



How to Participate in Communities in Bloom

Canadian Forces Sustainable Communities

www.communitiesinbloom.ca

The Canadian Forces Sustainable Communities (CFSC) program was established in partnership between ADM IE, the participating Bases and Wings and Communities in Bloom. The intention of this program is to import into DND elements of the Communities in Bloom program that have been successful in improving the urban environment and quality of life in communities throughout Canada.

THE PROGRAM

Communities in Bloom is a Canadian non-profit organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community participation and the challenge of a national program, with focus on the enhancement of green spaces. The CiB program is based on national recognition of improvements in community standards and has been very successful in improving the urban environment and quality of life in hundreds of participating Canadian municipalities.

A Canadian Forces category was established as part of the National Program in 2006 was developed into the CFSC program.

All CF Bases, Garrisons & Wings are invited to participate in the Canadian Forces Sustainable Communities category.

Trained volunteer judges travel to participating Bases, Garrisons and Wings during the summer to evaluate CF communities and the overall contribution of the Base, Units, Lodger Units, Agencies, clubs, businesses and residents including volunteer efforts in regards to the following criteria:

Environmental Action:

Sustainable development, policies and orders, waste reduction, landfill sites, hazardous waste collection, sewage disposal, transfer/recycle stations, recycling initiatives, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), water source, treatment and conservation, naturalization, environmental cleanup activities, environmentally friendly transportation are all part of this criteria.

Community Involvement is included in all

criteria. Personnel's involvement in projects for the betterment and enjoyment of the whole community include horticulture & garden clubs, service groups, recreation and sports clubs, school children, teens, seniors, CE workers and local agencies and lodger units.

Tidiness

of green spaces, medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets, ditches, road shoulders, signage, vacant lots and buildings with regards to garbage, weeds, maintenance and repair, dog droppings, notices/posters, graffiti and vandalism, etc.



Garrison Petawawa

Tips:

- Participating Bases and Wings hold local contests that successfully involve many community members. Q's in Bloom awards residents for the best lawns or gardens; lodger units will challenge each other for the best entry garden bed or planter and their role in creative landscaping, floral displays and signage
- Community involvement is really what it's all about. Getting involved is the easiest way to get outside, be creative, show your CF community pride and have some fun.

Tips:

- Organized clean-up days are a great way to bring attention to CF Quality of Life while reinforcing values of pride and commitment for where personnel live and work.
- Signage is often overlooked. Regimental banners and unit signage reflect occupant's pride in place and role.

Tips:

- Learning to conserve, protect and enjoy our environment with respect to wildlife, green spaces, hiking trails, waterfront development is a large part of your community's sustainability. Having clean-up days in these areas, fundraisers by hiking or biking through nature trails are events that help personnel appreciate the benefits of their environment.
- Promote recycling, support and encourage idling restrictions and energy reductions.



CFB Borden



4 Wing Cold Lake

Heritage Conservation involves heritage policies, heritage management plans; preservation and restoration of buildings, monuments, artifacts, sites, parks, heritage gardens, trees, natural heritage; and the preservation of traditions and customs.

Tips:

- Celebrating “Heritage Week”
- Revitalizing Base/Wing museum.
- Planting a heritage garden is a wonderful way to promote community involvement
- Organizing public heritage walks.
- Preserving heritage and culture at CF bases and Wings is a wonderful way to involve youth, and celebrate pride in the achievements of the Canadian Forces.



CFB Kingston

Landscape supports all efforts to create an environment where plants form an essential element of the overall surroundings: design and suitability for location and use; native and introduced materials, balance of plants, materials and constructed elements; harmony, (colour, texture, shape); tasteful integration of hard surfaces and monuments; high standards of maintenance.

Tips:

- Create landscapes incorporating entrance monuments and reflecting the natural landscape.
- Creative landscaping is becoming very evident on roadway medians, within parks and at entrances to your Base/Wing –CiB runs a gateway competition. What better way to say “Welcome” and display Pride in the Canadian Forces.



Maritime Forces Atlantic (MARLANT)

Landscape also includes arrangements of flowers and plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses, etc.), originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, harmony, quality and maintenance of flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets, planters and window boxes.

Tips:

- Strategically placed a small number of beds and planters can have a huge impact in the appearance of the Base/Wing. Use low-maintenance plants and grasses Encourage Base? Wing commercial sector to maintain planters
- Getting school children involved is always fun and rewarding. Plant seeds as a classroom project, transplant the young plants in a median, a public flowerbed, a school garden or a planter designed and painted by children.

Urban Forestry includes written policies, orders, and Plans both long and short term. The distribution of trees, inventory, variety, suitability, new plantings, street tree programs, preservation of heritage trees, commemorative trees, woodlots and succession planting procedures are all important to this criteria. Having qualified personnel available (volunteer or on staff) for professional help with maintenance, pruning, Plant Health Care, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and trouble-shooting is valuable.

Tips:

- Hold an Arbor Day promoted by contests, children’s posters, tree planting ceremonies, tree identification contests. With the help of arborists and the local heritage officer, you can identify and commemorate heritage trees within your community
- Trees can be a wonderful commemorative symbol. Such programs provide a meaningful opportunity to help with re-foresting an area while supporting community pride.



CFB Shilo

Turf and Sports fields includes quality, naturalization, use of groundcovers & wildflowers; turf management (manicured to rough), maintenance (mowing height and frequency), IPM (Integrated Pest Management); fertilization programs, irrigation and water restrictions. Areas include administrative buildings, residential lawns, sports fields, parks and undeveloped spaces.

Tips:

- Implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs.
- Run “best lawn” contests for residents.
- Remember, parks and lawns are where people play, relax and enjoy themselves. Maintenance & development of such areas are an integral part of the CF community’s outdoor recreation.



National Symposium and Awards Community displays at the National Awards Conference and Symposium provide public affairs opportunities.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Canadian Forces communities participate in the national edition of *Communities in Bloom*.

CF Bases, Garrisons and Wings compete against other Bases, Garrisons and Wings in the Canadian Forces Sustainable Communities category. Trained national judges evaluate the CF communities on the eight criteria previously listed and award a certificate with a rating of 1 to 5 blooms (5 being the highest ranking) at the national awards ceremony in the fall. CF Bases, Garrisons and Wings may choose to participate in a non-competitive category either to learn about the program or, if they are past participants, to maintain their rating from the previous year.



19 Wing Comox

Circle of Excellence

A non-competitive category – with or without evaluation – where past winners continue local *Communities in Bloom* initiatives to maintain their bloom ratings. Bases, Garrisons or Wings in the Circle of Excellence category may mentor a Base, Garrison or Wing that has never participated in the *Communities in Bloom* program.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

DND participation in the program has the potential to contribute significantly to quality of life for CF personnel and their families through public participation improvements to the urban environment of CF Bases.

The benefits of this program include:

- Support to operational capability by improving the urban environment and quality of life for CF personnel and their families
- Building awareness and support among CF personnel for the Department's infrastructure and environment program
- Opportunities to build on Base and local Community relations
- Demonstrating DND commitment to CF personnel's Quality of Life
- Promotion of Base/Garrison/Wing in the Community

The first sign of progress that participating Bases, Garrisons and wings will see will likely be in the improved physical appearance of the base with a landscaping enhancement and greater tidiness. The impact that can have on a community is well known, and CF communities will profit similarly from such an investment.

Pursuit of the CF CiB program can achieve other positive outcomes that contribute to the quality of life as well as to organizational efficacy.

Communities in Bloom supports environmentally sustainable CF communities by promoting environmental awareness and action in the CF community.

Community in Bloom advocacy of community involvement dovetails closely with existing base community organizations and activities, including the work of Military Family Resource Centres. The work of these community organizations plays a very important role in keeping the morale of the troops and their families high. When long absences of military family members occur, or there is loss of life or injury, it is a real boon to have a strong community quality of life where

people come together to provide comfort and support to those affected.

CiB initiatives that enhance the quality of life of a CF Base not only help engender pride in the CF community; it makes the base a better place on which to live, work train and play. Its effect can also provide a valuable boost to both individual and group performance and that can have a positive impact on work and operational achievement.

One should not overlook the significant influence that a high quality of life on bases can have in attracting and retaining members of the CF and civilian employees of Defence.

Many CF communities are located adjacent to, or within, participating CiB communities, and participation in the CiB program provides opportunities to build on Base/community relations.

PROCESS FOR PARTICIPATION

Three essential elements have been identified for successful implementation of the CiB program at CF Bases, Garrisons and Wings:

- 1) Support of the Commander and a senior support officer to champion the program;
- 2) A motivated and engaged Engineering Services, particularly the Roads and Grounds Section;
- 3) Broad based and active participation of community and Base organizations (including CE, MFRC, PA, Env, PSP, CFHA, Canex, clubs businesses, schools and residents)

Registration

Communities in Bloom is responsible for the registration of the participating Bases, Garrisons and Wings:

- Registration fee is \$525 plus applicable taxes
- Participating Bases, Garrisons and Wings also have the responsibility to accommodate the judges (normally 2 judges for two nights)

Your Local Committee

Bases, Garrisons and Wings establish a CFSC (*Communities in Bloom*) Committee that is usually composed of personnel from Construction Engineering, Public Affairs, Environment, local Housing manager, PSP manager, MFRC staff, heritage officer, a member of the community council and any members of associations, businesses and organizations interested in the environment, landscape, heritage and improving community life.

The committee's objectives are:

- To involve the Base/Wing/Garrison community by means of local activities, which increase awareness about the program, its benefits and opportunities.
- To act as liaison with the base/wing authorities.
- To create sub-committees to help with various projects within an evaluation criteria.

Budget

Participation in the CiB program does not require considerable financial resources. However, resources must be committed to promote the program, to involve the local community, and to recognize participants and volunteers at the annual conference and awards ceremonies. Sources of funding may be obtained from fundraising projects and sponsorship and support from local businesses, Canex and MFRC programs.



CFB Suffield

Program Commitment

Participating Bases, Garrisons and Wings have a responsibility to:

- Involve the entire Base/Wing/Garrison community with the support of the Commander
- Prepare for the judging in July or August
- Attend the national awards ceremonies and symposium

The Judges' Visit – Useful Information

- Prepare materials and community profile book that address all criteria in the evaluation form
- Make good use of the time spent by the judges in your community, to benefit from their expertise
- The judges' itinerary should include all of the criteria
- Provide the judges with the opportunity to interact with key individuals and network in your community
- Let them see that you are proud of your achievements

Bloom Ratings

Communities are rated from 1 to 5 blooms

Up to 55 points:	1 bloom
56-63 points:	2 blooms
64-72 points:	3 blooms
73-81 points:	4 blooms
82 points and more:	5 blooms

There are four (4) levels of 5 Blooms exclusive to the National and International Edition, for evaluated communities only.

5 Blooms:	82 to 83.9%
5 Blooms (Bronze):	84 to 86.9%
5 Blooms (Silver):	87 to 89.9%
5 Blooms (Gold):	90% and over

- A community does not have to be entered in a competitive category, but will need to be evaluated.

- With the introduction of this enhanced higher award standards, the marking of scores will be more critical.

AWARDS CEREMONIES

The National Awards Ceremony, hosted in a different city each year, is held in late September or early October, in conjunction with the National Symposium on Parks and Grounds. Personnel from all participating Bases and Wings are encouraged to attend. The Symposium includes technical training seminars and workshops. The communities are showcased by means of community exhibits and promotional material.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Awards are also part of the National Edition and recognize exemplary achievement in each criteria, plus other special initiatives.

PROMOTION

www.communitiesinbloom.ca: CiB's website gives visibility to our participants.

Social Networks: CiB participants are welcomed to send us updates, news and photos to post on our Facebook and Twitter pages:
(www.facebook.com/communitiesinbloom) & (www.twitter.com/cibcef)

Information Exchange Network: Information and documents gathered by the judges and made available on the CiB website.

Magazine: Showcases participants with photos results and articles. The magazine is also presented electronically on the CiB website.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Home Hardware - Canada's Backyard Contest
- Home Hardware Dealer Involvement Contest
- Scotts Best Garden Program
- Scotts *Miracle-Gro* GRO1000 Grassroots Gardens
- CN EcoConnexions – *From the Ground Up*
- Nutrients for Life – School Garden Award
- Canada's Garden Route
- Gardens of Remembrance Program

For more information, please visit:
www.communitiesinbloom.ca

2018 National Symposium and Awards Ceremonies
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*Within the context of climate change and environmental concerns,
all communities involved in the program
can be proud of their efforts,
which benefit all of society*