Communities in Bloom

www.mbcommunitiesinbloom.ca

Growing Great Places Together

THE PROGRAM

Communities in Bloom is a volunteer and partnership-driven charitable organization that uses a multi-tiered competitive evaluation process to foster community strength, involvement and continuous improvement. This is accomplished by nurturing environmental sustainability, enhancements of green spaces, and heritage conservation, in cultural and natural environments encompassing municipal, residential, commercial, and institutional spaces. National beautification programs have flourished in Europe – including Great Britain, France and Ireland – for decades, and were the inspiration for Communities in Bloom.

The program began in 1995 with 29 Canadian communities and has grown to improve the quality of life in hundreds of participating communities in the provincial, national and international editions. To date, Manitoba CIB has now engaged over 70 communities in the program.

All communities are invited to participate in the provincial or national editions, within their population category. CiB judges tour participating communities providing an evaluation which focuses on beautification, environmental and heritage conservation efforts. The comprehensive evaluation provides specific feedback on community successes and constructive suggestions for challenges that are beneficial to community development. The program is open to all towns, cities and municipalities in Manitoba and is an opportunity to recognize the work of our community volunteers.

The evaluations capture the overall contributions of municipality, businesses & institutions and residents, including volunteer efforts in the following **criteria**:

Community Appearance reflects an overall effort by the community to create great first impressions and a sense that there is continuous attention and upkeep to critical elements of a community that benefit quality of life and economic vitality. Elements for evaluation are: parks and green spaces, medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets; municipal, commercial, institutional and residential properties; weed control, litter clean-up, graffiti removal and vandalism deterrent programs.



Warren tree planting

Tree Management includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management protection (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, pollinator-friendly tree selection, tree inventory including heritage, memorial, and commemorative trees, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs.



Gimli Heritage Conservation

Environmental Action pertains to the impact of human activities on the environment and the subsequent efforts and achievements of the community with respect to: environmental stewardship, policies, by-laws, programs and best practices for waste reduction and landfill diversion, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, energy conservation, and activities under the guiding principles of sustainable development pertaining to green spaces.

Landscape includes planning, design, construction and maintenance of parks, green spaces and cemeteries. Elements for evaluation include native and introduced materials; biodiversity, materials and constructed elements; appropriate integration of hard surfaces and art elements, use of turf and groundcovers. Landscape design should harmonize the interests of all sectors of the community and provide safe and secure public spaces. Standards of execution and maintenance should demonstrate best practices, including quality of naturalization, use of groundcovers and wildflowers along with turf management.

Heritage Conservation includes efforts to preserve and protect both natural and cultural heritage within the community. Natural heritage pertains to policies, plans and actions concerning all elements of biodiversity. Cultural conservation represents the "persona" of a community and refers to the heritage that helps define the community including the legacy of tangible elements such as heritage buildings, monuments, memorials, cemeteries, artifacts, museums and intangible elements such as traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations.



Portage Xeriscape Garden

Plant and Floral Displays evaluates the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents to design, plan, execute, and maintain plant and floral displays of high-quality standards. Evaluation includes the design and arrangements of flowers and plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses, edible plants, water efficient and pollinator friendly plants) in the context of originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, and harmony. It also pertains to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

Communities have recognized numerous benefits from participating in the program:

- Increased civic pride and community involvement
- Environmental stewardship through the enhancement of green spaces
- Mobilization of citizens, groups, organizations, businesses and the municipality
- Best practices and Information exchange
- Valuable information and feedback from the judges
- Economic development and increased property values
- Marketing and promotional opportunities
- Positive benefits for the tourism, hospitality and retail industries
- Improved quality of life
- Participation from all ages and walks of life of the community

PROGRAM COMMITMENT

The participating communities have a responsibility to:

- Involve the entire community to participate (with the support of municipal council)
- Prepare for the judging during the summer
- Provide lodging and meals for 1 or 2 nights for 2 judges
- Attend the Provincial and/or National awards ceremonies to receive their bloom rating, certificate and evaluation
- Pay a registration fee, based on population categories and level of competition

PROMOTIONS

www.communitiesinbloom.ca: CiB's website gives visibility to our participants in the NewsComm and Explore our Communities section of our website. The website also includes a resource centre featuring information from sponsors and communities along with electronic copies of our e-newsletters.

Social Networks: CiB participants are welcomed to send us updates, news and photos to post on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages

Manitoba CIB Program

Board of Directors

The MB CIB Board of Directors is made up of volunteers who have several years experience involved in the Communities in Bloom program and contributing to the successful administration of the program.

Judges

MB CiB qualified volunteer judges have experience ranging from horticulture professionals and Parks administrators to personal CIB involvement in their hometowns.

NEW for 2026 & 2027

Communities in Bloom is excited to announce a new two-year grant program, **sponsored by RBC**, designed to help cover participation costs!

This opportunity offers:

- Affordable consultation for communities **NEW** to CiB
- Targeted outreach to Indigenous communities across Canada
- Support to balance environmental goals with financial realities

Through this program, CiB and RBC are helping to:

- ☑ Improve natural ecosystems and urban green spaces
- ☑ Advance Indigenous-led conservation projects
- ☑ Foster sustainable, equitable, and healthy communities

Limited spots available! Up to 40 new communities will be eligible in 2026.

☞ **Contact Communities in Bloom** to learn more and register for 2026! Email bloom@cib-cef.com

Provincial Sponsors

SILVER LEVEL

BRONZE LEVEL

National Sponsors

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For more information and to Register for the Manitoba CIB Program

In The News

CIB recognized in the Senate of Canada by Senator Rob Black