



# MEDIA RELEASE

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For more information, contact Laura Kunkle  
aib@AmericaInBloom.org  
614-453-0744

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## **Calabasas, California's America in Bloom Awards 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.

Calabasas received a four bloom rating out of a possible five.

In addition, they received a special mention for their efforts in heritage preservation.

Marlborough Packard and Lisa Netherland, AIB judges, visited communities of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Other competitors in the 20,000-30,000 population category were Hammond, LA; Venice, FL; and Winter Park, FL.

Judges said, "Two rehabilitation projects along Las Virgenes Creek show that Calabasas is committed to native landscapes. The transformation of a barren concrete drainage swale to a thriving urban stream, the impressive Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Project is a model and guides regional policy for urban stream restoration."

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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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.

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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 enhancement.*

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

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