



MEDIA RELEASE

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Winter Park, FL 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.

Linda Cromer and Ed Hooker, 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 24,001 to 50,000 population category were Santa Paula, CA; Henderson County, NC; and Holland, MI.

Winter Park received a four bloom rating and a special mention for efforts in overall impression.

The judges said, “Winter Park is a beautiful city shaded by magnificent oaks and glittering with a chain of shimmering lakes. Considered by many to be the premier urban village in the state, it was Florida’s first planned community. Four world-class museums make it a destination for those interested in distinguished art and rich cultural experiences, and Rollins College contributes the opportunity for a premier fine arts education. Progressive city government, a vibrant business community, and residents with real pride of place work together to make Winter Park a place you want to linger.

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Congratulations to Winter Park!

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.

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