



Environment

Prince George's County, Maryland

Edmonston Earns Top Honors for its Outer Beauty

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Wins national award for environmental achievements and public art spaces



Largo, MD – The Town of Edmonston was recently honored with the prestigious 2015 America in Bloom (AIB) Outstanding Achievement Award for Environmental Effort. The annual program honored 39 towns and cities across the nation for their beautification and environmental improvements in 2015 and is the only national awards program that sends trained judges to personally visit participants entered in the awards program.

“Green spaces are an important element of what makes the Edmonston community such a special and unique place with a tremendous amount of character,” said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "Edmonston is a prime example of what happens when government and residents work together to improve our environment and make our County a better place to live, work and play. Edmonston is also home to the Green Street project which has received national recognition for the retrofit of Decatur Street with best sustainability practices turning it into an environmentally responsible street. I commend the people of Edmonston for achieving this special honor and their commitment to making their town and this County a wonderful place to experience and explore."

Scoring a rating of three blooms out of a possible five, Edmonston was honored for their application of public art featured on the Anacostia Bridge and smaller murals located throughout the town. High praise was also given to the mural featured on the fence surrounding ECO City Farms (*pictured here*), an urban farm located in the tiny community.

Edmonston Green Team leader, Bridget Pooley was also honored as a “Community Champion” for her leadership with the Town’s America in Bloom program.

Mayor Tracy Gant praised the community’s effort to win this prestigious award in the first year of participation. “It is heartwarming to receive national recognition for what is done every day by all of our residents in the Town of Edmonston. Green is not just the Town’s color; it’s a way of life!”

Participants are evaluated on six criteria: overall impression, environmental awareness, heritage preservation, urban forestry, landscape and floral displays. They are also judged on their community involvement across municipal, residential and commercial sectors.

According to its Executive Director Laura Kunkle, America in Bloom helps towns and cities achieve their potential in making their communities some of the best places to live in America.

To date, more than 220 towns and cities from all over the U.S. have participated in the AIB program. Cities, towns, business districts, college campuses and military installations are eligible to participate. Registrations for the 2016 national awards program are currently underway and can be submitted until February 28, 2016.

For more information, visit www.americaninbloom.org.

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