

# Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter

## Grants and Awards Highlight KIB Efforts

Keep Irving Beautiful (KIB) is fortunate to have the opportunity to apply for awards on behalf of the affiliate and our partners. Over the years, KIB and many of these deserving individuals and groups have been honored with numerous awards. Most recently, KIB received both the Sustained Excellence and Gold Star Awards from Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB), which were presented at the state conference held June 15 - 17 in Fort Worth. This represents the highest levels an affiliate can achieve, and have numerous requirements in order to qualify. In addition, KIB Board members Margie Stipes and Arnold Martin each received 2nd Place awards, in the KTB Leadership and Senior Citizen categories, respectively, and Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) received a 3rd Place Award in the Electronic Media category.

KIB also enjoys grant opportunities available through our national organization, Keep America Beautiful (KAB), which allow us to pursue additional projects and programs. Corporate sponsors have given millions of dollars in



KIB was honored at the 48th annual Keep Texas Beautiful State Conference in Fort Worth. Pictured above with the Gold Star Award are: KIB's Julie Schmitt, KTB Executive Director Cathie Gail, and KIB Coordinator Rick Hose.

grants to KAB affiliates across the country. KIB received a \$5,000 grant from the UPS Foundation through its partnership with KAB, which was used to plant trees at the city's tree farm in November. We applied for the same grant this year, and are waiting for the winners to be announced. The largest grants received came as a result of Irving winning the Governor's Community Achievement Award (GCAA) through KTB and TxDOT in 2010 and 2014, which provided \$620,000 in funding for a landscaping project on a state

right-of-way. Plans are being finalized to use this latest award for the purchase and planting of many beautiful varieties of native trees along Irving Boulevard.

Grants on a local level have helped some of KIB's partners with needed funding, such as the Gerald Taylor Memorial Community Garden. They received the City of Irving's first community garden grant, which has helped with maintaining the raised beds and the educational programs like the Children's Garden.

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### Did You Know?

Now that summer is here, try these helpful tips on natural preventative garden pest control from Earth 911:

- Pull out weak or diseased plants -- they attract more pests
- Use healthy organic soil or compost
- Keep foliage dry by using a drip irrigation system to deliver water directly to the roots
- Introduce beneficial insects like ladybugs, lacewings and praying mantis. They love to eat pests!



Two Irving projects that are thriving, thanks in part to grant funding: The city's tree farm, above, and the Gerald Taylor Memorial community garden, below.



## Learning About KIB in New Ways

You may have seen symbols like the one on the right and wondered just what they were. They are called QR codes, similar to the bar codes you see on store merchandise. They can be scanned on your smart phone (just download the free QR Reader app), and provide easy access to information just by a quick scan instead of typing in a website URL. KIB is now including them on our flyers, brochures, press releases, and the monthly

newsletter. This one takes you to the main page of the KIB website. Other QR codes will direct our volunteers to the registration pages for events like the Trash Bash (look for that in the August newsletter). Try it, and learn more about KIB!

