



2016

District of Sooke

2016 Evaluation Form

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2016 Evaluation Form



Community: District of Sooke

Province: British Columbia

Category: Provincial Population 10,001 – 20,000

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

Tidiness	131.50	/	150.00
Environmental Action	130.00	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	136.00	/	150.00
Urban Forestry	141.50	/	175.00
Landscape	164.50	/	200.00
Floral Displays	145.00	/	175.00
Total	848.50	/	1000.00

Percentage: 0.85%

Bloom rating: 5-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.

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.

Mention: Sunriver Community Gardens

Representative (s) of Community

Name:	Drew Johnston	Function:	Chair, SPA Committee and CiB Representative
Name:	Teresa Sullivan	Function:	CAO, District of Sooke
Name:	Brenda Parkinson	Function:	Councillor, District of Sooke

Judges

Name:	Peter Crawshaw	Name:	Bruce Hobin
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Evaluation date: July 22, 2016

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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 corporation 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

The judges want to congratulate the District of Sooke for re-entering Communities in Bloom for 2016. From what we noticed regarding the much-improved downtown redevelopment, it is easy to understand why Sooke chose to defer its participation last year.

We wish to thank this year's CiB committee for their effort in organizing our tour. A special thanks goes to the Prestige Resort. They made us most welcome and provided an excellent atmosphere for us to do our work.

The judges enjoyed the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Municipality (CAO Teresa Sullivan, Laura Hooper and Rob Howlat) who provided a good introduction to the district. We also express our thanks to Drew Johnston who did an excellent job as acting as our host. He did an excellent job accommodating our needs. A special thanks goes to Councillor Rick Kasper for acting as our driver. His long-time knowledge of the district was invaluable to us. We appreciated meeting the other members of Council: Acting Mayor Ebony Logins, Brenda Parkinson and Kerrie Reay.

The judges note that there is definitely a high level of community involvement and it is very evident that residents have pride in their community. Sooke is now positioning itself to incorporate a different economic focus, moving from resource driven to service/tourism. This transition will present challenges but also many opportunities as Sooke moves forward.

We were pleased to see that the committee was flexible to changes and allowed us to see other aspects of the community such as Millennial Memorial Park and Cemetery and the Wastewater Treatment facilities that were not scheduled on the tour. These extra stops assisted with our evaluation of Sooke.

Overall, the tour was very well organized. It allowed us to get a thorough overview of the community, its programs and activities. These will be addressed in detail in the remaining sections of our report.

The judges have a few suggestions. We felt that the Community Profile Book needs to be thoroughly revised to ensure that all six categories (urban forestry was missing) are included. When discussing what is new, please incorporate those aspects into the respective categories.

With the itinerary, include a tour day map indicating the specific category within the evaluation grid each stop applies to. This will assist to ensure all categories are adequately addressed. It will also help us during the day to get a feel of where we are in the community.

Include other relevant materials (brochures, pamphlets, photos, etc.) in an appendix that explains Sooke's CiB participation and helps the judges make a more effective evaluation of the community.

With a the T'Sou-ke First Nation reserve close by, the judges recommend that an effort be made to try and incorporate representation from them on the CiB Committee.

We hope that this feedback will be used to help the community prepare better for 2017.

Special Mention: Sunriver Community Gardens: The judges feel that this is an excellent example of community commitment involving numerous groups and residents to demonstrate how to raise locally grown produce for family and local food bank use. Of particular interest were the heritage orchard and the healing garden sections.

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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	8.5
Community anti-litter awareness programs	10	8.0
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	8.0
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)	15	14
Visual appeal, and condition of municipal buildings and properties (including City Hall grounds),	15	13.5
Business & Institutions		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions	15	12.5
Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	12.5
Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	4
Residential		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	18
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	14
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	9
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community clean-up programs	10	9.5
Tidiness Total	150.00	131.50

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TIDINESS

Observations:

From the judges' perspective, Sooke is a very tidy community. Often, with traffic passing through especially during the tourist season, it can be a challenge to keep the community looking good. Although a very neat and tidy municipality, one of the judges noted excess trash had accumulated on the pier behind the Prestige.

As mentioned in the Profile Book, the Town Centre Design Guidelines 2014 implementation is evident with the roundabout area, the new RBC building, street light upgrading and the involvement of BC Transit in providing upgraded bus shelters.

The judges were pleased to see that local artists and high school students were selected to beautify several bus shelters with artwork and that it is now part of the District of Sooke's budget.

Recommendations:

- When a community is doing a good job it is difficult to make recommendations related to this category.
- The judges do recommend more recycling bins, especially in the downtown core. There is a concern however, that such containers could attract unwanted wildlife.
- Rate of emptying garbage receptacles needs to be addressed. The judges noted that some areas were filled to overflow such as the receptacle at the Millennial Memorial Park.
- What was mentioned in the 2014 CiB evaluations report regarding maintenance contract specifications for the judges to review still needs to be addressed.

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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	19
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	13.5
Water conservation and use-reduction programs such as or promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	11.5
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	13.5
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
Business & Institutions		
Participation in the environmental effort: such as waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	10	9.5
Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities (ex. environmental clean-up activities)	10	9
Residential		
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	14
Community Involvement		
Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	4.5
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
Environmental Action Total	150.00	130.00

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

The judges noted that in the Profile Book, Sooke is planning to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33% below 2006 levels by 2020. This is a commendable target.

The judges also noted that there are water use policies during the summer that regulates watering conducted by various enterprises and homeowners. It is all about effective and efficient water use.

The rainwater storage at Harbourside Co-housing is an excellent example of water conservation conducted by the residents. We commend their effort.

A program of making individual rain barrels available through the CRD is valuable for the community.

We noted that the street lighting is energy efficient using LED and 'dark skies' lighting systems.

The green roof design over the top of the activity centre at Heron View is an excellent example of utilizing space to enhance carbon sequestration as well as beautifying the surroundings.

The judges noted that the T'Sou-ke First Nation had solar panels and contributed surplus power to the provincial grid and had a charging station for electric vehicles. This demonstrates environmental awareness on their part.

The judges appreciated the opportunity to visit the wastewater treatment plant. With an expanding community, there is going to be an increased load on the system. We recognize the challenges this will present.

Recommendations:

- For next year's judges, we recommend that the CiB Committee show how schools, institutions and businesses play a role in environmental issues.
- We encourage Sooke to be more active in promoting the use of the rain barrel program offered through the CRD. This can have a significant impact on conserving water for garden use during the dry periods of the summer.
- The District of Sooke should pursue a partnership with the T'Sou-ke First Nation regarding solar energy options and charging stations for electric cars. The latter would be a way to promote tourists who drive hybrid or electric vehicles.

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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	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	14
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	13.5
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	14
Cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	10	8.5
Business & Institutions		
Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	15	14
Conservation, restoration and, reuse of heritage buildings and artefacts including their integration with the built/hard, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	8.5
Residential		
Conservation / restoration and reuse of heritage buildings, artefacts on residential lands.	10	8.5
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	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	14
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
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	136.00

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The judges noted quite a number of different cultural and natural sites and venues that reflect the make-up of this community.

We had a brief but enjoyable visit to the Sooke Region Museum. It truly captures the past history of the community, the industry, the personalities and how the District has changed up to now.

The judges had a very interesting tour of the Charter Creek Salmon Interpretive Centre and Hatchery. The tour conducted by volunteer, Elida Peers, was most informative. We congratulate the Juan de Fuca Salmon Restoration Society for their efforts in sustaining this facility.

The visit to the Millennial Memorial Park and Cemetery was a pleasant surprise. Here, the early history of Sooke is showcased. This needs to be a focal point for local history buffs.

During our tour of the Sunriver Community Gardens we were shown the heritage apple orchard that displays numerous varieties that were common to the area and reflects the history of agricultural production around Sooke.

The Ed Macgregor Park and Boardwalk hiking trail and the Galloping Goose walking trail add to the natural setting for locals and visitors alike. This is a chance to experience nature up close.

Getting the opportunity to view the Sooke Potholes provided the judges with a spectacular view of this naturally created site. It appears to be a very popular spot for summer recreation.

As we drove around the community, there were a number of properties both rural and residential as well as businesses that displayed the heritage character of the region.

The varieties of murals in Sooke certainly add to showcasing the region's history and natural setting.

The annual Sooke Fine Arts Show reflects the impact of the local art scene on the culture of the community. We were pleased to have had the opportunity to view it as part of the tour.

Recommendations:

- Consider the production of a heritage register including buildings and other relevant aspects of the district. We understand that this is being done through the museum. Such a register could be transformed into a heritage walking tour that would feature older buildings (residences, commercial buildings) and natural sites.
- We recommend more effort devoted to promoting the Millennium Memorial Park and Cemetery as an important heritage stop. Also, please invest time and resources to maintain this site. It needs attention.
- Consider expanding the mural program to reflect both history and current activities of Sooke. This will also add to local art and complement the visual landscape.
- The Sooke CiB Committee could consider incorporating the T'Sou-ke First Nation into the cultural and natural heritage component of the program. Being very close by, their involvement can certainly add to the history of the district.

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URBAN FORESTRY		
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.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	8.5
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	17
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	8.5
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	11.5
Maintenance best practices with proven results	10	7
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	5	3
Business & Institutions		
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	13.5
Maintenance programs, best practices with proven results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	7.5
Residential		
Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties	15	12.5
Maintenance best practices with proven results	10	7.5
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	17
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	141.50

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URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

It cannot be overstated that the District of Sooke takes pride in the value of their Urban Forest. The ability to nurture a wide variety of trees is evident in travelling throughout the community.

Of particular interest and deserving of commendation is the diversity of tree species in the street tree inventory. The number of species is impressive and chosen so as to give a canopy that is both pleasing and sustainable for the foreseeable future.

Of special interest to the judges was the recording of the Municipality's tree inventory recorded within its GIS system. This will be a great asset in the tree maintenance/management program; once full time "Parks" staff are in the Municipality's employ.

Recommendations:

- Although the street tree inventory is diverse there is need for a dedicated tree inventory maintenance management plan. It is assumed that when full time staff are hired next year that there will be suitably qualified personnel with the experience to execute such a plan in a timely manner. Particularly observed are a number of trees on the Erin Estates in obvious stress.
- The Municipality is encouraged to continue pursuing Trees Canada grants and other grant sources to provide trees for residential and commercial areas. Perhaps it is possible for the industrial/commercial sector to become actively involved in this area, under the Communities in Bloom initiative.
- Indicated on page 4 of the Profile Book, mention is made of heritage trees within the Municipality. Perhaps future judges could see these included on the evaluation tour as a more detailed aspect of this category?
- In next year's Profile Book, we recommend that there be a section that specifically addresses "Urban Forestry". This will greatly assist the judges in their report deliberations for this category.

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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	8.5
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
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	8.5
Landscape Plan: integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	8
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
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	8
Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specifications and best practices.	5	3.5
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	10	6.5
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
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	8.5
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	9
Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	9
Residential		
Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	14
Maintenance of properties: lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with proven results)	15	13
Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible and pollinator friendly plants)	10	8
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community programs such as: urban agriculture, community gardens, "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination & decoration (promotion, organization, etc.)	20	18
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
Landscape Total	200.00	164.50

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LANDSCAPE

Observations:

It is obvious to returning judges that there is a marked development within the formal and informal landscaping of Sooke. Of special note is the Municipality landscaping of the roundabout area displaying a theme of "mountain to sea".

Two businesses that stand out in the landscaping of their individual establishments are the Little Vienna Bakery and the Prestige Resort Hotel complex. The Little Vienna Bakery have employed an eye-catching and relaxing theme with their patio garden plantings, with the garden dedicated to the memory of Suzanne Marie Manley. The landscape design of The Prestige Resort Hotel has been developed as a "Mediterranean" theme that works very well with the architectural design of the hotel. It is meticulously maintained and includes a gazebo for hosting weddings and other special events.

The painting of the BC Hydro transformer boxes is a welcomed addition to the landscape.

The judges were impressed with the John Muir Elementary School vegetable garden. A very commendable project sponsored by the Rotary Club and receives support from the teachers, parents and students.

Ed Macgregor Park is an established park in the centre of the community that also houses the BC Spirit Square that celebrates the 150th anniversary of British Columbia becoming a British Crown Colony. The park also serves as the western access to the waterfront boardwalk. There are a number of interesting interpretive signs to assist in identifying wildlife that can be seen across the harbour waters. The stone pillars at the park entrance have an informative sign explaining what you are viewing. We wonder how many locals know it is actually there.

The Heron View housing complex boasts a green roof over the activity centre that is well landscaped and maintained.

Sunriver Community Gardens is an area that boasts over 300 volunteers involved in its upkeep. It is most deserved of our "special mention".

Recommendations:

- The judges recommend that consideration might be given to explaining in greater detail the 20-year proposals of the 2009 Parks and Trails Master Plan. It is an interesting document and what will be of interest to the judges is its development to date and any revisions that have been deemed necessary since implementation.
- Attention needs to be given to park bench and sign refurbishing within Ed Macgregor Park. It is unfortunate that a memorial bench be allowed to become unkempt to such an extent.
- Mention was made that a mural is being considered for the end wall of the government liquor store at the Evergreen shopping area. This would certainly enhance this site.
- It is unfortunate that the weeds present in the pavers by the sign in front of the Evergreen Mall are so prominent.
- Ayre Manor is mentioned a few times in the Profile Book as a landscape of significance. A guided tour of the site next year would be advantageous to this category.
- Sports fields in Sooke are owned by SEAPARC and are for the most part adequately maintained for the community's use. The proposal for an all weather field is exciting and will be of interest to next year's judges. Perhaps consideration could be given in future years to giving the judges an overview of field maintenance practices. It is relevant to this category.
- We wish to acknowledge the proposal to bringing on two full time and two seasonal parks employees next year. We recommend that qualifications sought for potential employees contain professional certification in horticulture, arboriculture, irrigation installation and management.

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FLORAL DISPLAYS		
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.		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	11
Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	17
Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	8
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	16
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	10	5
Business & Institutions		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	13.5
Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	10	8
Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	10	8.5
Residential		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens	20	18
Quality of planting and maintenance with proven results.	15	13.5
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	13
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities	15	13.5
Floral Displays Total	175.00	145.00

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FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

Sunriver Community Garden is a place where growing food incorporates an impressive display of colour. This is a site that deserves praise and encouragement.

The gateway sign is a colourful entrance to the town.

A few residential properties were observed to display a floral component that was pleasing to see.

The Prestige Resort Hotel is a good example of planting with a view to be eye catching. We give this complex a major plus in the landscaping and floral presentations for the Sooke region.

The District of Sooke is to be commended for funding a number of floral display sites throughout the area.

Sooke Harbour House is another business that has a beautiful garden that displays colour with the added advantage that almost all the flowers are edible.

Recommendations:

- It may be due to the lack of communication or an incomplete Profile Book that gave the impression to the judges a lack of substantial floral displays throughout the district. We recommend that future judges be given specific viewing of floral displays, especially those under municipal ownership and care.
- Although the Welcome to Sooke gateway sign is colourful it is of limited duration due to plant material used. Next year would be an excellent opportunity to develop this landscape site with a display celebrating Canada 150. Perhaps one of the new parks employees could be encouraged to exercise artistic interpretation by designing an appropriate planting scheme.
- To give judges a more diverse and complete appreciation of this category, we recommend inclusion of the best of the "Secret Gardens" displays on their tour.
- As an added floral interest to the downtown roundabout area, we recommend the installation of substantial hanging baskets along with the banners currently displayed. As irrigation is already available to the new streetlights, the addition of baskets will greatly enhance the area.
- If xeriscaping is to be adopted as a major component of Sooke's landscape/floral displays, the judges recommend a perusal of the following web site. <http://okanaganxeriscape.org/>
- Perhaps the CiB committee could consider initiating a business frontage competition to encourage participation in the Communities in Bloom Program. There are already a number of businesses engaged in floral displays, notably Little Vienna Bakery and the local Legion. A friendly competition could be a fun exercise in community involvement.
- To increase the floral display component perhaps consideration can be given to the purchase of self watering planters placed in prominent sites. They are used in quite a number of communities to greatly enhance floral interest and are fairly cost effective for specific municipal operating budgets.

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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

Provincial Office:

British Columbia Communities in Bloom

Suite 102 – 19289 Langley Bypass, Surrey, BC V3S 6K1

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BC Communities in Bloom offers a program that provides a framework for enhancing community liveability.