

Evaluation Form

2024

North Grenville



2024 Evaluation Form

2024 Evaluation Form



Community: North Grenville

Province: Ontario

Category Provincial

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

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|---|----------------------|
| Tidiness | 112 | / | 150.00 |
| Environmental Action | 108 | / | 150.00 |
| Heritage Conservation | 115 | / | 150.00 |
| Urban Forestry | 132 | / | 175.00 |
| Landscape | 144 | / | 200.00 |
| Floral Displays | 122 | / | 175.00 |
| | Total | | 733 / 1000.00 |

Percentage: 73.3%

Bloom rating: 4 Blooms

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

Mention: Landscape

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Nancy Peckford Function : Mayor

Name: Ashley Cuthbert Function : Acting Strategic Initiatives

Name: Hillary Geneau Function : Coordinator

Name: Hillary Geneau Function : Director of Corporate Services

Judges

Name: Barb Allen Name: Angela Vieth

Evaluation date: August 7,8,9 2024

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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, and Optimist
- Participation (financial and/or in-kind or employee participation) by the municipality, businesses and institutions.

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GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Your Communities in Bloom judges thoroughly enjoyed our time in North Grenville. The tour itinerary was thoughtfully planned and well paced to include as many highlights as possible over a relatively large municipal area and in a short period of time.

It was wonderful that your Mayor and the entire council was present to meet us on the first day of the visit. It was also great that we had the opportunity to chat with the Parks and Works managers, your Planner and Financial officer on our last evening in North Grenville.

There was much evidence that the municipal staff has been working on the suggestions made by the judges during their 2023 visit. It was encouraging to see continued commitment by the municipality to improve their communities across the six evaluated categories in the Communities in Bloom program.

As we all continue to have to “do more with less”, North Grenville staff and department managers manage to keep Kemptville and its surrounding hamlets well serviced, well maintained and its facilities operating well! However it will be very important going forward to expand the workforce to include more volunteers, perhaps even a discrete Communities in Bloom committee that would include a member of municipal staff, a member of council, a BIA representative, local gardeners, historians, artists and interested community members. Communities in Bloom is so much more than just flowers!

Your BIA needs to consider strategies to increase or redirect its resources and time to make the downtown core more than just stores. It needs to be a place where visitors want to go and spend time there. We did notice that the sidewalks are relatively narrow in the down town area and that the storefronts are very tight to the sidewalks. However efforts need to be made to remove the weeds that pop up between the storefronts and the sidewalks and under the lamp posts. Small window boxes or planters that don't take up a lot of space would add more colour and visual interest in your downtown core area.

There are a number of simple ways to raise community and business awareness of CiB. Perhaps the local newspaper could do a weekly article explaining the CiB program and what the judges are looking for each of the six evaluated categories. Be sure to communicate and celebrate this year's judging results. The electronic signs throughout North Grenville could be programmed to let the residents and business owners know that “the judges are coming” Perhaps a task of the week could be part of that message ie time to weed, time to water, time to trim.

Simple signage in the gardens and park area that are maintained by volunteers or groups is a nice thank you for their contribution. A small celebration at the end of the summer is also a great way to show appreciation for all the time and efforts your volunteers gave. It can be as simple as pizza in the park!

Your garden of the week initiative is great but can be expanded to recognize multiple gardens throughout North Grenville every week without making extra work for municipal staff or the CiB committee. Consider having 20 signs made that deliver the message “your flower bed has been recognized by a friend or neighbour as helping to make North Grenville a more beautiful and healthy community. Please display it proudly for (you can specify a time) then pass it on to another deserving resident or business in your community.” The initial distribution can be done by municipal staff or members of the CiB committee but the rest is taken care of by the individual sign recipients. You get a lot of mileage from 20 signs for a relatively low cost and people are so proud when their property is recognized by others.

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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 | 6 |
| Community anti-litter awareness programs | 10 | 7 |
| Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents | 10 | 7 |
| 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 |
| Business & Institutions | | |
| Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions | 15 | 9 |
| Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots | 15 | 10 |
| Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers | 5 | 5 |
| Residential | | |
| Tidiness, order and cleanliness | 20 | 17 |
| Condition of buildings, grounds and yards | 15 | 11 |
| Community Involvement | | |
| Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street tidiness, clean-up programs, activities and annual maintenance (including promotion, organization, innovations involving youth and seniors, etc.) | 10 | 8 |
| Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community clean-up programs | 10 | 8 |
| Tidiness Total | 150.00 | 112 |

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TIDINESS

Observations:

Overall, North Grenville is a very tidy municipality, judges did not notice a litter problem and trash bins and recycling containers are spread through out the community. Graffiti seems to be contained at the skateboard park.

No dog waste was evident as the judges toured the municipality. Citizens clearly take pride in their neighbourhoods and their community.

Congrats on all your efforts to keep the community clean and tidy including Pitch In days and other community clean up events.

Recommendations:

Wrap the hydro boxes with a town logo or artistic design, currently they do not contribute a nice visual and they block the view of your lovely garden(s). (RC Legion and Prescott St for example)

Consider implementing an extra clean sweep of the downtown core area. Downtown business and neighbourhoods could be encouraged to organize several store front and front yard clean up events throughout the year.

Continue with the popular facade and signage grants for downtown businesses.

The judges noticed weeds around the light standards as we walked around the downtown core, of course they thrive from the fertilizer and watering from the hanging florals.

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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 strategy: policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning / vision; effective bylaws / policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities | 20 | 15 |
| 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 | 15 |
| Water conservation and use-reduction programs: efficient appliance incentives or promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies and rainwater management | 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: <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 | 7 |
| Business & Institutions | | |
| Participation in the environmental effort: such as waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management | 10 | 6 |
| Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities (ex. environmental clean-up activities) | 10 | 6 |
| Residential | | |
| Participation in the 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle) initiatives and composting | 10 | 8 |
| Adoption of water conservation practices & policies including rainwater collection | 15 | 10 |
| Community Involvement | | |
| Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues | 5 | 4 |
| Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership), etc.) | 10 | 7 |
| 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 | 108 |

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

In an effort to mitigate light pollution the municipality has installed night-sky friendly light standards in the downtown area. These standards are designed to reduce glare and direct light downward and contributing to overall environmental health.

The water recycling system at the splash pad is a notable initiative aimed at conserving water. This system recycles and reuses water, to reduce consumption and minimize waste, which aligns with sustainable water management practices.

The planned addition of eavestroughing at the Habitat Garden pavilion in Crozier Park is a smart and eco-friendly solution for capturing and utilizing rainwater.

Ferguson Forest: Ferguson Forest is a prime example of fostering environmental sustainability, featuring impressive seed harvesting and preservation practices.

Kemptville Campus: The repurposing of the abandoned college campus, including its greenhouses and other structures, is a model of sustainability. Current projects include a community garden, a bacteria experiment, and a cacti collection, showcasing innovative uses of the space and resources. These initiatives have engaged the community in sustainable practices.

The Municipality of North Grenville has established robust environmental policies through entities such as the Environmental Action Advisory Committee and Sustainable North Grenville.

The judges were very impressed by the various community gardens throughout the municipality. These gardens are home to a diverse array of native plants and flowers, contributing to local biodiversity, enhancing green spaces, and fostering community engagement.

Recommendations:

The judges recommend that the municipality develop and implement a tree policy/plan so that when trees are cut down for road construction that they are replaced and maintained. This can be included in the contract with the company doing the project. Any tree that is removed from a property for development should be replaced by two. The "Adopt a Tree/Bench/Park/Trail program is a great way for citizens to be involved to help identify and protect special trees throughout the community. This program could be enhanced and expanded. An adopt a heritage tree program/contest could be a fun way for citizens to be involved in tree education and preservation.

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Congratulations on your rain barrel program. Could citizens who use rain barrels could be eligible for a small discount on their tax bill? This would encourage more use and is a practise used in other municipalities.

The popular North Grenville Sustainability Fair is something that should be continued and is an excellent example for other communities to consider.

The visit to the Dennis Family property was memorable and educational. This young family is researching plants and habitats and removing invasive plants. They have made great efforts to attract pollinators, especially monarch butterflies and so much more. The Municipality could support and collaborate with citizens on more of these kinds of projects. The municipality has a great future ahead because their youth are engaged in environmental activities.

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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 | 6 |
| 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 | 13 |
| Cultural heritage polices, 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 |
| Cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs | 10 | 7 |
| Business & Institutions | | |
| Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes. | 15 | 11 |
| Promotion of local heritage, including heritage gardens, native plants, and heritage trees | 10 | 8 |
| Residential | | |
| Conservation / restoration and reuse of heritage buildings, artefacts on residential lands. | 10 | 6 |
| 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 |
| 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 | 13 |
| 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 | 7 |
| 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 | 7 |
| Heritage Conservation Total | 150.00 | 115 |

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The judges were pleased to meet members of the Historical Society at the History Hub downtown. This space serves as a resource for visitors and residents to explore local history and discover activities in the area.

The "Follow 44 Day Trips" route highlights traditional Indigenous lands and provides numerous options for enriching day trips.

The municipality benefits from the guidance of both an Indigenous Advisory Circle and a Heritage Advisory Committee, which help staff with heritage-related matters.

There is a strong focus on preserving and protecting heritage buildings through well-considered preservation policies. The Oxford Mill town hall and school site and the Burritt's Rapids and Lock Station were highlights for the judges' tour.

The new Indigenous Cultural Forest Space in Ferguson Forest is dedicated to Anishinaabe cultural activities. The judges were impressed by this space, thanks to Finian, an artist and business owner, for showcasing it. Please continue to support and animate this amazing educational space for citizens of all ages.

Recommendations:

Looking forward to the next Communities in Bloom judges' visit, consider showcasing a unique gem of your community: your local cemetery. These hallowed grounds are more than resting places—they are living museums, brimming with stories that illuminate your community's heritage and the legacies of its descendants.

The plans for Good Spirit Forest are nothing short of spectacular. The judges commend the ongoing and future expansion of this vital space, which stands as a beacon for educational and historical enrichment. By nurturing this project, you are creating a venue for connecting people with their past and preserving your collective history.

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To deepen this connection, try developing dynamic cultural programs tailored for elementary and secondary schools. These programs could provide students with hands on experiences, to enrich their understanding of both natural and cultural heritage. With the expertise of the Ferguson Forest team, the Historical Society, and the Kempville Campus, you have a treasure trove of knowledge at your disposal. Schools are always eager to welcome experts for engaging talks or hands-on field trips that bring history to life.

Suggest to the downtown businesses that they try to use native plants in their planters and gardens. Small, informative signs identifying these plants as native species can elevate public awareness and foster a greater appreciation for local species. It's a simple yet impactful way to integrate environmental consciousness into everyday life.

Your dedication to preserving the heritage of North Grenville is commendable. North Grenville is a tapestry of rich histories and vibrant stories—be it indigenous heritage, waterway histories, railroads, or beyond. Keep up the incredible work, as there's so much more to discover, celebrate, and preserve.

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| URBAN FORESTRY & TRAILS | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Urban Forestry and Trails includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree and trail management (selection, design, signage, 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. Trail types, signage, risk management policies, accessibility, surfacing and promotion | | |
| | Max | Actual |
| Municipal | | |
| Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest and trail | 10 | 8 |
| Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands | 15 | 11 |
| Urban forestry and trail plan and design, including integration with overall green infrastructure landscape plan, and measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots and trails | 20 | 18 |
| Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy and pollinator habitat tree species, recommended tree list and tree planting standards. Trail linkages , land acquisition, landowner agreements, stakeholder engagement | 10 | 8 |
| Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases . Trail vegetative encroachment control and risk management | 10 | 8 |
| Public information programs: good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs including Trail promotion, signage, guides, trail use protocols | 15 | 1 |
| Maintenance best practices with proven results | 10 | 7 |
| Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs | 5 | 4 |
| Business & Institutions | | |
| Contribution to expanding overall trail and 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, surfacing, signage, trailhead markers, hazard removals, inspections | 10 | 7 |
| Residential | | |
| Contribution to expanding overall trail and tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties | 15 | 10 |
| Maintenance best practices with proven results | 10 | 7 |
| 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.) Trail adoption, clean up days, maintenance and public safety awareness for users, eg snowmobilers, hikers, ATV, horses, etc | 20 | 15 |
| Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation or promotion by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community trail maintenance and stewardship, tree planting and conservation programs on public lands | 10 | 7 |
| Urban Forestry Total | 175.00 | 132 |

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Observations:

North Grenville covers a vast area and contains a significant amount of urban forest and many kilometres of multi use trails. It is through successful partnership of the municipality with the Ferguson Forestry Centre, the Kemptville Campus and involvement by many volunteer groups that Kemptville and its surrounding hamlets maintain their forest and trail assets to such a high standard.

It was also wonderful to hear about local involvement in Pitch In Week and Arbour Day activities. We must continue to engage our youth as they will be the true stewards of our planet.

The three community gardens we toured – the community garden at the Kemptville Campus, the Habitat Garden and the Giving Garden - were incredible and once again the result of a shared vision and support from the municipality, several partners and many volunteers. These gardens will continue to grow as they become a hub for families, individuals and volunteers to celebrate the growing of “real” food and native pollinator friendly plantings.

Recommendations:

Signage was absent at the entry points of several trail heads. It was explained that this, unfortunately, is the result of recurrent vandalism and solutions are being looked in to.

Although North Grenville does not have official Integrated Pest Management or Plant HealthCare plans, the Parks, Recreation and Culture manager reports that he is able to call in a qualified arbourist or horticulturalist if there are any concerns beyond his scope regarding tree cover disease, invasive species etc. This current arrangement is more of a reactive one, rather than a more proactive approach. Council may want to consider providing more on site and regular ongoing professional development and/or training in these areas for the Parks and Public Works staff. Knowledge is power.

With the considerable development and road construction happening, particularly in Kemptville, protecting the existing urban forest and ensuring a healthy one post

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development/construction is very important. It might be prudent to consider extending the conditions in the agreements with developers to include the use of much larger caliper trees and a two-year fee holdback to ensure that these new trees meet the Municipal standards, are acceptable species and that the trees are cared for until they can “manage on their own”.

A tree inventory is a very valuable but challenging project, especially with the extensive urban forests North Grenville has. The Ferguson Forestry Centre is working on one and it was great to hear that Council may move toward officially considering their urban forest as a community asset. This could potentially lead to funding and personnel to gradually complete a comprehensive tree inventory in each community in North Grenville.

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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 | 6 |
| 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 | 7 |
| 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 | 6 |
| Landscape Plan: integrated and implemented throughout the municipality | 10 | 6 |
| 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 | 7 |
| Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs | 10 | 6 |
| Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specifications and best practices | 5 | 4 |
| Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs | 10 | 7 |
| 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 | 6 |
| 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 | 12 |
| Maintenance of properties: lawn care and shrub maintenance (with proven results) | 15 | 12 |
| Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible and pollinator friendly plants) | 10 | 8 |
| 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 |
| 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 | 13 |
| Landscape Total | 200.00 | 144 |

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LANDSCAPE

Observations:

There is good use of naturalized ground cover, mulch and pollinator friendly plantings throughout North Grenville.

We enjoyed seeing the recent addition of the Pride Bench and Book Bench outside the public library. The oversized Muskoka chairs throughout North Grenville are very unique and provide excellent photo opportunities for visitors. Perhaps people could be encouraged to send pictures to a contact at the Municipal Centre to be posted on the North Grenville website or Facebook page.

The wall murals along the creek wall draw lots of attention and its great to hear that more are being added.

Through the many indoor and outdoor Municipal facilities, Ferguson Forestry Centre and Kemptville Campus, there are many opportunities for year round use of parks, green spaces, trails and greenhouses as well as places for educational programs for all ages.

Weeds were quite noticeable in a number of spots in the downtown core, specifically under lamp posts and in front of some of the businesses where sidewalks meet storefronts.

Again, we will revisit the gateway signs into Kemptville and its hamlets. The judges feel that this is a lost opportunity to showcase what each individual location has to offer.

Recommendations

As with Urban Forestry, your Integrated Pest Management and Healthy Plant Care programs appear to be somewhat reactive. While it is seldom feasible for smaller communities to employ certified arbourists or horticulturalists, it might be helpful to increase the number and types of training opportunities that Parks and Works staff have access to. IPM and HPC programs can also be made part of your regular Landscape Plan. A more detailed Landscape Maintenance Plan for best practises, in particular for weed control in hardscaped areas where mulch and ground covers are not appropriate would be beneficial. This might allow for research into solutions available, perhaps even in other communities, on how to reduce weeds without adding work to already very busy Parks and Works Department staff.

More wayfinding signs that would direct visitors from outlying attractions and locations back to the downtown core would benefit both your visitors and your businesses.

In addition to wayfinding signage, your gateway signs can benefit from some attention. With there being so many of them and each quite a distance from the other, gardens

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that require care under the signs are not practical. However there are many other non plant material ways to spruce up the space under a gateway sign that do not require the maintenance a garden would. A piece of machinery/artifact that represents North Grenville's heritage/history, a Muskoka chair, a piece of sculpture created by a local group or even a project from the construction technology class at the local high school are just a few suggestions. These items would have to be securely attached to prevent theft and may have to be taken in over the winter but they would add much visual interest.

Simple signage recognizing individuals, groups or clubs who assist in the maintenance of any of the landscaped areas in North Grenville can only serve to publicly thank the volunteers and to encourage more residents and groups to get involved.

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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 | 9 |
| Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics | 20 | 11 |
| Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants | 10 | 7 |
| Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc. | 20 | 14 |
| Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training | 10 | 6 |
| Business & Institutions | | |
| Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds | 15 | 9 |
| Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program | 10 | 6 |
| Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc. | 10 | 6 |
| Residential | | |
| Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens | 20 | 18 |
| Quality of planting and maintenance with proven results | 15 | 12 |
| Community Involvement | | |
| Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.) | 15 | 12 |
| Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities | 15 | 12 |
| Floral Displays Total | 175.00 | 122 |

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FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

It was immediately obvious that North Grenville embraced the Communities in Bloom colour choice for 2024. Bravo!!

The perennial beds, specifically in Kemptville were well maintained and weed free. A few strategically placed annuals would add that pop of colour and visual impact over the summer months.

The floral displays outside of the Brigadoon Restaurant provided a warm welcome for their dining patrons.

The use of mulch for moisture preservation and weed control was evident in many municipal gardens.

The three garden tours were outstanding!

The Kemptville Campus is a true gem and a wonderfully unique property. It is well groomed by the Parks staff and the unique organic features of the property are planned and created by Campus staff for the public to enjoy. During our brief visit we saw a number of residents walking their dogs, taking a stroll and tending their gardens.

Recommendations:

The planters on the bridges in Kemptville are very pretty but because they sit on the outside of the railings, they are not very visible from the road side. There are planter boxes that install and fasten on the tops of railings, giving much more visual impact. Slowly investing in these would certainly brighten your bridges!

We understand that your downtown hanging baskets had a rough summer due to several issues. We strongly recommend moving to larger diameter baskets for impact. Realizing that the switch to bigger baskets may not be in the floral budget, we would suggest that fewer baskets with greater impact be installed on the main street. The additional cost is well worth the impact that larger, fuller baskets will have.

2024 Evaluation Form

In conjunction with this, training on proper watering and fertilizing techniques is very important for the staff who will be looking after these baskets and all municipal plantings and gardens.

Businesses should be encouraged to do some active weed removal where the sidewalks meet their storefronts. Small low profile flower pots or planter boxes, where they don't impede accessibility into the store would make for a more welcoming arrival. This could potentially be a BIA initiative.

The scheduled garden visits on the judges' tour were spectacular. Next year's tour should include a drive through some of your neighbourhoods and subdivisions. These can be tied into the route used to take judges between itinerary stops. It is important that the judges see a wide variety of residential gardens.

2024 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.