



MEDIA RELEASE

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Belpre, Ohio's America in Bloom Awards Results Announced

(COLUMBUS, OH): Top honors for the prestigious 2015 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Holland, Michigan on September 26.

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

Belpre received a four bloom rating out of a possible five blooms.

A special award for Most Attractive "Welcome to our City" entrance signage was also received.

In addition, they received a special mention for their urban forestry efforts.

Katy Moss Warner and Karin Rindal, AIB judges, visited communities of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Other competitors in the 6,000-12,500 population category were Morro Bay, CA, Newtown Square, PA and Tarboro, NC.

Judges noted, "Belpre's Historic Grove in Access Park includes 23 large trees – oaks, honey locust, maple, sycamore – that were propagated from significant trees in American History from all over the country. What an incredible educational adventure – a walk through history."

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, "America in Bloom is helping towns and cities of all sizes achieve their potential. Every year our participants raise the bar, and the accomplishments and progress shown by this year's group is again remarkable. These are, without a doubt, some of the best places to live in America."

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Congratulations to Belpre!

Registrations for the 2016 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2016. 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 dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements.

For more information, visit www.AmericaInBloom.org.

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