



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Holland, MI WINS America in Bloom National 2013 Awards**

(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.”

Holland earned a prestigious five bloom rating and is the overall winner in the 30,001 to 50,000 population category. In addition, they received an outstanding achievement award for their efforts in heritage preservation. Outstanding achievement awards only go to one participant among ALL the AIB entrants across ALL population categories.

Holland 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.

Bruce Riggs and Barbara Vincentsen, 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 30,001 to 50,000 category were DeKalb, IL; Huntington, WV; and Winter Garden, FL.

Riggs and Vincentsen were very impressed with the city's overall impression and commented, “The Parks Division continues to pursue excellence in all areas entrusted to its care. The Division seeks to enhance the community by providing outstanding services and safe, functional, beautiful facilities as efficiently as possible, and by continuing to develop parks for the preservation of the natural beauty of the city and enjoyment by all age groups.”

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Congratulations to Holland!

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.

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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.*

For more information, visit [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org).

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