

Community In Bloom Awards 2018 Judging Criteria (Public Housing, Private Housing and Organisations)

The judging criteria for the Community In Bloom (CIB) Awards comprise the following:

Community Involvement (45%)

The consistent involvement of participants is the foundation of a sustainable community garden. Building links and networks with the larger community promotes the sharing of ideas and resources, which helps sustain the garden in the long term.

Garden Quality (45%)

The quality of the garden has a direct impact on how well it co-exists with its surroundings. A garden's quality is measured by its aesthetics, housekeeping and standard of horticultural maintenance.

Environmental Quality & Biodiversity (10%)

A community garden plays a direct role in enhancing the beauty of the environment and developing positive mindsets among the community towards greenery.

The judging process is based on:

- Entry form submission
- Visual assessment of the community garden
- Supporting documentation such as testimonials, photographs, press clippings, publications and/or videos presented during judging

Assessment period:

- Submission of initiatives and supporting documentation should be based on the past two years (Jan 2016 – Dec 2017)
- For gardens that are less than two years old, judges will assess the number of initiatives and activities thus far

Community Involvement (45%)

Criteria	Description	
1	Number of participants involved	The level of interest of the community in gardening
2	Types of gardening-related activities organised and their frequency	Evidence of gardening/plant-related activities that engage the community throughout the year (e.g. gatherings, garden parties, plant exchanges, visits, etc).
3	Ways to sustain the garden	Support in the form of volunteer numbers, funds, sponsorships, as well as donations through local grassroots, commercial and corporate sectors, schools and the general public, which helps sustain the garden.
4	Gardening initiatives conducted for schools and young people	The active involvement of children and youths helps sustain the garden in the long term. Initiatives such as mentoring, sharing of information and guiding, help raise awareness and develop their interest in plants, gardening and nature appreciation.
5	Types of help offered to other gardening groups and the frequency	Collaborations and activities which have resulted in the direct or indirect creation of new community gardening groups.
6	Ways that the garden contributed to your community and neighbourhood	As a place for bonding, learning, sharing and enjoyment of beauty.
7	Types of NParks events your gardening group has participated in and their frequency	Support for NParks activities.

Garden Quality (45%)

	Criteria	Description
1	Garden Presentation, Forms and Colours	A garden that is well-planned adds value to the community and enhances the character of its surroundings. Good planning is needed to ensure that elements of aesthetic such as forms and colours are presented in a coherent way, complementing its surroundings.
2	Focal Point(s) and Balance	Well-placed focal points exist to draw visitors' attention to the garden. The placement should consider the spatial scale of the garden and must be balanced so that the viewers are neither bored nor distracted.
3	Innovative Elements	Creative application of new ideas in designs, garden techniques and other innovations tailored to the context of the garden.
4	Presence of Essential Garden Items/Amenities	Essential tools/items (e.g. proper edging, a garden shed, pavers) help enhance the garden's aesthetics and increase the overall level of enjoyment among participants.
5	Plant Health	Plants should be of a natural healthy colour without obvious signs of pest infestation, diseases and nutrient deficiencies such as yellowing, curling and wilting leaves, stunted and deformed plant growth, etc.
6	Soil Maintenance	Ensuring that soil condition is suitably maintained for supporting plants grown in the garden.
7	Maintenance of Physical Structures	Physical structures such as paths, sculptures, trellises, etc, have to be well maintained to minimise danger to garden users.
8	Hygiene and Cleanliness	The garden should be checked regularly to prevent accumulation of stagnant water; dead or diseased plant materials and rubbish; and not be overgrown with weeds.
9	Safety	The garden does not put the health and safety of the surrounding community at risk (e.g. plants on roadside verges are trimmed to prevent obstruction to pedestrians and motorists, unused tools and dangerous chemicals are properly kept).

Environmental Quality & Biodiversity (10%)

	Criteria	Description
1	Environmentally-friendly Cultural Practices	Minimises the need to purchase new resources to sustain the garden and waste generated (e.g. use of recycled bottles as planters, discarded slabs for pathways, old timber for edging and plant signage, etc).
2	Environmentally-friendly Practices	The use of natural methods to control pests and diseases in the community garden helps create an ecologically-balanced environment (e.g. use of coffee grounds as fertilisers, composting, using recycled water for watering, etc).
3	Practices Enhancing Biodiversity	The use of different species of plants and garden features to attract fauna such as sunbirds, butterflies, dragonflies, and ladybirds, helps create a diverse and healthy ecosystem.

