



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Castle Rock, Washington's America in Bloom 2015 Awards Announced**

(COLUMBUS, OH): Top honors for the prestigious 2015 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Holland, Michigan on September 26.

All participants were evaluated on six criteria: overall impression, environmental awareness, heritage preservation, urban forestry, landscape, and floral displays. Additionally they were judged on their community involvement across municipal, residential, and commercial sectors. America in Bloom is the only national awards program that sends specially trained judges to personally visit participants. In addition, each participant receives a detailed written evaluation that can be used as a guide to future improvements.

Castle Rock received a rating of three blooms out of a possible five. In addition, they received a special mention for their efforts in floral displays and a special award for "Best Program for Engaging Youth in the Community".

Susie Stratton and Tony Ferrara, AIB judges, visited communities of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Other competitors in the under 3500 population category were Combined Locks, WI and Edmonston, MD.

Judges said, "The enthusiasm, team-spirit, and "can do" attitude of the Castle Rock AIB team is remarkable. It is indeed a model for other cities to emulate."

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, "America in Bloom is helping towns and cities of all sizes achieve their potential. Every year our participants raise the bar, and the accomplishments and progress shown by this year's group is again remarkable. These are, without a doubt, some of the best places to live in America."

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Registrations for the 2016 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2016. Eligible participants include towns, cities, college and university campuses, business districts, military installations, and recognized neighborhoods of large cities.

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*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 enhancement.*

For more information, visit [www.AmericaInBloom.org](http://www.AmericaInBloom.org).

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