



GARDEN COMPETITION

Rules & Regulations



Eligibility

This competition is open to all Wasaga Beach residents, organizations, and community groups, whether amateur or professional. Participants must be the primary caretaker of the garden entered and are limited to one submission.

Categories

Gardens can be entered into the following categories:

- **Residential Garden: Traditional**
 - This category is for classic, well-manicured front and backyard gardens that reflect traditional gardening styles. These gardens often feature a mix of ornamental plants, neatly trimmed hedges, and seasonal flowers. Emphasis is placed on balance, colour coordination and integration of hard surfacing.
- **Residential Garden: Environmental/Pollinator Habitat Garden**
 - For homes emphasizing environmental sustainability, native plants, and pollinator-friendly gardens. Gardens in this category must contain at least 60% native plant species and include a diverse array of flowering plants that provide nectar and pollen throughout the growing season. The design should prioritize bio-diversity, emphasizing low-maintenance, drought-tolerance plants and eco-friendly practices such as rainwater harvesting.
- **Townhome Garden**
 - These gardens may include container planting, vertical gardens, or small patios adorned with a variety of plants. The challenge is to create a lush, inviting space that makes the most of every inch, often blending hardscaping with soft landscaping elements.
- **High-Density: Condominiums and Apartments**
 - These gardens may be found on balconies, terraces, rooftops or communal spaces. Participants are encouraged to demonstrate how they've transformed these limited spaces into vibrant green oases, utilizing techniques like vertical gardening, container gardening, and the innovative use of space to create a relaxing environment amidst the urban setting.





- **Commercial: Non-residential**
 - The commercial category is for non-residential properties such as office buildings, retail spaces, hotels and restaurants. These gardens often make the first impression on visitors and customers; design and maintenance are essential. Entries should showcase how the garden complements the business through brand colours, welcoming signage, or a design that enhances the property’s curb appeal. Sustainability practices and the use of native plants are encouraged but not required.
- **Community: Volunteer-maintained Non-residential Properties**
 - The community category is for gardens maintained by volunteers on non-residential properties such as schools, churches, public parks, and community centers. These gardens are often the result of collective effort and should reflect community spirit and involvement. Entries should demonstrate how the garden benefits the broader community, whether through educational opportunities, providing a space for social gatherings, or enhancing the local environment. The use of native plants, eco-friendly practices, and inclusivity in design are highly valued.
- **Entry Fee:** Participating in this competition requires no entry fee.

Submission

Participants must submit an entry form by August 31st, 2026, including:

- Name and contact information
- Address of the garden
- Category entered
- A set of 3-5 high-quality photographs of the garden (JPEG or PNG format)
- Brief description of the garden (optional)
- Submission Guidelines: Photographs should be recent and taken from different angles to showcase the garden’s layout, plant health, and unique features.
- The entry form is available at wasagabeach.com.





Judging Criteria

ACTION	DECISION POINT	POINTS
Visual Appeal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall aesthetics and design • Colour harmony and variety • Use of space and layout 	/30
Plant Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition of plants (e.g., no visible diseases or pests) • Vigor and growth of plants • Maintenance (e.g. pruning, deadheading) 	/25
Creativity and Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique or unusual plants • Creative garden features (e.g. water features, sculptures) • Integration of natural elements (e.g. rocks, logs) 	/20
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of eco-friendly practices (e.g., composting, organic methods) • Water conservation measures • Biodiversity (e.g. pollinator-friendly plants) 	/15
Overall Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional response of the viewer • How well the garden meets the category criteria 	/10
Total		/100

Penalties

Failure to Comply with Submission Guidelines: Incomplete entries or submissions not meeting the photographic requirements may result in a deduction of up to 10 points.

Use of Prohibited Materials: Using artificial plants, harmful chemicals, or environmentally destructive decorations may result in disqualification.





False Information

Providing false information during entry (e.g., not being the primary caretaker) may result in disqualification.

Disputes

Any disputes regarding the competition must be submitted in writing to the competition committee within seven days of the judging date. The competition committee will review the dispute and provide a final decision within 14 days.

Finality

All decisions made by the competition committee are final.

Scoring

Each garden will be scored out of 100 points based on the judging criteria. The garden with the highest total score in each category will be the winner.

Tie-Breaker

In the event of a tie, the garden with the highest score in the “Visual Appeal” category will be declared the winner.

Awards

First Place Winners will receive a Wasaga Beach Summer Swag Pack and more. All participants will receive a certificate of participation.



*Design Pending Finalization

Photography

Photographs of all entries will be taken for use by the Town of Wasaga Beach for use in promoting the competition, or other similar uses. By entering the competition, participants are giving the Town of Wasaga Beach permission to use these images.

