



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Washington, MO 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.

Leslie Pittenger and Bruce Riggs, 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 10,001 to 15,000 population category were Coshocton, OH; Morro Bay, CA; and Pella, IA.

Washington received a five bloom rating and won in their population category. In addition, they received a prestigious outstanding achievement award for its efforts in the area of urban forestry. This award is given to only one AIB participant each year. In addition, they received a special mention for their landscaped areas. Washington's achievements over the past few years have earned it a position in AIB's Circle of Champions.

The judges said, “Your committee understands the importance of what America in Bloom is all about. It is not just about flowers but includes how a city treats the environment, its heritage, urban forestry and also how everyone...businesses, residents, and the municipality work together to make a city better. And that is what your city is doing well.”

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Congratulations to Washington!

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.

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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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