



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 planters, 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 help you through the process at c.kennedy@telus.net 604 576-6506