

Growing Together GREAT PLACES

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2024 Provincial Edition
- CiB and the 3 Pillars of Sustainability
- Tips For Starting A Successful Communities In Bloom Group
- Registration Form and Program Info

GOLD SPONSORS:



GREEN BUD SPONSOR

Equinox Environmental Products

NATIONAL CIB MAJOR SPONSOR

Scotts Canada

SUPPORTERS

BC Landscape & Nursery Association
BC Recreation & Parks Association
Invasive Species Council of BC

MEMBER OF

[Gardens BC](#)

BC Council of Garden Clubs



British Columbia
Communities in Bloom

19951 FRASER HIGHWAY
LANGLEY, BC V3A 4E2
(604) 576-6506

www.bccib.ca

[Facebook](#)

BC CiB [Privacy Policy](#)

ITS TIME TO REGISTER

2024 B.C. Communities in Bloom Program – Provincial Edition

Participating communities unanimously agree there is nothing like Communities in Bloom for its collaboration of key stakeholders and citizens that support environmental and economic improvement initiatives. In addition, Communities in Bloom provides a realistic return on investment that is measurable, predictable and accountable.

The CiB program consists of communities receiving information and being evaluated by a jury of trained professionals. The evaluation process views up to six-key criteria of Community Appearance, Environmental Action, Heritage Conservation, Tree Management, Landscape and Plant & Floral Displays and is additionally viewed within the sectors of Municipal, Business/Institution, Residential and Community Involvement.

Register before March 31 and get started growing your commUnity pride!

Smaller community groups or garden clubs are encouraged to register in the Community Showcase non-evaluated program before August 31.

All participants are profiled throughout the season on the website, newsletter, and social media. There are also promotional and grant opportunities through special initiatives for registered participants.





CiB supports the 3 pillars of Sustainability.

SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Engages citizens of all ages.

Builds commUnity pride.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Improves green spaces for locals and visitors.

Attracts business support and investment.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT

Encourages responsible horticulture practices.

Creates awareness for climate change mitigation efforts.

Recognition for staff and volunteer groups.

Provides a framework for action with proven results.

Transforms overall appearance of community.

Growing Great Places Together

www.bccib.ca

Tips For Starting A Successful Communities In Bloom Group

Form a local CiB Committee:

- Look for a community cheerleader who will help spearhead your CiB effort.
- Try for one municipal representative from Council, Parks & Rec or Public Works
- Look for a representative from your local Chamber of commerce, BIA, Economic Dev.
- Encourage NEW gardeners and provide some guidance from local garden club members, master gardeners, local nursery/garden centres.

Create awareness for your CiB groups efforts:

- Municipal communications, website
- Social media (create a new page or ask for help from established groups)
- Local papers (Great for Garden Tips or announcing community events)

Engaged the community:

- Promote to homeowners, apartment dwellers, youth, and other service groups.
- Initiate projects to appeal to a variety of age groups. Create opportunities to be culturally diverse.
- Allow volunteers to direct projects they want to be involved in.
- Encourage community wide tidy-up efforts.

Consider new legacy projects for community:

- Low water gardens (xeriscape), rain gardens, community gardens with portion being donated to local food banks.
- Renovate a tired area. Improve the gateway gardens near entrance signage.
- Encourage Pollinator gardens – Identify the types of pollinators that are to be attracted.

Create a local Awards program to recognize your outstanding residential or business properties:

- Nominate your neighbour application process or develop award categories and find the best ones.
- Creating a window signage decal or door hanger as an award. (Getting some Scotts Best Garden Selection signs are an application process early in the year)
- Recognize best ones in local papers.
- Host a Thank-You event for volunteers and contributors at a year-end party.
- Winners of key prizes can nominate following year's champions.

Fundraising ideas

- Sponsor or rent self-watering planters (municipality purchases, CiB group plants and business maintains)
- Plant sales, Seedy Saturday's, Partner with a grower to sell a particular plant.
- Garden Tours, Christmas concerts.
- Parking lot concerts, Concerts in the Park
- Festivals need manpower for events and will often donate to the CiB group.
- Many of these ideas had sponsors paying for things like the band, food, etc.

How To Get The Most Out Of A CiB Evaluation

Start with three criteria first year if your community is small or volunteer group is brand new.

Works best when there is a representative who understands each evaluation criteria.

- Plan for a Judges tour to showcase 80% of the community in all evaluation criteria.
- Tell your community's story with a Community Profile document to communicate the elements not shown on the evaluation tour.
- Profile Document can become a "Welcome Package" of information for new residents and businesses.
- Upon registration more information is provided from BC Communities in Bloom with the Getting Started Package.
- Celebrate your community's results!

Contact Catherine to request more information at c.kennedy@telus.net 604 576-6506



British Columbia
Communities in Bloom

BC Communities in Bloom 2024 PROVINCIAL EDITION Registration Form

DEADLINE
MARCH 31, 2024

MUNICIPALITY (PLEASE PRINT)	TOTAL POPULATION	MAYOR
NAME OF MUNICIPAL CONTACT	POSITION / TITLE	
ADDRESS	CITY	POSTAL CODE
()		
PHONE	MUNICIPAL CONTACT EMAIL	
NAME OF COMMUNITY CONTACT OR LOCAL CiB CHAIR	WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR COMMUNITY	
()		
PHONE	COMMUNITY CONTACT/CHAIR E-MAIL	
PROGRAM OPTIONS (indicate your level of participation)		
		REGISTRATION FEE Based on Population Size:
<input type="checkbox"/> GROW - MODIFIED EVALUATION - 3 Criteria <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; font-size: small;">NEW PROGRAM OPTION!</div> <input type="radio"/> Enhancement <input type="radio"/> Conservation <input type="radio"/> Other Combo Results are based on an in-person evaluation. More information on page 2. Community is awarded a Certificate and Report. Eligible to win a Criteria Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Up to 1000 - \$ 375 <input type="checkbox"/> 1001 to 2000 - \$ 450 <input type="checkbox"/> 2001 to 5000 - \$ 500 <input type="checkbox"/> 5001 to 10,000 - \$ 600 (Plus 5% GST)	<input type="checkbox"/> 10,001 to 20,000 - \$ 700 <input type="checkbox"/> 20,001 to 50,000 - \$ 800 <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001 to 100,000 - \$ 925 <input type="checkbox"/> 100,000+ - \$1150 (Plus 5% GST)
<input type="checkbox"/> BLOOM - FULL EVALUATION - 6 Criteria Results are based on an in-person evaluation. More information on page 2. Community is awarded a BLOOM RATING and 18-page Report. Eligible to win a Criteria Award or Community Involvement Trophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Up to 1000 - \$ 500 <input type="checkbox"/> 1001 to 2000 - \$ 600 <input type="checkbox"/> 2001 to 5000 - \$ 675 <input type="checkbox"/> 5001 to 10,000 - \$ 800 (Plus 5% GST)	<input type="checkbox"/> 10,001 to 20,000 - \$ 925 <input type="checkbox"/> 20,001 to 50,000 - \$1025 <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001 to 100,000 - \$1225 <input type="checkbox"/> 100,000+ - \$1525 (Plus 5% GST)
<input type="checkbox"/> FRIENDS - NON-EVALUATED - Half of Full Evaluation Registration Fee based on population size noted above. Recognition category for past CiB communities who do not want an evaluation but want to continue showing their support for their CiB initiatives and the BC Communities in Bloom provincial program.		
AMOUNT ENCLOSED Population Fee + 5% GST = \$		
		GST # 8446 03670 RT0001
PLEASE INVOICE US AT <input type="radio"/> Above Address or		
MAIL FORM & FEE TO BC Communities in Bloom 19951 Fraser Highway, Langley, BC V3A 4E2 ← Please note updated info		
OR PAY BY CREDIT CARD at WWW.BCCIB.CA NOTE: Please also email completed form to Catherine at c.kennedy@telus.net		
CANCELLATION POLICY Before May 15th a \$50.00 fee may be charged, after that, all registration fees are non-refundable.		
CONTACT Catherine Kennedy, Executive Director c.kennedy@telus.net (604) 576-6506 www.bccib.ca		




EVALUATED OPTIONS	
<p>GROW Modified Evaluation – 3 Criteria Only Awarding Levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to first time, smaller or returning municipalities who want a simpler CiB option. • Participants may choose any 3 criteria to be evaluated OR choose a theme. • Expect to provide 1-night accommodation for pair of judges. (5-hour tour day) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>ENHANCEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Appearance - Landscape Areas - Plant & Floral Displays </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>CONSERVATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Action - Heritage Conservation - Tree Management </div> </div>	<p>ELIGIBLE TO WIN A CRITERIA AWARD</p>
<p>BLOOM Full Evaluation – 6 Criteria Awarding 1 to 5-Blooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-Bloom winners receive a Street Banner. • Open to any size Municipality wanting the full program experience and its many benefits. • Communities gain social value from the community involvement elements of the program. • Entry point for National and International Communities in Bloom competition. • Expect to provide 2-nights accommodation for a pair of judges. (2-hr first day, 7-hr tour day) <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>ELIGIBLE TO WIN A CRITERIA AWARD</p> <p>OR</p> <p>OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TROPHY</p>
<p>COMMUNITY RECEIVES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Getting Started Package of Information. ▪ Evaluation by a pair of trained BC CiB Judges. ▪ Evaluation Report with Comments & Suggestions. ▪ Rating Certificate (Blooms only for full evaluated program). ▪ 5-Bloom Winners receive a special Street Banner. ▪ Profile on newsletter, press releases, www.bccib.ca website and Gardens BC tourism website. 	<p>PROGRAM BENEFITS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthens community pride for residents and businesses ▪ Collaborative, creates opportunities to celebrate volunteers ▪ Enhances enjoyment and value of green spaces ▪ Highlights climate action initiatives ▪ Contributes to a healthy social & economic lifestyle ▪ Profile for best features of the Community ▪ Measurable results with year over year benefits
<p>ADDITIONAL DETAILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow a local ‘in Bloom’ committee to build collaboration with residents, businesses, service clubs and a municipal rep. (Councillor, Public Works, Administration or Parks & Recreation staff). • Plan to meet online mid-season with Provincial CiB Judges with a Virtual Check Up on how to support your CiB efforts. • Develop a basic budget to cover registration fee and to create community wide CiB awareness projects, i.e.: parades, tidy up days. Consider planning some fundraising events too. Document volunteer contributions. • Create a Community Profile Document outlining the community’s achievements. Plan a judge’s tour to view community in the 3 or 6 evaluation criteria. (Once registered, additional information is provided in the Getting Started Package). • Host 2-judges in 2nd or 3rd week of July (TBC), in separate rooms (Hotel, B&B or Billeting if certain conditions can be met), with meals during evaluation day. • Communities will be presented a Certificate and a Report at the Provincial Awards in the fall. (Event details to be confirmed) • Evaluating three or six criteria, the report creates a benchmark score to celebrate successes and for future improvements. 	
NON-EVALUATED OPTIONS	
<p>FRIENDS For communities that want recognition for ongoing CiB initiatives but want to take time off from evaluation. Bonus: this category is encouraged to provide a Showcase Project. See first page.</p>	
<p>SHOWCASE PROJECT (requires separate form) Recognition program for individuals, communities, neighbourhoods of all sizes. Showcase a place or space and how you are using CiB to make a better community, and world. Acknowledge your volunteers.</p>	
<p>MEMBERSHIP (requires separate form) – www.bccib.ca The BC CiB organization represents all areas of the province, if you would like more information about becoming a director or a judge, please contact Catherine at c.kennedy@telus.net.</p>	

Photo disclaimer: Submitted photos give authorization to BC Communities in Bloom to use at their discretion for program promotion.