

Evaluation Form

2015

Town of Kindersley
Saskatchewan



2015 Evaluation Form

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Community: Kindersley

Province: Saskatchewan

Category: 4,501 to 9,000

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

Tidiness	117.50	/	150.00
Environmental Action	104.50	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	108.00	/	150.00
Urban Forestry	125.00	/	175.00
Landscape	148.00	/	200.00
Floral Displays	136.00	/	175.00
	Total		739.00 / 1000.00

Percentage : 73.9 %

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.

***New in 2015:**

There will be four (4) levels of 5 Blooms exclusive to the National and International Edition, for evaluated communities only.
82 to 83.9%: 5 Blooms. 84 to 86.9%: 5 Blooms (Bronze). 87 to 89.9%: 5 Blooms (Silver). 90% and over: 5 Blooms (Gold).

- A community does not have to be entered in a competitive category, but will need to be evaluated.
- With the introduction of this enhanced higher award standards, the marking of scores will be more critical.

Mention : Community Walking Trail

Representative (s) of Community

Name:	Michelle McMillan	Function :	Manager of Culture & Heritage
Name:	Joe Newling	Function :	Parks Manager Director Transportation and Environment
Name:	Kim Vogel	Function :	

Judges

Name:	Brad Beatty	Name:	Lorraine Flanigan
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Evaluation date: July 22, 2015

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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
- Organized clubs such as horticultural societies, garden clubs, community associations
- Service clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Optimist
Participation (financial and/or in-kind or employee participation) by the municipality, businesses and institutions.

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GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Kindersley's strongest asset is its neat and tidy appearance. From the spic-and-span residential areas to the well-kept commercial and industrial properties, lawns are neatly mown, sidewalks relatively weed-free and bins and benches are in good condition. The town could seek more opportunities, though, to involve community leaders who would champion specific projects such as clean-ups, Weeding Wednesdays, Adopt-A-Flowerbed and other projects to help meager parks staff maintain the public landscape.

The town's support of its Youth Council, part of a world-wide network that seeks to involve youth in municipal politics and the only one of its kind in Saskatchewan, is also to be commended. Youth Mayor Jillian McArthur works with five other council members to engage teens from 13 to 16 in public events and activities, helping to organize and run celebrations such as Canada Day and Movie Night in the Park. This year Youth Mayor McArthur raised funds for a trip to China, joining representatives from Denmark, Brazil and the U.S. She returned home with a new respect for water safety and a determination to practice water conservation.

In the Profile Book, the judges note that the town's summary of accomplishments from the previous year is especially helpful. The town could build on this base, though, by networking with other CiB communities to learn best practices for showcasing the town to make the most of the judging experience.

Its unfortunate that staff and Council members of the CiB Committee are at capacity, and have been stymied in enlisting volunteer members. To move forward, the town needs to strengthen community support of the CiB program.

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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	15	13
Community anti-litter awareness programs	5	3
Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents	10	8
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, etc.)	15	13
Condition of urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers	15	12
Business & Institutions		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions	15	12
Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	12
Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	2.5
Residential		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	18
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	12
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	6
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community clean-up programs	10	6
Tidiness Total	150.00	117.50

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TIDINESS

Observations:

From Main Street to commercial areas, properties are well-maintained. For the most part, residential areas are well-kept, too, with neatly mown lawns and attractive streetscapes. Little to no litter is evident, so the control measures that are in place seem to be working. Generally, benches and refuse bins are in good shape, and a graffiti removal program is in place and enforced in conjunction with local RCMP.

Recommendations:

Some weed control issues in sidewalks are apparent and the judges recommend hiring summer students to either manually weed them, or use mechanical weeding tools.

The condition of urban furniture is showing varying degrees of wear, from new to in need of replacement. We suggest an annual review of the state of all urban furniture, especially the wooden benches donated by the Kindersley Wildlife Federation.

Also, the town could consider encouraging the creation of a Business Improvement Association (BIA) to foster main street pride.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION		
<p>Environmental action includes the efforts and achievements of the community with respect to: policies, by-laws, programs and best practices, waste reduction and landfill diversion rate, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, naturalization, 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	16
Waste management programs: waste reduction to landfill and results (3-R : reduce, reuse and recycle), composting (backyard and municipal), including activities such as composting sites yard waste collections, shredding of Christmas trees and handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection	15	11
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, shielding for night skies issues, efficient street lighting and energy audits	10	6
Environmental initiatives, innovations and actions such as: Protection of sensitive habitats Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation network such as bike lanes and multi-used pathways Phytotechnology practices such as green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bio-swales and permeable surfaces Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation Air quality programs such as anti-idling, reduction of greenhouse gas emission	10	6
Business & Institutions		
Participation in the environmental effort : such as waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management, eco-park	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	20	17
Adoption of water conservation practices & policies including rainwater collection	15	11
Community Involvement		
Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	2.5
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership), etc.)	10	6
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	6
Environmental Action Total	150.00	104.50

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

Kindersley has taken positive steps to improve its waste management program. Recently, the town switched to a local waste management company that provides better service and curbside pickup, which is a change from the drop-off system used in the past. The town also has a system for shredding shingles, which are then used for road building. The town is also working to establish a regional landfill site at Teo Lake to serve the 17 surrounding communities, which means that the existing landfill, which has a life expectancy of only two years, will become a transfer station.

With the help of the Kindersley Wildlife Federation, an aerator is being installed to revitalize the Motherwell Reservoir, and bring back fish to this popular pond.

Recommendations:

Although curbside pick-up of fibres and containers is a positive step, the town is encouraged to pursue composting by collecting yard waste. This could include shrub and tree prunings, which could be chipped, along with Christmas trees in winter, to increase stocks of much-needed mulch for public plantings.

As the town continues to grow, future residential developments could consider incorporating multi-purpose pathways to accommodate cyclists, walkers and runners.

To mitigate health hazards from mosquito-born illness, the judges strongly urge the town to drain the stagnant water pooling at the decommissioned aquatics centre.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION		
<p>Heritage conservation includes efforts to preserve natural heritage within the community with focus on the integration of landscape and streetscapes in built heritage: preservation of natural heritage pertaining to monuments, memorials, artifacts, museums and history, archives, traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations in relation to parks and green spaces in the community. The participation of groups such as historical societies and conservation groups are considered.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Heritage policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs with focus on the relationships of the landscape to the built heritage	15	11
Natural and cultural heritage management plan and preservation initiatives: including cultural landscapes, use of native plants, heritage gardens, heritage trees, cemeteries, museums, heritage sites	15	11
Management and promotion of heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development / tourism) including natural and cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	20	16
Activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites for and by the public	15	11
New programs and initiatives to promote local heritage	10	6
Business & Institutions		
Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and landscapes	15	11
Promotion of local heritage, including heritage gardens, native plants, and heritage trees	15	11
Residential		
Conservation / restoration and reuse of sites, buildings and heritage landscapes	10	6
Conservation of cultural and heritage elements pertaining to their own private lands and structures	5	3
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual in cultural and natural heritage programs including year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	20	16
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including historical societies) in community initiated, natural and cultural heritage activities and programs including cultural festivals & celebrations throughout the year and preservation of traditions and customs	10	6
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	108.00

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The Kindersley and District Plains Museum has a great collection of antique and vintage items, from china, meat grinders and royal memorabilia to historical structures such as a school house, farm house and blacksmith shop; many school groups tour the museum which is passionately cared for by Norman and Eugene. Exhibits include hi-tech video screens and QR codes that link to further information.

The annual Cultural Days festival preserves and celebrates local ethnic cuisine and customs, and the Kindersley Centennial Heritage Tours walking tour booklet, published in 2010, introduces visitors to the town's historic sites, including the provincially designated heritage post office.

The Cemetery Committee is very active and has recently erected a new building to accommodate gatherings.

Plaques along the Community Walking Trail identify and tell the story of a buffalo rubbing stone.

Recommendations:

Kindersley could capitalize on its heritage by bringing its historical culture to life through more festivities and events that celebrate prairie life. Held at the Plains Museum, these events could resurrect and reenact local customs.

Rather than self-guided walking tours, local residents could lead small group tours, adding a personal perspective to the town's history and cultural past.

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URBAN FORESTRY		
<p>Urban Forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and citizens with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, tree inventory, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), heritage, memorial and commemorative trees.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	8
Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	10	8
Urban forestry planning and design, including integration with overall landscape plan	10	6
Measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots	15	11
Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy species and recommended tree list	10	7
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	6
Public information program on good planting techniques and maintenance programs	10	6
Maintenance best practices and proven results	10	6
Qualified personnel and/or crew training	10	7
Business & Institutions		
Design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees in landscapes and for planting on properties	15	11
Maintenance programs and best practices: watering, pruning, IPM	10	6
Residential		
Design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees in landscapes and for planting on residential properties	15	12
Maintenance best practices	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.)	20	16
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
Urban Forestry Total	175.00	125.00

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URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

With new plantings of more than 80 trees in the Cemetery and in the Dog Park, Kindersley is identifying the need to enhance its urban canopy. The trees and shrubs around the fence of the Dog Park were planted through the town's participation in the CN EcoConnexions program.

An excellent tree inventory has been developed in conjunction with the geographical information system, which identified the species and caliper of all municipally owned trees. Plans are underway to bring the town's Urban Tree Policy under the umbrella of the Official Community Plan.

Parks staff has indicated their qualifications as arborists, and have the necessary equipment to prune and remove diseased trees.

Recommendations:

A significant percentage (35%) of the tree canopy is American elm, which exposes the community to potential destruction by Dutch Elm Disease, which has been recently reported in nearby Saskatoon. The judges recommend that staff be educated in the identification and strategies to control this disease, as well as to be prepared for the potential infestation of Emerald Ash Borer, which will affect the town's green ash trees, including the newly planted ones at the Dog Park. Furthermore, a regular tree maintenance survey could be conducted to identify and deal with, in a timelier manner, dead and diseased limbs and trees that are evident in many public green spaces.

The town is also urged to continue to increase and diversify the tree canopy by obtaining free trees from Shand Greenhouses, which is growing 500,000 seedlings in conjunction with SaskPower.

Many residents dislike the upkeep involved with trees. To reinforce the importance of trees to the community, the town could hold a community tree planting activity in conjunction with Arbor Day, which could culminate in a volunteer appreciation event.

Although new plantings are well cared-for, the use of mulch and TreeGater bags on all new plantings would reduce the need for the twice-weekly manual watering that's currently being undertaken, especially in the Cemetery.

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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		
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	8
First impressions of the community including gateway / entrance treatments	10	6
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	8
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties, traffic mitigation, 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	7
Landscape maintained to appropriate standards and specifications	10	7
Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (parks and recreation programs, city festivals and events)	10	8
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	5	3
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	7
Contribution to urban and civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains & innovation in concept & design	15	13
Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	6
Residential		
Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	13
Maintenance of properties: lawn care and shrub maintenance	15	13
Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, including edible gardening)	10	6
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community programs such as: community gardens, "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination & decoration (promotion, organization, etc.)	15	11
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	15	11
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions - for community landscape programs and activities	10	8
Landscape Total	200.00	148.00

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LANDSCAPE

Observations:

Created through the fundraising efforts of the Walking Trail Committee, the 4.2 kilometre Community Walking Trail that links the town to the Motherwell Reservoir is an achievement the townspeople can be proud of. The paved trail skirts the wildflower-filled edges of the former town reservoir, and is a popular place for walkers, joggers, in-line skaters and even birdwatchers.

To address the community's need for a public gathering place, the town is in the process of approving a plan for a town square concept. Developed in conjunction with a landscape architect, the area calls for landscaped grounds and a gazebo. A new splash pad has already been created, and is a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

At the West Central Events Centre, baseball diamonds and sports fields are maintained to high standards.

Recommendations:

To reward the efforts of residents in designing and maintaining their landscapes, the town is urged to participate in the Miracle-Gro Best Gardens program. Through such recognition of their efforts, residents might become interested in participating in community beautification projects—and perhaps even volunteer on the CiB Committee.

This would be one way to enlist and encourage hands-on community involvement, which is needed in many of the public plantings. To enlist support for projects such as Weeding Wednesdays, the town could consult with Joanne of Puddles in my Garden and Tyler at Prairie Rose Florist, inquiring about customers who may be interested in such projects. The town could also seek help from the Horticultural Society, whose members could Adopt-A-Bed to help parks staff maintain these areas.

The Bees Matter program would be a useful way to establish a pollinator-friendly garden at Dog Park where weeds need to be removed from the newly planted beds. These and all other flowerbeds in the town are in dire need of mulch to help suppress weeds and retain moisture.

At the tourist pit stops where shrubs and perennials seem to be suffering, the landscape cloth on the beds under the Welcome sign should be removed to bring the soil to life. Then, compost and mycorrhiza can be added to help improve the soil and encourage the development of a community of beneficial micro-organisms.

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FLORAL DISPLAYS		
<p>Floral displays evaluates efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and citizens 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) in the context of originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, and harmony. This pertains to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	13
Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	16
Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora	10	6
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	16
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	12
Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	10	6
Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	15	11
Residential		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties	15	13
Quality of planting and maintenance	15	13
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	11
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	136.00

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FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

The community benefits from the generous support of Puddles in My Garden and Prairie Rose florist, which donate plants at the end of the season, and provide hanging baskets at a reduced cost. Prairie Rose also donates end of season annuals to the Caleb Residence.

Fish emulsion fertilizer is being used in all hanging baskets, and these seem to be responding well to this organic feeding regimen.

Recommendations:

Although there are many hanging baskets in the Cemetery and downtown area, the town could partner with local businesses to enlist financial or in-kind support to supplement the number of hanging baskets and planters placed around town to create more of an impact.

To improve the aesthetic impact of the hanging baskets, the exposed plastic liners should be covered with coir (shredded coconut fibre) liners. The town could also work with Prairie Rose to investigate adding coir in the potting mix to help retain moisture and reduce the frequency of manual watering.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT

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

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY

The commitment of local, provincial and national volunteers.

The support of elected officials and of staff in municipalities.

The dedication of our judges, staff and organizations.

The contributions of our sponsors and partners.