



# MEDIA RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information, contact Laura Kunkle  
aib@AmericaInBloom.org  
614-487-1117

### **Ottawa, IL America in Bloom Awards Results Announced**

(COLUMBUS, OH): Top honors for the prestigious 2014 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Philadelphia, PA on October 4.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, “America in Bloom is helping participants of all types achieve their potential. Every year our participants raise the bar, and the accomplishments and progress shown by this year's towns and cities is again remarkable.”

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 and provide a detailed written evaluation that can be used as a guide to future improvements.

James Sutton and Karin Rindal, 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 15,001 to 19,000 population category were Arroyo Grande, CA; Wisconsin Rapids, WI; and Holliston, MA.

Ottawa received a prestigious five bloom rating and won in their population category. In addition, they received a special mention for their youth art initiative which encourages youth to be very active in the creation of art that is publically and permanently displayed in Ottawa in a number of venues.

Judges said, “Ottawa has come a long way from a concrete and asphalt jungle to a green oasis. Now its efforts are at critical mass through its diverse and highly successful grant funding activities and the tireless efforts of many volunteers. You should be proud of the many noteworthy achievements across all the America in Bloom criteria.”

--more--

Congratulations to Ottawa!

Registrations for the 2015 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2015. 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 enhancement.*

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

###