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Ten Communities Receive Prestigious State Environmental Award *Governor's Community Achievement Awards honor grassroots programs*

(Austin, Texas) -- Ten Texas communities have been selected to receive the 2017 Governor's Community Achievement Awards (GCAA), one of the most prestigious annual environmental awards in Texas.

These awards are a joint effort between the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB). Winning communities are awarded for their outstanding overall efforts to keep their communities beautiful. This year, the communities of **Athens, Bastrop, Copperas Cove, Flower Mound, Fort Worth, Longview, McAllen, Muenster, Murphy** and **San Saba** will share \$2 million in landscape development projects within their respective communities on state maintained rights-of-way. KTB and TxDOT will formally recognize and award these communities during Keep Texas Beautiful's 50th Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas from June 12-14, 2017.

The awards recognize the most comprehensive grassroots environmental programs in the state and are awarded in 10 different categories, based on population. Every community in Texas is eligible to apply for a Governor's Community Achievement Award. A community's environmental program is judged on achievements in seven different areas: community leadership and coordination, education, public awareness, litter prevention and cleanup, litter law and illegal dumping enforcement, beautification and community improvement and solid waste management.

The GCAA program has recognized outstanding communities for more than 30 years. Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation first began working together in the late 1960s, sharing the common goals of making Texas roadways attractive, safe for motorists and encouraging tourism. Since 1985, KTB has partnered through an annual contract with TxDOT to provide grassroots support of their anti-litter and beautification programs such as Don't mess with Texas® Trash-Off and the Governor's Community Achievement Awards.

Keep Texas Beautiful, a statewide grassroots environmental and community improvement nonprofit, strives to educate and engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their community environment. KTB and its more than 390 affiliates work with government, businesses, civic groups and volunteers to ensure that every Texan has the opportunity to make Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation. KTB provides more than \$20 million in annual economic value per \$1 funded by the state to keep Texas beautiful.

The Governor's Community Achievement Awards are open to all Texas communities. A program may consist of more than one community, but one community may not submit more than one GCAA entry. For more information on these awards, please visit www.ktb.org.

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About Keep Texas Beautiful

Keep Texas Beautiful, the statewide grassroots environmental and community improvement organization and affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, educates and engages Texans to take responsibility for improving their community environment. KTB and its more than 390 affiliates work with government, businesses, civic groups, and volunteers to ensure that every Texan has the opportunity to help make Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation. This year, Keep Texas Beautiful is celebrating its 50th Anniversary as an organization. For more information or to donate, call 1-800-CLEAN-TX. visit www.ktb.org or follow along at #50YearsofKTB.

About the Texas Department of Transportation

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail, and public transportation across the state. Through collaboration and leadership, we deliver a safe, reliable, and integrated transportation system that enables the movement of people and goods. Find out more at txdot.gov. “Like” us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

Don’t mess with Texas[®] is a registered service mark and trademark owned by the Texas Department of Transportation. For more information visit www.dontmesswithtexas.org. Follow Don’t mess with Texas on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Pertinent Facts

Category # (population)	Amount
Category 1 (up to 3,000):	\$90,000
Category 2 (3,001-5,500):	\$110,000
Category 3 (5,501-9,000):	\$130,000
Category 4 (9,001-15,000):	\$160,000
Category 5 (15,001-25,000):	\$180,000
Category 6 (25,001-40,000):	\$210,000
Category 7 (40,001-65,000):	\$250,000
Category 8 (65,001-90,000):	\$270,000
Category 9 (90,001-180,000):	\$290,000
Category 10 (180,001+):	<u>\$310,000</u>
	\$2,000,000

The Governor’s Community Achievement Award winners are announced annually in the spring. Recognition takes place each year during a ceremony at the annual Keep Texas Beautiful Conference. This year’s conference will be held June 12-14, 2017 at the Westin Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas. The winners will be recognized on Tuesday, June 13 at the annual GCAA Dinner.

The GCAA are open to all Texas communities. A program entry may consist of more than one community, but one community may not have more than one GCAA entry. A community is defined as a region or regions with shared or adjoining boundaries whose beautification and litter abatement programs are administered by a common organization.

More about GCAA: <http://www.ktb.org/programs/awards/governors-community-achievement-awards.aspx>