

Evaluation Form

2017

**Municipality of Jasper,
Alberta**



2017 Evaluation Form

2017 Evaluation Form



Community: Municipality of Jasper
Province: Alberta
Category: International Challenge - Small

Tidiness	129.25	/	150.00
Environmental Action	128.00	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	129.00	/	150.00
Urban Forestry	145.50	/	175.00
Landscape	169.00	/	200.00
Floral Displays	149.50	/	175.00
	Total		850.25 / 1000.00

Percentage : 85.03%

Bloom rating: 5 Blooms - Bronze

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: Municipal Library and Cultural Centre Landscape

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Colleen Green Function: Jasper CiB Co-Chair
Name: Shannon Greer Function: Jasper CiB Co-Chair
Name: Richard Ireland Function: Mayor of Jasper

Judges

Name: Roger Younker Name: Mauro Paradisi

Evaluation

date: Wednesday, July 12, 2017

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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



Congratulations to the Municipality of Jasper, Alberta for maintaining a five bloom bronze rating in 2017. This is the 5th year that your community has competed in the International Challenge of Communities in Bloom competition. The international level of competition is very challenging when compared to the Provincial and National competitions. In fact, 2017 marks the 17th year that you have competed and been part of the Communities in Bloom family.

Jasper is a community of 5000 residents, set inside the boundaries of Jasper National Park. It is a tourist haven, with more than two million visitors annually passing through the region. A beautification committee, made up of volunteer members working side by side with members of council and town employees, keep in stride with the National Park Service, “to keep the area clean and green”.



The dedication of your residents and tireless efforts put forth by municipal staff has led to continuous improvement in the community over that period. In fact, your efforts have continued to place Jasper Alberta on the international map.



The community profile book is well laid out this year and presents a summary in each of the categories being judged. The revamping of the document from the 149 pages in 2016, identifies a day in the life of Jasper. In the future it will be beneficial to highlight the recommendations from a previous year and indicate what projects were accomplished in the current year. What are your goals and objectives and what have you accomplished to date.



Many communities offer copies of the profile book to places where people often have to wait for service such as doctor offices, tire repair shops, hairdressers, etc. People love to know what is going on in their community and this is an attractive and concise document. It would be especially beneficial to newcomers to the community.

The judging tour was well planned and allowed us to learn about Jasper and to see what we required for each of the criteria under evaluation. Thank you for your warm and friendly hospitality at Robson House, from the beginning to our return there to bid farewell. A special shout-out to Jeff Melanson of Jasper Motorcycle

Tours for the refreshing ride into the hills. Simply, thank you for sharing your community with us.

We congratulate you on your many successes over 17 years and look forward to your continued relationship with Communities in Bloom.

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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	8.50
Community anti-litter awareness programs	10	8.50
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	8.50
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)	15	13
Visual appeal, and condition of municipal buildings and properties (including City Hall grounds),	15	13
Business & Institutions		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions	15	13.50
Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	13
Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	3.50
Residential		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	17.25
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	13.50
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	8.50
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community clean-up programs	10	8.50
Tidiness Total	150.00	129.25

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TIDINESS

Observations:



The Municipality of Jasper is a tidy and clean community. It offers a pristine first impression that continues on throughout the boundaries. The judges noticed an absence of garbage in the outlying areas and in the downtown core. This is attributable, in part, to the continuation of “Tidy up Tuesday”. Each Tuesday morning for 10 minutes at 10 O’clock, residents and businesses are asked to pause and tidy up the area around them.

The fact that the Town of Jasper is located inside Jasper National Park means that annually there are more than two million visitors to the area of 5000 residents. Simply keeping the community pristine, which is what visitors would expect from such a noteworthy community, is a full time commitment. The maintenance personnel have proved over the years that they are up to the task.

The amount of waste generated daily by the influx of tourists is well handled by the community. Waste and garbage collection containers are in plain view, especially in high traffic areas such as the train station and public buildings, managed by the Town and the Parks Service. Many have cigarette butt dispensers attached.

The Town during large popular events is able to expand the landfill site by the use of a recycling trailer. The trailer reduces waste by simply having visitors place items that can be recycled into the labelled receptacles on the trailer. The trailer accepts cardboard, paper, bottles, cans, plastic, and tin.

Plastic straws can become a headache in areas where there are continually large crowds. It is interesting to learn that the Jasper Elementary Students recently launched a program to encourage local business to refrain from using plastic straws.

The location, visual appeal, and condition of the Municipal Office is excellent. Municipal buildings and Parks Canada properties in Jasper are equally tidy, clean, and well-maintained.

The main street of Jasper has many small businesses that provide a wide variety of shopping opportunities for residents. These properties are neat and tidy and provide a good first impression. Most of the buildings are in good condition including their grounds, sidewalks and parking lots. There are benches in key locations, accompanied by litter and recycling containers, as already mentioned.

Street after street, the residents are taking great pride in their homes. Residential areas are extremely tidy and clean with interesting landscaping. Lawns, flower beds, trees, and homes are in excellent condition considering that many of these homes have been built many years ago.

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Recommendations:

It is essential that you continue to maintain the high standards of tidiness in the community.



In some areas of the community weeds were noticed growing along curbs, rain gutters and along fence lines. They pose a distraction from an otherwise pristine environment. The community is reluctant to use herbicides however they can be treated with steam or a propane torch, or simply by being pulled, especially after a night of rain. You are doing this now, you just need more of it.

The shrubbery in some areas of Jasper is being allowed to encroach onto the sidewalks. That is evident in front of the museum for example.

A program designed to recognize property owners that do a great job of keeping their locations in pristine condition could spur others in the community to do the same. Tidiness would be the winner in the end. A small sign offering congratulations placed on a stake and placed in front of residential, commercial or industrial properties is all that it takes.

We did not see any graffiti on our travels. However, when graffiti does appear, removing it with anti-graffiti paint would help prevent future artists from displaying their talents. This paint could also be used when repainting benches, playground equipment, and signs.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION		
<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
Municipal		
Sustainable development strategy: policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning/vision; effective bylaws/policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities	20	17.50
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	18
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	12.75
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	8.25
Business & Institutions		
Participation in the environmental effort: such as waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	10	8.50
Corporate environmental innovation/stewardship, initiatives, activities (ex. environmental clean-up activities)	10	8.50
Residential		
Participation in the 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle) initiatives and composting	10	8.50
Adoption of water conservation practices such as rainwater collection and rain gardens	15	13
Community Involvement		
Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	3.50
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership, etc.)	10	8.25
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	8.25
Environmental Action Total	150.00	128.00

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

The municipality of Jasper and Jasper National Park have jointly recognized the importance of entering into a joint program called the Environmental Stewardship Program. The program challenges decision makers to work toward Jasper becoming a green community. It is taking care of the environment today so the future will be bright for generations to come.



Residents, business and industrial users continue to have access to two recycling depots. They are easily accessible, available 24/7, bins are emptied when full and the entire area is pristine. The practise of curbside pickup is challenging in Jasper due to the many four legged visitors who take advantage of any such an opportunity.

Many items that would normally fall to the curb are recycled through the United Church Thrift Shop or simply traded on line through the Facebook handle “Jasper, Buy, Sell and Trade”.

Jasper has sustainable development strategies, policies, programs, and guidelines. They are fortunate to have individuals who can monitor, communicate and enforce the bylaws. The community also offers public education programs and activities on the 3Rs.



Many private dwellings and public buildings have taken advantage of the use of rain barrels. The Alpine Summit Seniors Lodge is one such establishment. In addition the complex also has a greenhouse for residents to start plantings.



Jasper is a gold mine for residents and visitors who like to walk, bike and climb. The promotion of being a slow mobility area is evident by the numerous bike racks one comes across in the community. They are everywhere.

It is worthy to note that a Hair Salon has recently become a “Green Circle Salon”. 85 to 90% of the waste from the Salon is recycled. That includes recycling hair clippings, foil, chemicals, paper, plastic, batteries, lights, and cardboard. It is a worthy example of a business in Jasper doing their part to help the environment.

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The Town of Jasper is a worthy participant in the Dark Sky Preserve Program. The program developed by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada was launched in Jasper 6 years ago. The program promotes the protection of nocturnal habitat and the visibility of the night sky. Street light is directed downward and in some cases the intensity reduced. The program has offered opportunities to encourage public participation. A dark skies festival has grown from the humble beginnings.

Congratulations to Mike Wasuita, owner-operator of Pine Bungalow's. He has been recognized nationally for his many innovative ways of protecting and preserving the environment with the 2016 Green Key Environmental Award. Congratulations, and thanks for taking time to give us a tour.



Recommendations:

The continuing development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation networks throughout the community is essential. Even the development of multi-used pathways might be considered. Consideration should be given to adding directional/distance signage, route maps and interpretative signage along the various trails throughout the area.

The Rain Barrel Rebate Program as well as other incentive programs should continue.



We recommend continued development of bike racks, especially in the Town centre, sports fields, museum and other locations that draw an audience. Hotels and campground may be encouraged to provide bikes for hire or even free access for customers.

We have found that some communities have developed what is called a "walking school bus". It is an environmental initiative where children actually walk to school in supervised groups. There are many obvious benefits. First, there is a reduction in air pollution by taking more vehicles off the road. Secondly, it teaches children how to walk to school safely. And thirdly, the concept provides much needed exercise and fresh air, not only for the children but for the parents who accompany them on a daily basis.

Schools may want to consider participating in the Green Flag Program. The program encourages environmental education. Please see www.greenflagschools.org.

We encourage you to expand the Green Building code and the LEED status for new construction as a way to save water and energy into the future.

The community is advised to continue with the choice of LED street lighting.

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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 is considered.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Natural heritage policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs	10	8.50
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	13.50
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	13.50
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	13
Cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	10	8.50
Business & Institutions		
Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	15	12.50
Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artefacts including their integration with the built/hard, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	8
Residential		
Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings, artefacts on residential lands	10	8
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	13
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	13.50
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	8.50
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	8.50
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	129.00

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:



The natural heritage policies, by-laws, their enforcement, and effective programs are well established in Jasper. The municipality and the Jasper National Park work tirelessly to promote and maintain the past history of the area. In addition there are natural heritage management plans and preservation initiatives to protect what has become a natural playground for visitors.

Jasper does an exceptional job in the management and promotion of natural heritage through communications, information and support programs, as well as economic development and tourism. There are many activities and programs year-round for education and use of natural heritage sites. The nightly “Walk in the Past” Program, conducted by the friends of Jasper National Park, is but one example.



Cultural heritage policies, by-laws, and preservation initiatives for heritage buildings, cemeteries, artefacts, museums, monuments, heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes, and landscapes is well established. The community is heavily invested in the utilization of heritage buildings as sustainable resources to encourage investment. The repurposing of the original North West Mounted Police (RCMP) barracks is a prime example.

Cultural heritage initiatives are carried out throughout the year. They include National Aboriginal Day on June 21st, the summer solstice. The unique heritage and achievements of the Inuit and Metis people in the history of Jasper National Park is remembered and celebrated.

Jasper promotes its tourist attractions and heritage in Japan as a Sister City with Hakoner. Occasionally the two cities exchange visits, hospitality and varied keep sake treasures. This is a relationship developed since 1974.

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Conservation, restoration and the reuse of heritage buildings is done extremely well in Jasper. It is the law in many instances. Most businesses have integrated their enterprises with the built streetscapes and green landscapes of the community.

Jasper has been able to maintain and expand the renovating of the historic sector, consisting of such structures as, Information Office, Post Office, Anglican Church, Bank, Train Station, etc. To preserve the historic buildings, they were divided into 3 classes:

Class A

- Outstanding examples of town site architectural history
- They are buildings that are of major significance and importance
- Exterior changes must not destroy the historical appearance of the building
- Interior changes are permitted, however if the original interior is intact, conservation and maintenance are encouraged

Class B

- Buildings which are very good examples of types of buildings or building phases
- Proper conservation, restoration and maintenance is desirable and encouraged
- Greater freedom may be allowed for rehabilitation to ensure the building is retained
- Any decision to replace a 'B' building is very involved. A complete analysis of the aesthetic, social, economic costs and benefits must be examined

and, Class C

- Buildings that are a value to the town site, environment, and provide support to "A" and "B" listed buildings
- Groupings of buildings that are reminiscent of town site history
- Not quite "B" list, but provide stability in terms of scale, massing, setback and texture
- While "C" listed buildings may not be missed, if too many are destroyed, the town site could lose important and irreplaceable elements
- Conservation, restoration and maintenance is desirable



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Recommendations:

While the town has done an excellent job in creating an heritage destination, it is important to maintain existing properties to a high standard of excellence. You are a prime Canadian destination and much is demanded of you.

The by-laws in place for conservation and restoration will need the utmost attention to ensure that buildings are not being altered without prior approval and commitment to architectural integrity.

It is important to provide educational sessions to residents on the economics and quality of life aspects that an heritage town can provide. Also the importance of investments in the restoration of public and private spaces.

The museum is an integral part of the fabric of Jasper and retains a very important historical reference for residents and tourists. The location of the museum however, away from the central core of the tourism population, is problematic for visitors. While finding a more central location is expensive, it might be something to look at in the years ahead as buildings become available. In the interim, signage directing pedestrians and bikers to the current location is advisable.

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URBAN FORESTRY		
<p>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.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	8
Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	15	13
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
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	13
Maintenance best practices with proven results	10	8
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	5	4
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	12.50
Maintenance programs, best practices with proven results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	8
Residential		
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	8
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	145.50

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URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:



Jasper presents a strong overall first impression of the urban forest. Many streets have large shade trees providing a vast canopy of heritage trees and additional ambiance to support the heritage aspect.

The municipality has taken the initiative to do tree planting and support the Boulevard Tree Program. The judges witnessed



several trees newly planted this year to replace older diseased trees that had to be removed. There is a substantial replanting effort planned for Patricia Street. Many of the trees there were stressed, dying, or were removed as was the case in front of the ALBA restaurant. The weeds and other growth in and around the tree grates were left unattended this season as the replacement plans were about to kick in.



Jasper residents are provided with a suggested tree planting list. The list contains both native and non-native plantings to Jasper National Park. The desire is to have more and more Douglas Fir trees in the community. The National Park staff and Jasper Town employees are well informed of the tree issues and proper planting techniques.

As a testament the trees planted in the berm along the railway, following the receipt of the CN EcoConnexions grant have done amazingly well. In fact every planting has survived, all 109.



There is a large variety of trees in Jasper, from Pines and Spruce, to Aspen, Birch, Willow, and Maple to name just a few.

The municipality provides public information programs to inform residents on good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs that have proven results by qualified personnel.

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There is little evidence the business community is contributing to the expansion of the overall tree inventory.

Residents meanwhile are actively contributing to the overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties. Many of these are well maintained and in good condition. Residents are continually reminded to plant species that are drought resistant and that are not attractive to bear and elk.

The schools and local volunteer organizations are actively involved in tree planting and conservation programs.

The threat of an out of control forest fire is always on the mind of those associated with the parks service. The Jasper Fire Smart-Forest Wise project is today recognized as a leader in forest management across Canada. The Fire Smart Program involves the thinning of the forest near the border of Jasper and surrounding businesses. This is done to reduce the risk of forest fires and to restore the natural habitat for wildlife. The wooded areas, if left unattended, become dense and entangled so bad that it becomes fuel for a fire if one was to break out. In fact, controlled burning from time to time makes conditions much better should a massive fire come Jasper's way.

Jasper residents, in the past year, were offered a Verbenone Pouch to help with the outbreak of the Mountain Pine Beetle. More than 300 individual pouches have been placed on vulnerable pine trees to date. In addition the management of diseased trees is a work in progress. It is understood that thinning and removal of dying trees, following by burning, is the only solution.



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Recommendations:

To further support the tree planting initiatives, it is important that the municipality and the National Park service continue to provide education sessions on proper tree planting and maintenance techniques.

The town would be wise to incorporate a greater diversity in their tree selection. This not only adds variety and interest to the streetscapes but it also protects the loss of trees due to a disease or bugs such as the Dutch Elm and the Pine Beetle.

Encourage businesses to plant trees on their properties to add to the urban forestry and provide a buffer, shade and habitat for wildlife.

In the large area along the railway, dozens of native trees have been planted, thanks to the CN EcoConnexions Program. If future planting is to take place we recommend that you insist that this work be carried out, in part at least, by involving children and students in an environmental action setting.

Trees on Patricia Street should be replaced. Jasper is working actively in this direction. The project should be well on its way by the fall. A reminder that tree grates and tree protectors are to be maintained as well, free from weeds, cigarette butts, etc.

Jasper has so many green spaces and works hard on keeping them pristine. It is recommended to select an area within a green corridor and plant native species, identifying the quality characteristics of each. The area would be similar to a test garden.

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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
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
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	4
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	10	8.50
Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs)	10	8.50
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	8.50
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	13.50
Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	8
Residential		
Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	13
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	8.50
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	17.50
Landscape Total	200.00	169.00

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LANDSCAPE

Observations:



The business and industrial areas of Jasper are well maintained. The entrance signage on the highway is in good condition and supports the heritage theme that you have arrived in a special part of western Canada.

Jasper has taken a big leap into utilizing sustainable designs with the use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, and suitable plant varieties. The evidence is found in many residential properties as well as the municipality.

The streetscapes in Jasper display banners, public art, furnishings, and signage. The sidewalks provide residents opportunities to sit out in front of local establishments and under large trees to enjoy a beverage and visit with friends.

The turf management of the central core and other grassed areas is well-maintained, considering the fact that more than two millions visitors pass through the area annually. The arrival of moisture would be a welcome relief to what is already a dry period.

The Cemetery will continue to receive the loving care it deserves. The expansion plans are being welcomed by the community. The mapping of the plots and the list of names to assist family members in searching for loved ones is well maintained and updated. The Cemetery is generally well-maintained and the grave stones are in good condition.



The Jasper Local Food Society is responsible for the community garden, the farmers market, and the presentation of a number of educational events throughout the year. The community garden, consisting of 56 plots, is a fine example of utilizing reclaimed space. The project was completed seven years ago by donations and by many volunteers. It is fully subscribed with an annual waiting list.

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The pedestrian underpass, used when the level crossing is blocked by trains, is planted with native Roses, Cinquefoil, Aspen, Dogwood, Kinnikinnick, Spruce, Pine and native grasses.

The significance of “The White Rock” may be lost in the hustle and bustle of tourists seeking to see Jasper. A walking challenge visitor map, identifying many important sites and location might be developed for those you have a desire to hunt for treasure in Jasper.

Jasper is very conscious of making sure sidewalks and buildings are accessible to people with disabilities. The sidewalks always have suitable ramps for access to wheelchairs. This was also noted at Pyramid Lake.



The Jasper Municipal Library and Cultural Centre is a Green Building. It is a leader in Energy and Environmental Design, built to a LEED Silver standard. The completed construction increases the efficiency in the use of energy, water, and materials, and reduces the impact on human health and the environment. The structure is now part of the original 1926 heritage building. Inside we can find various classrooms dedicated to children, music, song, and painting. Special

areas allow local artists to exhibit their works. The facility is now home to the Council Chambers and the mayor’s office. The numerous and varied awards Jasper has received from Communities in Bloom are proudly displayed.



We appreciate the Book Nook initiative. Four book exchange stations or mini libraries have popped up recently in Jasper. Books are available to everyone, free of charge. You can drop one off and pick one up.

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Recommendations:

The median along the main entrance to Jasper is planted in native grasses and trees. It is developed as a naturalized area. In addition, to keep the elk and bears from the area, wire fencing is erected surrounding the numerous tree species for their protection. We recognize the need for the many layers of protection, but it takes away from the natural vista of the community. Visitors to Jasper expect a pristine environment, a show place of sorts. Is it time to reconsider the look of the medians, in light of the location? Is there other plant material that will be offensive to the elk and bears?



Continue to maintain the existing xeriscaping areas in the municipality with prudent weed control measures and top up of mulching materials as needed. Many of the flower and shrub beds in the community are very weedy. The municipal library is an example of a landscape that is somewhat pristine and well cared for. Neighbourhood resident work teams could be arranged to help weed and freshen the many flower and shrub beds in the Jasper area. In many cases the ten minute tidy up on Tuesdays could be extended to the beds. The plantings located at the front of the museum are in need of some tender loving care, especially the removal of grass from the shrubs.

With the Community Garden being fully subscribed with a waiting list in place, it may be an opportunity for the municipality to expand the existing garden. The plan to continue development of a seed nursery and a seed library are worthwhile initiatives. The fencing along the garden could use colour. That may be a challenge presented to a school class. Including colourful aboriginal symbols might also be considered. Some areas hang children's rubber boots, filled with colourful plant material. We do understand that the elk might also enjoy such a treat. The community might want to consider developing second garden area, if vacant space is identified.

Many fire hydrants are in poor condition. Involving the school children in adopting a hydrant to paint in vibrant colours and images would be an opportunity to improve the aesthetics of the streets and teach fire safety. Remember the western mountainous heritage theme and associated animals. The hydrant located between Jasper the Bear Park, the area mascot, and the 1913 CIBC building is one that could benefit from an animal theme.



Some structures are in need of a little tender loving care, such as the doors into the old fire hall. They are screaming, "paint me please". Others, such as the old bus stop, adjacent to the Two Brothers Totem Pole, should be cleaned or removed.

The dog park appears to be well used by residents. The fenced area is not only for the entertainment of dogs. It is or can be a social setting for residents who come together for a common purpose. The addition of more benches, picnic table, and a treed area will all add to the ambiance. The following website may be of some help to the organizers, who someday wish to refurbish the existing location, [http://www.dog-on-it-parks.com/Successful Dog Parks Revised 2012.pdf](http://www.dog-on-it-parks.com/Successful_Dog_Parks_Revised_2012.pdf)

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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	13
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	8.50
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	17
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	10	8.50
Business & Institutions		
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	8
Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	10	8
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	17
Quality of planting and maintenance with proven results.	15	13
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	13.50
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities	15	13
Floral Displays Total	175.00	149.50

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FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

The Municipality of Jasper has done a very good job of integrating floral displays into the overall landscape plan and distribution throughout the community. This year, being the 150th Anniversary of Canada, many have selected the red and white colours in all kinds of displays throughout the neighbourhoods.

We were impressed with the floral displays in all sectors, all of which are congratulated for their commitment to beauty.

There are numerous displays including flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, and window-boxes in front of buildings. Many of the public beds and private gardens display a beautiful array of annuals, shrubs, perennials and tulips in the spring. We recognize the altitude of Jasper limits the number of frost free days annually to not much more than a two month period.

The historic center of Jasper, being largely built, was enhanced with pots hanging from the poles of street lighting, and flower baskets on the sidewalks. The colours have a great visual impact.

Many residents have beautiful gardens, pots and hanging baskets. There are numerous pots displaying a variety of annuals at doorways and in the xeriscaping. Several homes also have vegetable gardens in the back and front yards. One amazing garden and gardener is Analise Lagner, owner of the Austrian Haven B & B. The oasis she has created is a showpiece for all residents of Jasper.

Many area businesses are doing their part to add to the floral displays. It is evident they understand that having a beautiful landscape is good for business.

Particularly appreciated was the choice of planting white and red flowers in the flowerbed in front of Robson House. The colors of the Canadian Flag, remembering that this year celebrate the 150th anniversary of the constitution.



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Recommendations:

Incorporating edible materials into the planters and flower beds throughout the community would provide an eye catching display of texture as well as an edible product. These could include lettuce varieties, Swiss chard, tomatoes, peppers or whatever would best suit the chosen raised beds and other planting venues.

The floral displays including flower beds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes in front of buildings and along the railings could have greater diversity in the plant materials. This could include center plants that create more height, a greater variety of colours and textures. Or, if the community adopted a colour palette that supported their heritage flowers, this could be a community wide program so that all homeowners participated in creating this unique visual delight.



In flower beds, the addition of perennials would provide long lasting plant material. These could be the base of the garden with annuals to fill in the gaps and provide additional colour, considering the shortened frost free season. The garden at the Alpine Summit Seniors Lodge is a labour of love. It is a great example of relatively low maintenance, high impact gardening that could be easily incorporated throughout the community.

The window boxes at the Alberta Motor Association building should be planted annually. It might be a project for the volunteer at the community garden, since the structure neighbours the garden.

Continue to involve residents and students in the planting and caring of the floral displays that are a lovely addition to the Japer.

Communities in Bloom might be encouraged to organize a competition each year featuring private "flower garden" and include businesses. This in the future will increase community collaboration and will make the interior landscape more beautiful, for both residents and tourists, who can enjoy visiting not only the central shopping area but also the residential area. There are many ways to accomplish such an idea. It might be interesting to let the public, residents of all ages and tourists vote for their favorite garden or business.

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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

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