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GARDEN AND GREEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT TO ENHANCE CITIES

U.S. Conference of Mayors and ScotsMiracle-Gro Announce GRO1000 Gardens and Green Spaces Awards at Mayors' 82nd 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 2014 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’ 82nd Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C.

This year’s winning cities are:
- Mesa, AZ – Mayor Scott Smith
- Tallahassee, FL – Mayor John Marks
- Minneapolis, MN – Mayor Betsy Hodges
- Miramar, FL – Mayor Lori Moseley
- Houston, TX – Mayor Annise Parker

“We highly commend the mayors in all five of these winning cities for their actions to improve the quality of life for all their citizens,” said Tom Cochran CEO & Executive Director of The U.S. Conference of Mayors. “Thanks to the outstanding work by these mayors, their citizens have access to healthy, natural food while uniting people of all ages and creating a sense of community.”

The partnership between The U.S. Conference of Mayors and ScotsMiracle-Gro, now in its third 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 renewal and beautification.

“We are proud to be working with the U.S. Conference of Mayors to bring more green spaces to our nation’s cities,” said Jim Hagedorn, ScotsMiracle-Gro Chairman and CEO. “Through our commitment to garden and green space development, our hope is that residents and future generations will have a place to enjoy the outdoors.”
The winning cities were chosen by a panel of former mayors and national garden experts from a pool of applicants. New in 2014, the GRO1000 grants have been expanded to award a total of $40,000 in monetary funds and product, payable over three years. In Year 1, each winning city will receive a grant in the amount of $25,000 ($15,000 cash; $10,000 in-kind product from ScottsMiracle-Gro). For Years 2 and 3, winning cities will receive a grant award of $7,500 ($5,000 cash; $2,500 in-kind product from ScottsMiracle-Gro).

2014 GRO1000 Garden and Green Space project overviews:

**Mesa, Arizona.**
The McKellips and Ellsworth Park Botanicals Walkway will be an educational pathway approximately 600 feet in length and 10 feet wide, meandering through the native desert environment. The Walkway will be a focal point of the new park development at McKellips and Ellsworth. The project will be transformational to the local neighborhood, schools, and regional network of educational institutions by providing a model native desert community in a setting that is in close proximity and easily accessible to groups and individuals. The Walkway will serve as both an educational garden and recreational space.

**Tallahassee, Florida**
GRO1000 will fund the launch of the iGrow Whatever You Like Youth Farm, Phase Two, i.e., the development of the youth farm into an off-the-grid urban farm educational hub. The expansion will involve an outdoor kitchen (for cooking demonstrations), a bio-digester to sustainably produce cooking, heating, and water-pump fuel, a produce wash station, a market stand, an aquaponics system, a solar array to power the pump required, a “giving garden” to raise more food specifically to donate, a scaled-up composting operation, and a pavilion for community gatherings and workshops.

**Minneapolis, Minnesota**
The project supports the moving of the All Nations Peace Garden to the Karamu Garden, a garden hub that will be moved to the Black Storyteller’s Karamu Gardens in the same neighborhood. This hub connects Project Sweetie Pie to 25 community gardens in North Minneapolis. The Karamu garden started two years ago with the help of Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota (EJAM) and the Women’s Environmental Institute. The GRO1000 grant will help improve and expand the garden and the programing. Because the new garden is in the same neighborhood, the plan is to continue working with the local school children. In addition, the new location allows the involvement of many other community members. Because the Karamu Gardens offer a highly visible location on a busy artery in North Minneapolis, the location will also provide visual beauty to the neighborhood.

**Miramar, Florida**
Within the existing Miramar Community Garden will be an expansion that features the “Intergenerational Fruit & Vegetable Garden” which will include a fruit grove, raised beds, a culinary herb garden, a seedling nursery and an outdoor classroom. The project will provide added community building activities, offer additional gardening resources and culinary/agricultural workshops. The community participation and lessons provided in this program have a tremendous transformational potential for people of all ages. The purpose of the Intergenerational Fruit & Vegetable Garden is to educate residents of all ages and backgrounds on how to successfully garden and grow fruits and vegetables taking advantage of Florida’s plentiful sunshine and distinct growing seasons. In doing so, the garden would expand youth (and seniors) community engagement, develop leadership and workforce skills, generate added community and neighborhood participation, and promote micro-enterprise development which can boost the local economy.

**Houston, Texas**
Located at the Gabriela Mistral Center for Early Childhood, the Garden and Nature Playground will feature raised beds and container gardens, fruit trees, compost bins, barrels for rain water harvesting, an outdoor classroom, fort, pond, embankment slide, music space, sand pit and playhouse. Gabriela Mistral Center for Early Childhood is located in the Gulfton area of southwest Houston, a low-income and immigrant community. According to the Rice University Kinder Institute for Urban Research, October 2011, the Gulfton area is 3.197 square miles with a
population density of 13,545 per square mile. The average family size is 3.6 persons with a median household income of $28,993.

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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**

With more than $2.8 billion in worldwide sales, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company is the world's largest marketer of branded consumer products for lawn and garden care. 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. In Europe, the Company's brands include Weedol®, Pathclear®, Evergreen®, Levington®, Miracle-Gro®, KB®, Fertiligène® and Substral®. For additional information, visit us at www.scotts.com.