



Trillium Awards Scoring Guide

Landscape Design

Category	Overview	Many Challenges (1)	Fair (2)	Good (3)	Strong (4)	Outstanding (5)
Curb Appeal	How visually appealing and inviting the property appears from the street.	Uninviting and cluttered; lacks visual interest or a focal point.	Weak focal area placement with minimal impact	Clear focal element that contributes to street presence.	Strong focal point that complements surroundings and enhances street beauty.	Highly engaging, memorable, and beautifully designed focal area.
Unity / Harmony / Balance	May be traditional, matrix, or food garden style.	Disorganized mix of elements and plants; no design cohesion.	Some compatible features, but overall design does not feel cohesive.	Connected and intentional elements but lacks overall refinement.	Consistent cohesion: plants and features complement each other well.	Exceptionally cohesive, intentional, and visually pleasing layout.
Scale / Proportion	Suitability of planting scale relative to the property and space.	Poorly sized elements; lacks height diversity; awkward proportions.	Some elements are disproportionate, but a few parts fit the space.	Appropriately sized elements with a mix of heights and shapes.	Good blend of plant sizes and structures suited to the space.	Superior mix of shapes and heights; fits the space perfectly.
Rhythm & Sequence	Flow and organization of planting through repetition, variation, and visual movement.	Scattered or disorganized; flat layout entirely lacking contrast.	Some element variation is present but lacks meaningful contrast.	Varied colors, forms, and textures, but lacks clear organization.	Consistent repetition of shapes and colors; clear multi-layered planting.	Encourage the eye to move from one area to another in a structured progression, through repetition of form/textures/colours.

Landscape Maintenance

Category	Overview	Many Challenges (1)	Fair (2)	Good (3)	Strong (4)	Outstanding (5)
Annuals & Perennials	Health, diversity, and upkeep of flowering and herbaceous plants.	Unhealthy/dead plants visible; unmanaged invasive species.	Some healthy plants; invasive removal efforts are visible.	Limited plant variety or mostly annuals; acceptable maintenance.	Multiple flowering varieties in good health; minimal to no invasives.	Vibrant, diverse mix of species in attractive, invasive-free groupings.
Trees, Shrubs and Evergreens	Health, diversity, proportion, and seasonal interest of woody plants.	Unhealthy, dead, or overgrown plants; unmanaged invasives.	Some healthy plants; inconsistent pruning and limited diversity.	Varied trees and shrubs; generally healthy with adequate pruning.	Healthy, varying forms; good proportion enhances garden structure.	Thriving, diverse mix providing structure, seasonal interest, and expert pruning.
Hardscape / Softscape	Condition, integration, and function of features (rocks, pavers, walls, water elements, containers).	Hardscape is damaged, unsafe, or poorly integrated.	Elements show wear and limited connection to surrounding design.	Hardscape is in fair condition but not strongly integrated.	Well-maintained, well-placed elements that complement the landscape.	Pristine condition and integration; greatly enhances beauty and function.
Property Maintenance	Condition of structures and preservation of unobstructed sightlines or boundaries.	Poor repair, plantings block sightlines or encroach on other properties.	Visible wear on structures; plantings partially obstruct or encroach.	Structures in good repair; minor plant obstruction or crowding.	Well-maintained; plantings neatly contained with minimal obstruction.	Pristine structures: perfectly spaced/staked plants preserve clear sightlines.

BIODIVERSITY EXCELLENCE

Category	Overview	Many Challenges (1)	Fair (2)	Good (3)	Strong (4)	Outstanding (5)
Native Plants	Presence and diversity of native species, and the absence of invasive plants.	No native plants; extensive or multiple invasive species present.	Few native species; invasives partly managed but multiple types visible.	Balanced mix of native and non-native plants; max one non-extreme invasive.	Many native species in healthy clumps; at least 3 blooming; no invasives.	Primarily native with rich layering; provides wildlife habitat; signs of certified support.
Support and Water Management	Water-conscious practices and habitat support for pollinators, birds, and insects.	Downspouts drain to pavement; poor mulch; chemical signs; no wildlife support.	Minimal water-wise practices; limited water or shelter sources for wildlife.	Improved lawn/mulch management; some water or shelter; no chemical use.	Active rainwater capture (barrels/gardens), reliable water and shelter for birds/insects.	Advanced eco-design (permeable surfaces, rain gardens); diverse shelters; thriving pollinator support.