



MEDIA RELEASE

5/23/2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact Laura Kunkle

aib@AmericaInBloom.org

614-453-0744

CN and America in Bloom Announce 2016 Community Greening Project Completion for Independence, Louisiana

COLUMBUS, OHIO: CN and America in Bloom today announced that Independence, Louisiana will celebrate completion of its first ever green space initiative made possible in part through a matching grant of \$12,290 from the CN EcoConnexions *From the Ground Up* program in the United States.

Mayor Michael A. Ragusa and the Town of Independence will host a celebratory event with a walking tour at the Town Hall on Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 9:00am to acknowledge the project organizers, community volunteers, staff, and most importantly CN EcoConnexions and America in Bloom, who have supported the project from its inception both financially and educationally. Marvin Miller, America in Bloom past president, and Bill Hahn of America in Bloom will be in attendance as well as a representative from CN. The event is open to the public.

Thanks to the grant project, Highway 51 in downtown Independence sports an array of beautiful plant beds lining the railroad tracks, creating pleasing aesthetics.

“Without assistance from America in Bloom and CN, our town would have simply received ‘just another grant’ but because of their continued guidance, assistance, and mentorship we have developed a community project that encourages a sense of community pride and cohesiveness,” Mayor Ragusa stated. “The Town of Independence is a quaint town with lots to offer. Our new plant beds added a nice touch to the downtown corridor. We appreciate CN EcoConnexions and American in Bloom for providing us with this grant opportunity.”

CN EcoConnexions *From the Ground Up*, now in its third year in the U.S., 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 Claude Mongeau, CN president and chief executive officer. “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. ”

Since its launch in the U.S. in 2014, CN’s *From the Ground Up* program has granted awards to 10 community projects in the U.S. totaling \$213,000.

Other 2015 grant recipients are: Combined Locks, WI; Kimberly, WI; Ferndale, MI; Dyer, IN; and Newbern, TN.

For more details on the grant program, please check 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.

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.

###