for residents) are complementary beautification initiatives organized by the Hannah in Bloom Committee.

This year the Hanna in Bloom Committee has created a beautification theme for the cemetery – a vignette of sculptured angel guarding a floral planter. Six vignettes have been installed.

Green spaces with shade trees and attractive floral displays such as the Memorial Park and the Hector King Hunter Park are isolated gems in the landscape. But long before these parks were established, it was the conscious cultivation of shade trees since the arrival of settlers that endowed Hanna with a graceful verdant look.

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Recommendations:

The exceptional landscape of natural woodland and cultivated floral displays in Memorial Park is hidden from view by dark shrubberies and trees at the periphery. In shady areas planting ornamental shrubs with contrasting foliar color, form and texture, and in sunnier areas, hardy rambling roses (or appropriate substitute) with branches dangling down the sloping park boundary may help to draw the visual attention of passersby.

A commercial strip of fast food outlets, oil and gas service stations and automobile dealerships are common developments on the outskirts of town close to the highway. You may want to adopt a “tourist eye” and casually drive by Hanna’s commercial strip and see how this would appeal to your logo, “Hanna worth the Drive”.

The Alberta flag flying in Memorial Park is starting to show signs of wear and tear. Have there been any thoughts of mending it or replacing it with a more durable polyester flag? If weather conditions are the major cause of premature flag wear and tear, lowering flags at dusk, or at least during strong or gale force winds, may help your flag last longer.

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FLORAL DISPLAYS		
<p>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.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	13.50
Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	18
Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	9
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	18.50
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	12.50
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	17.50
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	13.75
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities	15	13.75
Floral Displays Total	175.00	154.00

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FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

The judges were captivated by the exceptional floral displays in oversized “desert planters” at the Memorial Park. The quality of the leaves and blooms were such that it seems like they have been fed on steroids! The Town has intentions to invest in more desert planters to replace the traditional planters and cut down maintenance costs.

As described in the special **Mention**, the seasonal display program in a variety of containers attracts participants from all sectors of the community (business, institution, residents and civic members). Seasonal competitions – *Blooms to You* in summer and *Winter Blooms Award* – are motivational success.

It is not hard for the Judges to visualize the striking spring display of 1,200 red and white Canada 150 Tulips planted at the Memorial Park and the Hector King Hunter Park.

The floral displays at the Heritage Caboose and the Visitor Information Centre are more fully planted for increased flower power. The wise choice of practical display containers (oversize with capacity to hold more water or desert planters) and copious application of mulch contributed to the semi-tropical lushness of the floral displays in town. The quality of care and horticultural skill is obvious in the selection and arrangement of plant materials in terms of color, form and foliar texture whether planted in or above ground.

Recommendations:

The back bone of ornamental trees and shrubs remains the major decorative feature of the Hector King Hunter Park even though they are in need of rejuvenation that entails a thorough thinning, health pruning and shaping; the judges understand that this is more of a human resource problem than a skill problem.

Pursue the plan to purchase more “desert planters” as the initial heavy expenses will be recouped by the reduced maintenance costs.

Continue with the distribution of signage amongst the flower beds to promote the “Bees Matter” campaign or “Pollinator Friendly Garden” theme as every pollinator flower added to every private or public garden contribute to an attractive environment for bees and other pollinating insects. Kudos to the Hanna in Bloom Committee for promoting a very important issue but we hope that the school is doing its part in educating students on the same subject.



2017 Evaluation Form



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT

"Within the context of climate change and environmental concerns, communities involved in the Communities in Bloom program can be proud of their efforts, which provide real and meaningful environmental solutions and benefit all of society."

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY

The commitment of local, provincial and national volunteers

The support of elected officials and of staff in municipalities

The dedication of our judges, staff and organizations

The contributions of our sponsors and partners