



BACKGROUND

2024 Saskatchewan Communities in Bloom Participants and Results

| Participant Name | Category | Bloom Rating | Special Mention for |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|---|
| Population 1 – 500 | | | |
| Riverhurst | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Craik | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Manitou Beach | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Shields | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Rockglen | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Denzil | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Saskatchewan Beach | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Population 501 – 1,000 | | | |
| Eston – <i>Winner!</i> | Competitive | 4 Blooms | Environmental Action: Water Conservation in the Ball Diamonds Project |
| Eastend | Competitive | 4 Blooms | Volunteerism throughout the Community |
| Watson | Evaluated Friends | 3 Blooms | Approaching 100% Tidiness throughout the Community |
| St. Walburg | Tourist's Takeaway | 4 Blooms | Diversity and Health of Trees |
| Turtleford | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Kerrobert | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Qu'Appelle | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Coronach | Friends | non-evaluated | - |



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|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|--|
| Dundurn | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Spiritwood | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Population 1,001 – 2,000 | | | |
| Langham – <i>Winner!</i> | Competitive | 3 Blooms | Well-Cared for Community Garden and Dedicated Volunteers |
| Redvers | Evaluated Friends | 3 Blooms | Memory Pot & Hometown History Projects |
| Wynyard | Evaluated Friends | 3 Blooms | Community Murals Created in Partnership with Local School and Artist |
| Fort Qu'Appelle | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Maidstone | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Île-à-la-Crosse | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Rosthern | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Creighton | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Candle Lake | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Davidson | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Population 2,001 – 3,000 | | | |
| Moosomin – <i>Winner!</i> | Competitive | 5 Blooms | Commitment to Cultural Heritage Preservation |
| Outlook | Competitive | 4 Blooms | Efforts to Build Community Involvement |
| Sturgeon Lake First Nation | Competitive | 3 Blooms | Interweaving Cultural Practices throughout the Community |
| Maple Creek | Tourist's Takeaway | 4 Blooms | Willowbend Campground |
| Assiniboia | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Pilot Butte | Friends | non-evaluated | - |



| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--|
| Population 3,001 – 4999 | | | |
| Nipawin – <i>Winner!</i> | Competitive | 4 Blooms | Leadership & Integrity of the Entire Leisure Services Team |
| Population 5,000 and higher | | | |
| Moose Jaw | Evaluated Friends | 4 Blooms | Outstanding Commitment to Heritage & History |
| Humboldt | Friends | non-evaluated | - |
| Prince Albert | Friends | non-evaluated | - |

Saskatchewan Communities in Bloom Special Recognition Award Winners

Community Appearance Award

St. Walburg for their Best Garden Contest and Twinkle Tour

St. Walburg enhanced their community appearance with two programs that engaged their residents year-round. During the summer, the Best Garden Contest is a big deal in the community. Many residents look forward to the contest judging visits and put a great deal of effort into their yards and gardens. In 2024, the local MLA, Rosemarie Falk, and Mayor Nancy Schneider were judges along with a few other local volunteer judges. The residents loved interacting with Nancy and Rosemarie on a casual basis. The day included judging, taking pictures and presenting the best garden signs and awards.

In the winter, residents were encouraged to light up St. Walburg! There are many beautiful displays of Christmas Lights. A twinkle tour was coordinated for locals and long-term care residents with the community transit bus. The tours are entirely free and simply need to be booked through the town office. Hot chocolate was served, and everyone enjoyed the drive around with Christmas music playing and beautiful displays. As a testament to the impact of the Twinkle Tour, the community noted that an elderly gentleman completed the tour last year with tears in his eyes, saying it was, “the nicest thing anyone had ever done.” While driving around the community, judges select the most outstanding displays and gift cards are given to these winners.

Environmental Action Award

Moosomin for their Community Wide Clean-Up

Moosomin is making their community a better place with their Community Wide Clean-Up! The event helps the environment, cleans up the area and is truly a showcase of the community’s dedicated volunteers!



In 2024, the annual Community Wide Clean-Up saw many volunteers coming together to spruce up their beloved town. Local businesses played a vital role in its success as well, with Nutrien donating gloves, Moosomin Dairy Queen providing garbage bags and ice cream to the students involved, Co-op supplying water and Tim Hortons donating coffee to keep everyone warm.

The Town encouraged participation by awarding Moosomin Bucks, which can only be used at Moosomin businesses, to anyone who submits a picture from their involvement in the clean-up. Despite this year's windy and cold conditions, community volunteers showed remarkable determination. The outstanding support from community members and local businesses is a testament to the spirit and unity of Moosomin.

Trees and Urban Forestry *Moosomin for The Labyrinth*

Moosomin has expanded their urban forest with The Labyrinth. Spearheaded by Carol Adair, Moosomin's Labyrinth has been developed and expanded over several years. A significant component of The Labyrinth includes the many memorial trees that surround the area. Each tree was donated in honour of loved ones and contributes to a serene and reflective space.

The vision of The Labyrinth was to create a tranquil environment, but it has become more. The project has beautified the area while offering a meaningful way for individuals to commemorate loved ones, fostering peace and introspection. This project stands as a testament to the community and Carol's thoughtful design and dedication. As the space matures and trees continue to be added, The Labyrinth will continue to be a remarkable addition to Moosomin's urban forest.

Heritage Recognition Award *Redvers for their Memory Pot Project*

Starting in 2015, the Memory Pot Project's intent is to allow the public to commemorate and remember their loved ones from the Redvers area through the sponsorship of a planter. The project started small, with around 20 in the first year. Wooden pots were made locally, and nearby greenhouses were engaged for the flowers. A part-time seasonal beautification maintenance person was hired to care for the project. Over the next few years, the pots gained in popularity and sponsorships. The project now includes 70 planters. As part of the town's ongoing beautification efforts, the pots are decorated in the Christmas season with birch and evergreen branches and ornaments.

Each Memory Pot includes a custom-made sign designed by the Redvers Town Office that may include names, dates, quotes, and photos from loved ones at the request of the sponsor. There is also an opportunity to include a QR code linked to a memorial obituary, special song or article.

Photos of the Memory Pots are taken each year and posted to social media. This is a key aspect of the program since many sponsors are not residents. This allows them to see their sponsored



Memory Pot virtually. The planters are placed along the downtown and highway businesses, throughout the Recreation Grounds, and at the Town's welcome signs.

The community is very proud of the Memory Pots and feels it is a unique initiative that can be called their own as the years pass and the project grows.

Floral Displays Award

Saskatchewan Beach for their Communities in Bloom Flowerpot Competition

Saskatchewan Beach continues to grow with lively competition and comradery through their Communities in Bloom Flowerpot Competition. When the competition is launched, residents simply have to enter, and the resort village provides each entry with a flowerpot to decorate as they wish. Residents get very creative and even go as far as painting and decorating the pots in addition to planting beautiful displays of plants and flowers. This year, the contest encouraged Communities in Bloom's national colour theme of orange. 30 pots were entered in the community, and residents voted for their top three winners in August, 2024. Each of the winners received a prize as well as bragging rights!

Now in its fourth year, the community has embraced this competition and its beautiful results. Residents are very competitive each year and are vying for top spot. There haven't been any repeat winners. The competition has engaged residents and beautified the community with resounding success!

Volunteer Recognition Award

The Bloomers Volunteer Group in Sturgeon Lake First Nation

Chief Christine Longjohn's travels have taken her to many places, and she noticed Communities in Bloom flags in communities across the province. A vision of Communities in Bloom as part of Sturgeon Lake First Nation's holistic approach to wellness for community members and community's spirit was realized, and the Bloomers began to grow! The Bloomers' goal was to lead Communities in Bloom and grow pride in the First Nation while showcasing the community to visitors, the province and the nation.

The Bloomers worked hard in their first year of involvement with Communities in Bloom. With teamwork, perseverance and Chief Longjohn's vision, the vision is being realized. Naming themselves the Bloomers are the volunteers at the heart of Sturgeon Lake First Nation's Communities in Bloom projects. Along with staff and summer students, the Bloomers have dedicated hours of sweat equity to turn the community into a beautiful sight to see.

Community Spirit Award (2 Winners)

Community Spirit is what makes the communities through-out our province great places to live. This year, two separate Communities in Bloom participants are being recognized for their efforts to create everlasting Community Spirit.



Eastend for the Eastend Friday Night Market

The Eastend Friday Night Market (EFNM) is building community through food, arts and entertainment! The EFNM Committee have integrated three aspects into a traditional Garden Market: Food, Arts & Entertainment. Vendors were recruited, varying from traditional vegetable vendors to artists (potters, photographers, jewelry designers), and entertainment providers, including local groups and out of province artists such as a Stegner House Artist in Residence.

The EFNM was careful to include community groups in the Market through cooking supper at each market. This allowed small groups to fundraise and share their work with residents and visitors. From the Astronomy Club to the Eastend Library, Friends of Pine Cree, Alleykat's Day Care Centre and more, these groups shared the Town Square with vendors, entertainers and attendants while fundraising for their efforts with food sales.

Special markets were also organized at the Rodeo Grounds, with the entertainment being Working Stock Dogs demos. At the Pine Cree Regional Park, the Committee teamed up with the Eastend Arts Council and Friends of Pine Cree to offer the Market in celebration of the life & art of Nick Saville, a local potter who passed away two years ago. Markets were also held during the Eastend Dino Days Festival and the community's first Big Flat Folk Fest.

The result of the EFNM has been more participation of community groups, vendors, and the general public. Instead of coming to the Market to buy their produce and leaving right away, the community stays for supper, socializes, and enjoys local musicians and entertainers.

Craik for Growing Community Spirit with Craik Communities in Bloom

The implementation of Communities in Bloom in Craik has been extremely positive for the community, boosting the spirit of volunteerism and creating a palpable sense of pride in Craik.

Community wide volunteerism has included great individuals being dedicated to the operations of the Communities in Bloom Committee, students and staff at the local school volunteering to plant vegetables in CiB planters and create Tower Planters for the school, and many individuals being part of Cornerstone Park through its creation and ongoing development.

There have been many significant partnerships, such as involvement from the Town of Craik, Palliser Regional Library – Craik Branch, Craik Legion Community Hall Board, the Craik Farmers Market and many more. The community of Craik is supportive of Communities in Bloom, with residents being engaged in the Community Memorial Wall, fundraising barbeques, planting days, the local Scotts Best Garden Contest, using Cornerstone Park as a community hub, and the many positive comments received from local residents highlighting the merits of the CiB program and ideas for the future.



"Take a Shot!" Photo Contest Winners

1st Place



*Photo taken by Rosa Vázquez – Town of Eastend in Eastend, SK.
An enjoyable evening at the Eastend Friday Night Market*

Selected for its example of the impact that Communities in Bloom can have on bringing a community together for any reason and the many smiles on every face.

2nd Place



*Photo taken by Chief Christine Longjohn in Sturgeon Lake First Nation, SK.
A group of individuals planting trees in Sturgeon Lake First Nation*

Selected for the feeling of community pride one senses when viewing the photo and the great pride the community feels in the work they have accomplished so far. Also noted was the importance of planting trees despite being near the forest.

3rd Place



*Photo Taken by Don Nicholson in St. Walburg, SK.
A welcoming entrance to a local trail system*

Selected for the engaging mood set by the rustic gateway entrance and the very appropriate planters that contribute to the overall tone of the entrance which ensures that everyone is ready for a hike!