



MEDIA RELEASE

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For more information, contact Laura Kunkle

lkunkle@ofa.org

614-487-1117

Coshocton, OH 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."

Coshocton earned a three bloom rating in the 7,001 to 12,000 population category. In addition, they received special mention for their landscapes areas.

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

Ed Hooker III and Jim Abraham, 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 7,001 to 12,000 category were Demopolis, AL and Tarboro, NC.

Hooker and Abraham were very impressed with the city's landscaped areas and commented, "Coshocton is being recognized for their efforts in the criterion of Landscape. Situated across the street from the busy courthouse is Root Ball Park. The former Park Hotel site is an innovative use of an abandoned blighted central downtown building site. The inspiration of community artist and Pomerene Center for the Arts Director Anne Cornell, she had to convince the property owner to allow the use of this wasted space to be transformed into a gathering spot for a number of activities. The lot had to be cleared of debris; shade structures designed, and play apparatus created. All building materials were recycled from construction waste. A grant was secured from the National Endowment for the Arts. Supporters of all ages were inspired to invest their time, talents and energy to build this one of a kind park. One of the core elements of the park is its unique treatment of trees. The 19 trees on loan from the urban forestry initiative are the first trees of a newly energized urban forestry program. They are an essential part of this project as the large rootballs are encased with fabric and Styrofoam beads that make them large enough to protect the ball from being damaged from the public that will use the mass to sit on. The identified trees are destined to be planted in the community."

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Congratulations to Coshocton!

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. America in Bloom envisions communities across the country as welcoming and vibrant places to live, work, and play – benefiting from colorful plants and trees; enjoying clean environments; celebrating heritage; and planting pride through volunteerism. For more information, visit www.americainbloom.org.

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