

Evaluation Form

2023

North Grenville



2023 Evaluation Form



Community: North Grenville

Province: Ontario

Category: 18,000 population

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

Tidiness	105	/	150.00
Environmental Action	99	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	99	/	150.00
Urban Forestry	115	/	175.00
Landscape	123	/	200.00
Floral Displays	105	/	175.00
Total	646	/	1000.00

Percentage: 64.60%

Bloom rating: 3

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: Rotary Park

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Nancy Peckford Function : Mayor
Acting Strategic Initiatives
Name: Ashley Cuthbert Function : Coordinator
Name: Hillary Geneau Function : Director of Corporate Services.

Judges

Name: Paul Ronan Name: Linda Robertson

Evaluation date: Aug 14th , 15th , 16th

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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

Next year will be an easier year because most of the people we were introduced to did not really have an understanding of what CIB is and what the purpose of our visit was. Once they understood, then they were on board. This will be a good springboard for more dynamic involvement in the future.

One of the difficulties with a large Municipality and a very small staff is that the priorities are whatever is urgent and there is no room for beautification. The reality is that beautification draws community together and urgencies change.

One of the biggest suggestions we would give is to create a Horticulturist position. This person could work alongside a grass crew but their focus would be the showiest areas of parks, sign entrances and floral displays. They should have an arborist designation or at least the willingness to become certified. This would eliminate some of the dependence on outside contractors for minor street tree pruning.

Another challenge is when you have a large geographical area to cover and limited staff to do so. Finding a means to engage more volunteers will serve you well in addition to adding staff horticulture and arborist expertise. Having a volunteer training and recognition opportunity where staff and public community champions come together would serve you well.

The accommodations were excellent and the tour was well planned out and Ashley and Hillary did an exceptional job of keeping us on time and answering any of our questions.

It would help to see more of the departments taking a bigger role in the yearlong participation in Communities in Bloom especially in the areas where there is room to increase your score. It was great to be able to have a chance to meet the various department heads however a suggestion may be to have a staff person or senior staff person from that area guide us through that portion of the tour.

More signage promoting the participation in Communities in bloom would be in great benefit to engaging the community

The profile book was very well done and just needs to be updated on any new initiatives which can be highlighted in next year's edition

It is very positive that your Mayor and your council is supportive of the program and continuing this engagement will serve you well

Where possible more media coverage would be very beneficial to help promote the program throughout the year as well as when the Judges are in town.

More general awareness of what Communities in Bloom is all about by those who are asked to participate or volunteer

A volunteer recognition event to thank, recruit and celebrate participant and volunteers in the program would be a good investment

Although COVID certainly was a difficult time for all businesses however more engagement and support from the BIA may actually help promote these businesses as they become involved in Communities in Bloom

Since the judges' itinerary is always quite full a larger vehicle would help make it more comfortable for the judges as they are in and out of the vehicle numerous times over the course of the 2 days.

Any additional involvement of schools in clean ups, plantings, weeding or special projects would be beneficial to help promote the program to our youth and future leaders

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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	10
Visual appeal, and condition of municipal buildings and properties (including City Hall grounds)	15	11
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	4
Residential		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	16
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	10
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	7
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	105

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TIDINESS

Observations:

North Grenville does not seem to have a problem with litter in the streets or parks. They have a volunteer base that keeps the dog park safe and clean. Graffiti that has been a problem has been addressed with a designated area for artists to express themselves. Generally, the municipality is free of litter and public dumping and this equates to pride in your community.

Recommendations:

Implementation of a Clean Sweep program in the downtown could eliminate the weeds and debris that we saw on the sidewalks at storefronts. While this might be seen as a task that should be taken on by the municipality, it would be an easy program that could be initiated by the BIA, school groups or a community cleanup day.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION		
Environmental action pertains to the impact of human activities on the environment and the subsequent efforts and achievements of the community with respect to: policies, by-laws, programs and best practices for waste reduction and landfill diversion, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, energy conservation, and environmental stewardship activities under the guiding principles of sustainable development pertaining to green spaces.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Sustainable development strategy: policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning / vision; effective bylaws / policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities	20	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	9
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	9
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	5
Business & Institutions		
Participation in the environmental effort: such as waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	10	5
Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities (ex. environmental clean-up activities)	10	5
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	7
Environmental Action Total	150.00	99

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

Although we did not tour the landfill site it does appear that your municipality is participating in a 3 stream system incorporating garbage, recycling and organic collection. You also have policies in your strategic plan that take the environmental impact of your activities into account. A stronger and more active approach to the implementation of these actions would help move you forward in this area and encourage more public participation in these areas. The work being done at Ferguson Forest is exceptional and certainly is focusing on actions to help sustain our forests and encourage native plant production. Also the work being done at Kemptville Campus with the community garden is exceptional, especially for the 1st year.

Recommendations:

Some considerations would be a move towards introducing some battery powered equipment, specific examples of water conservation and a more robust composting program would help in this area. Things like Christmas tree recycling, compost creation and sharing, mulching around trees, and invasive weed control are some examples to consider

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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	5
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	12
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	10
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	11
Cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	10	6
Business & Institutions		
Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	15	9
Promotion of local heritage, including heritage gardens, native plants, and heritage trees	10	7
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	11
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	10
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	6
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	6
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	99

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

There is a very involved Historical society that is making an effort to engage the public and especially the youth in the local history including scanned photos of then and now. There is a very rich historical richness to North Grenville and some very solid efforts are being made by your historical office to not only promote your history but to digitize and track the previous records. You have a very strong website presence of the communities h

Recommendations:

The BIA could certainly help is expanding the great Heritage of North Grenville by working closely with the heritage office and business community to share photos, banners and participate in community events to help celebrate this history.

Concentration on cleaning up the fronts of significant building such as the School that is being used as a venue would go a long way in showcasing your amazing history. Perhaps more effort to have history related cultural events would bring more interest your communities' rich history

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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	7
Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	15	10
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	16
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	6
Public information programs: good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs including Trail promotion, signage, guides, trail use protocols	15	9
Maintenance best practices with proven results	10	6
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	5	3
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	10
Maintenance programs, best practices with proven results: watering, pruning, IPM, surfacing, signage, trailhead markers, hazard removals, inspections	10	6
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	6
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	12
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	6
Urban Forestry Total	175.00	115

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Observations:

It is evident that without an arborist on staff, or someone with those skills many trees are in need of attention. This would include the identification of diseased and or hazardous trees that should be pruned or removed. This is also important to mitigate hazards especially along the trails. With a growing population and the planting of more trees this well continue to be a challenge especially when face with ice, wind and snow events on ageing trees. The work and the Ferguson Forest Centre is exceptional and continued partnership with them in the seed collection and diversified native tree cultivation will reap great dividends for your community.

Recommendations:

Having tree planting related events and celebrating Arbor Day, Green Streets Canada Is a great way to get the community engaged and excited about planting more trees. Even tree mulching events with volunteers and school groups is very popular. Also the identification of any Heritage or unique species of trees that could be part of a Forest and Trail guided tour would certainly be of interests. Also increased trailhead signage and information about the type of trail and its degree of difficulty and length is very helpful to trail users. Also informative signage indicating appropriate trail use is important, eg, snowmobiles, runners, cyclists, horses and or ATVs. Continue to expand the reforestation at the Campus. This is an important project with a huge future impact. These trees could be labelled with names and accession number for maintenance record keeping. A tree inventory is a good way to value the trees on your properties. A street tree maintenance and replacement 3program will enhance what is there and add to species diversity for additions and replacements

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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	5
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	5
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	5
Landscape Plan: integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	5
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	5
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	5
Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specifications and best practices	5	3
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	10	5
Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs)	10	7
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	5
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	10
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	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	7
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	16
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	10
Landscape Total	200.00	123

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LANDSCAPE

Observations:

It was very clear to the judges that your community partners and volunteers are one of your greatest strengths. Their commitment to keeping your floral displays as good as they can be is quite evident. Your residential category certainly reflects this however more effort from the Municipal and Business sectors could greatly improve the overall look and feel of your community. Your gateways are a real window to your community and a greater effort to enhance the WOW factor will serve you much better in promoting the wonderful attributes you have. Gateways to places like the Giving Garden, Kemptville Campus, Burritts Rapids Lock all could really benefit from a focused Communities in Bloom garden feature and enhanced signage. As judges we certainly understand and appreciate that your community is still recovering from the negative impact of Covid and we commend you for staying the course and continuing to plan and develop new and innovative projects

Recommendations:

A more focused effort on your key gateway sites including plant selection diversity and sound weed free management will certainly make a big impact on your community. More signage promoting the fact that you are a participant in Communities in Bloom will serve to animate the volunteers and staff and add an ownership to improvements in these areas. If possible having a professional or well- trained horticulturist or gardener would move the bar forward considerably. You have a very strong residential and partnership presence in this area which is truly an inspiration and by combining their enthusiasm with Parks, Facility, design and heritage staff you will see immediate positive results. Also engaging school groups beyond the Kemptville campus and into some of your municipal sites may also help in this area.

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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	10
Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	5
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	10
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or training	10	5
Business & Institutions		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	7
Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	10	5
Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	10	4
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	16
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	11
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities	15	11
Floral Displays Total	175.00	105

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FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

Your Residents and Community participants have certainly made you community shine in this area. Each of our residential and business partnership sites visits were exceptional. The work being done at the Ferguson forest Centre certainly is adding to your communities access to quality native plant material, the Kemptville Campus has many potential growth opportunities and the success of their community garden is something to celebrate, Leela has terrific energy and has just begun working her magic. Your Rotary Park is a beautiful flagship site for your community. Diane and the many very dedicated volunteers have truly make this park a show piece for all to enjoy. The Wilding Acres Flower farm is a shining example of how a small business can add value to your community by growing and providing various flowers and plants all of which are grown locally. Meagan is truly and inspiration. Seeing rows upon rows of Lavender being grown is another fine example of a community giving back. Well done Devon. The Love Residence was like a visit to plant paradise with their absolutely impeccably maintained gardens and grounds. Thanks to Kaye, for sharing your exceptional property with your community. Other terrific contributors are Saunders Critter and Garden Centre which has been providing plants and rescuing animals for over 25 years.

The Rideau Woodland Ramble is not only award winning but also a great plant resource to the community. Even at Burritts Rapids, the Parks Canada Staff displayed hanging baskets and some small floral efforts for those who came by for some fishing or just a picnic lunch by the water.

The Hanna Residence, Equinelle Golf club and the Giving Garden all contributed to a wide range of floral display and community pride.

It is the hope that this inspiration will be evident in future municipal planting at the Civic Centre and other parks and city owned facilities

Recommendations:

Focus on gateway and key sites where well designed and maintained floral beds can become a calling card of North Grenville

Try to employ or train staff in the area of Horticulture and Arboriculture allowing for an improved product for all to enjoy

Continue to encourage volunteers by have a volunteer recognition event and where possible try to recruit new young participants who can carry on the traditions. Try an Adopt-A-Bed program to instill even greater pride in your parks and gardens and recognize those volunteers with signage in their beds. Less is more, it's better to have fewer displays that are well maintained and designed than trying to extend your resources to far

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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.