



Beautification Survey Results

December 2023

Conducted by Emblem Community Development Corporation

PURPOSE:

The Beautification Survey was administered through the Emblem Community Development Board. The purpose of this survey was to assist in compiling a comprehensive list of priority areas in the Municipality that could benefit from beautification initiatives. By gathering a list of priority areas and people interested in becoming involved, Emblem CDC will assist in creating committees to use these findings and implement projects to work towards creating more visually appealing communities.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

A survey was distributed via the Municipality of Grassland Facebook page, on the Municipality of Grassland website as well as paper copies were available for completion for the month of November 2023. Community specific committees being created will be encouraged to further gather information and input surrounding their ideas.

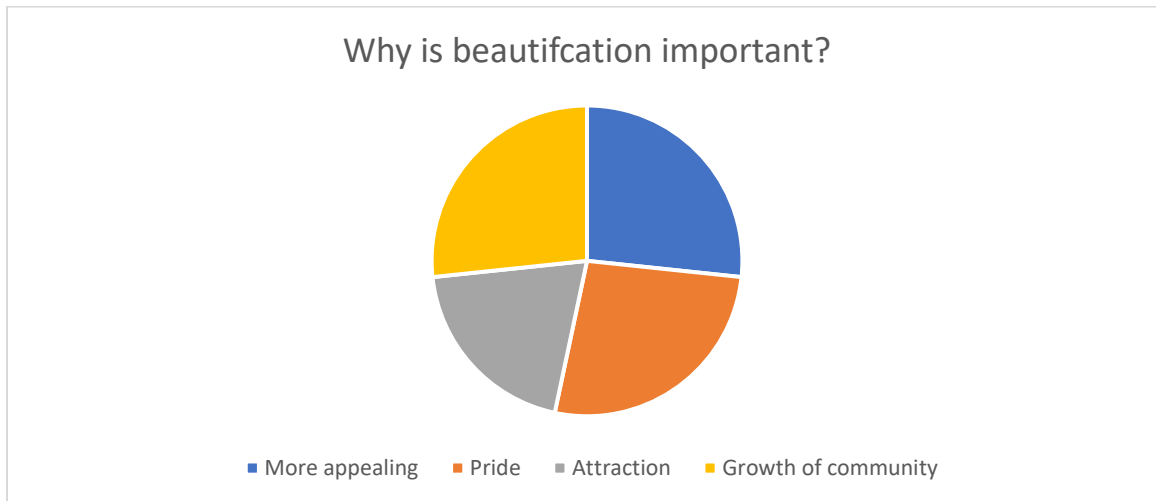
REPORTING:

The results from the Beautification Survey have been compiled and analyzed by the Manager of Economic Development, Policy & Projects. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the recorded information.

For more information on the Municipality of Grassland Beautification Survey or the Committees formed from the survey, please contact the Manager of Economic Development, Policy & Projects, Debra Turner by emailing edo@mglgov.ca or calling 204-858-2590.

KEY FINDINGS & THEMES:

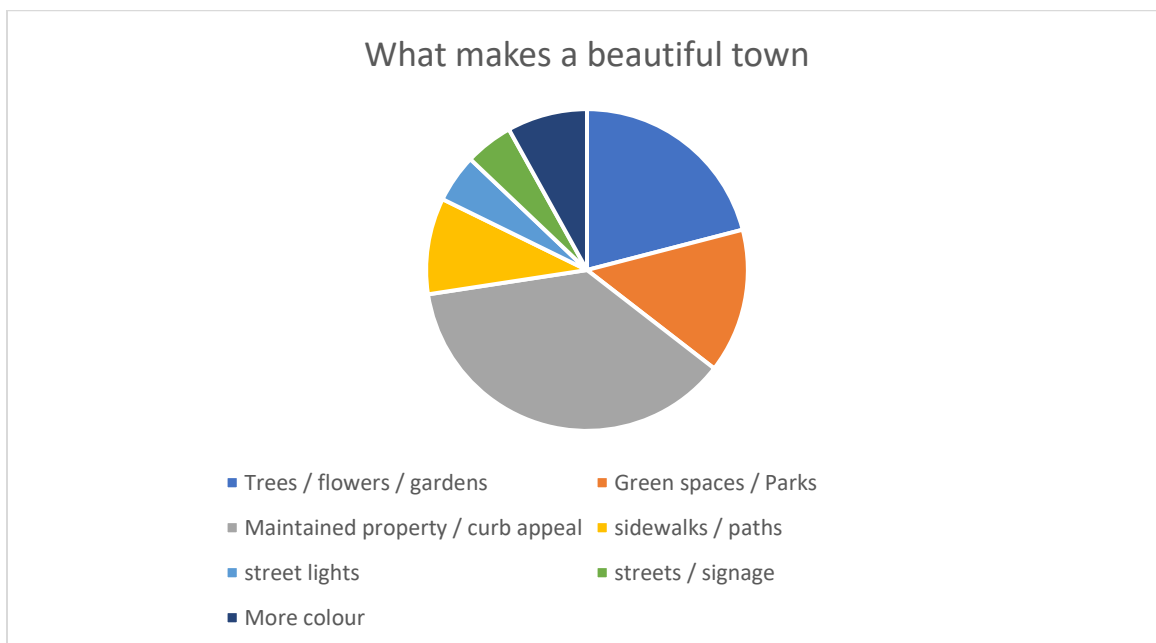
98% of participants said that beautification was important in their communities.



With almost a four-way tie, the main reasons why beautification in communities was important was:

- To make their community more appealing
- Pride, to live in that community
- Attraction – to bring other people into the community
- Growth of the community, people want to live and do business in our community

Participants were asked what they thought made a community beautiful. The top answer was maintained properties and curb appeal, followed by trees / flower / gardens and third was green spaces / parks.



COMMUNITY SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS

ELGIN

When asked what the first impressions of the community were from a visual standpoint, it was not positive. The main points of these responses included abandoned, broken and eye sore.

The positive points included the remaining grain elevator, brick houses and the trees.

The top 3 areas in the community that required the most attention for beautification, as identified in the survey were:

- Derelict yards / old vehicles / dead trees
- Main street in general
- Would like to see more flower pots and gardens

MINTO

The results for Minto when asked about visual first impressions of the community were positive. The participants of this survey were overall satisfied with the community's visual appearance. Items such as the main sign, flowers were referenced, and one noted more "streetscaping" would be nice.

The top 3 areas in the community as identified by the participants in the survey that required the most attention for beautification were:

- Minto Market
- New green space
- Wanted the addition of murals and bright colours
- The side walk in front of the co-op removed

HARTNEY

Derelict buildings and "run down" was the top answer when participants were asked about their first impression of the community; 55% of people included this response as their answer or part of their answer. Additional observations included smaller homes, need more trees, and needed signage. Positive remarks included the tree park and that it was a nice community.

The top 3 areas in the community that were identified as requiring the most attention for beautification (that received multiple votes) were:

- Main street
- Way finding signage
- Hartney campground
- sidewalks
- wanting more trees
- ball diamonds
- derelict / unoccupied buildings



Additional areas identified – but received one vote were:

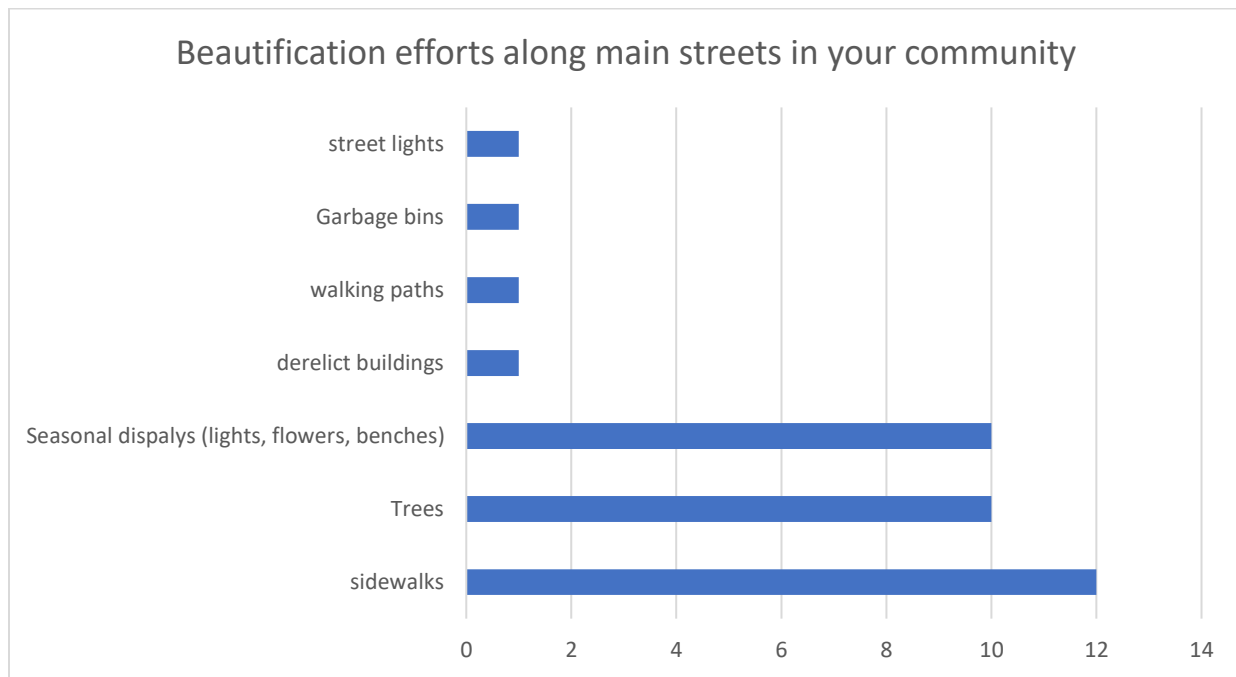
- need a drawing card to bring people together outdoors
- Centennial Centre area
- Old artifacts like the caboose and old bell
- storefronts
- more walking paths
- More flowers
- Garbage around town for dog waste disposal
- municipal building green space



MAIN STREETS

When posed with the question about beautification and landscaping along the main streets in specific communities there were three answers that stood out above the rest: sidewalks, trees and flowers.

Additional ideas that came from this question included Remembrance banners (like Melita has) for each community (Minto already has through their Legion) and program like Neighborhood Renewal (in Brandon)



GREEN SPACES

The beautification of the green spaces in each community had the same number one answer – trees. In all of the communities the answer was the same, that more trees were needed in our greens spaces and throughout our communities as a whole.

Ideas coming from the survey for specific communities include:

Hartney:

- expand the municipal park to include more
- utilize green spaces more by including activities such as lawn bowling, horse shoes etc.
- the campground and fairgrounds were noted as requiring attention

Elgin

- Community garden was proposed and tied with trees for the number one answer to this question

Minto

- Minto noted there was not a lot of green space and would like to see a park in the community

TOP BUSINESS / PUBLIC PROPERTIES

The following properties and businesses were identified as being the most visually appealing or have the best landscaping in the community (in order of ranking):

HARTNEY:

- 1) Sunrise Credit Union
- 2) Boundary Co-op
- 3) Hartney Pool & Campground | Morrison Agencies | HartCam Museum
- 4) Coulthard Masonry
- 5) Playground at Civic Centre
- 6) Elevator | Tree Park | Brick Buildings

ELGIN:

- 1) Firehall | Double Diamond new office | Museum
- 2) Community Centre – but more landscaping required

MINTO:

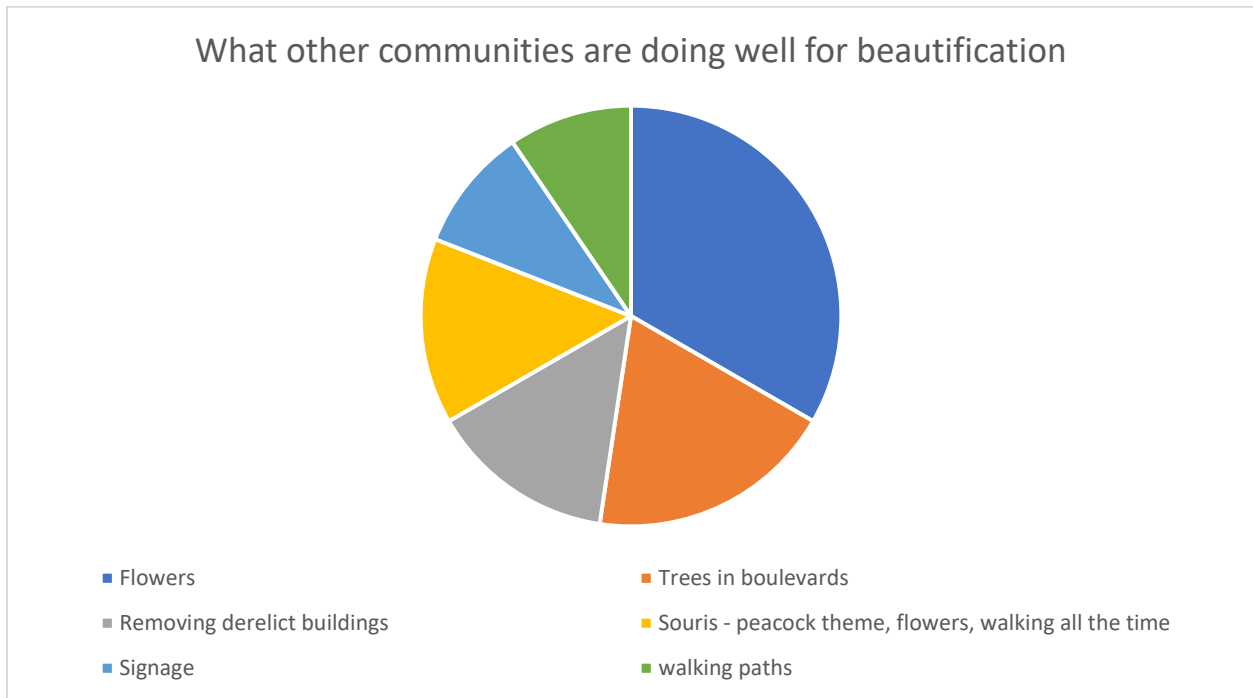
- 1) Daycare
- 2) Church | School | Municipal Building
- 3) Hall



OTHER COMMUNITIES

When asked what other communities are doing well in terms of beautification the number one answer was flowers followed by trees in boulevards. Removing derelict buildings and Souris' theme and all seasonal walking tied for third while signage and walking paths tied for fourth.

Additional ideas from this question include Deloraine's center of town, playgrounds with shade structures, benches in public places, dog waste disposal stations, murals, Christmas lights, community gardens and implementing programs such as community renewal programs.



IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Ideas for low-cost solutions for improving beautification in the community.

These ideas were mentioned more than once:

- Tree planting involving school and community
- Most beautiful yard competition
- Potted perennials and perennial flowers
- Derelict yard by-law being enforced

Additional ideas:

- Town wide clean up (involve the youth)
- Walking / hiking paths
- Beautification committee / student volunteers
- Snow hill and logs for benches
- Grants



- Pick one street to focus on at a time
- Have families, business or organizations sponsor a tree / path /light
- Dog waste disposal stations
- Donations from local nurseries for greenery / plants / trees
- It starts with residential – cleaning up personal properties first
- Mini golf area
- 2&10 to remove derelict buildings

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

In addition to ideas already presented above and throughout the survey, the following new ideas were presented:

- Grasshopper Statue
- Playground close to PCH so residents can see kids play
- Engage the younger generation
- large display of Christmas lights
- Implement Your Town Rising ideas
- Focus on main streets first
- turning vacant properties into green spaces

SUMMARY

The most common theme throughout the survey and throughout the communities within the municipality was planting trees and flowers and cleaning up the derelict buildings / vehicles in the community. People care about beautification and want to see something being done to work towards more visually appealing communities. Main streets in each community require attention and sidewalks were identified as the biggest problem.

Several ideas for improvement were identified with the echoing of tree planting, more flower / colours and cleaning up abandoned and derelict yards.

Several names were submitted from across the municipality to assist in putting some ideas to action. Those who indicated interest will be contacted.

We thank those that gave their feedback and took the time to complete the survey. As well as thank you to those that have volunteered to get involved in their communities.

