



MEDIA RELEASE

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Washington, MO 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.”

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

Katy Moss Warner and Melanie Menachem-Riggs, 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 12,000 to 18,000 category were Arroyo Grande, CA; Catskill, NY; and Holliston, MA.

Washington received a prestigious five bloom rating and an outstanding achievement award for its efforts in the area of urban forestry. Outstanding achievement awards only go to one participant among ALL the AIB entrants across ALL population categories.

Warner and Menachem-Riggs said, “Washington, MO has the great advantage of a natural oak hickory forest that surrounds the community from the early days of settlement. The Washington Urban Forestry Council along with the Parks and Recreation department have set themselves a vision of adding tree canopy to the city. Initiatives to be proactive about the health of their existing trees are a priority so that the urban forest will remain and continue to grow. We congratulate Washington, MO on the introduction of tree programs such as the Arbor Day Tree planting, the Rotary Riverbottom Trail, The Phoenix Park, The Water Tower, the 3rd Street areas and the new library landscaped gardens which have all added new trees to the community.”

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Congratulations to Washington!

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 dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements.

America in Bloom provides educational programs, resources, and the challenge of a friendly competition between participating communities across the country.

For more information, visit www.americainbloom.org.

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