



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CN and America in Bloom Announce the Duluth, MN Reforestation Grant**

COLUMBUS, OHIO: CN and America in Bloom today announced that Duluth, Minnesota will celebrate completion of its Hartley Park replanting project made possible in part through a matching grant of \$25,000 from the CN EcoConnexions *From the Ground Up* program administered in the United States by America in Bloom.

The celebration takes place on October 12 at 2 p.m. at the Hartley Nature Center located at 3001 Woodland Ave, Duluth, MN. The public is invited and refreshments will be provided.

The event will celebrate replanting efforts at the Hartley Nature Center. The project included replanting over 10 acres of Hartley Park with 3500 trees, necessitated by understory buckthorn removal, logging, and storm damage. As part of the celebration, several trees will be planted. Bill Hahn, of America in Bloom will be in attendance as well as a Peter Bistis, CN Transportation Superintendent, who is based in Duluth, MN. After the celebration, Bill Hahn will be giving a talk on how to get communities involved in the America in Bloom National Awards Program.

Through the generosity of CN Railroad and its CN EcoConnexions *From the Ground Up* grant, Duluth received \$25,000 to replant trees at the park. Other partners which also donated funding and other assistance for the project include the City of Duluth, Duluth Stream Corps, Community Action Duluth, America in Bloom, Minnesota Power, and the Hartley Nature Center. More than 25 volunteers helped bring the program to completion.

As part of the grant requirements, Duluth will participate in the America in Bloom National Awards Program. America in Bloom will arrange for expert judges to help municipal leaders and volunteers identify community strengths with regard to Urban Forestry, Heritage Preservation, Landscaped Areas, Floral Displays, Environmental Efforts, and Overall Impression.

CN's EcoConnexions *From the Ground Up* grant program, now in its third year in the U.S. and managed by America in Bloom, 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 Peter Bistis, CN Transportation Superintendent, who is based in Duluth, MN. “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. To me, the remarkable thing is that the CN funding we administer for grants plus the match dollars from the cities, has already generated (or is in process of generating) millions of dollars of green improvements in plant materials. Duluth, of course, is only one city, but it provides the latest example of what we can do for which the residents should be very proud.”

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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