



Novice Program Information

Welcome! We are thrilled you are considering having your community join us in the Communities in Bloom Alberta Program!

As a Novice Community there is a lot of information to absorb! We are here to help you.

Features of the Novice Program

- A visit from CiB Evaluation Team members, for a mini-assessment based on the six evaluation categories (*Environmental Action, Community Appearance, Heritage Conservation, Tree Management, Landscape, and Plant & Floral Displays*). Pick three of the categories for a complete evaluation, and three will be touched upon.
- A written summary, as well as onsite comments and suggestions, from the CiB Evaluation Team.
- No bloom rating is assigned as a Novice Community. Instead, valuable comments & suggestions from the Evaluation Team can be utilized by your community for planning purposes and growing forward.
- No Community Profile required. The Team will discuss the concept and how to get started on a Community Profile for your community.
- Your Evaluation Team will discuss how to design a *Tour* for the next year.
- No pressure! Our Team is coming to see your community, celebrate your successes and identify things you can do going forward.

Communities in Bloom is about *Growing Great Places Together!*

As a Novice Community, you should be prepared to:

- Tour the Evaluation Team around your community in the morning (2-3 hrs.). Show off your accomplishments, areas you would like ideas about, anything that says, *"This is our community!"*
- Host two Team members overnight (if required – discuss this with your Evaluation Team Lead when they make contact).
- Feed and water your Evaluation Team.
- Organize a wrap-up meeting before the Evaluation Team departs for the day.
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Your Evaluation Team Lead will connect with you ahead of time – ensuring you have the information you need and the arrangements for lodging, feeding, etc. are taken care of!