



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CN and America in Bloom Announce 2014 Community Greening Project Grant for Independence, LA**

(COLUMBUS, OH):

CN and America in Bloom today announced that Independence, LA will receive a matching grant of \$12,290 from the CN EcoConnexions *From the Ground Up* program in the United States. Grant funds will be used to incorporate landscaping in a 1300' block to integrate a historic train station now used as a police department and senior citizens center, and an open air community pavilion.

Four communities were selected to receive grants totalling \$85,790. Recipients will match the grant awards with additional local investments for a total of over \$200,000 in landscaping and landscape services. The goal of the program is to create sustainable community greening and beautification projects that will contribute to each community's environmental, economic, social and health benefits. CN EcoConnexions *From the Ground Up* also provides opportunities for CN and the communities along its rail network to work together towards shared goals of environmental stewardship. A successful program in Canada for several years, this is the program's first year in the United States.

"CN is pleased to contribute to projects that will provide environmental, health and social benefits to communities," said Claude Mongeau, CN president and chief executive officer. "We are pleased to be expanding this program to communities along our U.S. rail network and are amazed by the outstanding projects submitted for consideration. What is truly valuable is the connection being made between CN and these communities – we are proud to be working together for the wellbeing of the communities on our network."

Successful candidates were chosen on the basis of selection criteria developed and overseen by CN's program partner in the United States, America in Bloom. Grants were made based on planned positive outcomes in the community, strong community engagement and the long term sustainability of the plantings. America in Bloom will provide guidance in the implementation of the selected projects.

Marvin Miller, America in Bloom's immediate past president and program coordinator, stated, "America in Bloom is privileged to work with CN and the recipient communities in the enhancement of green spaces and quality of life improvement through these projects."

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Other grant recipients include Hammond, LA; Woodhaven, MI; and the Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden in Rockford, IL.

Grant applications for the 2015 program will be accepted from cities neighboring CN rail lines in the US beginning December 1. The deadline to apply is January 30, 2105. Grant recipients will be announced in early March, 2015. For more details on the grant program, please check [www.AmericaInBloom.org/CN](http://www.AmericaInBloom.org/CN).

### **About CN**

CN (TSX: CNR)(NYSE: CNI) is a true backbone of the economy, transporting approximately C\$250 billion worth of goods annually for a wide range of business sectors, ranging from resource products to manufactured products to consumer goods, across a rail network spanning Canada and mid-America. CN – Canadian National Railway Company, along with its operating railway subsidiaries -- serves the cities and ports of Vancouver, Prince Rupert, B.C., Montreal, Halifax, New Orleans, and Mobile, Ala., and the metropolitan areas of Toronto, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Calgary, Chicago, Memphis, Detroit, Duluth, Minn./Superior, Wis., and Jackson, Miss., with connections to all points in North America. [www.cnfromthegroundup.ca](http://www.cnfromthegroundup.ca).

### **About America in Bloom**

America in Bloom envisions communities across the country as welcoming and vibrant places to live, work, and play - benefitting from colorful plants and trees; enjoying clean environments; celebrating heritage; and planting pride through volunteerism. America in Bloom promotes nationwide beautification through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements. America in Bloom is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and contributions to AIB are tax deductible.

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