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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Laura A. Kunkle

America in Bloom Executive Director

Washington, MO Receives National Recognition from America in Bloom

(Columbus, OH): Top honors for the prestigious 2023 America in Bloom Program were announced at the annual symposium and awards celebration held in Spartanburg, South Carolina, September 28-30.

Washington was the winner of the Urban Forestry Outstanding Achievement Award. Additionally, Washington was the winner of the 10,000 - 15,000 Population Category Award. Other communities in this population category were Coshocton, OH; Lawrenceburg, KY; and Struthers, OH.

Washington also received special recognition for its Urban Forestry from its Advisors. Cheryl Corson and Kirk Brown, AIB Advisors, spent two days in the summer touring the community, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers.

All participants were evaluated on seven criteria: community vitality, overall impression, environmental initiatives, heritage celebration, urban forestry, landscaped areas, and floral impact. America in Bloom is the only national awards program that sends specially trained Advisors to personally visit participants. In addition, each participant receives a detailed written evaluation that can be used as a guide to future improvements.

America in Bloom Executive Director Laura Kunkle, said, "America in Bloom is helping communities 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 remarkable. These are, without a doubt, some of the best places to live, work, and visit. Congratulations to Washington for the excellent work making your community more beautiful and vibrant."

To date, more than 330 communities from 43 states have participated in the program and more than 22 million people have been touched by it. Registration for the 2024 program can be submitted until February 28, 2024. 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 enhancements. America in Bloom provides educational programs, resources, and the challenge of a friendly competition between participating communities across the country.