

Evaluation Form

2019

**Town of Hanna,
Alberta**



2019 Evaluation Form

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Community: Town of Hanna
Province: Alberta
Category: Class of Champions – Small

Tidiness	125.25	/	150.00
Environmental Action	123.25	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	125.50	/	150.00
Urban Forestry	146.50	/	175.00
Landscape	169.00	/	200.00
Floral Displays	150.50	/	175.00
	Total		840.00 / 1000.00

Percentage : 84.00%

Bloom rating: 5 Blooms - Bronze

Bloom rating: Provincial, National and International Participants

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

Bloom Levels: National Edition and International Challenge, 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

Mention: Communities in Bloom Support of Tree Planting

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Gwen Snell Function: Director of Community Services
Name: Lou Lallier Function: President, Hanna CIB
Name: Kim Neill Function: CAO, Hanna

Judges

Name: Berta Briggs Name: Larry Hall

Evaluation

date: July 14 -15, 2019

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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 scores are based on the perception of the current judges.

SECTORS OF EVALUATION

Municipal:

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

Business and Institutions:

Properties owned and managed by

- **Business:** commercial sector, shopping centres, 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, provincial and federal parks, etc.)
- **Tourism bureaus and Chamber of Commerce offices**
- **Farms:** in rural communities, farms can be considered in this section

Residential:

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

Community Involvement:

The principle of community involvement is so fundamental to the program that it is considered in each segment of the evaluation.

- Individuals, community organizations, citizen groups (includes youth programs) – all contributing to various aspects of community improvement, including municipal spaces maintained through the efforts of volunteers and community
- Organized clubs such as horticultural societies, garden clubs, community associations, school groups
- Service clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Optimist
- Participation (financial and/or in-kind or employee participation) by the municipality, businesses and institutions.

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GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Hanna is friendly, self-contained Town that certainly is worth the drive! Thank you for your continued participation in Communities in Bloom and working so hard to make Hanna a great place to call home. Hanna has been participating in Communities in Bloom since 2005 starting with 3 Blooms. You grew and 'blossomed' to achieve 5 Blooms Bronze in 2017. Congratulations on maintaining a 5 Bloom Bronze standing in Class of Champions Small. Well done!

The facilities in Hanna are superb - they have the facilities now bring on the people! Hanna has experienced some economic challenges in recent years and are working hard to overcome the slump. A consultant has been hired to develop a strategic plan to rekindle the economy and to attract more residents. Good luck.

It was very interesting to learn how the community is working with the school to have students launch careers within the community before leaving school. Another interesting program we learned about is "100 Women Hanna" that operates on the premise that 100 women donate \$100 up to 4 times per year and dedicate the money to a community cause or organization. The impact is quite profound!

There are quite a number of very active volunteer groups including the Heritage Society who operate the Museum, the Roundhouse Society who have rescued the Roundhouse from certain demolition to have it given protection as a Provincial Historic Resource and, of course, Communities in Bloom. All work tirelessly for their town and to promote the greater good. Many individuals wear several hats.

Hanna enjoys and fosters a very good relationship with surrounding municipalities. This gives rise to regional approaches to things like water supply and solid waste management. The Special Areas Building contributes to the beauty of the Town with unique native plant landscaping.

The Community Profile is very well prepared to reflect both past achievement as well as projects undertaken this year. It is valuable to reflect upon the path behind to have inspiration to move forward. Hanna's path has indeed been quite amazing! Try to distribute hard copies of the Profile to allow residents to view. People are excited and often surprised to see their neighbours and their achievements from all aspects. Doctor and dentist offices, coffee shops, tire and repair shops are all places where people pick up reading material.

The evaluation tour was very well planned and we particularly appreciated meeting members of Council, Town staff, the CiB Committee and the many volunteers and residents of Hanna.

Thank you very much for your friendly hospitality and for sharing your community with us!

Berta and Larry



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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		
Overall Impressions Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions	10	8.25
Anti-litter Community anti-litter awareness programs	10	8.5
Regulations 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	8.5
Cleanliness Of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)	15	13.25
Municipal Properties Appearance Visual appeal and condition of municipal buildings and properties (including city hall grounds),	15	13.5
Business & Institutions		
Overall Impressions Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions	15	12
Site Conditions Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	12
Furniture Appearance Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	4
Residential		
Overall Impressions Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	16.25
Property Conditions Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	12.5
Community Involvement		
Public Participation In community, neighbourhood or individual street tidiness, clean-up programs, activities and annual maintenance (including promotion, organization, innovations involving youth and seniors, etc.)	10	8.25
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community clean-up programs	10	8.25
Tidiness Total	150.00	125.25

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TIDINESS

Observations:

The buildings under municipal management are all very tidy and well maintained – the Town Hall, Library, and Fire hall are examples. Also, the Public Works yard is a good indicator of the Town's standards and Hanna's Yard is beautifully clean and organized. The Community Centre and Pool area are spotless; this is particularly important where health and safety are forefront.

There is a good distribution of refuse containers, beverage can recycle bins and dog waste bag dispensers to allow no excuse for anyone to litter.

There is good public participation, especially youth, in clean up campaigns on streets and in sport fields.

The Town has its own street sweepers to keep streets and parking lots clear of debris, sand and salt. The lines on the streets are kept well painted giving a fresh, clean appearance.

Signage throughout Hanna is very good. The signs at Fox Lake Park are unique and reflect the natural heritage of the site. Good job! The entire park is very tidy and clean to make it very inviting for visitors and locals alike.

The extra funding for storefront improvement is encouraging businesses to rejuvenate their frontages. Such improvements inspire similar actions.

Residents keep their homes and properties very tidy. This is very important to encourage both absentee landlords and new residents to uphold a similar standard. The unsightly property bylaws are slowly working to have curb appeal on most streets satisfactory.

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Recommendations:

As the economy has stalled, there is less incentive to maintain and enhance properties and there are a number of vacant and neglected properties. This neglect tends to drag down the whole attitude of the Town. Continue to try to enforce the nuisance property bylaw; and, as a town, take every opportunity to tell residents and businesses that you are proud of their standard of curb appeal.

Try to move aggressively on unsightly properties; the old green building is very prominent and has tagging dating back many years – there is a “Grad 2008” tag for example.

On vacant properties, a ribbon strip of mowing next to the road or sidewalk suggests that the property is at least tended. This applies only if the property is not overrun with noxious weeds, in which case the weeds have to be dealt with appropriately. Grasses and native plants are not offensive.

Use of glyphosates for weed control should be used sparingly as it lays the ground bare to be the perfect site for weeds to germinate, especially foxtail that is resistant to Round-Up. In areas such as the vacated ATCO yard it would be prudent to seed a hardy cover crop to keep the weeds at bay. The main problem weed throughout the industrial areas appears to be foxtail – hoeing out and cutting to avoid seed head development is the most common way to control foxtail.

Weeds in sidewalk cracks and edges continue to be a challenge. Try to encourage the property owners to take responsibility for their frontages. Perhaps suggest to them that a mixture of 4 liters vinegar (preferably industrial strength), 500 g Epsom salts and 250 ml. dish washing liquid works well if used 3 or 4 times per season.

The digital welcome sign is great, just one comment – the digital message moves too quickly to easily read. Can it be slowed?

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION		
<p>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.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Sustainable Development Strategies Policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning/vision; effective bylaws/policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities	20	15.5
Waste Reduction Reduction of waste going to landfill and results (3-R: reduce, reuse and recycle), municipal composting programs, including activities such as composting sites, yard waste collections, mulching of wood debris (Christmas trees, hedge trimmings, etc.) & reclamation of cut trees. Handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection and reuse of compost material.	20	16.5
Water Conservation Use-reduction programs such as promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	12.5
Energy Conservation Programs such as alternate forms of energy (ex. geothermal, biomass, wind, solar) and initiatives such as: energy-efficient appliances, shielding for night skies, efficient street lighting	15	12.5
Environmental Initiatives, Innovations and Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	8
Business & Institutions		
Participation in The Environmental Effort Waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	10	8.25
Corporate Environmental Action Innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (for example: environmental clean-up activities)	10	8.25
Residential		
Participation in Environmental Initiatives 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle), composting	10	8.25
Water Conservation Practices such as water use reduction, rainwater collection and rain gardens	15	12.5
Community Involvement		
Public Participation – Civil Action Participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	4
Public Participation in Activities Community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership, etc.)	10	8.5
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	8.5
Environmental Action Total	150.00	123.25

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

Being in such a low rainfall area, Hanna CIB has been very active in encouraging water conservation through encouraging rain barrels, using mulch, subsidizing water bag purchases for newly planted trees, and promoting weekender style baskets that have a water reservoir.

Hanna is part of regional water treatment and the Henry Kroeger Treatment Plant is in Hanna. The facility assures safe and reliable water with well trained staff to monitor the process constantly. The Town uses treated water for irrigation and is implementing practices such as timed irrigation for improved effectiveness.

Congratulations on recycling the water from the spray park. And the pool is being as efficient as possible in its water filtration system.

Hanna is widely known for their community rummage sale to allow for re-use of many items and raising a lot of money for the hospital. There is also a thrift shop in the United Church that helps divert clothing and furniture from the landfill.

Hanna has upgraded their transfer site to allow for recycling, composting, safe collection of white goods and hazardous materials as well as the efficient removal of garbage to a regional landfill site. This site is efficiently run and the Town is now proud of the process.

Recommendations:

The community garden is an excellent place to model good composting techniques. Presently there is a small composter but most plant waste is taken to the landfill site for composting. The concern expressed was weed seeds – if compost reaches the correct temperature weed seeds are destroyed.

Perhaps a public workshop on composting could be held at the community garden site to educate and encourage home composting.

The community garden, as well as most gardens, can have the soil greatly improved with the addition of good organic amendments such as compost.

The municipality could consider water harvesting from large roof areas such as the arena, the Community Centre or even Town Hall to collect raw water to use on turf areas and flowerbeds. This demonstrates a good model for residents to adopt similar practices at their homes and businesses.

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The Town may wish to consider alternative energy sources such as solar panels to offset some of the power demands. The Town of Raymond is a good example of this.

Try to be cognizant of excessive use of pesticides. It is only a matter of time before Alberta matches the tight pesticide regulation that exists in much of the rest of Canada. Now is the time to implement practices that allow for less pesticide use, and to use safer alternatives. For contract spraying on public land review carefully with the contractor what is being used so Public Works is very well informed and comfortable with the choices.

Bat and bird houses in parks can be very effective in reducing mosquito and grasshopper populations as well as providing an interesting model to park users. An insect hotel is fascinating for kids and shows them the importance of a healthy eco system.

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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 Plans Management and preservation policies, plans programs and initiatives: including eco systems, eco parks, trail networks, grasslands, naturalization, wetlands, urban agriculture/farming, wildlife, protection of sensitive habitats, species at risk and support for at risk pollinators.	20	15.25
Natural Heritage Promotion 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 (including trail networks) for and by the public.	15	12.25
Cultural Heritage Plans Policies, by-laws, plans and preservation initiatives for heritage buildings, cemeteries, artefacts, museums, monuments, heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes and landscape	15	14
Cultural Heritage Activities Initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	14
Business & Institutions		
Natural Heritage Assets Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, trails, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	10	7.5
Cultural Heritage Assets Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artefacts including their integration with the built/hard?, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	8.5
Residential		
Cultural Heritage Initiatives Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artefacts on residential lands	10	8.5
Community Involvement		
Natural Heritage Public Participation Participation in community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual natural heritage programs and initiatives including developing policies and plans, site improvements (including trails, eco parks , reforestation and management, maintenance, conservation and education initiatives	20	15.5
Natural Heritage – Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including environmental groups) in community-initiated natural heritage activities and programs	10	7.5
Cultural Heritage - Public Participation Participation in community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual cultural heritage programs including year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	14
Cultural Heritage - Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including historical societies) in community-initiated cultural heritage activities and programs.	10	8.50
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	125.50

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The natural heritage of Hanna is very rich. It is in a prairie setting not far from dramatic coulees and hoodoos. It is on the migratory path of many birds and quite a bit of short grass prairie is left untouched. The acquisition of Antelope Park and its' proposed designation as a Provincial Park should preserve almost a thousand acres in its natural state for generations to come.

Pelicans have chosen to nest for the summer just north of Town. The property owner leaves the squadron undisturbed to grow each year. A beautiful CiB calendar features photos of some of the indigenous birds.

Fox Lake Park overlooks a wetland overseen by Ducks Unlimited and interpretive signs help visitors identify and learn about some of the wildlife. This park is well used by visitors and locals alike thus exposing many to the beautiful natural heritage.

The Museum uses a historical village style to showcase many significant historical buildings from the region. Each building houses carefully selected artifacts to tell the story of Hanna and life in the early part of the 20th century. To further allow the public to experience the Museum, the Historical Society partners with the Agriculture Society to host the Hanna Fair. Displays, activities and competitions are located in appropriate buildings on the site to make the entire museum come to life. The Museum is continuing to partner with many schools and groups to maximize use of the Museum; Epic Adventures children's program is one example.

A huge ongoing project is the Roundhouse restoration. The Roundhouse Society has worked for years to get the site designated as a Provincial Historic Resource and has continued to raise funds and awareness in their path toward having this historic roundhouse as a facility available as an event center. Not only are they saving the Roundhouse, they are preserving the stories and the grandness of this period of history in Alberta.

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Recommendations:

The natural heritage of the wetlands at Fox Lake Park is well portrayed. It may be possible to create some nature trails through the bush with some interpretive signage for visitors to enjoy and explore.

There are really cute, but unfunctional bird houses at the community garden. This could be an ideal site for real birdhouses along with some bee houses and insect hotels. In addition to providing 'homes', these structures would provide pollinators and increase the diversity of life at the garden. A project such as this could involve children and encourage more interest and activity in the garden area. The school garden would be another good site for bird, bat, bee and insect houses.

The train room at the Visitor Information is a great idea but the progress on the project has somewhat stalled. It may be necessary to reignite some excitement in the project and perhaps engage some new train enthusiasts. Besides the train, the accuracy of the topography and the Town site is great. The Museum also serves as an archive and there are some ongoing climate control problems. Continue to find a safe setting for these important archives.

There is a very good start to a "Bees Matter" pollinator garden in the Park. This is a project that can be expanded and enhanced each year.

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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 Impression Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	8.25
Strategic Plans Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	15	13.5
Urban Forestry Plan Plan, design and inventory management including integration with overall green infrastructure landscape plan, and measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots	20	17
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	8.5
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	7.5
Public Information Programs Provides information on good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs	15	13.5
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	7.5
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff and/or qualified experienced contractors) and/or in place training programs	5	4
Business & Institutions		
Tree inventory Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees, on properties owned by businesses and institutions.	15	12.5
Maintenance Quality Programs, best practices with demonstrated results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	7.5
Residential		
Tree Planting Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties	15	13.25
Maintenance Quality Best practices with demonstrated results	10	8.25
Community Involvement		
Public Participation Participation (including children/youth) in tree planting and conservation programs such as Green Streets Canada, Arbor Day, Maple Leaf Day, and other tree planting and maintenance programs and activities on public lands (including promotion, organization etc.)	20	17
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation or promotion by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community tree planting and conservation programs on public lands	10	8.25
Urban Forestry Total	175.00	146.50

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URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

Before European settlement there were no trees in the Hanna area – drought and prairie fires made sure of that. Around the time of settlement trees were regularly planted for a few decades to create a pleasing canopy. Then very few were planted until about 15 years ago when it was realized that more trees were reaching their end of life than ones being planted. In these past years there has been a concerted effort to plant trees to restore the canopy and to enjoy the many benefits trees offer. Congratulations!

Hanna has been working on an inventory of trees on public property and have been developing effective bylaws for tree protection and have been preparing information for distribution to residents. Kudos to the student who diligently identified all trees on the Hanna GIS system.

There has been a movement in the past couple of years to plant more fruiting trees which provide produce for residents and habitat for birds and animals.

It is good to see that trees being planted in parks are being planted in groups to create an island of trees with mulch applied properly to reduce weed growth and to preserve moisture. Also, it is much easier to mow around and 'island' that around each tree. Lion's Grove is a new boulevard planting with fruiting trees and is coming along nicely. The water bags will give the trees a good start and are a visible model to residents on correct planting.

The water bag program initiated by CiB is excellent. Water bags are promoted to help get trees started and to reduce the labour required to water in the first year or two. Further encouragement and support is offered through a \$5.00 rebate from CiB for the purchase of a water bag.

Hanna CiB has initiated an "Adopt-a-Tree" project with 8 trees being spoken for already. Good job!

Most residential properties have landscaped using trees and shrubs. They know their plantings contribute to the health of their environment and to the community at large.

Recommendations:

A plum tree has been identified as possibly the oldest tree in Hanna at about 80 years old. Consider designating this tree as a 'Tree of Renown' for Hanna to protect the tree and to encourage people to look at trees a little more carefully.

There are very few trees in the industrial areas of Hanna and some newer homes have no trees. It is recommended to place a landscape clause in any building or development permit that requires planting at least a minimal number of trees; and stipulate that they must be healthy after 2 years.

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Continue to plant succession trees in parks and on boulevards choosing from a wide variety of hardy species. Keep an eye on large poplars that are in regular need of pruning to avoid the risk of injury from falling limbs and possible liability.

For hardy trees perhaps look at recommendations that Indian Head has compiled. They have the advantage of being the site of the Federal Tree Farm where many hardy species were developed and trialed. Their growing conditions are similar to Hanna. Look up “Trees for Indian Head – Looking to the Future”.

Hanna has very attractive entry signs that could be enhanced with large background trees and short foundation shrubs to frame the sign and attract the eye.

During the Judge’s tour in July there were several dozen trees that were dying. It is hoped that the cause has been identified. If not, continue to pursue the cause by sending tissue and soil samples to a lab qualified to analyze for pathogens or contamination.

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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		
Gateway Impressions First impressions of the community including gateway/entrance treatments	10	8.5
Sustainable Designs – Soft Landscape 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	8.5
Sustainable Designs - Hard Landscape 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	9
Landscape Plan Integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	8.75
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	8.25
Landscape Maintenance Policies, Standards, Best Practices and Programs	10	8.25
Landscape Quality Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specs and best practices.	5	4.25
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	8.5
Year-round use 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
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable Designs (Seasonally adjusted year-round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	8.25
Integrated Plan Contribution to urban & civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains & innovation in concept & design	15	12.5
Maintenance Quality Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	8.25
Residential		
Streetscape Appeal Of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	13
Maintenance Quality Lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with demonstrated results)	15	13
Plant Selection Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible & pollinator friendly plants)	10	8.5
Community Involvement		
Public Participation in community programs (including children/youth) such as: urban agriculture, community gardens, "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination & decoration (promotion, organization, etc.)	20	17
Volunteer Recognition Recognition (by municipality and/or volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in all aspects of the Communities in Bloom program including activities in all evaluated criteria	20	16.5
Landscape Total	200.00	169.00

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LANDSCAPE

Observations:

The Hanna main street has come alive with the facelift efforts of one property owner. The colourful frontage is bright and whimsical. The planters, baskets and banners all contribute to the main street appeal.



The art throughout Hanna gives visitors a reason to explore. The silhouette sculpture is particularly beautifully creative and unique. The six angel sculptures with planter at the cemetery are touching and very appropriate for the area.



Hanna Lodge is a new facility for seniors. The landscaping is very attractive. Most impressive are the many raised planters built by residents and planted with vegetables – they are abundant and very healthy. Kudos to the knowledge and skills of the residents!



Congratulations on the Winter Blooms program, part of which is designing town planters with winter greens. Winter is a reality and it is good to see that you are embracing it by keeping your town looking lively and attractive.

The “Blooms to You” continues to encourage and recognize the efforts in the residential community with winners offered the addition bonus of being encouraged to enter into the Home Hardware Backyard Contest.

There are examples of tangible cooperation to enhance the landscape of Hanna. The greenspace between the Legion and the Special Areas building is now an attractive park instead of wasted space. Very nice!

The Community Garden is centrally located by the hospital so it offers a therapeutic atmosphere for patients as well as being easy to access by residents. The plots as well subscribed and gardeners and volunteers keep it spotless. The Garden was started in 2012 with a grant under Project Reach which is

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a program to promote good mental health – very appropriate use of funds because the exercise and social contact is so important to health. And all gardeners know the sense of well-being that come from getting your hands in the soil!

Recommendations:

At the round table meeting with Town staff and Council members, Councilor Karen described a proposal she has been trying to bring together to work in conjunction with the High School on some downtown improvement projects. The High School is moving toward offering more skills training for credits and in some cases offer a first year apprentice experience. A partnership between the Town and the School could develop some great homegrown talent and give students a real sense of ownership in their town. Good luck with bringing this vision to fruition.

The community garden could benefit from annual amendments to the soil; more organic matter is recommended. Perhaps some of the compost from the transfer site along with the promix that is dumped from Lou's baskets would do the trick. Consider dedicating one plot to pollinator flowers – both perennial and annual.

There is an area in front of the Town Office on the corner where grass refuses to grow. A corner such as this is always abused by road salt and people so consider a hard surface; perhaps check out price and feasibility of a rubberized surface. A redesign of the landscaping on the same street might be considered so it is easier to get out of cars without having to navigate the rocky surface.

Understand the distinction between xeriscaping and zeroscaping. Xeriscaping features plants that tolerate hot and dry conditions along with some form of mulch to inhibit weed growth and to conserve moisture. Using only rocks in an area is simply a hard inorganic surface that can be attractive in its own right but does not contribute to air or soil quality.

For the turf areas in both parks and sport fields it is advisable to start using management techniques without herbicides for weed control. This has already been mentioned under Environmental Action.

Consider a gardening beyond the fence concept for residents whereby the property owner, with approval from Council, looks after the public property adjacent to theirs, be it either into the alley or on the street. There does have to be guidelines so the borrowed property is maintained to a high standard and never abandoned.

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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		
Floral Display Plan of Action Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	14
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	8.5
Maintenance Quality Maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	18
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	9
Business & Institutions		
Design Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	13
Overall Plan Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	10	7.5
Maintenance Quality Of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc. with demonstrated results.	10	7.5
Residential		
Concept and Design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties including Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens	20	16.5
Maintenance Quality Of planting and maintenance with demonstrated results.	15	13.5
Community Involvement		
Public Participation In community projects, volunteer initiatives (including children/youth), outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	13
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities	15	13
Floral Displays Total	175.00	150.50

2019 Evaluation Form

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

The gardens and floral arrangements under the control of the Town are excellent. The baskets and planters are of a particularly high standard in both design and management. The baskets at the Town Office are traffic stoppers. The weather this year has been a challenge for ground beds making them a little immature for July, but this is beyond anyone's control. Plant selection is appropriate and the level of care is very good. It is good to see that spring flowering bulbs such as tulips are widely used to extend the floral season. The well-considered distribution of planters and baskets throughout the Town at every public facility is very pleasing.

The CiB barrels by the caboose at the Visitor Information are beautiful and are sure to inspire home gardeners to do more container gardening. In fact, all the florals around the Visitor Information are very well done and provide a wonderful welcome to Hanna.

There are some exceptional home gardens in Hanna that demonstrate what can be grown in Hanna. The 'Blooms to You' is great to recognize these gardeners.

Even if the school is closed in summer months, it is nice to see floral planters at the school entrance. They will still be colourful when students return in September. And the school garden shows promise.

The 'Bees Matter' Pollinator Garden is a nicely started. It is well located for kids to become interested and engaged in its development. The focus upon salvia and cosmos is a good start to show residents how easy it is to get started with a pretty pollinator plot.



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Recommendations:

First impressions are so very important and some very visible businesses could be encouraged to improve that first impression. A little landscaping or even a well maintained floral planter is excellent advertising for the establishment as well a gift to the Town and visitors.

Businesses may be depending a little too much on the Town for floral enhancement. Try to work with the business community to encourage them to assume more responsibility for their frontages. A simple, beautiful floral arrangement can be a very cost effective form of advertising. In the very large beds, especially in parks, consider more perennial and shrub beds to reduce the cost and maintenance. Carefully selected plants along with a thick layer of wood mulch is attractive and low maintenance.

If the selection of the 'Blooms to You' yards becomes onerous for the CiB Committee, consider a "pay it forward" approach whereby CiB may recognize the first yard but then that gardener then chooses the recipient for the next week so the sign and the recognition gets passed around. The same concept could be used for businesses or industrial recognition. With consent, the 'winners' are posted on the Town website.

Consider sharing with residents any particular colour theme or plant choices the Town will be featuring in any given year. This year seeds for salvia and cosmos were given out as inspiration. Also, see if there is any appetite to select a Town flower. Perhaps even put on the Town website the 'recipe' that is being used for baskets or planters so residents can emulate.

2019 Evaluation Form

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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

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