

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release:

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WINTER PARK HONORED WITH TOP AMERICA IN BLOOM AWARDS

WINTER PARK, Fla., an internationally recognized ICMA Excellence Award winner with accredited fire-rescue, police and parks & recreation agencies (October 16, 2015) – Winter Park recently received the “Outstanding Achievement Award for Overall Impression” at the 2015 America in Bloom (AIB) Symposium and Awards Program in Holland, Michigan. This is the city’s second major AIB award in three years. Competing against 40 communities nationwide, Winter Park also received the top 2015 “Bloom Rating” as well as a special mention for “Heritage Preservation.” With these recent accolades, Winter Park is now only one major award from entering the AIB Circle of Champions with other top-rated communities in the United States. Other competitors in Winter Park’s population category included Calabasas, California; Hammond, Louisiana; and the category winner - Venice, Florida.

Two AIB judges who visited Winter Park in early May, Marlborough Packard and Lisa Netherland, spent two days touring each community in the 20,000 to 30,000 population category, at which time they met with municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Participating cities were evaluated on six criteria across municipal, commercial and residential sectors including overall impression, environmental efforts, heritage preservation, urban forestry, landscape and floral displays. Cities were also judged on community involvement.

According to AIB Executive Director Laura Kunkle, “America in Bloom is helping towns and cities 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 again remarkable. These are, without a doubt, some of the best places to live in America.”

Winter Park judges were particularly taken by the efforts at the Hannibal Square Heritage Center (HSHC). Their evaluation noted “The HSHC was one of the most noteworthy heritage efforts in Winter Park. The African-American community has always been an integral part of the heritage of Winter Park, and the residents of this community have a long, important role in the dynamics of the city.”

The symposium was attended by Stephen and Kristin Pategas, members of Winter Park’s Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board and Winter Park Blooms Committee. Mr. Pategas was a nominee for Community Champion and one of six Pecha Kucha presenters with his topic being Winter Park’s environmental efforts.

Winter Park Blooms is actively seeking additional community volunteers. For more information, please contact 407-599-3364 or agulden@cityofwinterpark.org.

For more information regarding AIB, please visit americainbloom.org.

For more information regarding the City of Winter Park, please visit the city’s official website at cityofwinterpark.org. Like, follow and watch us on [Facebook](#)[®], [Twitter](#)[®], [Instagram](#)[®], [Vimeo](#)[®], and [YouTube](#)[®]. ###

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