



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CN and America in Bloom Announce 2016 Community Greening Project Completion for Hammond, Louisiana**

COLUMBUS, OHIO: CN and America in Bloom today announced that Hammond, Louisiana, will celebrate completion of its first-ever green space initiative made possible in part through a matching grant of \$25,000 from the CN EcoConnexions *From the Ground Up* program in the United States.

On June 2, the City of Hammond will host a special media event celebrating the planting of 265 trees along Morrison Boulevard and in Mooney Park and thanking grantors CN and America in Bloom for their \$25,000 contribution to the project. The City will also acknowledge the Hammond Tree Board's generosity in providing matching funds. The event is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. outside the Tangipahoa Parish School System's building at 795 South Morrison Boulevard, where 20 Crepe Myrtles were planted. The public is welcome to attend.

In all, the City planted 106 Crepe Myrtles, 72 Savannah Hollies, 21 Red Maples, 18 Bald Cypresses, 18 Southern Magnolias, 14 Southern Live Oaks, 8 Nuttall Oaks, 7 Swamp Chestnut Oaks, and 1 Willow Oak with the assistance of volunteers and participating property owners.

"We are extremely grateful to CN and America in Bloom for choosing to partner with the City of Hammond on this project," says Mayor Pete Panepinto. "With their support, we were able to take an idea that germinated during the Foster administration and see it bloom."

The Mayor is quick to point out that the trees aren't just for aesthetics: "As they grow, we hope they will help to improve air quality, manage stormwater runoff, reduce energy costs, and increase property values in our city."

After learning in late 2014 that it would receive a CN EcoConnexions From the Ground Up grant, the City worked closely with the Hammond Tree Board and a local landscape architect to plan groupings of trees that would maximize these benefits. "Since most of the right of way along Morrison is DOTD or Entergy right of way, the next step was to send out letters to property owners and begin visiting businesses along Morrison to secure their participation," explains City Grants Manager Charles Borchers IV. "The response was overwhelmingly positive, as I think will only become more evident as the trees grow." Borchers added that he can't thank the City Streets Department enough for "doing all of the heavy lifting—literally—from picking up the trees, which all came from local nurseries, to digging the holes for them, to planting them."

Participating property owners will help the City maintain the trees over the coming summer months—watering them as necessary.

Marvin Miller, America in Bloom past president, and Bill Hahn of America in Bloom will be in attendance as well as a representative from CN.

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; Ferndale, MI; 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.