



*Eckville Communities in Bloom*

**2021 PROFILE DOCUMENT**

**Population Category**

**Friends - Evaluated**

**CiB Participation History**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Bloom Rating</b>	<b>Special Mention</b>	<b>Outstanding Achievement (criteria) or Other Award</b>
2020	Virtual Participation		Fortis Bloom Where You're Planted Video Award Winner
2019	4 Blooms	Impressive Walking Trail	n/a
2018	3 Blooms	Off Leash Dog Park	n/a
2017	Novice	Red and White Floral Celebrating Canada's 150	n/a

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## INTRODUCTION

### Our Community

A rural community rich in cultural heritage, Eckville is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a town, officially inaugurated on November 3, 1921.

As a progressive, environmentally and fiscally responsible “Community of Choice”, it supports environmental protection; embraces heritage; and encourages an attractive community for all to enjoy. Located 40 km west of Red Deer, the town is equidistant from all the amenities provided by the large cities of Edmonton and Calgary.

Eckville is a recreationally active community. Baseball was an active part of the community in 1920’s. Hockey was played on the Medicine River in 1927, moving uptown around 1931. Today, the Curling Rink doubles as the summer venue for archery, pickleball and sports camps, hosting curling events in the winter; the Ice Arena supports winter skating and hockey games and in the summer livestock events; and two ball diamonds are available for tournaments or a neighborhood challenge.

Other summer sports including baseball, skate boarding, biking and golfing are available locally. Winter’s snow brings skating, hockey, curling, snowshoeing, ski-doing and road hockey. Year-round walking trails, yoga, gym classes or dance classes can be enjoyed.

In close proximity are various lakes, streams, rivers and camping opportunities leading to an increased variety of summer family activities such as lake water sports, hiking and biking trails, mini golf and collegiate baseball.

Hunting, ice fishing, tobogganing, cross-country skiing and snowboarding/downhill skiing are easily accessible.

For the nature enthusiast, picturesque farmland, flora, fauna, waterways, foothills, and the Rockies are the natural landscape of the town.

From its many recreational opportunities to its cultural heritage to its small-town spirit, Eckville provides many opportunities for the community to enjoy the amenities.

Click on the link below to view our  
Fortis Bloom Where You’re Planted Video!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6\\_VOWLctKM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6_VOWLctKM)



## 2021 Municipal Information

Municipality: Town of Eckville

Population: 1163

Municipal Budget: \$3.95 million

Including capital funding for:

Fire Equipment	\$ 18,500
Roads/Streets	\$ 442,000
Water Treatment	\$ 824,000
Waste Water	\$ 35,000
Rec/Parks	\$ 107,000

Municipal Area: 161 Hectares

Green Space: 275,465 sq. m.

Website: [www.eckville.com](http://www.eckville.com)

CiB Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/loveourlittletown/>

❖ Symbol indicates activities developed since the last profile was completed in 2019

### *2020 Summarized Municipal Infrastructure & Services Plan (2021 plan delayed)*

#### 1. Community Appearance

Mainstreet Enhancement -capital plan implemented

Street Repairs -scheduled and prioritized

Community Promotion and explore options to encourage improvements to front facades and architectures

#### 2. Environmental Action

Pedestrian Crosswalks -identify crossings and install solar powered systems

Water System -Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

Wastewater System -review performance and prioritize future upgrading including options

#### 3. Heritage Conservation

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary -assist special Committee and finalize arrangements

#### 4. Urban Forestry

Town Tree Replacement Analysis -replacement of unhealthy and additional conifers

#### 5. Landscape

Walking Trail Expansion -complete north trail and central core expansion



### *Major Infrastructure Plans*

#### ❖ Highway 11

Twinning Sylvan Lake to Rocky Mountain House; 66 km; planning phases 2021 with construction in 2022-24. Influence on the community is anticipated to be a positive one.

### *Community Relations*

#### ❖ 100th Anniversary

A year of celebrating starting November 3, 2021, the incorporation date, begins with the annual tree lighting and fireworks display. Plans for other events throughout the year culminating at 2022 tree lighting are in the planning stages. Organizations and businesses interested in hosting or co-hosting events throughout the year are welcome and the hope is that the whole town will be interested in celebrating in their own way.

Town will continue to host and/or support the following events:

- Canada Day Celebration
- Annual Parade in conjunction with the June Rodeo
- Pancake Breakfast in conjunction with the Fire Department
- Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

What We Have

Community Facilities	Eckville Manor & Golden Villas	Spray Park	Curling Rink	Lions Camp Ground
	Fire Hall	Town Centre Playground	Indoor Ice Arena	Golf Course
	Community Health Centre	Elementary School Playground	Outdoor Ice Arena	Women's Gym
	Municipal Library	50 Ave Crescent Playground	Walking Trail	Yoga Studio
	Elementary and High Schools	Basketball Court	Forhan's Field Ball Diamond	Off Leash Dog Park
	Community Hall	Tennis Court	Andrew Park Ball Diamond	Hansen's Reservoir
	Legion Hall	Skate Park	Friendship Centre	Ray's Pond
Activities	Archery	Recreational Dance	Minor Hockey	Library Book Clubs
	Pickleball	Kick Boxing	Curling	Library Programs
	Golf	Soccer	Figure Skating	Summer Day Camps
	Minor Ball	Slow Pitch	Yoga/Fitness Classes	Fishing Ponds
Organizations/Volunteer Groups	Communities in Bloom	Eckville & District Historical Society	School Parents Group	4-H Clubs
	Volunteer Fire Department	Friendship Group	Wellness Coalition	Youth Group
	Recreation, Arts & Culture Board	Eckville Handicraft	Family Resource Network	Eckville Minor Ball
	David Thompson Snow Riders	Eckville Legion	Family & Community Supports	Eckville Minor Hockey
	Eckville Rodeo	Eckville Lions	Santa's Anonymous	Eckville Arena Board
	Eckville Library Board	Community Centre Board	Food Bank	Thrift Shop
	Eckville Curling Club			

CiB 2021 Action Plan

Continue annual floral color selection, planting and maintenance of downtown planters and town entrance signs	Redesign and reinitiate CiB Facebook page	Hazardous Waste Round Up in conjunction with Regional Waste Management
Mulch Community Fruit Garden	Explore Funding Opportunities	Participate in Town's 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
Initiate CiB Project Signage	Continue Kick It to the Curb	Increase Community awareness of CiB

CiB 2021 Needs

Larger Volunteer Base	Business Participation	Corporate Partners
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## COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

### Community

In the spring,

- local Community 4-H Clubs clean Highway 766 north and south of town
- off leash Dog Park is cleaned and maintained by pet owners throughout the year



Citizens are encouraged to maintain their yards and address overhanging trees. In the winter, snow removal and sidewalk safety become a priority.



## Municipal

### Spring/Summer

- street cleaning, sidewalk and road repair, signage upkeep
- maintaining parks, playgrounds, walking trails, ball diamonds, dog park, drainage systems

### Fall/Winter

- prioritized snow removal including downtown core into residential areas
- walking trail is maintained all year round, icy sections addressed

Year-round garbage and recycling collection, maintaining waste dispensers, address graffiti and vandalism deterrent/prevention.

### *Walking Trail*

- ❖ Additional waste dispensers along the pathway to encourage cleanliness

Benches are graciously accepted by the community; memorial plaques in recognition of the families and businesses donating them.





### *Weed Control*

- ❖ Black Knot, Creeping Bellflower and other noxious weeds noticed within town; information to be included in monthly utility bill making residents aware of the problem

Untidy properties are addressed by town administration and bylaws.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION**

### **Community**

#### Landfill Site Management:

##### *Kick It To The Curb*

Successful spring and fall program; up-cycling and residents very proud of their newly found treasures

##### *Container Garbage and Curbside Recycling*

- ❖ Residential recycle containers changed from traditional “open green bin” to wheeled 95 gallon closed blue plastic container in December 2019.

Recyclable items include paper, cardboard, milk/juice containers, clean plastic containers, glass containers, jars, metal tins, clean foil plates/platters/wrap

Recycle blue containers are picked up every second week; black cart garbage is weekly pick up.

##### *Single Use Plastics*

- ❖ Donate per recycle bag to school lunch program
- ❖ Local Co-Op Grocery encourages bring your own bag program or small fee paper bag



Waste Reduction and Landfill Diversion:

❖ *Book Exchange Stands*

Located within the residential area are small, up cycled cabinets housing free books and inviting others to participate in “take a book/ leave a book” reading; availability is year- round and maintained by the home owner.



*Thrift Store*

Accepts gently used clothing and small household items raising funds for local community projects. Operated by a team of local volunteers who oversee the donations, employ manor residents to cut rags for resale, and continually donate to other organizations items which have not sold locally.

*Bottle Recycling*

Bottle Drives have proven successful in raising funds for sports team participation, local Spray Park and most recent Elementary School Playground replacement.

Local depot provides convenience and has easy access for the community to recycle.

## Municipal

### Energy Conservation:

#### *Street Lighting*

- ❖ In 2020 the town installed 13 new solar streetlights on Eckford Street and in front of the Co-op Grocery Store. These state-of-the-art streetlights are completely off grid and can be programmed to set the “on and off” times and the intensity of the lights.

The town also installed 5 additional standard solar streetlights: two in the Co-op Parking Lot, two on the Credit Union Way walking path and one in the Eckville Dog Park.

Two solar powered Pedestrian Crossing Warning signs were also installed on Melissa Hollinsworth Avenue: one near the Elementary School and one near the Fire Hall, both having high potential for safety risks.

#### *Ice Arena*

- ❖ Solar Panels installed in 2020 on the south facing roof generate 172 kw power annually. At a cost of \$328,000 with grant funding (\$141,000), the expenditure will be cost neutral in 15 years.
- ❖ Ice Plant upgrading to improve operational efficiency was completed in 2020.

### Landfill Site Management:

#### *Compost Sites*

- ❖ Large metal tree branch collection bin located at 52 St for spring and fall clean up; branches are chipped at lagoon site; in between times branches taken to Transfer Site.

Town has encouraged grass, yard waste and tree branch composting for numerous years with drop off locations and composted soil available for use. Two large metal collection bins for grass and yard waste are strategically placed for easy residential access and are emptied regularly.

#### *Container Garbage and Curbside Recycling*

Residents have weekly garbage and biweekly recycle driveway pickup by contracted service.

Commercial businesses have weekly garbage services and choice of appropriately sized containers. Cardboard is baled by another business in town and recycled.

### *Hazardous Waste Collection*

- ❖ Replanning 2020 Toxic Waste Roundup in conjunction with Regional Waste Management as the risks of proceeding at that time out-weighted the community benefit.

Used oil recycle services is offered by local business. The transfer site accepts paint and paint containers.

### *White Goods*

Drop off at Eckville Transfer Site north of town. Detailed information is available on town website.

### Waste Management:

- ❖ *Port A Potties*

With limited access to public washrooms during Covid increased number of “Port a Potties” located throughout public park areas and maintained by Public Works.

Little Jons’ Septic Services & Portable Toilet Rentals donated use of the facilities along the walking trail, dog park and outdoor rink.

### Water Management:

- ❖ Water Treatment Plant upgraded in 2021 including metering, treatment equipment, alarm system, bulk water system and fire protection. Funded by Federal, Provincial and Town of Eckville \$721,731.

Individual home water meters since approximately 2008 encouraging water conservation and the inclusion of more drought tolerant plants, rain catchment systems, mulching options, or xeriscape opportunities

### Waste Water Management:

Waste Water is treated through a modified wastewater lagoon treatment system. Our wastewater lagoon systems were upgraded in 1996 when a seepage collection system was installed and new aeration treatment cells were constructed. Through some rearranging of storage cells our total storage was increased from 55,000 gallons to 100,000.

As our wastewater volumes have been steadily increasing, the town will be completing a study in the next few years to decide whether to rebuild the current wastewater lagoons or connect to the Sylvan Lake Wastewater Association.

## HERITAGE CONSERVATION

### Community

#### *Rodeo*

Held in June, an indoor event celebrating the life of an early settler in the district and skills working with livestock. The Hockey arena is transformed into corral landscape using dirt that has been stored and recycled from previous years. It remains a volunteer driven event. In conjunction is the annual Parade featuring decorated horses, bicycles, vehicles, and floats.

#### *Bullarena*

The Eckville Arena hosts an evening of bull riding and a cabaret. The finale is a highlight of the night. Played at tables strategically placed on dirt flooring, the goal is for four cowboys to remain seated at the table as wild bulls charge throughout the enclosed area. The winner is the last to move! A May fund raiser involving local community rodeo participants.

#### *Remembrance Day*

- ❖ Service in 2020, veterans and community members walked from Curling Rink to the Legion. A short service took place outdoors. Community recognition of the Veterans and wreaths laid in their honor.

Traditionally held at the Community Centre, organized by the local Legion and lead by the Presbyterian Church Minister. Wreaths are laid by dignitaries, widows, legion members and students. Followed by lunch and friendship.

#### *Fire Department Christmas "Boot and Toy Drive"*

- ❖ Drop off at Firehall in 2020

Held in early December by local uniformed Volunteer Firefighters accepting toys and cash at entrances to the town. Emergency vehicles and a few cold and snowy hours benefit the community.

All funds raised are donated to the local Santa's Anonymous.

#### *Fall Turkey Supper*

- ❖ Meals pre-ordered with takeout dining in 2020

Hosted by Presbyterian Church celebrating the end of harvest; held at the Community Centre. Successful ingredients to this long-standing event are the home-grown vegetables and countless desserts and cups of coffee!

## Municipal

### *Indigenous Cairn*

Located at the Eckville Cemetery, the stone monument honors our native community.

The wording on the cairn reads:

“To your right (east) are unmarked graves of native people buried between 1934 and 1950 in memory of which this cairn was built in 1985 and dedicated in 1986”

### *Cemetery*

Located 1.8 km SE on Cemetery Road, overlooking the Medicine River valley and rolling farm land, the cemetery was established in 1927. The first recorded burials are Charles Kasper (1873-1928) and Joanna Macky (1889-1928) with a baby.

Benches donated by community businesses, floral displays by the municipality and maintained by public works. Plot, headstone or cremation site information is available at Town Office. Bylaws are available to guide families.

### *Historical Monuments*

#### Eckville Memorial Park Gates

Remaining are the two exterior stone pillars with WWI and WWII years displayed at a once elaborate gate entering the sports hub of the town.

#### Legion Cenotaph

The Legion received its original charter in 1945. In 1953, the membership had dropped to 8 and the Legion was declared inactive. In 1963 the Legion was reopened and a new Legion Building was erected. In 2001 the Cenotaph, with Command assistance was placed in front of the Legion.

The Cenotaph is to honor all of the Fallen Comrades in Service of their Country.

#### Town Centre Monument

- ❖ Reconstructed in 2020 due to brick-and-mortar structural damage, the monument's redesign includes the original plaque dedicated to the early settlers of the area and the time capsule commemorating the town's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The surrounding area and pathway leading towards the monument was enlarged providing a more park like atmosphere near the downtown core.

### *Individuals Celebrated*

#### Eckford Street

In honor of the Eckford Family, 50<sup>th</sup> or Main Street was renamed in 1996.

#### Melissa Hollingsworth Avenue

The 2006 Winter Olympics Women's Skeleton Bronze medalist is a hometown athlete, barrel racer and competitor on the Amazing Race. The Avenue was dedicated in 2006.

### *Written and Pictorial History*

The history of the area's families and town site has been completed by dedicated volunteers of the community:

HOMESTEADS TO HAPPINESS published in 1979

MEMORIES TO THE MILLENIUM published in 2005

Available at the library for personal enjoyment or purchased at Town Office as a keepsake, heritage is traceable throughout the generations.

The entrance hallway of the Community Centre portrays our history in "pictures"; our farming community, our health community, our sports community and our families.

### *Traditions*

#### Town Siren

Rings daily at 12 noon and 9 pm; located on Town Office roof. Historically, the siren was a reminder of impending doom, to call the volunteer fire crew to the fire station and as a reminder lunch time and night curfew for young children. In 2006, the town residents wrote letters or e-mailed in favor of keeping as compared to dismantling it.

#### Canada Day Celebration

Outdoor celebration held in Recreational Park area with children's activities, Town Council serving hot dogs, refreshments and large Canada Day cake on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Mayor leads the Community in reaffirming their citizenship; other dignitaries are invited. Fireworks at dusk are coordinated with the Fire Department.

#### Christmas Tree Lighting

- ❖ New celebratory tree was planted in front of the Community Centre
- ❖ Celebration in 2020 with pandemic community safety allowed for staying in or near vehicles with social distancing as the lights were turned on

When the previous tree was deemed unsafe, a new tree and site was decided allowing the community to gather safely, have celebratory options and be weather wise.

Sponsored by the Town, includes free hot dogs and hot chocolate for the community with citizens gathered around the tree for the traditional countdown and the mayor lighting the tree.

## **URBAN FORESTRY**

### **Community**

#### *Residential*

- Planting shrubs and trees are encouraged; neighbors often share information about success and failure
- Zone 3 plantings are recommended by horticulturists
- No municipal bylaws limiting type or quantity of trees; to follow sidewalk and road safety bylaws

### **Municipal**

#### *Tree Inventory*

- ❖ Expansion and replacement along 50th Avenue with 11 evergreens added providing longevity and a low maintenance shelterbelt with an effective natural sound barrier. Climatized; chosen from local tree farm with similar soil conditions.
- ❖ Additional trees along Westview Trail; funded through Fortis Grant Program available to CiB participants.

Total of 388 on town owned property was completed in 2017 excluding natural trees along the Credit Union Way walking trail.

Mr. Donald Macrae, a former gardener at Dunrobin Castle in Scotland immigrated to Eckville and was hired by the town to plant the small grove of trees south of the Manor House with the intent of replanting and repopulating other areas of town. The grove remains located in the green space along the railway.

#### *Urban Reserves*

Two designated reserves located on west boundaries of the town.

One is natural regenerating trees and shrubs found locally. Located north of the railway and behind Macdonald Heights, it's an ideal location for a woodland exploration.

The second, located north of the Firehall and east of the Westview section of the walking trail depicts the open prairie land with native shrubs.



Bylaws are in place to protect existing wooded areas and environmental reserves from future development.

## LANDSCAPE

### Community

#### *Petunia Tree*

When bare, it stands as an artistic interpretation of a tree adding interest to the Manor House entrance driveway. Constructed of metal, in the summer the structure is adorned with flowers. In the winter, a colorful light display for the residents, visitors and the community to enjoy.



## Community and Municipal

### *Parks and Playgrounds*

#### ❖ Elementary School Playground

Playground equipment and ground surface area updated and replaced in 2020. Funds were raised by the Parent's Group and Community with labor donated by individuals and businesses.

#### Downtown Playground

The Equipment was initially donated and has since been replaced; town maintains grounds. Preschool and youth appropriate play equipment provides a variety of fun exercise while the less young at heart may enjoy a shady spot in the gazebo or a picnic lunch. Port a Potties are on site.

#### 50 Ave Crescent Playground

A basic equipped play spot for families to enjoy and close to the walking trail for a change in activity.

#### Spray Park

Was constructed in 2013 by our local volunteer Recreation Board and turned over to the town once it was operational. Funds were raised through community donations, parent's creativity and corporate sponsors.

#### Dog Park

Off leash, with a large open area enclosed by metal fencing and gated section for safely leashing/unleashing. Located in a natural drainage of an urban reserve, there is potential for exercise for both dog and master. Opened in 2018; available all year round; vehicle parking near gate entrance.

### *Recreational Areas*

#### ❖ Early planning phases for Outdoor Arena located near Park Gate entrance

Proposed for both summer and winter activities ranging from pickleball to hockey/skating.

Community fund raising project initiated; 50/50 draw held this spring

Recreational Facilities within the Community are centrally located and close proximity to both Schools and the Community Centre.

## Municipal

### *Cremation Circle*

Designed by the Town of Eckville with the assistance of Marlene Jewell who was employed by Lacombe County. It was fashioned after the cremation circle in the Mirror Cemetery.

### *Town Entrance Signs*

- ❖ Ornamental grasses and Zone 3 shrubs added to entry signs

One of the first projects undertaken by the CiB group included replacing the annual flowers below the Welcome signs with perennials including a colorful array of floral bulbs. As the beds are raised, the bulbs did not survive harsh winters requiring replacement with deeper rooted plants.

### *Walking Trail*

- ❖ Eckville Hospital Memorial Path

Constructed in 2021, this 0.58km section of the walking trail follows the exterior boundaries of the “Eckville Hospital Grounds”.

Sidewalks have been widened from this section to Eckford Street to improve the safety of our seniors residing at the Eckville Manor and Golden Villas as they navigate in and out of the downtown core.

The original walking path constructed was the Credit Union Way in 2014, a 1.3 km distance to which the Credit Union was a major sponsor. The next walking path completed was 0.58 km in 2019; named Westview Trail. All the trail segments were funded by grants and contributions.

The trail system meanders near the south and west boundaries of the town following the natural terrain and near the urban reserves. Given its location and year-round usability, Exercise Classes and Wellness Walkers enjoy this amenity.

Natural grasses along the trail near drainage sites have created water issues as clay-based soil deposits will create buildup and prevent drainage over time. Heavy down pours tend to be unpredictable in close proximity to the mountains

## FLORAL DISPLAYS

### Community

#### ❖ *Floral Colors*

The 2021 colors were chosen to match the town's crest; red, white and yellow.

In 2020, CiB did a school presentation to students K- Grade 6. Students were asked to vote for their favorite color combination as the town's flower colors. Red and white won. Covid prevented the students from participating in planting in 2020. Students were able to receive red flower seed packs in spring 2021 as thank you. The Co-op and the Town graciously donated gift certificates to purchase the seeds.

#### *Petunia Tree*

Memorial gift in honor of a Manor House employee; a dedication plaque stands in front of it. Each summer, new petunia baskets are purchased by families and friends to honor a loss with a commemorative welcome and recognition to the donors hosted by the Manor residents.

#### *Vegetable Garden*

In 2015, with land donated for usage by the town, fences donated by businesses and sweat equity from the community, residents have the opportunity to rent garden space at a minimal cost annually. A local church group arranges spring tillage; the renter is responsible for seeding and maintaining the plot. An array of hand tools has been donated for those in need of on-site garden equipment.

### Municipality

#### *Planters*

- ❖ Large planters with water reservoirs were purchased in 2020 reducing labor costs. CiB is attempting to winter store the Calla Lilies and Geraniums in 2021.

Appropriate annuals, colors and planting design is chosen to complement the hanging baskets.

Public Works assists in summer placement of the planters, baskets and watering; removal and storage in fall.



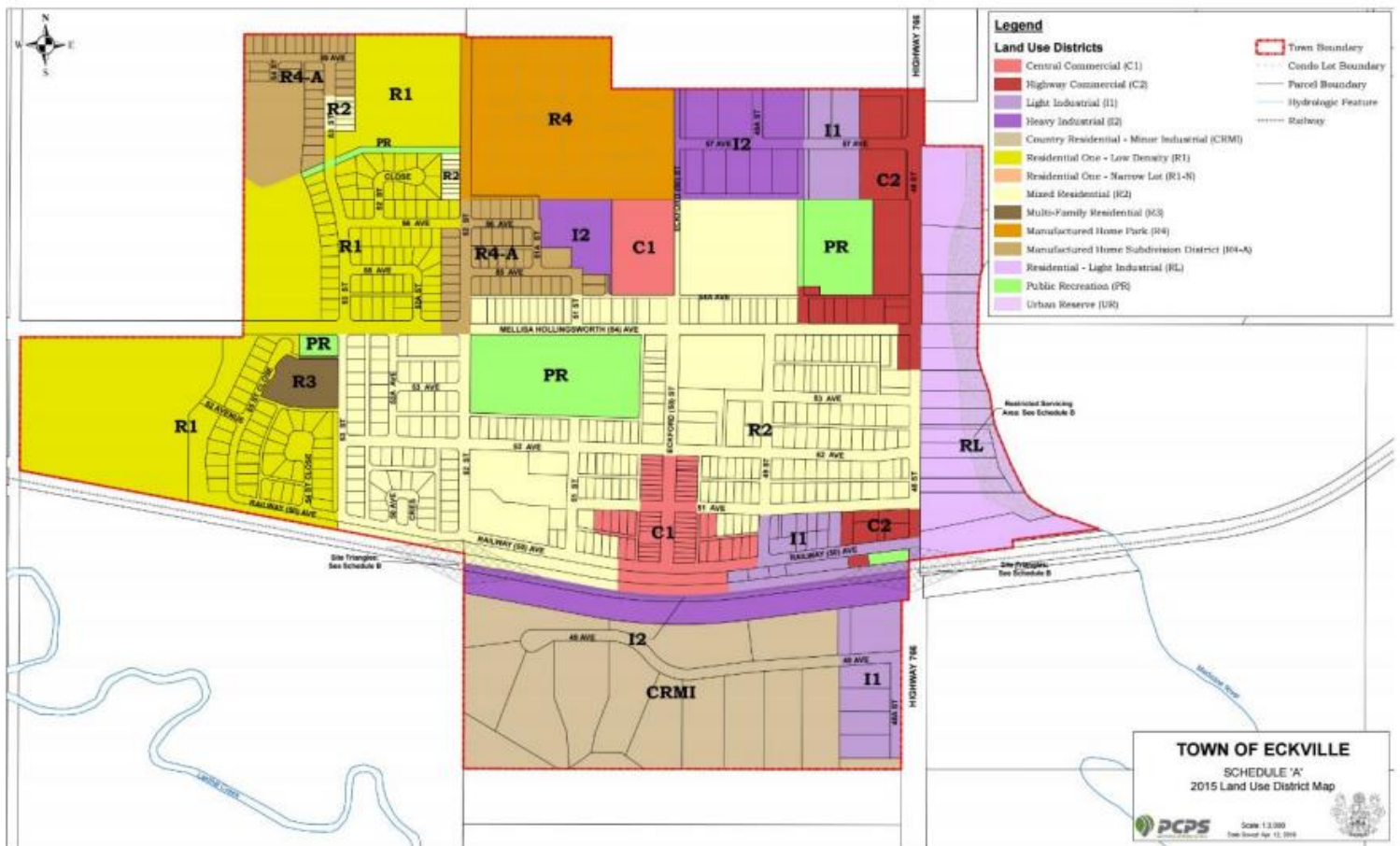
## Public Building and Street Displays

Hanging baskets have been purchased from the local greenhouse for numerous years relying on their expertise with zone appropriate florals. Colors are chosen in the winter season allowing for greenhouse notification.

## Fruit Garden

- ❖ Mulch Saskatoon fruit garden spending “video submission winnings!”; effectively increasing moisture around root system while controlling weeds
- ❖ Add signage to fruit garden, preferably natural in appearance, easily maintained and harmonize with a garden site

Purchased 20 seedling bushes in 2018, 2 varieties known to produce and survive in Zone 3 climate.



## Eckville Communities in Bloom Members

Member		Member	
Colleen Ebden	colleen@eckville.com	Laurie Phillips	lauriephillips@eckville.com
Jack Ramsden	jackramsden@eckville.com	Darcy Webb	darcywebb@eckville.com
Jean Maki	jljwmaki@gmail.com	Jacqueline Palm-Fraser	jacquiehallgren@telus.net
Deb Macrae	debpmacrae@gmail.com	Jaleesa Grzech	jaleesa.hallgren@gmail.com
Judy Lorenz	judylorenz9@gmail.com	Jane Holmes	mrswtjj2002@gmail.com

In June 2021, we were honored by Gemma's request to join CiB and our first family of three generations as active members! Gemma assisted with planting the main street planters.

Associate Member	Gemma Grzech (4 years old)
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