



Gemeente Weert, The Netherlands

Communities in Bloom - 2014 National Edition

Winner **5 Blooms** **Kempen-Broek Cross Border Park**

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CHARLOTTETOWN, September 20, 2014 — Gemeente Weert is the winner of the International Challenge (Medium) category. Weert received a 5 Bloom rating and a special mention for *Kempen-Broek Cross Border Park* during the 2014 Symposium and Awards Ceremonies in Charlottetown, PEI. The community competed against Lambton Shores ON, Prestatyn UK and Rosemère QC.

In July, trained volunteer judges travelled to participating communities to evaluate the overall contributions of municipal council and departments; industry; businesses and the private sector – including volunteer efforts – in regards to the following criteria: Tidiness, Environmental Action, Heritage Conservation, Urban Forestry, Landscape and Floral Displays.

Following their evaluation, volunteer judges Jim Baird and Berta Briggs wrote: "The enchanting City of Weert is located in the Netherland Province of Limburg on the border with Belgium. This year it is celebrating its 600th anniversary! Last year Weert was named the 'Greenest City in Europe' and it certainly lives up to this distinction by having a Quality Policy for Natural Areas. The policies of the City are comprehensive in their application and extend to provide lush street trees, diverse plantings and floral displays, redeveloped heritage sites and the re-establishment of the natural landscape. The most ambitious naturalization project is the Kempen-Broek Cross Border Park where, through a process of land purchase and voluntary property trades, land is taken out of agricultural production and allowed to naturalize. When combined with forested areas, a significant natural corridor is created stretching further into the Netherlands and into Belgium. Flora and fauna

diversity is on the rise, providing educational and recreational opportunities for all”.

Within the actual context of climate changes and environmental concerns, communities involved in the program can be proud of their efforts, which provide real and meaningful environmental solutions and benefit all of society.

For a complete list of the results and the electronic copy of the Communities in Bloom magazine, please visit www.communitiesinbloom.ca.

About Communities in Bloom

Communities in Bloom is a Canadian non-profit organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement and the challenge of a national program, with focus on the enhancement of green spaces. The pride, sense of community and feeling of accomplishment generated through participation are visible in communities across Canada. For more information about Communities in Bloom, visit

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