



MEDIA RELEASE

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Fayetteville, AR 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.”

Fayetteville earned a prestigious five bloom rating and received special mention for their environmental efforts.

Fayetteville 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.

Diana Weiner and Robert Bowden, two specially trained AIB judges, visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. The Greater Racine Area was the other competitor in the over 50,000 category.

Weiner and Bowden were very impressed with the city's environmental efforts and commented on three of the many programs:

- “1. The wastewater treatment facility utilizes a unique biosolid processing reducing waste and producing a safe, sustainable, organic fertilizer material meeting EPA regulations for Class A Exceptional Quality. It's safe for commercial/residential application, a solar process that incorporates a secondary thermal drying process. Fayetteville's the only community undertaking this process.
2. Congratulations to the District Green Team for their environmental efforts. They received a Green Ribbon Sustainability Award from the US Department of Education, of which only fourteen have been awarded in the nation. The number of eco-friendly programs where the children were deeply entrenched was impressive. From growing food to using recycled items to create art to rain gardens, composting and rain water collection, children and staff have embraced sustainable practices.

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3. Eco Modern Flats is a cutting edge example of positive repurposing. This sustainable living community was redeveloped from an existing building and includes many green features. The US Green Building Council awarded them their highest LEED honor: Platinum. The combination of no VOC paints, community garden, rainwater harvesting, solar hot water, bioswales, cable trellises, native plantings and many other features creates a wonderful eco-friendly haven.”

Congratulations to Fayetteville!

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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