



CITY OF WEYBURN

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

JUDGES INFORMATION

PACKAGE

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The City of Weyburn's 2016 Communities In Bloom Committee:

Councilor Laura Morrissette

Councilor Nancy Styles

Claude Morin, Superintendent of Public Works & Parks

Linda Prokott, Parks Coordinator

WEYBURN AT A GLANCE

Municipality: City of Weyburn

Population: 10,500

Trading Area: 50,000



Location: Southeast Saskatchewan along the banks of the Souris River at the junction of Highways #39, #35 and #13.

Economic Base: Agriculture service and shipping centre; Oilfield exploration, development and service; Manufacturing and processing; Business and industry services.

Public Facilities: 10 educational facilities; 6 hospitals and special care facilities; 6 recreational facilities; 3 arts, cultural and library facilities

Municipal Operating Budget: \$19,194,815.00

Parks Operating Budget: \$1,269,280.00

**Leisure Services
& Culture Operating Budget:** \$4,500,530.00

Total Area: 712 hectares

Parks and Green Spaces Area: 135 hectares (19% of total area)



I. WEYBURN'S ACTION PLAN

The City of Weyburn and its citizens have always placed great importance on the development and management of our green infrastructure as well as leisure and culture services. This, coupled with a strong history of public service and volunteerism, has afforded us the ability to provide a wealth of recreational opportunities to the community and the capability of hosting many regional, provincial and national events.



We believe that our accomplishments to date have done much to bolster community involvement and instill a sense of community pride.

After capturing first place in the 2004 Provincial Communities in Bloom Competition in our population category the City of Weyburn elected to compete in the national competition in 2005 where we achieved a rating of "Four Blooms". We also received a special mention for our Tatagwa Parkway.

Upon receiving the evaluation grid from the 2005 competition a decision was made to form a committee composed of elected officials, relevant municipal staff and members at large from the community whose sole function was preparing for the 2006 competition. Prior to this the program was directed by a sub committee of our Tourism Committee.

The committee's mandate was to thoroughly review the 2005 evaluation grid and formulate strategies to promote the "Communities in Bloom" concept, increase community participation and compile information from diverse sources in order to provide an accurate and complete depiction of the community.

These efforts resulted in the community being awarded 5 blooms in 2006 with special mention for Urban Forestry. Each successive year, from 2007 through 2009 we received five bloom ratings with special mentions for Tatagwa Parkway and Urban Forestry.

In 2011 Weyburn withdrew from the national competition as a result of a devastating flood which occurred in the community. In the intervening years we have not participated as our efforts were focused on recovery of our damaged infrastructure.

In 2016 the decision was made to participate in the provincial competition as evaluated friends with the intention to use the evaluation to re-establish a baseline to guide future participation in the Communities in Bloom Program.



Communities in Bloom flag raising

Members of Communities in Bloom and the City of Weyburn raise the group's flag at the boardwalk on May 23. From left to right are parks board chairperson Marlene Nedelcov, Communities in Bloom chairperson and tourism committee member Glen Rogers, parks planner Claude Morin, Mayor Don Schlosser, Communities in Bloom and Blossom committee member Todd Neuburger, parks board member Sherwood Birrell, tourism co-ordinator Donna Hastings and parks board and city council member Ray Hamm. City residents are reminded to have their yards clean as the Communities in Bloom national judges will be in Weyburn on Monday, July 31.

II. TIDINESS

Municipal Contributions

Residents of Weyburn have always taken pride in the general appearance of the community. Over the years the City of Weyburn has responded to these high expectations by allocating the resources necessary to construct infrastructure and to institute a wide variety of programs and services necessary to maintain it.

Parks and Green Spaces:

Though the programs and management practices of the Parks Department are outlined in greater detail later in this document the abundance of and general appearance of our green infrastructure clearly reflect the City's ongoing commitment to these ideals.

Maintenance of Public Streets, Roads and Sidewalks:

The City's street sweeping program places emphasis on the upkeep of major thoroughfares, arterials and the downtown core. These areas are swept regularly through the spring, summer and fall. Residential streets are swept twice annually, usually following the spring melt and in autumn after the leaves fall. Additional residential operations are performed as required on a street by street basis.

An annual program for the recapping of asphalt streets is in place. The 2016 program encompasses both residential streets and thoroughfares for an estimated cost of \$600,000.00. Also \$200,000.00 in additional paving will be performed.

The City also performs an annual sidewalk replacement and repair program.



All City crosswalks and centre lines are painted once annually.

Gravel roads and lanes are graded as required, at least twice annually.

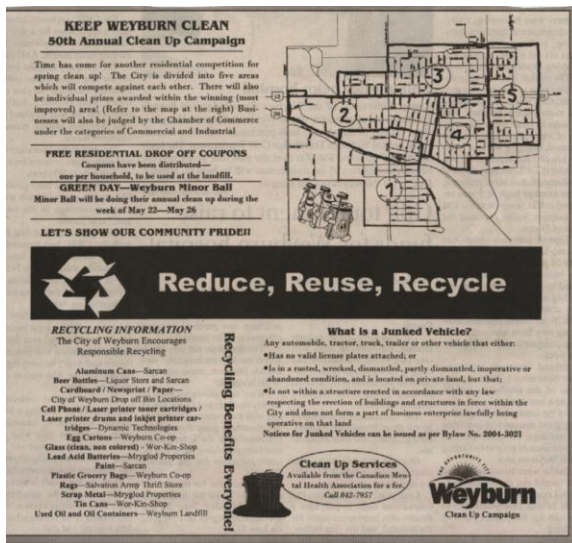
The City of Weyburn, like most communities, owns and operates a wide assortment of facilities and wherever possible green space has been incorporated into these sites.

City Hall, Recreation and Culture facilities, Police, Fire, Public Works and Water Treatment facilities are just some examples.

Community Contributions

City of Weyburn Cleanup Campaign Committee

For many years Weyburn's Clean up Committee has been committed to encouraging the community to do their part in keeping the City clean and tidy. The committee is comprised of members from City Council, City Management, the Chamber of Commerce, Provincial Health Authorities, local groups and associations plus members at large from the community.



For over 50 years the committee met to organize and administer the annual Cleanup Campaign. Originally the campaign was designed as a friendly competition with the city of Estevan, a neighboring community of similar size and population fifty miles to our southeast.

Each community encouraged their respective private, business, and commercial sectors to participate in community-wide clean up efforts. In late May impartial judges would visit both communities and declare one city the winner for which they would be awarded the coveted "Golden Garbage Can".

After the 2003 contest the City of Estevan made the decision to withdraw from the annual competition. After 47 years the final tally was: Weyburn - 30 victories, Estevan - 17.

Without Estevan's participation the Committee was determined to continue the annual cleanup campaign but needed to develop a new focus to encourage community involvement.

In recent years the annual clean-up campaign has been conducted by the City's Environment Committee.

Although the committee is constantly tweaking the Cleanup Campaign the current format is as follows:

- Each property owner in Weyburn receives two coupons that entitles them to free drop offs at the City Landfill in order to encourage timely clean up of accumulated yard waste and debris from the previous year. The coupons also contain information and clean up tips that aid in the promotion of the campaign. Approximately 30% of these coupons are redeemed each year. This not an indication that residents are not cleaning up but rather that the majority of people are performing their residential cleanups on an ongoing basis and simply do not require the coupons.



2006 CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN WINNER - AREA 2



Also in 2016, the Environment Committee conducted a volunteer spring clean-up day focusing on trash collection along the various highway entry ways into community. In addition a “Mayors” clean-up day was held in May where City Councilors, Administration staff, and other City employees volunteered on a Saturday to perform a general clean-up of the downtown area.

The Cleanup Campaign is a long standing local tradition which dates back fifty plus years and though it has evolved through several incarnations the committee feels it continues to be a strong community based effort that the citizens of Weyburn can take pride in.

Adopt – A – Highway Program

Weyburn is located at the junction of three highways and as in many other communities the Department of Highways and Transportation sponsors this program. The organizations who have adopted highways in the Weyburn area are as follows:

- The Girl Guides of Canada
- McFadden Family Farm
- Sasktel Pioneers
- Weyburn and District Rescue
- Weyburn and District Multicultural Society
- Weyburn Rotary Club

The Adopt – A – Planter Program



In the early 1980's the downtown core of Weyburn underwent renovation to improve and rejuvenate the area. Sidewalks were replaced and large permanent concrete planters formed part of the construction. The streets were lined with deciduous trees and the planters were mass planted with both deciduous trees and coniferous shrubs. The downtown area really benefited from these improvements and it is now hard to imagine what it looked like prior to the reconstruction.



The coniferous shrub material located in the planters had begun to decline as a result of overcrowding, exposure to road salt, and repeated trimming and pruning necessary to improve visibility and line of sight for both pedestrian and vehicle traffic. The overall appearance of the planters had declined and City Council directed the Parks Department to formulate a solution to address the problem.

In the fall of 2005 The City removed all the coniferous shrub material and made plans to replace it with annual flowers in 2006, at least on an interim basis. The Communities in Bloom Committee suggested that an adoption program be implemented in an effort to increase community pride and involvement in beautifying the downtown. City Council endorsed the suggestion and provided funds in the 2006 budget for its implementation.



The program was implemented as follows:

- Any local business, group, club, organization or individual were given the opportunity to adopt a planter. Information on the program was disseminated through the Chamber of Commerce, advertisements in the local paper and on local radio as well as by word of mouth.
- Those groups or individuals adopting a planter were supplied with a small stipend from the City for the purchase of flowers and their planters were identified with a sign recognizing their affiliation. In return they were asked to design, purchase and

plant their planter as well as provide long term maintenance such as weeding, deadheading etc.

- Any planters not adopted would be planted and maintained by the City.

- The City provided regular watering, fertilization and other maintenance not deemed practical for planter adopters.

When this program was first envisioned the committee felt that in the first year if 50% of the planters were adopted it would be deemed a successful program. As it turned out 22 of the 24 available planters were adopted making the program, in our minds, a huge success in its first year.

The committee believes that the results speak for themselves and demonstrates once again that the citizens of Weyburn take pride in their community and can be counted upon to become involved when called upon to do so.

The program continues to be popular with all planters under adoption. We are happy to report that many of our original participants continue to adopt their planters and each year new groups participate.



Community Gardens

In 2010, as part of our CIB program, the City established a community garden on the site of The Signal Hill Arts Centre. Originally 12 raised beds were constructed and were immediately reserved by community residents for the nominal fee of \$20.00. Each year additional beds have been added by popular demand and we currently have 42 beds available to community residents.



This has been an extremely popular program which had resulted in a long waiting list. In 2016 to meet this demand, a volunteer day was organized and attended by City staff, members of the community, and those on the waiting list to build additional garden beds. As a result of this volunteer day, we were able to build 12 additional plots and accommodate those on the waiting list. Since then, we are still seeing a demand and more names have been added to the waiting list.

As the site for the gardens is nearing capacity we are looking at options for future expansion.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Local Activities

The City of Weyburn promotes recycling and supports the efficient and responsible use of the earth's limited resources.

City Council appointed the Environment Resource Committee a number of years ago to oversee activities which support and encourage recycling in Weyburn. The committee is composed of two members of Council, two city management staff members, our landfill contractor, and four members of the public.

The Committee meets monthly to review on-going activities, and to formulate any recommendations for change that are presented to Council.

Currently, the City of Weyburn is seeking requests for proposal to establish a City Wide Multiple Material, Curbside Recycling Program. The intention is to have it go into effect in 2017.

Recycling activities in Weyburn include:

- Paper and cardboard drop off bins at multiple drop-off locations in the community.
- Sheltered workshops (Sarcen) drop off depot for soft drink containers, alcohol beverage containers, and plastic milk jugs.
- Used oil and container drop off depot at the Weyburn landfill.
- Paint and paint container recycling drop off center at the Sarcen Workshop.
- Used electronics such as computers and televisions can be dropped off for recycling at the Sarcen Depot.
- Metal recycling at Mryglod Steel, and in a compound at the Landfill.
- Concrete is dropped off in a specified area at the landfill and crushed for re-use as fill when quantities permit.
- Clean cloth can be dropped off at the Salvation Army to be packaged as rags for sale.
- Car batteries can be taken to Mryglod Steel & Metal Inc.

- Computer Solutions and Dynamic Technologies will accept ink cartridges and minor computer accessories.
- Clean, clear glass can be dropped off in the bin on East Ave.
- Good clothing can be taken to Salvation Army for resale in their thrift store.
- Water heaters can be taken to Mryglod Steel & Metal Inc.
- Yard waste can be taken without fee to the compost pile located at the landfill.



(photo courtesy of Weyburn This Week)

Once annually the City holds a Household Hazardous Waste Day. A depot is set up at the Public Works Yard and homeowners are allowed the opportunity to dispose of batteries, aerosol cans, chemicals, paint and other hazardous materials.

Councillor Nancy Styles is shown at left participating in the event.

Water Treatment

The City of Weyburn's water source is the man made Nickel lake Reservoir located southeast of the community formed by the damming of the Souris River. Conventional surface water treatment occurs at the water treatment facility located in the City according to provincial requirements and regulations. All staff meet provincial certification requirements.

The City of Weyburn will be constructing a new treated water reservoir of 11 Million litres at the site of the Water Treatment Plant. In addition a new pump room with Ultraviolet disinfection will be installed at the same time. The new reservoir, pumps and disinfection system will increase the efficiency of the system, provide for the long term growth of the City and reduce the amount of chlorine used in disinfection; all being of significant benefit to the City.

Sewage Treatment

Sewage treatment in Weyburn occurs in a facultative waste stabilization lagoon system, consisting of one primary and nine secondary storage cells. The process is carried out by the breaking down of organic matter by the bacteria present in the wastewater. There are three types of bacteria that work in this process; aerobic, anaerobic and facultative bacteria. Aerobic bacteria need dissolved oxygen to grow and live in the upper part of the lagoon. Anaerobic bacteria that live in the lower part of the lagoon can live and grow only when there is no dissolved oxygen. Facultative bacteria live in the mid-depth region of the lagoon and are active with or without oxygen. All three types of bacteria are active in breaking down organic matter.

A new primary sewage treatment facility was commissioned in 2011 adjacent to the secondary sewage treatment cells ten kilometers southeast of the City.

Also The City of Weyburn commissioned a new main Sewage Effluent Pumping Station in 2010. The new pumping station offers increased pumping capacity which will help to eliminate overloading of the sanitary sewer system during major storm events. This will help to prevent back up of effluent in the basements of property owners, which can cause serious health and

mold issues. As well, this will also help to prevent the possibility of run-off into the Souris River, which is the City of Weyburn's drinking water supply and is a major water recreational site.

In 2017, the City has budgeted \$220,000.00 for the installation of aeration devices in the secondary diversion lagoon. This work is being done in order to improve the sewage treatment process and to mitigate occasional odor issues associated with facultative treatment lagoons.

Integrated Pest Management

The City of Weyburn strives to utilize the principles of IPM wherever possible in pest control activities. Where control is necessary products with the least environmental impact are chosen. Various pest control programs are discussed in other portions of this document with the exception of the following:

Mosquito Control

Due to the concern over West Nile Virus (WNV) mosquito control, conducted by the City Parks Department, is currently the most important pest control activity in Weyburn. Resources are allocated for larvae surveillance and control, adult mosquito trapping and collection, public education, and source reduction.

Surveillance is performed on a regular basis throughout the season at all potential breeding sites in and around the community. Where larvae populations indicate treatment is necessary then biological control *Bacillus Thuringensis* is utilized. This bacterium strictly targets the mosquito larvae; it is harmless to all other vertebrate and invertebrate aquatic life.

The City also collects adult mosquitoes through its trapping program. Several traps are operated in different area of the community according to provincial protocol. All samples collected are forwarded to provincial health authorities for analysis to determine total population, species identification and the presence of WNV.

The City does not perform adulticiding as part of its control program. It is our belief that fogging is not effective as any control achieved is extremely short term in nature and we are very much opposed to the wide scale application of Malathion which is typical in this type of activity. Our limited resources are much better allocated in the areas mentioned above. Adulticiding will only occur if mandated by the province in the event of a WNV outbreak.

IV. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The citizens of Weyburn, both public and corporate, have always been enthusiastic about donating their time and energy when called upon to do so. Whether it's hosting national, provincial and local sporting events, constructing pathways and trail systems, building playgrounds, or serving on boards and committees people can be counted upon to become involved and participate.

Events

Weyburn possesses a strong and successful history in hosting regional, provincial and national events. The following is a list of some of the significant events the community has been fortunate enough to welcome to Weyburn in just the past several years:

- 1998 National Senior Baseball Championships
- 1999 Provincial Scott Tournament of Hearts

- 2001 National Mixed Curling Championship
- 2000 Provincial Senior Summer Games
- 2004 Provincial Summer Games
- 2005 Royal Bank Cup Junior Hockey Championship Tournament
- 2006 The Provincial Tankard Men's Curling Championship
- 2010 "Rider Ville" Competition
- 2012 Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs Annual Conference
- 2012 Canadian Student Leadership Conference
- 2014 Provincial Summer Swim Meet
- 2016 Esso Cup (National Female Midget Hockey Championship)



Each one of these events could not have been held successfully without strong support from volunteers in the community. Weyburn is especially proud of the community's response during the 2004 Summer Games. From the organizational committees whose volunteer work began several years prior to the event to the thousands of hours of volunteer time required to actually conduct the games, once again our local citizens were there in large numbers to support the effort required to host the games and several hundred young athletes and their families.

In addition to the large events as noted above these same citizens can be found out in the community on a year round basis volunteering their time at the local hockey rinks, baseball diamonds, charitable functions and any other number of events that could not otherwise occur without their generosity.

Tatagwa Parkway



Developed as an urban conservation park the Parkway is situated on 180 acres of land adjacent to the Souris River. Development has been ongoing for more than twenty years and in that time the entire Parkway has been fenced, over 12 kilometres of paved trail has been constructed and literally thousands of trees and tree seedlings have been planted with a large portion of the work being completed through volunteerism. To date it has been estimated that over 3500 hours of volunteer labor has been donated in making the Parkway a reality. The Parkway also relied heavily on donations both corporate and private to fund many of the projects completed over the years. The most prominent example of this is our Wheat Sculptures located along the banks of the River adjacent to the busy #39 highway bypass through the community.



In 2009 a significant parkway expansion was completed with the construction of 2.5 kilometers of new paved trail along a narrow corridor of Parkway on the North end of the City. Our goal is eventually to have a trail system around the entire perimeter of the City for the convenience of all residents, no matter which part of the City they reside. A Federal Infrastructure grant was received for the \$225,000.00 project with have the funds coming from the Government and half from the City's Tatagwa Parkway improvement fund.



Other projects completed include installation of new entrance signage in the various Parkway units. Also in 2009 and 2010 a fundraising campaign which involved mail outs to all community residents informing them about various giving opportunities. In addition a corporate mail out was prepared for potential donations. As a result of this campaign we are seeing a significant increase in individual donations and several large corporate entities have indicated interest in contributing to the Parkway.



Also completed in 2014 was the expansion of our Riverfront Boardwalk east towards the museum. Components include a paved trail, railing system, gazebo structure, lighting, site furnishings and a train themed playground structure.

Funding for this project was obtained through our annual funding from the province as a member of ASUPCA, the City of Weyburn and from the local Kinsmen Club.

Also in 2016 we completed the paving of an additional .7 km of existing granular trail in the city's north end.

In 2016, the City has applied for a federal Canada 150 granting opportunity, that if approved would see 2 kilometres of existing paved trail in the Signal Hill parkway unit resurfaced. Additionally, new site furnishings would be installed throughout the Signal Hill. The total cost for this project is estimated at \$350,000.00 and would be cost-shared by the City and the federal government.

Additionally, following public interest a 9-hole disc golf course was added to River Park.

Heritage Village



A replica of a small Saskatchewan community from the early 1900's the buildings and artifacts contained in the village provides a glimpse into pioneer life on the prairies. The majority of the work involved in relocating and refurbishing the heritage buildings that include a one room schoolhouse, a country church, a blacksmith shop and a rural municipality office was performed by volunteers. The village also contains a fantastic floral garden planted and maintained entirely through volunteerism.

Playgrounds



For many years the majority of playgrounds located in community parks have been built and maintained by local service clubs. Kinsmen Park, Elks Park, Don Mitchell Playground (Young Fellows), and River Park Playground (Volunteer Fire Brigade) are all examples of playgrounds that have been completely rebuilt by these groups in order to comply with changes in C.S.A. standards.

The Young Fellows, a local service club, sponsor Don Mitchell Playground and in 2007 the club constructed a spray park at that location which complements the paddling pool and playground which they also sponsored and built in previous years.

Cenovus, formerly Encana, an acclaimed international oil company with interests in the Weyburn area contributed funds for the paving of our outdoor rink facility in order to provide a true four season facility which can be used for street hockey, basketball and other activities through the summer months. They also fund the operation of the outdoor rink throughout the winter months.



In 2009 the City constructed a new mini-park/playground in the new subdivision in the northeast corner of the community. We received a grant to assist with funding for the purchase of recycled tire, crumb rubber material to utilize as fall protection under the playground equipment.



In 2010 a new playground was constructed at River Park. Employees of Miller Well Servicing, a local company raised \$40,000.00 in personal and corporate donations to construct the playground as a memorial to a fallen co-worker.

The City assisted with some design and preliminary work but most of the project, including planning and construction was completed by the employee group.

Residents and visitors to River Park welcome the addition of the Travis Anderson Memorial Playground.

Currently, the construction of Weyburn's first accessible playground is under way. This playground will replace the one at Elks Park which was partially lost to fire in 2013, and will feature rubber paving throughout the playground and a wheelchair accessible structure. The new accessible playground is scheduled to be completed in August 2016.

Sports Fields

Most of Weyburn's minor sports fields are located at Jubilee Park, home to minor ball, soccer and football. There are no user fees for these facilities and the City has always worked closely with these groups for maintenance and improvements. Minor Ball has constructed dugouts, replaced fences, installed electrical infrastructure etc, at their own expense.

In 2015, reconstruction of the tennis courts at Jubilee Park began. They were completed in the spring of 2016 with the installation of the rubber surfacing.

In a 50% cost share with the City, the Soccer Association, a new soccer pitch was recently constructed at Jubilee Park.

Similarly, Minor Football is currently in the process of developing a new football field in cooperation with the City.

Hospitality in the Park



River Park Campground operated by the City of Weyburn is a popular stop for hundreds of campers traveling through the community each season. In an effort to make their stay more enjoyable the Chamber of Commerce hosts the Hospitality in the Park Program. Every week a different business, club or group is in attendance at the park each evening to provide hospitality and refreshment and entertainment for the park guests.

The local Rotary Club have funded and constructed, in 2008, a deck at the River Park facility to enhance the Hospitality in the Park Program and to provide multi-use

space for various occasions and events.

Recreational Facilities



The Weyburn Leisure Centre and the Tom Zandee Sports Arena are two major recreational facilities located in the community that were made possible through both corporate and private donations.

The Crescent Point Place and Tom Zandee Sports Arena, Weyburn's primary ice surfaces have been recently renovated and many corporations, businesses and individuals have donated sponsorship dollars for the construction.

In 2010, the City of Weyburn, redesigned and reconstructed the outdoor pool facilities at the Weyburn Leisure Centre. The facility opened on July 1, 2010.

The City received funding through the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, EnCana Corporation and Young Fellows Club of Weyburn.

River Park Spray Park

New to River Park in 2016 is Weyburn's second spray park, which opened to the public in June. The second spray park was constructed to give residents of the south end of the community improved access to outdoor activity as well as provide an additional amenity for the River Park Campground.



V. NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Weyburn has a long history of preserving our local culture and heritage. Many historical landmarks still exist within the community and large tracts of natural grassland are being preserved in our parkway system.

Many groups and organizations are responsible for preserving and promoting local heritage and landmarks. The Crocus Tour is a historic glimpse of Weyburn inspired by the fictional community of Crocus the setting "Jake and the Kid" series by own of Weyburn's native sons, W.O. Mitchell. There are 18 stops on the tour showcasing many of Weyburn's important heritage sites.

Some of the most prominent are listed below:

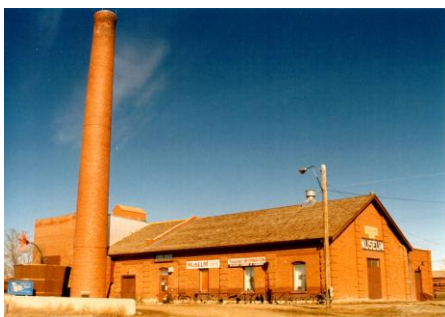
• Weyburn Water Tower



Situated at the top of Weyburn's South Hill the water tower is visible for miles in each direction and acts as a sentinel for those traveling to and from the community. It is the landmark most closely associated with the City of Weyburn. It has been commemorated on the City coat of arms and on the Weyburn flag. It has been represented on numerous brochures and publications and is a true symbol of Weyburn.

Constructed in 1909 it remained in service until 1977 and was declared a Municipal Heritage Property in 1987.

• Soo Line Historical Museum



In 1905 the Weyburn Electric light and Machine Company was formed by a local group of C.P.R. employees. The present building was constructed when the City took over the utility in 1909. It was operated as a museum by the Soo Line Historical Society until 2015, and taken over as a City facility in 2016.

- W.O Mitchell Residence



One of Canada's most famous authors, W.O. Mitchell was born in Weyburn in 1914. Many of his works were based on his childhood memories growing up in Weyburn. The residence was owned by the Mitchell family until 1971.

There are fourteen additional interesting heritage sites to visit on the Crocus Tour. Recently a CD has been produced which allows the user to conduct a self guided tour from the comfort of their own vehicle while listened to an audio presentation which details the

history of each site.

In addition the downtown area contains many old historic structures not on the tour that have been well maintained and are in use today for a variety of commercial enterprises.

The T.C. Douglas Centre



The T.C. Douglas Centre, formerly the Calvary Baptist Church was constructed in 1906 and was relocated to its present location from downtown Weyburn and transformed into a centre for the performing arts as a tribute to the late Honorable T.C. Douglas the former Baptist minister who performed his first sermon in this building. The centre officially opened in 1991 in honor of the man who made outstanding contributions to his country and was later named the "Greatest Canadian". The Centre also contains a T.C. Douglas archive room.

T.C. Douglas Sculpture



In 2010 a sculpture of TC Douglas was erected along the Riverfront Boardwalk to honor the former Saskatchewan Premier.

Funds for the project were raised entirely by a local volunteer committee and a renowned Canadian sculptor, Leah Vivot was commissioned to create the sculpture.

The unveiling ceremony occurred in the fall of 2010 and was attended by hundreds of local residents, members of both the Federal and Provincial political parties as well as the grandson of TC Douglas, actor Kiefer Sutherland.



The Weyburn Wheat Festival



Weyburn is the largest inland grain gathering point in Canada so what better place to celebrate the community's agricultural heritage. The two day festival is filled with fun, entertainment and hospitality and provides an educational opportunity for everyone.



VI. TREE/URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT

Municipal and Public Properties



The Parks Department is responsible for the management of Weyburn's urban forest which includes all city-owned trees located in parks and green spaces, along boulevards and residential streets, and on the grounds of various city-owned facilities. Trees are an invaluable asset that providing shade, shelter and aesthetic qualities that can be appreciated by just about everyone. This is especially true on the prairies where they can be difficult to establish.

8% of the total Parks Department operating budget is devoted to Urban Forestry operations.

Tree Inventory

There are over seven thousand City owned trees contained in the tree inventory. Information on species, location, condition etc. can be readily accessed through computer printouts and is an invaluable tool for planning and scheduling planting, pruning and other maintenance operations. This inventory is updated regularly to include new plantings, removals etc.

The inventory also contains information on all elms in the City, both City-owned and private, to assist with DED prevention and control.

Pruning Program



Weyburn's pruning program sees all City-owned trees pruned in rotation, once every five years. Pruning is done primarily over the winter months, although some work must be performed year round. All City elms are pruned more often in the rotation as part of the City's Dutch Elm Disease Control program. All pruning activity is done in-house by fully qualified and certified Parks Department staff.

Planting Program

Each year about 15% of the Urban Forestry budget is allocated for the purchase of caliper trees and other woody plants for planting on boulevards, in parks and green spaces, as either replacement or new plantings. Hardiness is an important factor and due to our Saskatchewan climate we are limited in species selection. Despite these limitations a variety of species and cultivars are selected in order to provide much needed diversity in our urban forest.



Newly planted trees and shrubs receive regular watering, pruning and aftercare for the several years after planting. In addition when planting on residential streets property owners are encouraged to provide supplemental watering to assist with the establishment process.

Much of the mature urban forest is comprised of ash and elm as those species were all that were available as suitable boulevard planting years ago. Future planning has been aided by the introduction, in recent years, of a greater variety of species and cultivars fully hardy in this area.

Dutch Elm Disease



In the past twenty years Weyburn has had only six isolated cases of DED. This is due in part to the natural buffer we possess; there are no natural stands of elms along rivers valleys in the vicinity of the City to assist the natural progression of the disease. Weyburn has had a strong DED control program for many years.

Regular pruning, twice annual surveillance, and most importantly public education all form part our control program.

Integrated Pest Management

In managing our urban forest we adhere to the principles of integrated pest management. Pesticide use is avoided whenever possible and where necessary the least toxic option is chosen. Biological products are used if available as a control option for a specific pest and if not products such as insecticidal soaps are utilized and where applicable pruning and sanitation is used to control pests and disease.

The Urban Forestry Bylaw

The bylaw was enacted by Weyburn City Council to regulate the planting, maintenance or removal of shade and ornamental trees on public lands and to establish, regulate and sustain an effective urban forestry program. Currently, the existing Urban Forestry Bylaw is being reviewed and updated and will be presented to City Council for adoption.

The Tree Preservation Policy

This policy was introduced in order to reinforce the urban forestry bylaw by providing specific protections for mature trees. It details specific steps that must be followed when a request to remove a tree for construction or other purposes is received. The policy encourages developers to plan construction so as not to impact existing trees. In the event that City Council approves a tree removal the developer is responsible for all cost to remove the tree, plus the value of the tree (ISA tree valuation process), which can be significant for mature trees. Any funds thus collected are utilized for the purchase and planting of trees elsewhere within the City.

The Plant – A – Tree Program

The Plant a tree program was designed to allow people to give a lasting, living donation to the community by purchasing a tree and having it planted in recognition of special family events or in memory of a loved one.

Trees can be purchased at any time during the year and are planted each spring by the Parks Department. All donations are recognized with a plaque placed on the Plant a Tree wall located at City Hall and donors are informed in what area of the Parkway their tree is located.

Staffing

The Superintendent of Public Works & Parks has been with the City in various capacities since 1983 and as such has been involved in the management of the urban forest for many years. He studied horticulture and arboriculture at the University of Manitoba, is a member of the International Society of Arboriculture and is a certified pruner as well as a licensed pesticide applicator.

The Parks Coordinator has been with the City of Weyburn since November 2015. She studied Conservation Law Enforcement at Lethbridge College and Integrated Resource Management at SIAST. Prior to joining the City she had worked in forestry. Additionally, she will be taking a Prairie Horticulture program through Olds College this fall.

All Urban Forestry maintenance work is conducted by full fully trained and qualified Parks Department employees. All full time employees are trained and certified in tree pruning and in pest management, with special emphasis on DED prevention and control. They regularly attend conferences, workshops and refresher courses in order to stay abreast of industry changes.

Green Schools



Two Weyburn elementary schools, Souris School and Assiniboia Park are designated as green schools. The program encourages students to be environmentally responsible and to take personal action at school and with their families.

Assiniboia Park is currently involved in an initiative with Sask Power, provincial conservation officers and local residents to develop a nesting area for a breeding pair of Ferruginous Hawks adjacent to school property.

Also alternative education students at the Weyburn Comprehensive School do a wonderful job planting and maintaining planters in the facility's courtyard which is used for graduation and other ceremonies.

Local Urban Forestry Issues

Like many communities Weyburn occasionally must deal with problems such as insect and disease outbreaks. Dutch elm disease has already been discussed; other issues we in Weyburn have dealt with in recent years include:

- Bronze Birch Borer has decimated the weeping birch population in Weyburn as well as in other provincial communities in recent years. Weeping birches are borderline hardy in this area and as a result are very susceptible to stress. When the trees first began to decline the borer was quickly identified as the responsible pest and the City took steps to contain the problem. Beyond cultural practices (watering, fertilizing etc) there are presently no pest control products registered for control of the borer. A public education program was instituted to inform property owners on how to identify the pest and what cultural practices to follow to protect healthy trees. Surveillance was conducted to identify dead and dying trees and removal and disposal notices were issued to affected property owners. The community was very cooperative and removal enforcement through the urban forestry bylaw was only necessary in a few instances. These efforts continue today though unfortunately there are very few weeping birches left in Weyburn, or this part of the province that have not succumbed to the borer.

- Fire blight and black knot are two diseases that continue to cause problems within the community. Many calls dealing with these diseases and others are responded to by the Parks Department annually. Property owners are advised of control measures and cultural practices to care for their trees and whether removal is necessary. In areas where we have lost City trees to these diseases efforts are made to utilize resistant varieties or different species for replacement purposes.

- In 2016 Weyburn, along with other communities in SE Saskatchewan, experienced defoliation of our ash trees due to tent caterpillars. The Parks Department sprayed city trees in areas of high infestation using a biological insecticide not harmful to other organisms. Members of the public were advised as to which product they can purchase, should they choose to treat their own trees.



VII. LANDSCAPED AREAS & TURF AND GROUNDCOVERS

Municipal and Public Properties

The City of Weyburn Parks Department maintains a large number of green spaces within the community including irrigated parks, non-irrigated parks, boulevards, buffer areas, vacant properties and Tatagwa Parkway.

Irrigated Parks and Green Spaces



Currently about 37 hectares of irrigated green space is maintained by the Parks Department, comprised of 23 individual irrigation systems in parks, sports fields, facility grounds and the riverbank diking system.

The River Park and Tatagwa Parkway system pump untreated water from the Souris River and the remaining systems utilize treated water from the municipal water supply.

The more modern systems have always been automated so irrigation occurs during the hours of darkness in order to reduce water losses due to evaporation, to allow for programming changes following precipitation trends and to increase the available hours for maintenance and use of the green spaces. Several years ago the City initiated a program to convert the older manually operated systems to automatic control for more efficient irrigation. To date most systems have been upgraded through this ongoing program.

Mowing, trimming and other maintenance typically occurs twice weekly or as required at all irrigated green spaces. Certain parks and sports fields that are heavily used receive a higher level of maintenance including aeration, fertilization, topdressing, overseeding, turf vacuuming etc.

Non-Irrigated Green Space



These areas consist of buffer/boulevard strips along major thoroughfares, undeveloped residential and commercial/industrial properties, buffer areas around the City perimeter and miscellaneous properties.

The total area maintained is about 65 hectares, 25 hectares of which is groomed boulevard and green space which is mowed, trimmed and otherwise maintained at least once weekly and more often during the early growing season. The remaining 40 hectares consisting of various buffer areas and properties is not maintained at the same level and maintenance consists of mowing several times a season.

Also about seven kilometres of highway ditches along entrances to the City are mowed several times a season.

Long Term Planning



For information on recent projects please see the Tatagwa parkway section earlier in this document.

In 2005 a portion of the dike was redeveloped with centennial funding from the Federal Government. The Riverfront Boardwalk as it is named consists of a railed boardwalk, paved pathways, a rest area, lighting system, flag and banners poles, floating fountain, wheat sculptures as well as new tree and shrub plantings. The investment in this redevelopment was about \$200,000.00.

The diking system and the boardwalk serve as a link between the two Tatagwa Parkway Habitats, Signal Hill Trail and the Redcoat Trail. The Riverfront Boardwalk also forms part of a larger Riverfront Market concept for which a master plan was developed several years ago with a goal of revitalizing and enhancing this historic commercial area.



In 2008 the City of Weyburn and the Weyburn Parks Board were involved with the update of the Tatagwa Parkway master plan which encompasses all of the areas mentioned above. This original master plan was developed through input from local stakeholders and professional consultation during the early 1990's and is being reevaluated to reflect new goals and changed priorities.

The completed plan was received from our consulting Landscape Architect early in 2008. We are very happy with the finished product and are immediately proceeding with development this year. Our first priority is the construction of new entrance, directional and interpretive signage throughout the parkway to increase user friendliness and enhance the parkway experience. Also two new floating fountains are on order for installation in the river adjacent to the boardwalk. In addition a dock/pier has been ordered for installation at River Park to provide access to the river for canoers/kayakers and to serve as an observation point.

Planning is under way to extend the Parkway system right around the perimeter of the City including additional paved paths, groomed and natural green space as well as large scale tree planting. To this end large tracts of City land have been rezoned as Parkway and are awaiting further development. An additional goal of this ambitious master plan is to link all existing parks and green spaces with the parkway in order to create one large green system in order to fully take advantage of currently available as well as future funding opportunities.

The implementation of this master plan will proceed beyond the conceptual phase into actual development very quickly as the Parkway system has recently become eligible for annual Provincial funding that could see a long term annual expenditure of \$80,000.00 in Parkway expansion and redevelopment.

As stated earlier in this document much of the existing Parkway was developed with assistance of corporate and private donations as well as thousands of hours of volunteer labour. The implementation of many of the concepts discussed above will once again rely heavily on donations and volunteerism of the generous private and business sectors within the community.

VIII. FLORAL DISPLAYS

Municipal and Public Properties



The City of Weyburn maintains a large number of floral displays at various parks, municipal properties and public areas. Planning and plant selection occurs in January and plant requirements are ordered and grown by local producers. Every attempt is made to vary design and plant selection each year although we do tend to limit ourselves, in some respects, to those varieties that are proven performers with low maintenance requirements in order that we can maximize the funds available for our planting program.

All City displays are watered three times per week unless significant precipitation is received. Fertilizer is applied with irrigation water every fourth or fifth application and plants are deadheaded and weeded on a regular basis.

Commercial, Industrial & Residential



Again, we would like to make reference to the Adopt-a-Planter program, which indicates the level of community involvement in both the business and residential sectors.

IX. FLOOD OF 2011

As referenced earlier in this document, Weyburn, like many communities in the past few years, experienced severe flooding in summer of 2011. The spring of that year was very wet and we narrowly avoided flooding in April as there was little to no water holding capacity in the system. In June areas to the northwest of the City, upstream on the Souris, experienced 15cm of rain in a very brief time period. This coupled with localized rainfall and the saturated conditions caused massive runoff and flooding along the Souris.

Weyburn is protected by a diking system constructed in the 1980's and while, for the most part we were able to contain the flooding within the dikes much damage occurred. Due to high levels of infiltration in to the sanitary sewer system our primary lift station failed and hundreds of homes experienced sewer back up.

River Park and Tatagwa Parkway, being located within the flood plain, experienced severe flooding and much infrastructure damage.

In the years since, we have slowly rehabilitated River Park and repaired the infrastructure. With the assistance of PDAP funding the roadways within the Park have been repaved, drainage has been improved and the Campground electrical system has been entirely replaced.

The following photos illustrate the conditions at the time of the flood:



River Park

Approximately 1 metre of water covered the campground for about ten days.

A view of the campground office/shower facility



Over 100 pumper trucks were deployed simultaneously to pump sewage from the sanitary system as well as floodwater along #39 Highway.

The Souris River spilling it's banks along #39 highway.



Another view of #39 Highway looking west.

A view from River Park across too the Signal Hill Trail in Tatagwa Parkway.



River Park Gazebo

The Souris River along #13 Highway with a view across Tatagwa Parkway.

