



# MEDIA RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information, contact Laura Kunkle

[aib@AmericaInBloom.org](mailto:aib@AmericaInBloom.org)

614-487-1117

## **America in Bloom Names America's Most Energized Cities**

10/26/2014 (COLUMBUS, OH):

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, announced the winners of this year's awards program. "These cities are the best of the best – they have demonstrated their commitment to continuous improvement in the areas of horticulture, heritage, environmental awareness, and community involvement – the pillars of the America in Bloom program. These cities are dedicated to positive, visible, transformations via the strength of synergy and cooperation between the residential, commercial, and municipal sectors. Each of them has made impressive strides forward."

Charlie Hall, Ph.D., America in Bloom's president, added, "We are so proud of our participants this year. Not only has the number of cities increased every year since the Great Recession, but the quality of their community enhancements keeps raising the bar of excellence. Their achievements are an inspiration and a testament to the civic pride generated by their multi-faceted efforts."

America in Bloom is the only national awards program that sends a team of two specially trained judges to personally visit each participant and provide onsite coaching and mentoring, which is followed up with a detailed written evaluation that provides observations and suggestions for further improvements.

Participants are grouped by population category. Awards were given for top city in each population category, as well as "outstanding achievement" awards for each of the evaluated criteria which signify the best effort across all population categories. Additional awards included a YouTube video award which carries a \$1500 prize and a photo contest which also includes a \$1500 cash prize.

Winners are as follows:

### **Population Category Awards**

**Less Than 3,500** - McCall, Idaho

**5,501 - 4,500** - Gallipolis, Ohio

**4,501 - 10,000** - Estes Park, Colorado

**10,001 - 15,000** - Washington, Missouri

**15,001 - 19,000** - Ottawa, Illinois

**19,001 - 24,000** - Calabasas, California

**24,001 - 50,000** - Holland, Michigan

**More Than 50,000** - Fayetteville, Arkansas

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## **Outstanding Achievement Awards**

Heritage Preservation - Sponsored by Meister Media Worldwide  
Pella Iowa

Floral Displays - Sponsored by Ball Horticultural Company  
Holland, Michigan

Landscaped Areas - Sponsored by Dosatron  
Arroyo Grande, California

Environmental Efforts - Sponsored by Greeley and Hansen  
Madisonville, Kentucky

Community Involvement - Sponsored by the American Horticultural Society  
Belpre, Ohio

Urban Forestry - Sponsored by J. Frank Schmidt Family Charitable Foundation  
Washington, Missouri

Overall Impression - Sponsored by Blackmore & Ellepot USA  
Gallipolis, Ohio

**John R. Holmes III Community Champion Award Winner**  
Nancy Chennault, Castle Rock, Washington

**YouTube Video Award Winner** - Sponsored by Neal Mast & Son Greenhouses  
Holland, Michigan

**Special Awards** - These are awards that change from year to year.

Best Commercial Streetscape - Sponsored by Campania  
Lexington, Kentucky

Most Dramatic Use of Tropical Foliage - Sponsored by Excelsa Gardens  
Greendale, Indiana

Most Impressive Tree Canopy - Sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts  
Calabasas, California

Best Youth Program for Growing Food  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Best Hanging Basket/Container Program - Sponsored by Bob's Market & Greenhouses  
Castle Rock, Washington

Most Welcoming Town Entrance  
Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania

Most Effective Water Management Program - Sponsored by Ewing Irrigation  
Arroyo Grande, California

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Most Creative Idea for Fundraising  
McCall, Idaho

Best Volunteer Recognition Program  
Gallipolis, Ohio

Best Historic Restoration Project  
Brewton, Alabama

**America in Bloom Spirit Award**  
American Horticultural Society

### **Circle of Champions**

The following cities have achieved the rank of "Circle of Champions" which is for cities that have a combination of three population category wins and/or criteria awards.  
Estes Park, Colorado; McCall, Idaho; Washington, Missouri.

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*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](http://www.americainbloom.org).*