



MEDIA RELEASE

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Castle Rock, WA America in Bloom National 2013 Awards Results Announced

(COLUMBUS, OH): After months of anxious waiting, top honors for the prestigious 2013 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Orlando, Florida on September 21.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, "America in Bloom is helping participants of all types achieve their potential. The accomplishments and progress shown by this year's towns and cities is remarkable."

Castle Rock earned a three bloom rating in the under 4,000 population category and a special mention for its landscaped areas.

Castle Rock was judged on six criteria: overall impression, environmental awareness, heritage, urban forestry, landscape, and floral displays, across four sectors: municipal, residential, commercial, and community involvement.

Alex Pearl and Dwight Lund, two specially trained AIB judges, visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Other competitors in the under 4,000 population category included Echo, OR; Gallipolis, OH; and Slippery Rock, PA.

Pearl and Lund were very taken by the city's landscaped areas and commented, "Among the beautiful flower baskets, containers and beds in Castle Rock is a gem of landscaping not connected with the flowers. The Riverfront Trail is a paved, lighted trail on top of the Cowlitz River levee on the west side of the river. The amenities include viewing areas, benches, picnic tables, ADA accessibility. Bikers, skaters, walkers, runners, families with baby strollers, people of all ages use the trail. The city of Castle Rock received the Association of Washington Cities 2004 Municipal Achievement Gold Medal Award in recognition of the Riverfront Trail Project."

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Congratulations to Castle Rock!

Registrations for the 2014 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2014. Eligible participants include towns, cities, college and university campuses, business districts, military installations, and recognized neighborhoods of large cities.

America in Bloom is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. America in Bloom envisions communities across the country as welcoming and vibrant places to live, work, and play – benefiting from colorful plants and trees; enjoying clean environments; celebrating heritage; and planting pride through volunteerism. For more information, visit www.americainbloom.org.

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