



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information, contact Laura Kunkle

[aib@AmericaInBloom.org](mailto:aib@AmericaInBloom.org)

614-453-0744

## **CN and America in Bloom Announce 2016 Community Greening Project Completion for Ferndale, MI**

COLUMBUS, OHIO: CN and America in Bloom today announced that the city of Ferndale, MI will celebrate completion of the expansion and refurbishment of Fair Park made possible in part through a matching grant of \$25,000 from the CN EcoConnexions *From the Ground Up* program in the United States. The efforts, which took roughly two months to complete, included significant cleaning and underbrush removal, the addition of new trees and vegetation, and a variety of new flower and shrub plantings. The changes were made possible by a grant from the nonprofit beautification organization America in Bloom.

The result is a park that is significantly more user friendly, says City of Ferndale Community and Economic Development Planner Justin Lyons.

“What was once an unused, overgrown piece of land is now a friendly, usable space for our residents,” Lyons said. “The City’s Department of Public Works staff leveraged the grant funds and went to extraordinary efforts to make Fair Park attractive and welcoming.”

The main goal of the project was to update the space located along the Canadian National Railway (CN) residential corridor in Ferndale. Efforts were made to use natural enhancements to create visual screenings and sound buffers, which improves the quality of life for residents living in the area as well as creates a park that neighbors and visitors will want to spend time in.

The celebration will be held on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at Fair Park, 860 Wordsworth in Ferndale. Ferndale’s mayor, city council, and city staff will be in attendance, as well as Marvin Miller, past president of America in Bloom. Bill Hahn of America in Bloom will also attend. CN Police Special Agent Jonathan Bondra will be representing CN. The event is open to the public and will include brief speeches and a ribbon cutting. Before and after photos of the park will be on display.

CN EcoConnexions *From the Ground Up*, now in its third year in the U.S., provides opportunities for CN and the communities along its rail network to work together towards shared goals of environmental stewardship.

“CN is pleased to contribute to the projects that will provide environmental, health and social benefits to the communities,” said Claude Mongeau, CN president and chief executive officer. “The projects we’re seeing are outstanding for their scope and creativity. We are proud to be working together for the wellbeing of the communities on our network.”

“Our excitement about this program continues, and we’re extremely happy to be working with CN on this endeavor,” said Marvin Miller, America in Bloom’s past president and program coordinator. “Together, we’re helping to bring more greening to American communities. We know that quality landscaping is a necessity rather than a luxury, and that green spaces and plants create places that people are proud to call home. ”

Since its launch in the U.S. in 2014, CN’s *From the Ground Up* program has granted awards to 10 community projects in the U.S. totaling \$213,000.

Other 2015 grant recipients are: Combined Locks, WI; Kimberly, WI; Warrenville, IL; Dyer, IN; and Newbern, TN.

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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