

# Evaluation Form

# 2019

**Manitoba  
Communities in Bloom  
LUD of Baldur**



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## Manitoba

# Manitoba Communities in Bloom Evaluation Form 2019



Community: **Baldur**

Province: **Manitoba**

Category: **Provincial - Evaluated**

## Manitoba

The evaluation is based on 6 criteria:

<b>Tidiness</b>	137.75	/	150.00
<b>Environmental Action</b>	130.50	/	150.00
<b>Heritage Conservation</b>	133.00	/	150.00
<b>Urban Forestry</b>	144.00	/	175.00
<b>Landscape</b>	177.25	/	200.00
<b>Floral Displays</b>	161.00	/	175.00
<b>Total</b>	883.50	/	1000.00

Percentage: 88.4%

**Bloom rating: 5 Blooms Silver**

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

**For 5 bloom 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)]

**Special Mention:** Historical Information shared online, with digitalized access to public, through Baldur Website

**Representative (s) of Community**

Name:	<u>Hedy Joycey</u>	Function:	<u>CIB Committee</u>
Name:	<u>Bernice Hiscock</u>	Function:	<u>CIB Committee, guide</u>
Name:	<u>Joy Johnson</u>	Function:	<u>CIB Committee, guide</u>

**Judges**

Name:	<u>Jaime Chavez</u>	Name:	<u>Roswitha Nowak</u>
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Evaluation date: July 23, 2019

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## IMPORTANT NOTES:

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

Some aspects of the evaluation might not be applicable: scoring will be prorated.

The score will vary from the previous year based on the facts that the evaluation form is subject to modifications each year and that the 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, Optimist
- Participation (financial and/or in-kind or employee participation) by the municipality, businesses and institutions.

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### GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

In mythology, Baldur was a god, loved by all, handsome, gracious and cheerful. (source, <https://norse-mythology.org/gods-and-creatures/the-aesir-gods-and-goddesses/baldur>)

The judges noted that the town of Baldur reflected that in a multitude of ways, embracing and celebrating its Icelandic heritage. The town is a delight to visit. Not only is it neat, tidy but it appeals to visitors to discover all its many beauties. Although small in size, the town has a large presence, shown by the commitment demonstrated by the many volunteers and committees.

With a population of just over 350 residents in town, having 15 -16 active committees is very impressive. Obtaining volunteers to help was not an issue. When asked how they achieved such a remarkable involvement, the response was that the size of the town, the pride everyone had in their community made this easier.

The judges wish to thank all the CIB committee members, Councillor Marilynne Pantel, Darcy, town foreman, Lori Johnson, assistant administrator for starting our day with a question and answer time. The information provided gave the judges insight before we toured the town and area. The day started with breakfast with Hedy Joyce, CIB chair, who ensured that we had a personal welcome and gave the judges the update on progress since the hailstorm of the previous year. The judges greatly appreciated the knowledge and time taken by our tour guides, Bernice Hiscock, and Joy Johnson. They provided valuable facts, insights and experiences relative to the community, CIB and the many committees.

During the meeting at the municipal office, one of the first facts that was shared was that Baldur has been involved since 2002. Four ladies initiated the interest and provided the impetus for many changes that have had significant impact in the community. The first year started by watering hanging baskets out of the back of a tailgate with five-gallon pails, to having the town obtain a water tank and pump. The sense of pride and accomplishment shared by all the volunteers of the many committees, administration, municipal workers echo that they have a vision. They may be the smallest community in CIB, but they have connections, to the local level of government, businesses and industries and residents. The connections are what makes it all work. If there is a need, everyone pitches in and "gets it done". From starting with a cairn, now there is a covered shelter, washrooms, bridge, beds, walking trails, blue bin recycling, and the list goes on.

The judges congratulate the many volunteers, residents, committees, municipal staff and businesses and industries that have brought this about. All these efforts have fostered a greater pride of the town of Baldur. The environmental, beautification and heritage preservation through community involvement has benefited from the efforts of all working together.

Congratulations on the first free give-away weekend that had 32 homes participate, reducing the amount going to the landfill. The first garden tours will be this July, showcasing the many impressive gardens in the area. Hopefully this is the beginning of a new yearly occurrence.

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The town of Baldur has had a major water system upgrade this year. The town water plant has a new safety fence installed around the plant, a new roof and new flow pump. The fire hall is in the process of expanding to house the new fire and water truck. Many municipal and RM buildings were damaged last year by the storm, and repairs have been completed this year.

The 8 existing raised beds across from the Baldur Manor were redone with the help of the grade 11 and 12 students. Perhaps this initiative could be expanded to build more raised beds and have them at the lodge, encouraging residents to grow fresh vegetables. The pairing of elders with a younger generation would encourage and educate a new generation of potential gardeners.

The judges learned through comments about the entrance signs east and west of Baldur that petunias were the best option. Perennials did not survive the winter. In conjunction with the school, or even nurseries, small trial beds could be set up to see which plants might do well and increase diversity. Annuals require a great deal of time to ensure they are watered, deadheaded, weeded, etc. with having two apiaries in the area, a pollinator trial garden might be considered.

Special mention is to the town for compiling a most impressive history on the residents, important facts and recording this information. They have records at the museum but also have digitalized the records of people, buildings, online to provide access to public through the internet.

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<b>TIDINESS</b>		
<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>		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions	10	9.25
Community anti-litter awareness programs	10	9.5
Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, unsightly private property maintenance by-laws, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents	10	9
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)	15	14.5
Visual appeal, and condition of municipal buildings and properties (including City Hall grounds),	15	14.5
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions	15	14.25
Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	14
Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	4.5
<b>Residential</b>		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	17.5
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	14
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street tidiness, clean-up programs, activities and annual maintenance (including promotion, organization, innovations involving youth and seniors, etc.)	10	8.25
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community clean-up programs	10	8.5
<b>Tidiness Total</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>137.75</b>

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### TIDINESS

#### **Observations:**

Entering Baldur, its welcoming signs, flower beds, Veteran Park, the tidy and well-tended spaces provide an extremely positive first impression. The green spaces entice visitors to stop and enjoy the many garden spots and encourage visitors to explore the side streets, residential yards and historic spots. Every area is so well tended, neat and tidy, that reflects the pride of the community and residents.

The results of the hailstorm last year are very evident in the impact it has had on the community. Due to the significant hail damage, the town is still completing repairs to the physical structures. As devastating as it was to the residents and structures, the result is a renewed revitalization of exteriors and renovations that have had a direct impact on the appearance of the town.

There was no evidence of litter anywhere, from the business areas, front yards, back lanes, and public space. Considering the amount of construction and renovations that have, and still are occurring, debris and garbage have all been removed.

Given the size of the population, residential, business and commercial operations are integrated in a small area. Every space, private and public has been very well tended, with no weeds, cigarette butts, litter, or any unsightly areas.

Garbage and recycling bins are strategically placed in the business and park areas, including the ball diamonds, Veteran Park and areas where people gather. The judges noted the addition of 4 new ashtrays has reduced the littering of cigarette butts.

The school and 4-H Club do a clean up after snow has melted. Walkers continue to clean up as they go about the community and dispose of any refuse into the conveniently placed garbage receptacles. A street cleaner is hired to do a complete removal of sand before grass cutting begins.

The sidewalks, driveways and parking lots are well maintained. There was no evidence of weeds in or along the paved areas or stones of private, public or business areas.

Benches, ballpark structures, fairgrounds and covered seating area in the Veteran Park as in excellent condition.

The judges were asked to check out the public washroom in the Veteran Park, and given the location beside the signage, flower beds and seating area, must be well used. The uniqueness and charm of this public washroom, both male and female, is remarkable. Any visitor using this facility will leave with a remarkable memory of a truly thoughtful and warm memory of Baldur.

#### **Recommendations:**

The judges congratulate the many committees and volunteers that engage community residents to be litter free. Please continue to encourage youth participation. Your volunteer base is extremely strong and bringing in younger and newer members will share the workload and educate and inspire a new generation.

Given the size of the town's population and limited business support, please continue to foster the strong communication and partnership between the residents, municipal and business support.

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<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION</b>		
<p>Environmental action pertains to the impact of human activities on the environment and the subsequent efforts and achievements of the community with respect to: policies, by-laws, programs and best practices for waste reduction and landfill diversion, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, energy conservation, and environmental stewardship activities under the guiding principles of sustainable development pertaining to green spaces.</p>		
	Max	Actual
<b>Municipal</b>		
Sustainable development strategy: policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning/vision; effective bylaws/policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities	20	18
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	16
Water conservation and use-reduction programs such as promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	13
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	13
Environmental initiatives, innovations and actions such as: - Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation network such as bike lanes and multi-used pathways; - Horticultural practices such as green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bio-swales, permeable surfaces and rain water management - Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation - Air quality programs such as anti-idling, reduction of greenhouse gas emission (carbon reduction).	10	8.5
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
Participation in the environmental effort: such as waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	10	9
Corporate environmental innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (ex. environmental clean-up activities)	10	9
<b>Residential</b>		
Participation in the 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle) initiatives and composting	10	9
Adoption of water conservation practices such as rainwater collection and rain gardens	15	13
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
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	9
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	9
<b>Environmental Action Total</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>130.50</b>



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## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

### **Observations:**

The judges noted that litter and garbage were not in evidence in any area, residential, industrial, business, institutions, green spaces or ditches. The spring clean-up with residents, schools, 4-H club, volunteers and municipality staff has effectively removed and controlled garbage and litter.

Baldur has three pick-ups, Mondays are cans and bottles, Tuesdays are garbage pick-up, and Fridays are paper and cardboard pick-ups. (Bags of shredded paper will be accepted on Fridays as well). The staff at the landfill station are very knowledgeable and diligent. The landfill is well organized with locations for the three R's. A metal, locked storage area for paint, aerosol and small propane tanks is available. There is a tree and wood pile, furniture pile, electronics, fluorescent lights, oil and antifreeze section. Mattresses are accepted, but not recycled, but buried. No chemicals are accepted.

Lucille, the supervisor, carefully monitors what enters and ensures that all regulations are followed as a Class 2. She recently completed course work as a Landfill operator.

The judges noted the cleanliness and tidiness of the area. The land immediately outside the fence is farmed and great care is taken that nothing impacts the crops, especially any plastic that may end up in the animals feed.

There are three public wells that are metered and available for use by the municipality. No chemicals are allowed in that area.

The Assiniboine Hills Conservation District Office is on the main street. It provides water testing and has an extensive list of services available. The office has a wide selection of brochures, booklets, information and obtainable services. Staff are very knowledgeable and approachable.

The schools actively participate in the recycling/blue bin program. A composter was spotted behind the school area, beside the blue bins. Compost generated is used in the raised beds that the students help plant.

Rain barrels and composters were noted in yards as we toured the town. Michael and Arlene Foubert shared their innovative water retention system. Great thought has gone into the planning and application of utilizing rainwater, and well water fittingly, addressing issues of mosquito larvae and algae.

### **Recommendations:**

Blue bins were introduced a year and a half ago, January 2018. Please continue to foster the practice of recycling and using the blue bins appropriately. Perhaps more information about steps needed before tossing items into the bin can be shared through the school, brochures (if there is a budget) newspaper or another method that would work for your community.

Recycle Everywhere bins were strategically placed in public spots. Is there a need for more in less high-traffic areas? The judges did not enter the drop-in center or interior of fair grounds and assume that recycling bins are present.

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<b>HERITAGE CONSERVATION</b>		
<p>Heritage conservation includes efforts to preserve natural and cultural heritage within the community. Preservation of natural heritage pertains to policies, plans and actions concerning all elements of biodiversity including flora and fauna ecosystems and associated geological structures and formations. Cultural conservation refers to the heritage that helps define the community including the legacy of tangible (built/hard assets) elements such as heritage buildings, monuments, memorials, cemeteries, artifacts, museums and intangible elements such as traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations. The participation of groups such as historical societies and conservation groups is considered.</p>		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
Natural heritage policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs	10	9
Natural heritage management plans and preservation initiatives: including eco systems, eco parks, protection of sensitive habitats, species at risk, support for at risk pollinators, grasslands, naturalization, wetlands, urban agriculture/farming, and wildlife	15	13
Management and promotion of natural heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development/tourism) including activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites for and by the public	15	13
Cultural heritage policies, 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	13
Cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	10	9
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	15	13
Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artefacts including their integration with the built/hard, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	9
<b>Residential</b>		
Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings, artefacts on residential lands	10	9
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual natural heritage programs including developing policies and plans, site improvements and management, conservation and education initiatives	15	14
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including environmental groups) in community-initiated natural heritage activities and programs	15	13
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual cultural heritage programs including year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	10	9
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	9
<b>Heritage Conservation Total</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>133.00</b>

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### HERITAGE CONSERVATION

#### **Observations:**

The beauty of Baldur reflects the roots that created the town. The many historical buildings, churches and memorabilia are treasures that are greatly valued and showcased by the town and descendants of its pioneers.

The 80 acres of natural prairie, donated by Bob Sigvaldason is a remarkable gift for all to enjoy, and a lovely legacy to future generations.

Ducks Unlimited partners with the Argyle Municipality with the management of the many wetlands that surround the area. The gently rolling hills, crops and pockets of ponds are a gem that are just outside the town. The creek that is found at the edge of town provides address to canoeing, walking trails and enjoyment of nature all year round.

The Grund Church, which is the oldest standing Lutheran Church in Canada, has been restored to its original state. Services continue in summer on a regular schedule and offers services for weddings and funerals.

The Argyle Museum stored an impressive amount of personal and historic items, including items of medical, dental, cobbler's tools, books, and much more that we did not have time to enjoy. Brenda Gudnarson and Pat Dearsley shared how the museum gathered its treasures, and the personal connection to the Baldur residents, past and present. There have been several projects completed with an independent historian, who wrote up pivotal events and notable people. The information is available in the museum, 5 projects completed with Ken Storie. The Baldur website has information and photos that is accessible to anyone who seeks information. The museum guides shared that they have had many requests for information, particularly about burial information.

The Fair Grounds are used yearly to celebrate the farming community, past and present. There is an annual Solstice Celebration, connected with Norse heritage. This is a new celebration that the judges had not heard of, and we wished we had more information about this practice and activities.

#### **Recommendations:**

The cemetery just up the road from the Grund Church is attractive, and well-tended. Fundraising has begun so that improvements to the site, upkeep and leveling of headstones can be made. We applaud the project to restore the area and to restore the graves for those who no longer have any relatives in the area.

The museum had a few items from the inhabitants prior to the settling of Baldur. Preserving historic relics of other cultures that shared this location would be most interesting.

In the Veteran Park there was signage that referred to the history of the railroad, but was unreadable. Given the impact of the park, the well thought out sitting area, and covered shelter, with the grain elevator in the background, more information about the railroad and Baldur could be added.

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<b>URBAN FORESTRY</b>		
Urban forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, pollinator friendly tree selection, tree inventory, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM), heritage, memorial and commemorative trees.		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
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	15	12
Urban forestry plan and design, including integration with overall green infrastructure landscape plan, and measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots.	20	15
Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy and pollinator habitat tree species, recommended tree list and tree planting standards.	10	8
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	8
Public information programs: good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs	15	12
Maintenance best practices with proven results	10	9
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	5	4
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees, on properties owned by business and institutions.	15	12
Maintenance programs, best practices with proven results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	9
<b>Residential</b>		
Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties	15	13
Maintenance best practices with proven results	10	9
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
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	18
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	7
<b>Urban Forestry Total</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>144.00</b>

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### URBAN FORESTRY

#### **Observations:**

The participation within the community, municipality, volunteer groups, and support from the institutes, and businesses has a positive impact on the diversity and development of different stages of tree growth available in this area.

Many old trees grace streets and parks, as well as public spaces. The arborist and staff have provided positive efforts to protect these magnificent trees. Attention to Dutch elm and watchfulness for the emerald ash borer was shared.

It was noted that there were dead branches and pruning needed of trees and shrubs in park areas, after effects from the devastating hail damage last year. If maintenance is completed by volunteers, a plan to train or assist from trained staff would be recommended, if manpower allows.

We noted many trees planted in the campground and baseball park area. Shade is an attractive and inviting addition to this space.

#### **Recommendations:**

We encourage the continued efforts in maintaining your urban forest. A large portion of your mature trees are getting close to the end of their life cycle and there will be a need to replace them soon. This could be an excellent opportunity to work on a comprehensive plan of action aimed to renovate, diversify and increase your urban forest for the benefit of future residents of Baldur and the RM of Argyle. The urban forest is a vital component of the green infrastructure of the community, as they provide shelter, increase residential property value, reduce storm water runoff and mitigate negative effects of extreme weather events, such as the recent hailstorm. In addition, urban forests remove air pollutants, mitigate climate change and help reduce heat island effect through shade. The financial, social and environmental rewards from an investment aim to increase the urban forest are immense. The return on investment for the community far exceeds the initial cost of purchasing, planting and maintaining a new generation of trees. Applying for a grant to the forest enhancement program from Manitoba Hydro could be a good first step towards this goal.

[https://www.hydro.mb.ca/community/forest\\_enhancement/](https://www.hydro.mb.ca/community/forest_enhancement/)

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<b>LANDSCAPE</b>		
<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>		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
First impressions of the community including gateway/entrance treatments	10	9.5
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	8.5
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	9
Landscape Plan: integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	9
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	9
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	9
Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specifications and best practices.	5	4.5
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	10	8.5
Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs)	10	8.5
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	8
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	8
<b>Residential</b>		
Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	13.5
Maintenance of properties: lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with proven results)	15	14
Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible and pollinator friendly plants)	10	9
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
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	18.25
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	18
<b>Landscape Total</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>177.25</b>

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### LANDSCAPE

#### **Observations:**

The entrance to Baldur is landscaped with red and white petunias, bracketed by cedars. The colours draw the eye to the bright Baldur sign, with the grain and wheel highlighting the agricultural ties. A water tank is tucked away behind to ensure the watering can be done with ease, by volunteers. The shrubs/trees have been effectively trimmed so the sign is clearly visible.

Public space has been carefully planned, so flower beds are included, with weed free paths for walking to the thoughtfully situated seating areas. The judges noted many areas where visitors and residents could sit in front of the stores, in parks, green spaces, municipal building, and the Grund Church.

The Walking Trail, along the creek, is well maintained. The trail is mowed so it provides easy access for strolling while keeping the wild plants to either side. The mix of wetland plants to one side, with native plants for wildlife, birds and pollinators on the other provides an excellent use of green space for walkers, bikers.

The businesses and industries in Baldur maintain a presence that fits with the history and stylishness of the town. The use of similar concrete and water saving planters, along with plantings that flow and unite the appearance of the area, so separation of business and industry is not jarring or discordant.

#### **Recommendations:**

We would like to encourage modified maintenance practices on park benches and tables at the plaza and picnic shelter such as applying a new coat of paint or stain. This will extend their use and improve their appearance. We also encourage the continuation of removal of grass growing in between joints of interlocking paving stones around picnic shelter and adding polymeric sand. Polymeric sand will reduce greatly the growth of vegetation in between interlocking pavers and it is widely available in many hardware stores. Polymeric sand is a combination of jointing sand and polymers that form a seal on joint surface once it is activated by water. Follow manufacturer's instructions on how to apply this type of product. Polymer sand is more expensive, but a bag can cover a significant area, between 60 to 75 square feet of interlocking paver surface.

We encourage the use of mulch on garden beds as this will help reduce watering, weeding and soil erosion. Mulches applied around young trees will also help keep weeds and grasses growing around the base, preventing mechanical injury from mowers and trimmers.

Continue the promotion of community activities such as garden tours. These are wonderful opportunities not only to admire the many beautiful gardens that the community has, but also to share gardening information among residents and it will help increase the shared knowledge of the community.

Congratulations on the first garden tour that was scheduled for just after the judges' visit. The yards selected for the tour will stimulate discussion, and possible plans for the next year. A consideration for next year could be theme based, perhaps incorporating pollinators since two apiaries are in the area.

# Manitoba Communities in Bloom Evaluation Form 2019

<b>FLORAL DISPLAYS</b>		
<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>		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	14.5
Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	18
Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	9
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	18
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	10	9
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	13
Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	10	9
Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	10	9
<b>Residential</b>		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties	20	19
Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens		
Quality of planting and maintenance with proven results.	15	14
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	14.5
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities	15	14
<b>Floral Displays Total</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>161.00</b>



# Manitoba Communities in Bloom Evaluation Form

## 2019

### FLORAL DISPLAYS

#### Observations:

Given the size of the town, Baldur has many areas of green space, with perennials and annuals. The area opposite the business section, Veteran Park is inviting and uses the green space well. The sign thanking the many volunteers who made Baldur a 5 Bloom Community is impressive, offset by a bridge with grasses and flowering perennials. The star shaped bed by the covered picnic area echoes the use of red and white, with perennials and grasses, and hardy roses. The line of trees at the edge of the green space effectively border the space from the Co-Op, with its storage buildings.

Given the large numbers of volunteer groups and their projects, signage to acknowledge who was tending these areas and accomplishments was lacking. The number of groups and their dedication is inspiring and is noteworthy. The scope of organizations who add to the richness of this community is deserving of plaques or signage.

Addition of native flowers would be another layer to add to the natural landscape. Installing flowers would provide the pollinators with another food source.

#### Recommendations:

We encourage the community of Baldur to experiment with a few different styles of annual containers. This could be a good opportunity to see if there are other possibilities on how to enhance the impact of containers. A few ideas may include the use of the concept of “thrill, fill and spill”. The “thrill” would be a plant that provides height to your containers. Some examples include cannas, dracaenas, tall varieties of salvias and gauras. The “fill” would cover most of the container using low growing annuals such as petunias, lantanas or sun-tolerant coleus. Finally, the “spill” can be achieved using sweet potato vines, bacopa and calibrachoa. They add a cascading effect on a container, and they complement colours with their foliage.

Some other factors to consider enhancing the effect of floral display containers in the community:

- Curb appeal - location where a container will have the most visual impact
- Size of container - small to medium containers may be enough to enhance residential entrances, while a medium to large container may be needed on an open space or sitting area such as a patio or plaza. The use of herb containers provide fragrance and herbs such as rosemary are resilient to touch.
- Fall-themed floral displays that can be used during fall and winter

Manitoba Communities in Bloom Evaluation Form  
2019



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT

*Communities in Bloom is made possible by:*

The commitment of local, provincial and national volunteers  
The support of elected officials and municipal staff  
The dedication of judges, staff and organizations  
The contribution of sponsors and partners

*People, Plants and Pride .....Growing Together*