



*Celebrating Municipal Excellence*  
**2023 Nomination Form**  
**Deadline:** 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Nominee Contact Information	
<b>Name of municipality/ municipalities being nominated:</b> <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	City of Humboldt
<b>Contact Name:</b>	Penny Lee
<b>Contact role in project:</b>	Marketing & Development Manager
<b>Telephone #:</b>	306-682-2525
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	Box 640 Humboldt, SK S0K 2A0
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	penny.lee@humboldt.ca
<b>Name of Nominated Practice or Project:</b>	Humboldt Urban Garden Sanctuary ("HUGS")
<b>Date of Project or Practice Initiation:</b>	2018
<b>Date of Project or Practice Completion:</b> <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	June 22, 2022
	<b>Ongoing:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

Nominator Contact Information	
<b>Name:</b>	Penny Lee
<b>Organization:</b>	City of Humboldt
<b>Position:</b>	Marketing & Development Manager
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	Box 640 Humboldt, SK S0K 2A0
<b>Telephone #:</b>	306-682-2525
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	penny.lee@humboldt.ca

**Please provide as much detail as possible. Winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library as a reference or resource to others. Nominations that clearly outline the practice and all steps involved have a higher chance of being selected for an award.**

## The Practice

1. What issue inspired the nominated project or practice?

Following the 2017-18 Humboldt Broncos tragedy on April 6, 2018, Scotts Canada reached out to Communities in Bloom and the City of Humboldt to create something for the community of Humboldt. The idea of a healing garden was chosen and the planning for the “HUGS” began.

2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?

Located on the Humboldt & District Health Complex, the garden’s features allows visitors to gather for quiet reflection during their own healing journey. It is accessible and next to the hospital and allows for patients and their family members to gather.

## The Process

***This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information, such as steps, resources accessed, and considerations to support a municipality interested in applying the same project or practice.***

3. Indicate who had a direct role in this project or practice:

- Municipal Council
- Municipal Administration
- Other

*Project partners include Landscape Saskatchewan, Landscape Alberta, Communities in Bloom, Green Cities Foundation, Scotts Canada, Murray Cook, and Cornell Design & Landscaping.*

4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?

A local steering committee was put together comprised of local volunteers. City of Humboldt Administration worked directly with the steering committee to select an appropriate site, provided guidance during the design phase, as well as during the construction.

5. Were other groups were involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?

The committee worked with Olds College students to hold a design event as a class assignment. A concept was selected and featured a variety of spaces and uses that would provide a garden that was equal part memorial and healing space. The design was refined and turned into complete working drawings by Christyn Palazzo of Palazzo Designs in Regina. A local artist, Murray Cook, created the large metal art sculpture. Leslie and Ron Cornell of Cornell Design & Landscaping played a major role in the construction of the project.

Other project partners include Landscape Saskatchewan, Landscape Alberta, Communities in Bloom, Green Cities Foundation and Scotts Canada who donated materials. Local volunteers (including City Council Roger Nordick), the steering committee, Cornell Designs, and Murray Cook provided some of the labour.

6. What resources were involved?

Project partners include Landscape Saskatchewan, Landscape Alberta, Communities in Bloom, Green Cities Foundation and Scotts Canada who donated materials and some labour. Many local volunteers (including some Council Members) and the steering committee provided some of the labour. Cornell Design & Landscaping provided their expertise and donated many hours. Murray Cook donated his artistic talent and created the metal statue.

7. How was the project or practice developed?

After selecting the site as the Humboldt District Health Complex, the steering committee worked with Olds College students to hold a design event as a class assignment. A concept was selected and featured a variety of spaces and uses that would provide a garden that was equal part memorial and healing space. The design was refined and turned into complete working drawings by Christyn Palazzo of Palazzo Designs in Regina.

To view a video of the HUGS, go to <https://vimeo.com/733401609?share=copy#t=0>

### The Results

8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?

Located on the Humboldt & District Health Complex, the garden's features allows visitors to gather for quiet reflection during their own healing journey.

9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed? Please explain.

10. Describe any challenges faced.

COVID struck when the steering committee was ready to break ground, causing a significant delay in construction.

Being that construction was being completed by volunteers, their time was mostly on weekends as they had full time jobs or businesses to look after.

Summer is a busy time for landscapers, so they had their own challenges finding the time to dedicate to this project. Additionally, because of COVID, it was difficult locating materials needed.

## Lessons Learned

11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?

One thing would be to have a major funding provider to back up the project. Although materials were graciously donated, it would have been beneficial to have some funding for additional labour as the same volunteers were being called upon repeatedly to assist.