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## PRESS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **America in Bloom Awards Results Announced**

(Columbus, Ohio): Top honors for the prestigious 2017 America in Bloom National Awards Program were announced at the annual symposium and awards celebration held in Holliston, MA on October 7.

All participants were evaluated on six criteria: overall impression, environmental awareness, heritage preservation, urban forestry, landscaped areas, and floral displays. Additionally, communities 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.

The following awards were given: population category winners, outstanding achievement awards, special awards, community champion, and YouTube video award.

#### ***Population category winners are:***

<b>Town</b>	<b>Population Category</b>
Castle Rock, WA	Under 3,500
Lewisburg, WV	3,500 – 10,000
Morro Bay, CA	10,000 – 13,000
Ottawa, IL	13,000 – 18,000
Madisonville, KY	18,000 – 25,000
St. Charles, IL	25,000 – 50,000
Lexington, KY	Over 50,000
Gallipolis, OH	Champions – Small*
Estes Park, CO	Champions – Mid-Sized*

\*The Champions categories are for towns that have a combination of any three: population category win and/or outstanding achievement awards.

**New members of the Circle of Champions are:** Edmonston, MD; Lewisburg, WV; Lexington, KY; Madisonville, KY; Morro Bay, CA; Ottawa, IL; and St. Charles, IL.

***Outstanding Achievement Award winners are:***

<b>Town</b>	<b>Award</b>
Ottawa, IL	Heritage Preservation
Bluffton, OH	Urban Forestry
Mansfield, OH	Landscaped Areas
St. Charles, IL	Overall Impression
Edmonston, MD	Environmental Efforts
Logan, OH	Community Involvement
Coshocton, OH	Floral Displays

***Special Award winners are:***

<b>Town</b>	<b>Award</b>
Washington, MO	Best Pollinator Habitat Award
Dyer, IN	Festival that Best Celebrates a Community's Culture
Lexington, KY	Most Beautiful Cemetery
Greendale, IN	Most Creative Recycling Program
King City, CA	Most Environmentally-Friendly Landscape Practices
Winter Park, Florida	Coollest Downtown
Tavares, Florida	Coollest Place for Kids
Henderson County, NC	Best Example of Water-Wise Gardening
Saratoga, CA	Best Heritage Tree Program
Estes Park, CO	Best Use of Planters in the Landscape

**John R. Holmes III Community Champion Award:** Roberta "Bobbi" Bishop, Logan, OH.

**YouTube video award:** Brewton, AL.

For a full list of results, go to [www.Americainbloom.org](http://www.Americainbloom.org).

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