

# Evaluation Form

# 2023

## Elk Point



Growing Great Places Together  
Cultivons ensemble de beaux espaces

# 2023 Evaluation Form



Community: Town of Elk Point

Category: Novice

CiB recognizes efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change which is reflected in several criteria including:  
Environmental Action; Preservation of Natural Heritage; Tree Management and Landscape

Community Appearance	104.00	/	150.00
Environmental Action	93.00	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	102.00	/	150.00
Tree Management	102.00	/	175.00
Landscape	121.00	/	200.00
Plant and Floral Displays	119.00	/	175.00
Total	641.00	/	1000.00

Percentage: 64.10%

Bloom rating: 3 Blooms

**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: N/A

### Representative (s) of Community

Name: Terri Hampson Function: Chamber of Commerce

Name: See next page Function: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Function: \_\_\_\_\_

### Judges

Name: Sharon Miller Name: Marlene Aubrey

Evaluation date: August 2, 2023

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## *Other Community Representatives and Volunteers*

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Yonas Rohner - Municipal Shop  
Tim Smereka - Deputy Mayor of Elk Point  
Marvin Bjornstad - Elk Point Historical Society  
Vicki Brooker - Elk Point Review  
Sue Campbell - Community Gardens/ Allied Arts Building  
Parish Tung - Elk Point Mayor  
Shirley Harms - Lakeland Realty  
Tammy Robb - Golden Loaf Bakery  
Marianne Janke - Exc. Director Iron Horse Trail  
Performance Motor Sports, St. Paul - Side by side and trailer  
Don Conrad - Allied Arts Building Manager  
Scott Cyr - MLA Bonnyville–Cold Lake-St. Paul  
Dwayne Vogel - Wagon Driver - 2nd Chance Trail Ride Society  
Carson Vogel - Wagon Driver - 2nd Chance Trail Ride Society  
Morris Irvine - Wagon Driver (12 yr. survivor double lung recipient) - 2nd Chance Trail Ride Society  
Tyler Ockerman - Wagon Driver - (Tissue recipient) - 2nd Chance Trail Ride Society  
Shyanne Klatt - 4 H Alberta  
Linda Sallstrom - STEP Ec. Development Officer  
Penny Fox - Community Futures General Manager  
Jean Pelchat - Coop Manager

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## IMPORTANT NOTES:

Evaluation is adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the community.

Evaluation is also adjusted to match the capacity of a community population to the achievements in all criteria – i.e., evaluate what they do (achieve) with what they have (population/ resources).

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, Business Improvement Areas (BIA), 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 including condos and co-ops

### 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

Congratulations to Elk Point on becoming a Communities in Bloom community!

As Communities in Bloom judges, we would like to acknowledge ALL the volunteers that took time to show us your beautiful, vibrant, and exciting community. From the time we were escorted to the Municipal Shop in the morning to the lovely supper at the Golf Course we felt welcomed and thoroughly enjoyed the day. As the weather cooperated, interacting with the 2nd Chance Trail Ride Society and the remarkable wagon drivers as well as their crew was such a bonus; being able to leisurely have conversations with all from your committee and representatives of the groups and to be able to share their stories and information was a pure delight. A heartfelt thank you to the wonderful community of Elk Point for their fabulous hospitality and time spent showing the delightful Elk Point treasures!

As a Novice CiB community, first time welcoming judges, it can be difficult to know what to do. Elk Point – you did a stellar job! There was so much to see and learn about your fantastic community. Elk Point is a community that is welcoming and embraces quality of life. It is a “family-first” community – evident in all the natural areas and activities available to everyone.

The entrances to town – both north and south – present a community with history and are very well done. The Peter Fidler memorial on the north end is fabulous! And yes, he is in the “World’s Largest” category. Well done! **An item to place on the to-do list is the replacement of the plexi-glass over the interpretive signs, as well as maintaining the metal frame around them as well.** Age has made them cloudy and a wee bit hard to read. These are fabulous ‘story boards’ so keep them fresh!

The geocaching in the community is a real treat – a wonderful family activity – and brings folks in from all over to participate. Geocaching is a world-wide phenomenon; **a suggestion of putting a section on the [Elkpoint.ca website](http://Elkpoint.ca), perhaps under Visitors/Things to Do, would help direct visitors to this wonderful community.** The number of geo-caches in the Elk Point area is stunning when you look at [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com), but there are many missing; for example, the one at the north entrance. These can be logged at [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com).

**Consider budgeting for a Welcome sign refresh every so often.** The weather can play havoc and as this is the first thing folks see when they enter town it is important to keep them looking healthy – just like your town!

A general suggestion for Communities in Bloom communities is the development of *sustainable* projects – resources such as finances and people. Elk Point does so much with limited resources. It is impressive how much the Public Works department accomplishes with a small staff – WELL DONE!

The volunteer contingent is very impressive! Keep up the good work and continue to recruit! This passionate group of people are an excellent example of your community and why it will thrive in the future.

Elk Point should also start working on a Communities in Bloom Profile. This can be in a digital format and should ideally follow the layout of this evaluation form:

- Primary Sections (like Community Appearance)
- Sectors (like Municipal, Business, etc.).

The wonderful thing about a Community Profile is it is a lasting record of projects, accomplishments, and allows you to tell the story of the community in the past as well as for the future custodians. As you continue with growing your profile it will remind you of the things that your committee may look at to rectify a lower mark, and it will also give you a chance to explain to future judges how you have increased knowledge, awareness, and programs within the community as well as ongoing work for improvement. Examples of Community Profiles can be found on the [CIB Alberta website](http://CIB Alberta website).

Elk Point is a fabulous community! We expect to see more great things in the future with Elk Point Communities in Bloom.

## 2023 Evaluation Form

<b>COMMUNITY APPEARANCE</b>		
Community appearance reflects an overall effort by the municipality, businesses, institutions and the residents throughout the community to create great first impressions and a sense that there is continuous attention and upkeep to critical elements of a community that benefit quality of life and economic vitality 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.		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
<b>Gateway Impressions</b> First impressions of the community including gateway/entrance landscape treatments	10	8
<b>Overall Impressions</b> Order, cleanliness, curb appeal and first impressions	10	7
<b>Anti-litter/Graffiti Prevention and Removal</b> Community anti-litter/graffiti awareness programs	10	7
<b>Regulations</b> Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, private property maintenance by-laws, vandalism, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents	10	6
<b>Asset Appearance</b> Includes public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage, and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)	10	7
<b>Municipal Properties Appearance</b> Visual appeal and condition of municipal buildings and municipal owned properties	10	7
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
<b>Overall Impressions</b> Curb appeal, order, and cleanliness	15	10
<b>Site Conditions</b> Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks, and parking lots	15	9
<b>Furniture/Amenities Appearance</b> Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter, and recycling containers	5	3
<b>Residential</b>		
<b>Overall Impressions</b> Curb Appeal, order, and cleanliness	20	15
<b>Property Conditions</b> Condition of buildings, grounds, and yards	15	11
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
<b>Public Participation</b> In community, neighbourhood or individual streets, clean-up programs, activities, and annual maintenance (including promotion, organization, innovations involving youth and seniors, etc.)	10	7
<b>Community Support</b> Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses service groups, and institutions for community clean-up programs.	10	7
<b>Community Appearance Total</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>104.00</b>

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## COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

### Observations:

No trash. So impressive! The anti-graffiti program is obviously working! Minimal tagging was observed and that is a feat.

The planters along the main street are beautiful – well done! Garbage receptacles are attractive and strategically placed.

As Elk Point hosts a Spring Clean-Up event and it has obviously made a terrific difference in the appearance of the town!

The Art and Leisure Centre is a real treasure for the community. The curb appeal is a bit lacking from the highway perspective. An identifying sign, perhaps some hard scaping like benches and trees, might make this an awesome *Take a Break* location for drivers. There is a lot of real estate between the building and the highway. The entrance lacks beautification, perhaps a couple of floral displays would be more inviting, or an artistic item of art... something that invites a second look.

A few businesses have obviously made a sincere effort at cleaning up and making their property more attractive – and subsequently appear more prosperous.

### Recommendations:

***Partner to Discover Community Service Options*** - with respect to anti-graffiti and general community clean-up consider working with law enforcement and the Youth Justice systems. Kids get in trouble. Finding alternatives like community service that benefits the entire town are worthwhile and can impress upon youth to take care of what they have, rather than destroy things.

***Brainstorm for Solutions to Unsightly Properties*** - All communities have the same challenges when it comes to enforcing property by-laws. Reactive versus proactive, tends to be the norm. For unsightly properties, fines are not necessarily the answer. There is no perfect answer, but a little investigation may show that the property issues are the result of some underlying issue. Perhaps the homeowner has mobility issues, financial issues, etc. Is this an opportunity to help a neighbour? A community angels program may also be worth investigating; summer activities could be directed to these issues and winter could encompass shoveling of walks and pathways, the judicial system can be helpful in this too. The judges suggest making an officer contact/liason through the RCMP that would be given an active role on your CiB committee and may provide more input from the court system.

***Refine Wayfinding Signs*** - A suggestion the judges have is the need for a few more directional signs to facilities/attractions along the through highway. Try looking at your community as if you have never been there; the perspective is very different from those who see the community each day. What you see on the drive through is neat and tidy but very little to entice people to stop and have a second look.

***Creatively Engage the Business Community in Beautification*** - The industrial part of town requires some TLC from an appearance perspective. There is a significant amount of debris – broken and discarded equipment, tires, etc. A reminder to businesses of their responsibility to the community is a suggestion. Another suggestion – this might be a project for the CiB Committee; perhaps offer to beautify a business frontage for a donation. Busy industrial and commercial businesses do not always have the resources (time & people) to attend to their property like they should. Perhaps engage the Town by asking to stuff the monthly utilities bills with a reminder to clean and tidy their yards and spaces. A campaign of “The Judges Are Coming!” may set a bit of hype to challenge fellow businesses to do their part too. As now the fabulous community of Elk Point will have a “bloom rating” perhaps engaging the citizens and business owners in maintaining that or bettering the rating will become a challenge issued by the town, business to business, citizens etc.

## 2023 Evaluation Form

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION</b>		
Environmental action pertains to the impact of human activities on the environment and the subsequent efforts and achievements of the community with respect to environmental stewardship, 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 activities under the guiding principles of sustainable development pertaining to green spaces.		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
<b>Sustainable Development Strategies</b> Policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning/vision; effective bylaws/policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities. This includes activities such as: the creation of Active Transportation networks, fleet management, and recognition of the importance of biodiversity to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	20	14
<b>Waste Reduction</b> 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, plastics reduction programs, mulching of wood debris (Christmas trees, hedge trimmings, etc.) and reclamation of cut trees. Handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection and reuse of compost material. Officially mandating the greening of public events such as on-site recycling bins, biodegradable drink containers, food service dishes, utensils, etc. to minimize the use of plastic.	20	13
<b>Water Conservation</b> Use reduction programs such as promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	7
<b>Energy Conservation</b> 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	7
<b>Environmental Initiatives, Innovations and Actions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation networks such as bike lanes, multi-use commuter pathways, and recreational trails</li> <li>- Horticultural practices such as planned biodiversity, green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bioswales, permeable surfaces and rainwater management</li> <li>- Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation</li> <li>- Air quality programs such as alternate energy sources, sustainable design of facilities, sustainable fleet management, reduction of greenhouse gas emission (carbon reduction), anti-idling by-laws.</li> </ul>	10	7
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
<b>Participation in The Environmental Effort</b> Waste management (reduce, reuse, and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation and audits (fleet management, electric conservation), brownfield management	10	6
<b>Corporate Environmental Initiatives and Action</b> Innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (for example: environmental clean-up activities, plastic reduction) carbon emissions, green roofs	10	6
<b>Residential</b>		
<b>Participation in Environmental Initiatives</b> 3-R (reduce, reuse, and recycle), composting	10	7
<b>Water &amp; Energy Conservation</b> Practices such as water use reduction, rainwater collection and rain gardens, alternate forms of energy, thermostat reduction	15	9
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
<b>Public Participation – Civil Action</b> Participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation	5	3
<b>Public Participation in Activities</b> Community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization, and evidence of taking ownership, etc.)	10	7
<b>Community Support</b> Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	7
<b>Environmental Action Total</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>93.00</b>



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## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

### Observations:

The Community Garden is very well situated. It is an amazing layout for gardeners to tend to their plots. Extremely neat and tidy, it was obvious that this project was well accepted by the community and talk of expansion is so exciting.

Solar power is being used in a few places. Very pleased to see the solar light installations.

The use of electric vehicles for the town will be an interesting study. We look forward to hearing more about this initiative.



### Recommendations:

**Promote Rainwater Harvesting** - consider harvesting the rainwater from the library roof. As the Town has a water limit and then charges for overuse, residential participants may also consider a rain barrel for their use. Perhaps one of the societies or other groups may consider rain barrel fundraising. Placing a contained compost bin for the detritus at the community garden will assist in cleanup in the fall and to add to the plots in the spring.

**Install Recycling Receptacles** - as the judges noted there is a need to recycle bottles and cans in the town; we recommend adding recycle receptacles – bottles and cans at strategic gathering points.



**Offer Composting Education** - perhaps work with a local supplier to provide discounts to citizens for things like rain barrels and composting bins, some companies offer bins for sale and workshops on composting. This is also an opportunity to work with the library to host some training on the power of composting.

**Partner with Composting Company** - consider working with a “composting” company to dispose of large organic waste like trees or investigate a mulch service. Christmas tree roundup is another way to add to your mulch. There does not appear to be a composting company in the region – is this a future business opportunity?

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<b>HERITAGE CONSERVATION</b>		
<p>Heritage conservation includes efforts to preserve and protect both 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 represents the “persona” of a community and 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, traditional cultural groups, and conservation groups is considered.</p>		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
<b>Natural Heritage Plans</b> Management and preservation policies, plans, programs and initiatives: including eco systems, eco parks, trail networks, grasslands, naturalization, wetlands, urban agriculture/farming, wildlife and wildlife corridors, protection of sensitive habitats, species at risk and support for at risk pollinators.	20	15
<b>Natural Heritage Promotion</b> Management and promotion of natural heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development/tourism) including year-around activities and programs for education and use of natural heritage sites (including trail networks) for and by the public.	15	11
<b>Cultural Heritage Plans</b> Policies, by-laws, plans, and preservation initiatives for heritage buildings, cemeteries, artifacts, museums, monuments, heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes and landscape	15	11
<b>Cultural Heritage Activities</b> Initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	15	12
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
<b>Natural Heritage Assets</b> Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, trails, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	10	6
<b>Cultural Heritage Assets</b> Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts including their integration with the built/hard, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	6
<b>Residential</b>		
<b>Cultural Heritage Initiatives</b> Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artifacts on residential lands	10	6
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
<b>Natural Heritage Public Participation</b> 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	12
<b>Natural Heritage – Community Support</b> 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	6
<b>Cultural Heritage - Public Participation</b> 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	9
<b>Cultural Heritage - Community Support</b> 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
<b>Heritage Conservation Total</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>102.00</b>

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## HERITAGE CONSERVATION

### Observations:

The Iron Horse Trail is a spectacular treasure in Elk Point! WOW!

The conservation of the older buildings in town is so wise! The train station replica is so very well done, as it has been utilized for offices and therapies as well as fitted with renewable resource power; it is a shining example that even though changes are imminent the basic historical value of the building has been preserved.



The Historical Society has had many fabulous projects in the past, as well as going forward. Be sure to recruit more members to keep this Society alive! Working with the Library to retain a digital copy of materials creates a lasting and easily accessible collection. The [elkpointhistory.ca](http://elkpointhistory.ca) website is awesome. There is so much information here – ensure it is preserved.

The Peter Fidler statue is phenomenal! It speaks to the community's pride in their history.

The Canada Day celebrations sound amazing! When you build out a profile of the community be sure to include pictures.

### Recommendations:

**Refurbish the Church Bell** - consider refurbishing the Church bell that is sitting in the back of the repurposed United Church into a working item, with the intent it can be enjoyed for future generations! How exciting for the younger generations to learn that the bell had been rung at parent and grandparent weddings in the past as well as many Christmases past. This is a heritage item to seriously preserve. This might be a great project for the Communities in Bloom Committee.

**Develop a Walking Tour** - there are a lot of examples of the heritage of the community. Consider developing a 'walking tour'. A brochure or online tour ([gpsmycity.com](http://gpsmycity.com)) encompasses not only the heritage sites, but also the walking trails in the community.

**Plan for Mural Maintenance** - the 100-foot mural is amazing! A strong recommendation is to plan for maintenance (some of the frames are suffering from age rot). Additionally, not everyone has the joy of Vicki to walk them through the mural. Consider building some interpretive signs (storyboards). Identify the people in the mural. The brochure provided would work well on storyboards. The judges were happy to see many of the persons on the mural accompanying them on the evaluation day.



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<b>TREE MANAGEMENT</b>		
Woodlands, Canopy Management, Urban and Rural Forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions, and residents with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management protection (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, pollinator-friendly tree selection, tree inventory including heritage, memorial, and commemorative trees, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs.		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
<b>Overall Impression</b> Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	6
<b>Strategic Plans</b> Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	15	9
<b>Urban Forestry Plan</b> 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 and managed forests	20	13
<b>Plan of Action</b> Procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy and pollinator habitat tree species, recommended tree list and tree planting standards.	10	6
<b>Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC):</b> plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	6
<b>Public Information Programs</b> Provides information on good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs	15	7
<b>Maintenance Quality</b> Best practices with demonstrated results	10	6
<b>Qualified Resources</b> Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff and/or qualified experienced contractors) and/or in place training programs	5	3
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
<b>Tree inventory</b> Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory and canopy, management of hedgerows and forests, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees, on properties owned by businesses and institutions.	15	7
<b>Maintenance Quality</b> Programs, best practices with demonstrated results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	5
<b>Residential</b>		
<b>Tree Planting</b> Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties	15	8
<b>Maintenance Quality</b> Best practices with demonstrated results	10	7
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
<b>Public Participation</b> 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	13
<b>Community Support</b> 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	6
<b>Tree Management Total</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>102.00</b>

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## TREE MANAGEMENT

### Observations:

There are many trees in the community, and some do need to be pruned and investigated as to their overall health. The plan to plant 10 new trees a year is excellent. Be sure to choose trees appropriate to the area.

### Recommendations:

***Conduct a Tree Management Course*** - Tree management is challenging! Kudos to the Public Works department for all their work and planning with trees! A suggestion would be to provide professional development opportunity to staff. Bring in an arborist, an online course, or an away course, that would provide staff with clarity on how to prune trees, when to prune trees and when to call it a day and remove a tree. We have seen communities offer this course to the public for a nominal price, including simple pruning shears. Amazing what a little knowledge will accomplish for the tree canopy!

***Enhance the User Experience at the Spray Park*** - The Spray Park is fabulous! It is a big investment for the community and well worth it. Consider planting some trees near, with benches and/or picnic tables for the parents to sit on.



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<b>LANDSCAPE</b>		
<p>Landscape includes planning, design, construction and maintenance of parks, green spaces and cemeteries suitable for the intended use and location on a year-round basis. Elements for evaluation include native and introduced materials; biodiversity, 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 and provide safe and secure public spaces. Standards of execution and maintenance should demonstrate best practices, including quality of naturalization, use of groundcovers and wildflowers along with turf management.</p>		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
<b><u>Sustainable Designs – Soft Landscape</u></b> Sustainable designs: energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties (including pollinator friendly) , traffic calming, bank stabilization	15	8
<b><u>Sustainable Designs - Hard Landscape</u></b> Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and public places including considerations for public safety: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, signage including wayfaring and directional, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials including use of artificial turf and its protocols	15	8
<b><u>Landscape Plan</u></b> Integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	6
<b><u>Landscape Management Programs</u></b> Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate, Invasive Species Management, increased naturalization, and adapted maintenance programs	10	6
<b><u>Landscape Maintenance</u></b> Policies, Standards, Best Practices and Programs including irrigation water management	10	6
<b><u>Landscape Quality</u></b> Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specs, and best practices, as an example as shown in the Canadian Landscape Standards	5	3
<b><u>Qualified Resources</u></b> Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	5
<b><u>Year-round use</u></b> Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and people being active and using parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs and accessible public washrooms)	10	6
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
<b><u>Sustainable Designs</u></b> Energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	5
<b><u>Integrated Plan</u></b> Contribution to urban & civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains & innovation in concept & design	15	8
<b><u>Maintenance Quality</u></b> Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	5
<b>Residential</b>		
<b><u>Streetscape Appeal</u></b> Residential yards (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	12
<b><u>Maintenance Quality</u></b> Lawn care, trees, and shrub maintenance (with demonstrated results)	15	12
<b><u>Plant Selection</u></b> Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible & pollinator friendly plants)	10	7
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
<b><u>Public Participation</u></b> in community programs (including children/youth) such as: urban agriculture, community gardens, "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination and decoration (promotion, organization, etc.)	20	12
<b><u>Volunteer Succession Plan and Recognition</u></b> Succession Plan and 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	12
<b>Landscape Total</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>121.00</b>

# 2023 Evaluation Form

## LANDSCAPE

### Observations:

The volume of grass cutting and trimming is amazing considering the staff complement of Elk Point! All the public green spaces are well cared for and litter free.

The rough moving areas are an excellent idea – keeps the weeds in check without a serious drain on resources.

The golf course and campsites are well placed near the multi baseball diamonds. The campsites are well placed with a treed buffer between each site along with comfortable tables and adequately sized fire pits. The clubhouse offered a lovely, well-maintained veranda and beautiful floral arrangements.

The major upgrade of the River Park Campground is wise. Camping has become a fast-growing industry (thanks in part to COVID) – beautiful places to camp can be hard to find!

### Recommendations:

**Encourage Beautification in the Industrial Area** – the industrial area is requiring some guidance in landscaping. The few businesses that have taken part in the beautification process perhaps should be acknowledged. We loved the digital WELCOME (so much thought went into welcoming the CiB judges). Maybe a weekly shoutout to those businesses that are trying to keep their properties more orderly could be given “free” advertising by the means of a weekly shoutout on the digital sign. Weed control and cleanliness go a long way and could be paid back by this acknowledgement!

**Consider Fishpond Enhancements** - The fishpond is very impressive. Stocking with five varieties of fish is remarkable. Consider adding a fishing/observation dock, and perhaps allowing the use of paddle craft. Several youths were seen riding their bikes to the fishpond. Think about planting memorial trees with markers (paid for by the person requesting it). Perhaps a walking path around the pond, some memorial benches or picnic tables would further enhance the area. Thought should be put into stairs and handicap access in the future. There is great potential here for a multi-use area.

**Provide Weed Education to Residents** - “Weed of the Week” information could be added to the municipality Facebook page and/or website is appreciated by the community – so they know the annuals they are growing are not weeds. You can find all about invasive species on the Alberta Invasive Species Council website: <https://abinvasives.ca/>

## 2023 Evaluation Form

<b>PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS</b>		
<p>This category evaluates the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents to design, plan, execute, and maintain plant and 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. It also pertains to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets, and window boxes.</p>		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
<b>Floral Display Plan of Action</b> Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	9
<b>Diversity of Displays</b> Flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	14
<b>Diversity of Plants</b> Annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	7
<b>Maintenance Quality</b> Maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	16
<b>Qualified Resources</b> Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	7
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
<b>Concept and Design</b> (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	10
<b>Overall Plan</b> Contribution to, and integration with, overall community plant and floral program	10	7
<b>Maintenance Quality</b> of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc. with demonstrated results.	10	7
<b>Residential</b>		
<b>Concept and Design</b> (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties including Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens	20	15
<b>Maintenance Quality</b> of planting and maintenance with demonstrated results.	15	11
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
<b>Public Participation</b> in community projects, volunteer initiatives (including children/youth), outreach programs in plant and floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	8
<b>Community Support</b> Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community plant and floral displays activities	15	8
<b>Plant and Floral Displays Total</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>119.00</b>



# 2023 Evaluation Form

## PLANT AND FLORAL DISPLAYS

### Observations:

Elk Point downtown floral display was very inviting. The potted flowers were well taken care of and showed pride in the community.

The Community Garden, although a new initiative was well placed to expose the gardens to the public via sidewalks and roadways. Plenty of thought has gone into the design and rules to maintain them. This is a project that will expand exponentially in the future. Very well done.

A note that the ATB floral bed is such a fantastic display and well cared for.



### Recommendations:

***Encourage Resident Involvement in Beautification*** - The judges were impressed as to how the community pulled together both as the town and the residents. Many beautiful displays and countless hours have been lovingly given to prepare and enhance the natural areas. Try to keep encouraging citizens to beautify their personal spaces as like a patchwork quilt, small areas cared for enhance the overall picture. Once again, peer to peer challenges work.



## 2023 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.