

Floral



NEW in
2018/2019

2019 Floral-related activities

- A large number of baskets and planters are installed and maintained annually. Oak barrels have been added and traffic bulb planters are being completed gradually, also containing floral displays. Contracted greenhouse mixes up the plant selection. Some low maintenance planters (requiring minimal watering) are being tested.
- Stettler Blooms Initiative continued in 2019
 - **14th Annual Spring Plant Exchange/Swap** took place on Mothers' Day Weekend at West Stettler Park
 - Garden draws are run at the annual Trade Show
 - **3rd Annual Community Container Contest** running in 2019 with the theme of "Colour Your World"
 - **Garden seed packets given out at Trade show – "Plant 4 the Birds! Plant 4 You!"**
 - **Community Orchard features over 1500 perennial flowers and ornamental grasses**
 - **"Beautiful Yard" Recognition** program launched and continuing – Pay it Forward style

2018 Evaluation Form

FLORAL DISPLAYS		
<p>Floral displays evaluates efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents to design, plan, execute, and maintain floral displays of high quality standards. Evaluation includes the design and arrangements of flowers and plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses, edible plants, water efficient and pollinator friendly plants) in the context of originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, and harmony This pertains to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Floral Display Plan of Action Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	12.75
Diversity of Displays Flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	17
Diversity of Plants Annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	7.75
Maintenance Quality Maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	18.75
Qualified Resources Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs and/or qualified experienced contractors	10	7.75
Business & Institutions		
Design Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	12.75
Overall Plan Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	10	7.5
Maintenance Quality Of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc. with demonstrated results.	10	7.5
Residential		
Concept and Design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties including Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens	20	17.75
Maintenance Quality Of planting and maintenance with demonstrated results.	15	13
Community Involvement		
Public Participation In community projects, volunteer initiatives (including children/youth), outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	13.5
Community Support Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities	15	13.25
Floral Displays Total	175.00	149.25

2018 Evaluation Form

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

It was nice to hear that Stettler has adopted the peony as their official flower, and that it will have a major presence in the new community orchard. The hanging baskets in Town were very well done and are well cared for. The street buildouts as mentioned before are excellent

The planter contest that was in West Stettler Park is an excellent way to engage the community. Hopefully the creators of planter number six will be awarded very publicly so that others will be encouraged to become involved next year. Displaying these planters along the trail was also a good idea as we noticed many individuals examining them as they walked the trail.

The beautiful yard sign passed along by residents is a great program in that yards are recognized by fellow residents. Once started, there is a less onerous time commitment for the organizers which is good.

The new community orchard is a wonderful addition to the community as it is now, when completed it will be absolutely outstanding. The scope of this project alone makes it something to be proud of. This will become a legacy project. Well done all, especially coordinator, Rob Spencer. The diversity of the 200 fruit trees and bushes, along with the vast planting of 12,000 flowers is very special, and it was great to see the large number of peonies included. The flowers were a good idea and the inclusion of bee and bat habitats to assist with pollination will make this one of the Town sites to be visited and appreciated.



2018 Evaluation Form

Recommendations:

The strawberries in the downtown buildout planters were different and will certainly cause all who pass by to look and perhaps sample a berry or two but for a more visual effect consider a planting that will produce some height variance in the planter. For example corn in the centre and tomatoes with a lettuce boarder and a trailing plant spilling over the sides. Include some flowers for colour. Another option could be a feature tree in the centre.

The Beautiful yard activity is a very good idea. Is it possible for the beautification committee to select a winner of the homes selected by the participants and then send that forward to the national backyard contest? A winner of the winners award.

We believe that the planter contest that was help on the walk way around Stettler lake was a good idea. Consider continuing with this type of contest. Perhaps schools or grades could do planters in a student's challenge.

The buildouts on Main Street are very well done consider using showy floral plantings. It still would be possible to have fruits and vegetables in this type of display.

In your hanging baskets consider trailing plants so that your baskets might be better covered. You might also consider some taller plants as a center piece.

Floral

HBC & TOS Video - FLORAL

Floral Beautification

Planters / Hanging Baskets

The Town of Stettler summer staff waters and maintains approximately **120 planters (hanging baskets and ground level planters)**, 7 days a week. This takes one staff member approximately 4 hours each day, and the water truck used is donated by Aspen Ford or another local business. **Donation and contribution** is recognized at the annual CIB Judges Dinner. Damaged baskets are replaced daily, as required. The cost of the planters and a portion of the labour costs originally came from the budget of the Heartland Beautification Committee (~\$16,000), but has now been transferred fully into the Parks & Leisure Services Budget. Plant selection varies from year to year at the discretion of the designer at the contracted greenhouse.

Water truck watering hanging baskets with recycled water



You said it – We DID it!

“We suggest that you try and incorporate more diverse plant choices in petunia containers around town. If possible, select petunia varieties that do not require deadheading.”

The plant selection in the planters varies according to the design by the contracted greenhouse. **They like to mix things up!**



Hanging baskets & colourful seasonal banners



Colourful floral planters



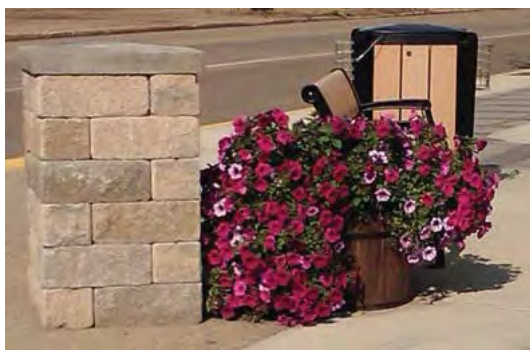
In 2012, 16 **oak barrels** were purchased for use around town with flowering plant baskets. Additional oak barrels were purchased in 2013. It is hoped that the oak barrels, as well as the permanent traffic bulb planter beds will replace the concrete planters over time. Town staff are currently experimenting with

planters that contain a water reservoir, to reduce watering labour requirements. Several are in use at the Stettler Recreation Centre entrance.

You said it – We DID it

"The versatility of using perennials, bulbs, grasses and woody plants may add to the floral interest in the community."

Most new plantings include a mixed selection of plant material, not just the same old things. The Community Orchard includes some ornamental trees and vines, as well as over 1500 perennial flowers and grasses.

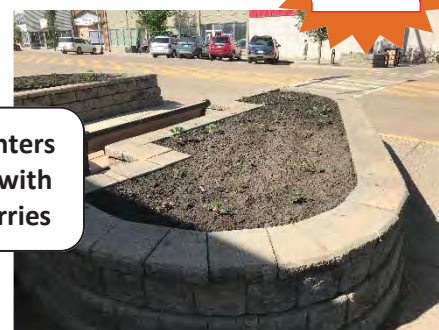


Oak barrel planters in use around town

NEW in 2018



Traffic bulb planters provide colour



Bulb planters planted with strawberries

Stettler Blooms sub-committee fell in love with the idea of developing an annual **Container Competition**, based upon one held in Kamloops, BC. The plan was developed over the winter of 2016/2017, with ten 36 inch Skyline self-watering planters purchased. The 1st **Annual Community Container Contest** was launched on June 3, 2017 with a planting day, and judging by CIB judges in early-mid July. Businesses, community groups, individuals, etc. are invited to register a team. Each team designs, purchases materials and plants their own planter. In the first year, 4 teams entered the contest, with the theme of "Canada150". Extra planters each year are planted by HBC committee members.

Containers are placed around WSPark. There were 6 teams in the 2018 edition, with the theme "The 5 Senses". **2019 has 8 teams, with the theme "Colour Your World"**

See www.stettler.net for rules & application form

3rd Annual Community Container Contest



ENTER BY: FRIDAY, MAY 17TH

PLANTING DAY: SATURDAY, JUNE 1st, 2019

JUDGING DAY: mid-JULY

\$250 PRIZE FOR WINNING DESIGN

UP TO 10 TEAMS

\$25/TEAM Registration fee

CONTAINERS, SOIL & WATER PROVIDED

2019 THEME:

COLOUR YOUR WORLD



ONGOING

Commercial/Industrial/School Beautification and Tidiness

Many local businesses **decorate their properties with planters, hanging baskets or develop landscape beds**. Some businesses take great pride in their displays and vary them regularly. In response to observations shared by the 2013 CIB judges (areas for improvement), certain businesses were contacted to share the results and encourage them to be more active in their



Beautified commercial properties



beautification efforts. Several businesses were recognized for their beautification efforts with the Commercial Yard Contest in 2015 and 2016. We've noticed that many more businesses are beautifying their storefronts in creative ways.

In 2014 and 2015, a **Commercial/Industrial Yard Contest** was implemented to encourage businesses to keep their industrial properties tidy and to beautify them. HBC members nominated some properties, but businesses are also invited to do so, on their own. In 2016, it was changed to a recognition program, encouraging people to give "a shout out" (a.k.a. recognize efforts) for things that they see.

Students and Staff from the Stettler Elementary School **create and annually plant and maintain flower planters dedicated to a past staff member**. Staff and students at other schools also participate in beautification efforts, whether volunteering labour or helping with projects. Many students at the Stettler Elementary School have participated in some way towards the Community Gardens, including colouring pages, vegetable row markers, or visits.

Private/Residential Beautification

There are **many beautiful private residential gardens** throughout Stettler, ranging from simple to elaborate. As a part of Stettler Blooms, for a few years, we ran a

Residential Yard & Garden Contest, offering prizes to 1st and 2nd place gardens (or top 3, depending on number of entries and how difficult it is to judge). In 2014 & 2015, Stettler received 10 **Scotts MiracleGro Recognition signs** that were delivered and placed in gardens around town, to recognize their efforts. HBC



Memorial beds planted by Elementary school students



members each nominated 1-2 yards/gardens and those entries were also added to the local contest, plus the national one. In 2016, this was changed from a contest to a **recognition program**. In 2018, a **“Beautiful Yard” Recognition program** was created (the idea was adapted from several Ontario communities), where “Beautiful Yard” recognition signage is placed in people’s yards, and then they nominate someone else after 2 weeks, placing the sign in someone else’s yard. It is a self-managing, **Pay it Forward-style program**.

NEW in
2018



Beautiful private yards and
gardens in Stettler



Churches around the town are well maintained and some have notable floral and landscaped displays.

Well-maintained church grounds



Guerilla gardens - "Awesome Alley"



Guerrilla gardens – Many community residents voluntarily develop and beautify adjacent public property (e.g. railway ditches, green spaces) into floral / landscaped areas

Heartland Beautification Committee projects

In 2014, in order to “package and brand” all of the plant/floral-related beautification projects, [Stettler Blooms](#) was created, with a **stylized logo** similar to the updated Town of Stettler logo.

All activities that are implemented under the common Stettler Blooms theme are identifiable by the logo. A series of events, contests, initiatives and projects span the course of the year and a poster advertising them was created, posted to the town website and given out at the trade show. The types of programs that are offered vary from year to year, but typically include a couple of information presentations at the library, the spring plant exchange, seed giveaway and a few other things.



NEW in
2014/2015

Stettler Blooms Program Posters 2019

NEW in
2019

3rd Annual Community Container Contest



UP TO 10 TEAMS
\$25/TEAM Registration fee
CONTAINERS, SOIL &
WATER PROVIDED

ENTER BY: FRIDAY, MAY 17TH
PLANTING DAY: SATURDAY, JUNE
1ST, 2019
JUDGING DAY: mid-JULY
\$250 PRIZE FOR WINNING DESIGN



2019 THEME:
**COLOUR YOUR
WORLD**



14th ANNUAL SPRING PLANT EXCHANGE

**Sat, May 11, 2019
10AM - 12NOON**

**PARKING LOT BY
W STETTLER
PARK SPRAY PARK**

**BRING PERENNIAL PLANTS /
EXCHANGE FREELY**

**Stettler
Blooms**

Stettler Blooms Projects

The annual **Spring Plant Exchange / Plant Swap** has proven to be very successful in its **14th** year running. This event takes place on the Saturday before Mother's Day. Gardening enthusiasts can obtain new plants at no cost, while being able to share any extras they may have of their own during dividing their plants! **Lots of information is shared** between participants throughout the busy morning. **Noxious Weed** information is now shared each year.



Spring Plant Exchange participants exchange perennial plants & information



You said it – We DID it!

“Although your bylaw officer doubles as a weed inspector, it would be helpful to assist him by educating the residents on Alberta’s noxious and prohibited noxious weeds...”

At the annual Trade Show, as well as at the Spring Perennial Plant Exchange, copies of several weed pamphlets from the Alberta Invasive Species Council were provided to visitors and participants. Copies are also now available at the Parks Office.

To recognize enthusiastic gardeners and gardening achievements, for a number of years, the HBC organized a **Residential Yard and Garden Contest**, with prizes for 1st place in each of 4 categories, including Best Residential Flower Garden, Best Residential In-ground Flower Garden, Best Residential Edible Garden and Best Community Garden Plot. Gardens were nominated by homeowners themselves or by neighbors and community residents, with pictures of nominated gardens featured throughout the summer on the Town of Stettler website, and voting taking place on-line. Final judging was by HBC members. Winners were moved on to the Communities in Bloom National contest. In 2014 & 2015, HBC applied for and received 10 **Scotts MiracleGro Best Garden Recognition signs**, which are placed by HBC members around town, nominating them for the overall contest (and giving them a MiracleGro prize). In 2016, to take a different approach to the same overall goal, the Contest was changed to a **Feature Garden recognition program**, with nominated gardens featured on the HBC Facebook page. **In 2017, we took a break** from it all. In 2018, we added a **“Beautiful Yard” Pay-it-Forward-style recognition signage program** (See above). It’s running **BEAUTIFULLY!**

Additionally, a Commercial/Industrial Yard Contest was added for 2 years (2014 and 2015), alongside the residential contest, to encourage and recognize efforts from commercial/industrial bodies in the community. The same approach was taken in 2016, changing to a Featured Industrial Property program.



Stettler Community Gardens sub-committee & HBC have **garden basket draws** at the annual Trade Show in April.

You said it – We HAVEN'T DONE it! (YET)

"Empty beds at the fire station appeared to be begging for someone to plant them..."

We agree. Unfortunately, there is still concrete and utility work that is being done in that area, which means that the area is being worked up aggressively over and over (2x already in the last year). **Sod was laid in the summer of 2016. Hopefully more elaborate beds can be added in future.**

"There is nothing but turf in front of the fire station. Your fire fighters deserve better..."

At this time, the fire chief is focused on establishing the lawn, which doesn't take a lot of time to maintain. We'll work on something more elaborate.

You said it – We DID it (before)

"The idea of organizing workshops on planting techniques for the community garden and the homeowner continue to be worthwhile..."

We've done workshops of different types over the years, with mixed success. We continue to look for creative ways to reach residents and will continue to do so. For example, we're finding that short videos on social media work well for reaching people.

HBC created a **Plant It Forward initiative** in 2014, to encourage residents to not only grow plants, but to share them with others. As a part of this, the slogan Get, Grow, Give was used. Families and children were given **packets of seeds** (flowers – marigold, sunflower,

nasturtium that were labelled to say that they could grow them (plus telling them about how to grow the plants). Leaflets were also provided with the poster showing seed (Get) to growing (Grow) to Harvest (GIVE). A **basic seed collection information sheet** was created and is available on the TOS website. Empty seed packets labelled "To Give" were assembled by SMS

students. Seed packets are put out on display for people to take, from the Rec Centre, Town Office, Library and on various bulletin boards around town. A Fall Seed Exchange was held in the Fall of 2014, hosted by the P&H Elevator. At present, this initiative is on hold, to gather energy for a new direction and push. We continue to **give out seed packages at the trade show** every year. In 2017, with the Canada150 theme, we had the theme of **“Celebrate Canada150 with COLOUR”**. For the 2018 & 2019 trade show, we had the theme **“Plant 4 the Birds! Plant for You!”**, giving out oilseed sunflowers to plant for a dual purpose.



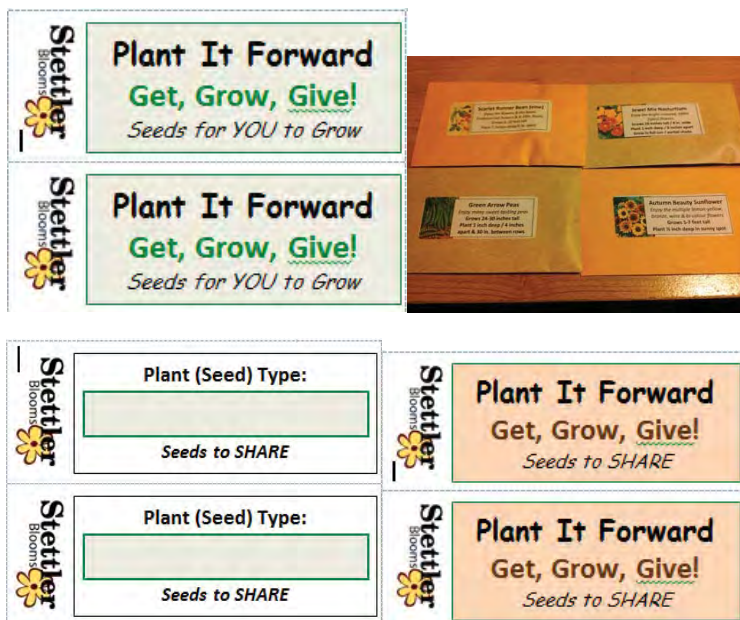
**Celebrate
Canada150
with
COLOUR**



**Plant 4 the BIRDS!
Plant 4 YOU!**

Seed packets given out at trade show

NEW in
2017/2018



Empty seed packets given out around town

Bee Matters Packages



Stettler received a number of **Bee Matters seed and information packages** through Communities in Bloom, which were given out to participants at the Spring Plant Exchange and Garden workshops at the library. They are also available from the Parks and Leisure Services desk in the Stettler Recreation Centre.

Seed Collection Information poster – below

Basics of Seed Collecting

- 1) Let plants (annual or perennial plants) go to seed (form seed heads/pods)
- 2) Let the seed heads/pods dry out as much as possible on the plant
 - this can be a bit tricky, as some will split open
- 3) Collect the seed heads/pods
 - Preferably on a dry day
 - Cut or break them off carefully
- 4) Put heads/pods into a ventilated container (box, paper bag, etc.)
 - Allow them to dry out fully
- 5) If/when seeds are dry and/or loose within the heads/pods, separate from stems, stalks, etc.
- 6) Seeds can be freed from the heads/pods
 - Gentle crushing
 - Rubbing gently over your palm and blowing away debris and chaff
 - Shaking through a sieve
- 7) Put seed into a labelled envelope
 - Label envelopes with plant information and date of collection
- 8) Store collected seeds in a cool, dry location



Columbine seeds, seed pods (mature and still green)

Planting Strategy / Policies

Most of Stettler's **public plantings (in-ground beds)** are composed of a combination of woody (tree and shrub) plant material, with some perennial floral plants included, in order to reduce installation / maintenance costs. The heart-shaped flower bed in the Memorial Park (Cenotaph) is planted and maintained by town staff (with assistance from Grade 5 students at the Stettler Elementary School).



Heart-shaped flower bed in Memorial Park



Mixed beds with flowers, woody & non-woody plant material

Some perennials are being used including **peonies** which are **Stettler's official flower**. They feature prominently in Pioneer Park and the Cemetery, and now at the **Community Orchard**.

The community orchard also has a number of flowering plants and vines, for pollinators.

You said it – We DID IT! (and then some!)

"...more peonies be added to the floral displays in Stettler, since it is the town flower..."

We will look into how we might do this in various places, provided it can be worked into the Park Maintenance Plan

We planted 400+ peonies in the Community Orchard!



Peonies – Stettler's Official Flower



Education

Stettler Adult Learning has offered various gardening related courses over the years. Stettler Public Library has compiled a list of their gardening materials and prepares a regular display annually, usually put up in May, to coincide with the Plant Swap and Community Gardens dates. In recent years, **Stettler Blooms** has **partnered with the Public Library** to offer a range of short workshops on gardening-related topics, featuring local



NEW in
2018+

experts. In 2015, the focus was on practical and Q&A, with 6 workshops offered. In 2016 and 2017, 2 workshops were offered. In 2019, a **practical pollinators workshop** was held with a guest speaker, along with pollinator hotel construction for participants. The Stettler and District Ag Society has also put on pruning and other workshops for local area residents. Information materials are put up at the first Community Garden site, on the information board. A number of **educational elements are planned for the Community Orchard**, in the future.



You said it – We DIDN'T do it! (but we tried)

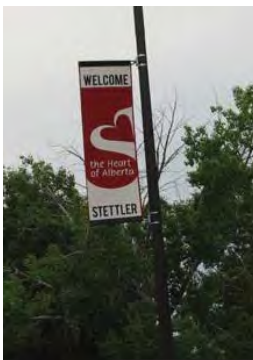
“Partner with businesses for banners for the downtown area...”

A number of attempts were made to connect and partner with the Downtown Business Owners Association, without success to date. But something new might happen.

Banners

In order to beautify the downtown core area and to add colour and brighten some of the highway corridors of town, 30 colorful **red and white banners** (10 long & 20 medium) were added (replacing old, faded banners) to welcome visitors. After about 6 years, these signs are becoming somewhat weathered and worn, so their refurbishment and/or replacement options are being considered.

A number of seasonal banners (spring and fall) are positioned (and seasonally rotated) on the south end of Main Street. A plan to **replace the welcome banners with a different design** (and style) has been presented to the HBC by a couple of downtown business owners. It would mean a major increase in the number of signs, which would provide promotional, colour and even some direction finding. Some details need to be sorted out, but we hope that it will come in the not-to-distant future.



Highway & Street “Welcome to Stettler” Banners



Seasonal banners brighten Main Street

Winter

The Town of Stettler Public Works department install **LED light decorations** during the winter season. A series of string **LED lights were installed in the Downtown Park**, adding light and attractive features throughout the winter months.

LED-lit winter street decorations



**NEW in
2015/2016**

You said it – We DIDN'T Do it

"The Beautiful Yard activity is a very good idea (THANKS). Is it possible for the beautification committee to select a winner of the homes selected by the participants and then send that forward to the national backyard contests? A winner of the winners award."

We used to have either nominations or selections for different contest-style yard recognition programs, and, quite frankly, they wore us out. Most of the time, most people didn't submit nominations, so it fell to the committee to do it.

We know that this isn't uncommon in many of the CIB communities.

We like the "organic" nature of our recognition program (which we "borrowed" from Goderich, who "borrowed" it from Leamington...), which allows people to "Pay it Forward". It is fluid and interactive and we like it.

You said it – We DIDN'T Do it (YET)

"We believe that the planter contest that was held on the walkway around Stettler Lake was a good idea (THANKS). Consider continuing with this type of contest (WILL DO). Perhaps schools or grades could do planter's in a students challenge"

Interesting idea. We'll pitch it to the schools and see what they think. At the least, we'll encourage them to get involved in the community one.

You said it – We will look into it...

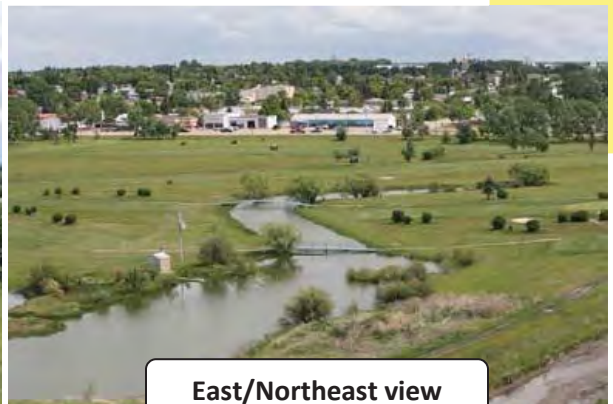
"The buildouts on Main Street are very well done; consider using showing floral plantings. It still would be possible to have fruits and vegetables in this type of display."

The planters are typically filled with bright, colourful plants (although mostly of the same height – this might relate partly to visibility needs). We'll continue with colour, but see about mixing things up a bit in the future.

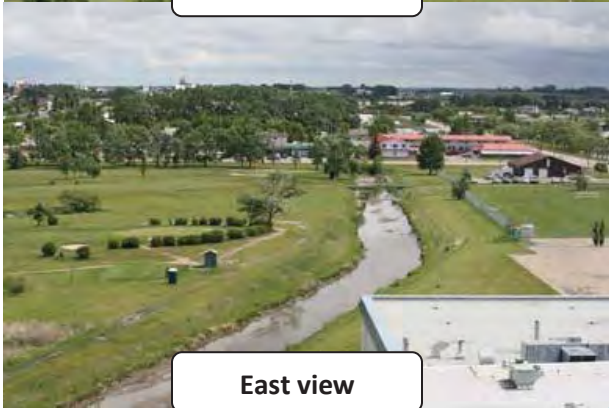
VIEW OF STETTLER FROM UP HIGH



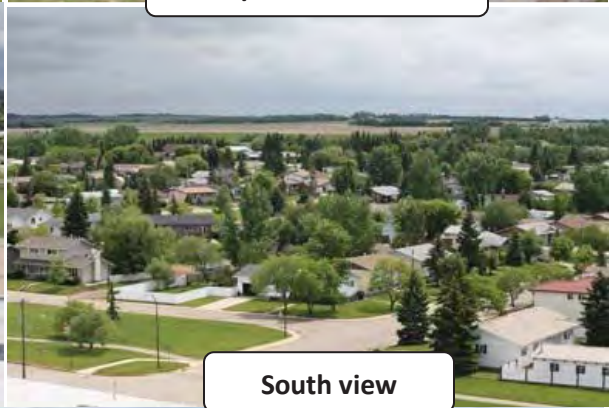
North view



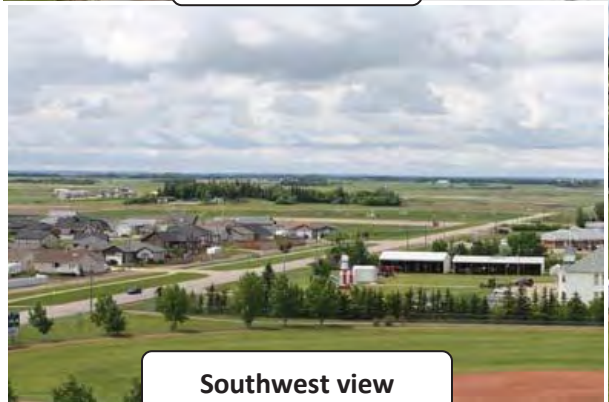
East/Northeast view



East view



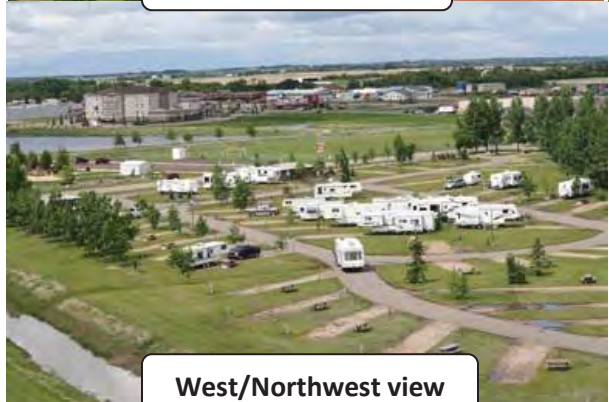
South view



Southwest view



West view



West/Northwest view



Northwest view

