



**Canadian Nursery Landscape Association**  
Association Canadienne des Pépiniéristes et des Paysagistes

# 2023 Green Cities Award Application



Communities in Bloom has long harnessed the power of engaging passionate people – community minded people with a vested interest in making their communities a better place to live.

The living proof is on the ground!



## Purpose

Climate change is affecting our cities, our communities, and our homes and is changing the way we must design and build our urban landscapes. Yes, climate change is a global problem, but the effects hit us locally, where we live. Each city, town and community must then seek solutions and develop initiatives that are specific to their needs – on their streets, in their parks, playgrounds and schools, at all their green spaces, at every opportunity.

Never have our living landscapes been so important to our collective health and well-being – thriving, contributing, working green spaces and places for people to gather and enjoy.

Urban green spaces such as gardens, parks, transportation corridors and woodlands provide a multitude of benefits to human urban populations, and a vital habitat for wildlife.

These important elements of our urban green infrastructure impact our health by improving air and water quality and limiting the impact of heatwaves by reducing urban temperatures. They provide a place for physical fitness and reduce urban stress, the presence of green spaces can enhance the health and wellbeing of people living and working in cities. In addition, urban vegetation filters both air and water, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change in our cities, and reduces the likelihood of flooding by slowing and storing excess rain water.

This award champions city leadership in the use of nature based solutions/green infrastructure for improving the health and well-being of our cities.

## Submission Process and Deadline

Each community will be required to submit a 500 word description of green infrastructure/nature based solutions activities in their community, along with photos. This is your chance to share with the judges why your community should be awarded the Green Cities award. This description should accompany your scorecard which can be found at the end of the application. Please send all submissions to [bloom@cib-cef.com](mailto:bloom@cib-cef.com).

All submissions must be received by August, 4th, 2023. Late entries will not be considered. Application forms and all related materials can be submitted via email. Entrants are required to use standard electronic formats such as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint; as well as Adobe PDF files. Photos may be submitted as PDF, JPG or TIFF files.

## Judging

The scorecard will be evaluated and the best score will win. In the case of a tie, the municipality with the most complete package (i.e. links and information shared) will be the winner.

## Winning Entries/Prizes

The winning entrant will receive:

- A complimentary virtual consultation with one of our esteemed green city experts to review your scorecard
- A plaque
- Recognition at the CiB 2023 Symposium and Awards in Wood Buffalo, AB
- Featured in an upcoming issue of CNLA's Newsbrief magazine.

## Entry Form

All information must be clearly typed or printed.

Community : \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Copyright Release of Digital Photos

I (we) understand that upon submitting this application to (association name) the digital photos become the property of Communities in Bloom and the CNLA. I (we) agree to give Communities in Bloom and the CNLA permission to use the digital photos in award recognition or any other promotional activity that Communities in Bloom and the CNLA is involved with.

Project Contact's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Submit completed application to Communities in Bloom by August 4th, 2023***

**GREEN CITIES AWARD EVALUATION FORM****AIR QUALITY & TEMPERATURE MITIGATION**

**Air Quality – This section explores how your municipality reduces airborne pollutants specifically through the use of tree canopy and other living green infrastructure (green spaces).**

1. What is the current estimated total crown canopy cover percentage for your municipality? Explain how your municipality measures crown canopy cover?	Scale	Score
Greater than 30%	5	
Between 15%-30%	3	
Less than 15%	0	
Comments/Links:		
2. Do you have a municipal tree bylaw or policy that includes performance requirements to meet minimum crown canopy cover targets? If yes, provide a link.	Scale	Score
Yes, based on canopy to canopy percentage target replacement (1 for 2 or more new trees based on size of trees removed).	5	
Yes, based on unit to unit (1 for 1) replacement.	3	
No bylaw or permitting required.	0	
Comments/Links:		
3. Do you have a municipal urban forest management strategy plan?	Scale	Score
Yes	5	
Currently in progress	3	
None planned	0	
Comments/Links:		
4. Do you have regulations and / or bylaws requiring a certain percentage of green space and / or pervious or permeable surface area for new developments? What kind of regulations?	Scale	Score
Yes, greater than 30%	5	
Yes, greater than 10%	3	
No, we have no requirements whatsoever	0	
Comments/Links:		
<b>Air Quality Total (Maximum 20)</b>	<b>20</b>	

## AIR QUALITY & TEMPERATURE MITIGATION

**Temperature & Urban Heat Island Impact – This section explores how your municipality reduces localized temperatures and heat island impacts through the use of living green infrastructure in large and small spaces, including groundcover (turfgrass), trees, and everything in between.**

1. Does your municipality have effective regulations or policies to assist with urban heat island temperature management strategies? Please explain or provide a link.	Scale	Score
Yes, street tree planting and low impact development requirements related to heat island mitigation is required for all new development.	5	
Yes, we have policies, however, they are not always implemented.	3	
None of the above	0	
Comments/Links:		
2. Are green space performance targets an important part of the planning and development process? How are performance targets achieved for different size/densities/scale/types of land use to help support open spaces, green infrastructure, and parks areas? Are targets achieved through area plans, neighborhood level plans, regulations and/or site specific development? Please explain.	Scale	Score
Yes, green space performance targets are incorporated into the planning process through policy and regulations.	5	
Yes, policy is in place, however, development approvals often do not reflect policy and variances are often allowed.	3	
No regulation or policy in place.	0	
Comments/Links:		
3. Are green streets an important part of the planning and development process? Median and boulevard (streetscape), pocket parks, and road corridors, are used primarily for living green infrastructure (small landscapes, plantings or turfgrass) vs non-permeable paving?	Scale	Score
Yes, all new urban development areas and major streets are designed with consideration for greener streets including; pedestrian friendly, street landscapes, street trees and permeable surfaces.	5	
Green infrastructure design and green street standards are sometimes considered for new development but not required.	3	
Most streets are still designed using conventional gray infrastructure	0	
Comments/Links:		
4. Is landscaping or bio-engineering an important part of the development requirements? In addition to tree regulations and street trees, do you support the use of other kinds of landscaping as part of the development process?	Scale	Score
Yes, greater than 30%	5	
Yes, greater than 10%	3	
No, we have no requirements whatsoever	0	
Comments/Links:		
<b>Temperature Mitigation Total (Maximum 20)</b>	<b>20</b>	

## WATER QUALITY & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

**Water Quality & Stormwater Management – Water quality and stormwater management overlap. Progressive forms of stormwater management help deal with volumes, flow control and they filter and clean the water through the process. This section explores how your municipality is working to retain, detain, and treat runoff from rainfall in urban landscapes, which allows both cleansing and control.**

1. Rainwater runoff can be retained or detained through the use of permeable paving or pervious areas. What percentage of urban development is required to be pervious or permeable vs non-permeable onsite?	Scale	Score
Greater than 30% is permeable	5	
Between 15%-30% is permeable	3	
Less than 15% is permeable	0	
Comments/Links:		
2. Rainwater runoff can be retained or detained onsite through the use of green roofs or offsite through neighborhood / shared stormwater facilities in areas where space is limited. Do you have a green roof regulation and / or bylaw that supports either solution? If yes please provide a brief description.	Scale	Score
Yes, they are required in urban development by regulation and/or bylaw.	5	
Not required, however a policy has been developed for developers to include green roofs or offsite solutions.	3	
Neither of the above	0	
Comments/Links:		
3. Rainwater runoff can be retained or detained onsite through the use of a variety of other water storage and mitigation controls (e.g. raingardens and/or bioswales) or other water storage methods. Do you have as part of your urban development guidelines and / or bylaws regulations for onsite stormwater management? If yes please provide.	Scale	Score
Yes, onsite water storage management is required in urban development by regulation and/or bylaw.	5	
Not required, however onsite water storage management methods are encouraged.	3	
Neither of the above	0	
Comments/Links:		
4. Are there onsite topsoil treatment/amendment requirements for all new developments including both small scale and and larger developments.	Scale	Score
Yes, soil protection and handling plans are required by regulation and/or bylaw, and existing spaces are protected.	5	
Soil protection and handling plans are encouraged but not required.	3	
Neither of the above	0	
Comments/Links:		
<b>Water Quality &amp; Stormwater Management Total (Maximum 20)</b>	<b>20</b>	

<b>NATURAL ASSETS AND LAND USE</b>		
<b>Natural Assets and Land Use – This section explores what policy(s) your municipality has in place to create effective land use planning and retain and protect existing natural assets.</b>		
1. What kinds of regulations and / or tools are available to support retention of natural assets or that encourage other forms of green infrastructure?	Scale	Score
Protection of natural assets – wetlands, forests, water bodies (lakes, rivers, creeks), soils and grasslands.	1	
Bio-engineered facilities – rain gardens, bioswales, urban street trees, urban parks, stormwater wetlands/ponds, greenroofs, biomimicry.	1	
Regulatory performance targets for private development for tree canopy coverage, pervious and permeable surfaces, topsoil amendments onsite.	1	
Municipal conservation land acquisition strategy.	1	
Corporate and municipal green infrastructure development strategies, tools, and financial services to support public green infrastructure initiatives.	1	
Comments/Links:		
2. What kinds of green infrastructure initiatives does your municipality have in place?	Scale	Score
Urban forest management strategy.	1	
Green infrastructure and natural asset inventory with GIS mapping and information system(s).	1	
Natural capital evaluation program. E.g. iTree	1	
Green infrastructure management or biodiversity management strategy.	1	
Green infrastructure development regulations, guidelines, or standards.	1	
Comments/Links:		
3. What kinds of municipal public outreach and education programs are in place to support Green City designs?	Scale	Score
Municipal climate change resiliency strategy outreach program.	1	
Biodiversity conservation strategy outreach program	1	
Watershed planning management strategy or ISMP outreach program.	1	
Green infrastructure management strategy outreach program.	1	
Municipal advisory committee(s) related to green infrastructure or urban forestry.	1	
Comments/Links:		
4. Performance targets for municipal green infrastructure. Does your municipality have:	Scale	Score
Access to nature policy and performance targets or indicators.	1	
Climate change resiliency targets	1	
GHG offsets / carbon sequestration targets.	1	

Water and drainage integrated stormwater management plan (ISMP) targets	1	
Established clear greenways network through neighbourhoods supporting a larger network of municipal wide greenways?	1	
Comments/Links:		
<b>Natural Assets and Land Use Total (Maximum 20)</b>	<b>20</b>	



<b>HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING</b>		
<b>Health &amp; Well-Being – This section explores how your municipality supports physical health, mental health, and quality of life (liveability), while improving safety and reducing crime and perceptions of danger within your municipality. How are you using your green spaces with health &amp; well being a goal?</b>		
1. Have you improved citizen engagement in recreational or social activities in green spaces through municipal outdoor recreational programs and activities? If so, provide some recent successful examples.	Scale	Score
Yes, we have a strong municipal outdoor recreation program and many activities.	5	
We program a number of outdoor activities, but no formal planned programs.	3	
We have no municipal outdoor recreation activities.	0	
Comments/Links:		
2. How many kilometers of nature trails and multi-use pathways are available to the public in your municipality - per 100,000 population?	Scale	Score
Greater than 200 kilometers.	5	
Between 100 and 200 kilometers.	3	
Less than 100 kilometers.	0	
Comments/Links:		
3. What percentage of your municipal citizens have public parks within a ten-minute walk of where they live?	Scale	Score
Greater than 90% of citizens.	5	
Between 50% and 90% of citizens.	3	
Less than 50% of citizens.	0	
Comments/Links:		
4. Do you support urban food production and food safety / security through municipal garden plots, rooftop gardens, or as community gardens?	Scale	Score
Yes, our municipality has municipally owned community garden(s) and / or other garden plots	5	
Our municipality does not have its own, however it supports other public community gardens through financial incentives or support.	3	
Neither of the above	0	
Comments/Links:		
<b>Health and Community Well-Being Total (Maximum 20)</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>GREEN CITY AWARD TOTAL (MAXIMUM 100)</b>	<b>100</b>	