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Contact: Lina Garcia (USCM)
202-341-6113 / lgarcia@usmayors.org
Su Lok (ScottsMiracle-Gro)
937-578-5169 / su.lok@scotts.com

GARDEN AND GREEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT TO ENHANCE CITIES

U.S. Conference of Mayors and ScottsMiracle-Gro Announce GRO1000 Gardens and Green Spaces Awards at Mayors’ Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. -- The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) and The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company (NYSE:SMG) today announced the recipients of the 2013 GRO1000 Gardens and Green Spaces Grant Awards Program. The grants, which focus on improving our nation’s cities through the development of community gardens and green spaces, were announced at The U.S. Conference of Mayors’ 81st Winter Meeting in Washington, DC.

This year’s winning cities are:
- Bridgeport, Conn. – Mayor Bill Finch
- Cincinnati, Ohio – Mayor Mark Mallory
- Fort Worth, Texas – Mayor Betsy Price
- Sacramento, Calif. – Mayor Kevin Johnson
- Tuscaloosa, Ala. – Mayor Walter Maddox

"We congratulate the five award winners thanks to the support from our partner, ScottsMiracle-Gro," said Tom Cochran, CEO & Executive Director of The U.S. Conference of Mayors. "It is through the strong leadership of these outstanding mayors that families will have increased access to healthy foods and outdoor spaces in their neighborhoods."

The partnership between The U.S. Conference of Mayors and ScottsMiracle-Gro, now in its second year, aims to improve U.S. cities through increased access to public gardens and green spaces. The winning cities were chosen from a competitive field to create new, innovative greenscapes and to recognize mayoral commitment to urban beautification.

"Many communities have limited access to livable, outdoor green spaces," said Jim Hagedorn, ScottsMiracle-Gro Chairman and CEO. "Through our partnership with The U.S. Conference of Mayors, we are proud to work with cities to bring the benefits of gardening and green spaces to their residents."

The winning cities were chosen by a panel of former mayors and national garden experts from a pool of almost 60 applicants. Grants, in the amount of $25,000 from ScottsMiracle-Gro, were awarded to the five cities.

2013 GRO1000 Garden and Green Space project overviews:

Bridgeport, Conn.
“Little Asia” Athletic Field and Community Garden will rehabilitate an existing athletic field for recreational activities while also improving the community’s Asian-themed community garden, located on the same site. Located at Curiale Elementary School, the garden will be used as a teaching garden for beginning gardeners and students, who will learn how to plant, cultivate, harvest and preserve fresh produce. The city and school will extend the community garden to welcome participation from nearby residents.

**Cincinnati, Ohio**
In the Mill Creek neighborhood, where unemployment rates exceed the national average and families living below the poverty level are as high as 64 percent, the community has been severely affected by the pollution and blighted conditions of the Mill Creek waterway. The Mill Creek Edible Forest Garden will create a green edge between the city and its river and help capture, filter and infiltrate localized urban stormwater runoff. It will also produce nutritious food for area residents and a local food pantry.

**Fort Worth, Texas**
An expansion to the existing Children’s Vegetable Garden near the Fort Worth Botanic Garden will feature raised and in-ground beds, a greenhouse, educational pavilion, and playhouse. Intended to be a welcoming space for children and adults alike, the garden will be a hands-on opportunity for visitors to learn about nutrition, gardening and an active lifestyle that incorporates nature.

**Sacramento, Calif.**
Located in the diverse and low-income Oak Park neighborhood, the Sacramento Charter High School will be home to the Edible Sac High Project, marking the first time The Edible Schoolyard Project has ever been implemented in a high school setting. The Edible Schoolyard Project, founded by renowned restaurateur and food activist Alice Waters, aims to provide edible education through an integrated curriculum encompassing a school garden, a kitchen classroom and a student-run cafeteria.

**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**
The Alberta Parkway Gardens will serve as a green space for the Alberta community, a neighborhood that was significantly distressed by tornadoes in the spring of 2011. The gardens will be a part of the City Walk, an infrastructure project that will be a multi-use walking and biking trail to connect neighborhoods throughout Tuscaloosa and to provide recreational amenities and access to nature. Supported by the Mayor’s Tuscaloosa Forward Plan, the gardens will support landscaping, sitting areas and a community garden for use by local residents.

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**About the U.S. Conference of Mayors**
The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,210 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. Find us at usmayors.org, on facebook.com/usmayors, or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/usmayors.

**About ScottsMiracle-Gro**
The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, through its wholly-owned subsidiary, The Scotts Company LLC, is the world’s largest marketer of branded consumer products for lawn and garden care, with products for professional horticulture as well. The Company’s brands are the most recognized in the industry. In the U.S., the Company’s Scotts®, Miracle-Gro® and Ortho® brands are market-leading in their categories, as is the consumer Roundup® brand, which is marketed in North America and most of Europe exclusively by Scotts and owned by Monsanto. In the U.S., we operate Scotts LawnService®, the second largest residential lawn care service business. Visit us at www.scotts.com.