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## 2024 Communities in Bloom Ontario Provincial Edition Invitation

Honourable Mayor and Council,

Communities in Bloom is a non-profit organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and community beautification across Canada through friendly challenge and competition.

The Communities in Bloom program invites citizens of all ages, municipal governments, local organizations, not for profits and businesses alike to take part in a challenge to make their municipality more beautiful and green through the imaginative use of flowers, plants and trees. Projects can come to life in parks, neighbourhoods and open spaces, and are evaluated by Communities in Bloom judges on factors including environmental stewardship and the preservation of heritage and cultural landmarks. This year, we are also encouraging communities to incorporate our colour of the year, orange, into their projects as a way of honouring our Indigenous communities.

**We invite your community to [take part in the 2024 program](#). It's truly a wonderful way to foster community pride, and enjoy the benefits of more beautiful municipalities — as well as help mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change through the enhancement of green spaces.**

In recent years, we've seen a significant shift in what people want and need in terms of public outdoor spaces. Taking part in the Communities in Bloom challenge is a concrete way to foster civic pride, help the environment and strengthen neighbourhoods, while increasing investment opportunities and boosting tourism for municipalities.

**Here's how it works:**

1. Communities register to participate online in one of two categories — either Population Category (community is evaluated and entered into the competition) or Friends Category (community is not evaluated for competition but becomes part of the Communities in Bloom Network).
2. Communities work together to create their vision and bring it to life.
3. For those entered in the Population Category, judges will evaluate your community in July or August 2024.
4. Communities receive their evaluations scores in the fall at a provincial symposium, and communities receiving a 5 Bloom rating will be invited to the CIB National competition.

The cost for entry, which covers the cost of administration and project evaluation, is \$400-\$1,000 (depending on population) or \$250 for the Friends category. For more information, please refer to the [Communities in Bloom Ontario website](#) or the [How to Participate Guide](#).

All participating communities will receive valuable feedback from the judges and a template for continuous improvement. Your community will also be invited to submit for special achievement awards and to apply for grants offered by our sponsors and partners.

**Participating in the program has proven, positive benefits that can impact all sectors of your municipality. Taking part in Communities in Bloom encourages and enhances community involvement, helps improve green infrastructure and promotes environmental sustainability.**

We believe taking part in Communities in Bloom is one of the best investments you can make in your hometown, but don't just take it from us! Check out the video below to learn how mayors, community leaders and partners have seen direct benefits from participating in Communities in Bloom.



Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any additional questions using the contact info below. We look forward to seeing your community in bloom — and working together to create a greener, healthier and more beautiful Ontario.

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With more than 3,300 professional members, Landscape Ontario is the province's premier horticultural trades association. Our mission is to be the leader in representing, promoting and fostering a favourable climate for the advancement of the horticulture industry in Ontario.

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