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Aa Lake Park in Muenster is Europe's most beautiful park in 2009

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Muenster (9 February 2009) – After being named "Germany's Most Beautiful Park 2008", Muenster's Aa Lake Park continued its victory course, winning the final round of the "Europe's Best Park" competition and becoming the first German park to receive the coveted award. For the third time, a jury of top experts in six countries selected Europe's most beautiful parks on behalf of Briggs & Stratton, a US-based firm that is the leading manufacturer of air-cooled four stroke engines for gardening machines. The six winners of the national competitions from Italy, France, Great Britain, Sweden, Poland and Germany competed against each other in the final round. The Aa Lake Park was closely followed by the Swedish Maraboupark in Sundbyberg and Parc Maupassant de Bois Savary in Allonnes, France.

Delivering his first statement on the event, Dr. Berthold Tillmann, Mayor of the City of Muenster, was very happy about the award: "For years, we have been working to position Muenster as a liveable and ecologically-oriented city and this is a welcome contribution to our efforts as well as an excellent way of recognising what we have accomplished." On Monday, February 9th, Lord Mayor Tillmann and his team from the Office of Green Areas and Environmental Protection received the distinction in the form of an award certificate from Marlon Treptow, Key Account Manager for Europe at Briggs & Stratton. Winners are not awarded any prize money, but the company that organizes the competition will take comprehensive public relations measures to ensure that Muenster and its Aa Lake Park receive a lot of media attention in all of the participating countries.

Marlon Treptow is convinced that, "Our jurors have found a worthy winner. Our jurors pay particular attention to the usability and acceptance of the green areas among the population, diversity in design and good to excellent upkeep. In our opinion, Muenster is exemplary in this respect and we are really pleased that the juries in other countries thought so too", Treptow continued.

Work on the Aa Lake Park area began in 1926 and comprised three stages. In the first stage, measures were taken to regulate floods and clean up the Aa River, a small river that runs through the city. Citizens were quick to recognise and appreciate the great recreational value of the lake and the surrounding green areas. From 1972 to 1976, the second stage, the Aa Lake's surface was doubled. A 2000 metre long rowing regatta racing course for national and international

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competitions was created; two sailing piers complement the recreational facilities available on the water. In the third and final construction period (1994 to 1996), an extensive natural park area was created on grounds surrounding the mouth of the lake. The result was a great variety of water areas, which provided a habitat for a number of different plants and animals. Here, paths and lookout points were strategically laid out to allow the city's inhabitants to experience this biotope first-hand.

The Aa Lake Park in Muenster is a jewel in the city's green system crown, a paradise for recreation and relaxation and a magnet that draws citizens and guests alike. The City of Muenster offers a unique and ideal green system. The overall concept includes three green belts, the first being the so-called Promenade, where the old city wall once stood and which encircles the entire centre of the city. From here, there are seven green corridors leading in stellar fashion to the surrounding countryside. Located to the West of the city centre, the Aa Lake Park and the Aa Lake's large surface area as well as the "Western Aa Valley" green area provide the city with fresh air.

Briggs & Stratton, the initiator, is delighted with the victory of the first German participant in the European final competition and hopes even more parks will participate in the current "Germany's Most Beautiful Parks" competition, which has just been launched. The deadline for entries is May 15th 2009.

Placing

Place	Park Name	Country	Points
1	Aa Lake Park, Muenster	Germany	144
2	Marabou Park, Sundbyberg	Sweden	140
3	Parc Maupassant de Bois Savary, Allonnes	France	135,5
4	Villa Nazionale Pisani, Stra	Italy	117
5	Urban Park, Zamość	Poland	107,5
6	Mowbray Park, Sunderland	Great Britain	107

The European panel of experts

Six juries, consisting of high-ranking experts appraised the applications of the national winners of the other countries. Appraisal is made according to clearly defined criteria; the end result is determined by adding the assigned points.

Country	Jurors names	Function
France	Caroline Geneau	Garden journalist
	Patrick Mioulane	Garden journalist
	Alain Baraton	Garden journalist
	Isabelle Morand	Garden journalist
	Jean Philippe Louis	Garden journalist
Italy	Vincenzo Cazzato	Ministry of Culture

	Marcello Fagiolo	National Committee for Historical Gardens
	Luigi Zangheri	Int'l Committee for Cultivated Landscapes
	Margherita Azzi Visentini	Milan Polytechnic School
	Ines Romitti	Landscape architect
	Rossella Sleiter	Journalist
	Francesca Marzotto Caotorta	Journalist
Great Britain		
Sweden	Jörgen Orback	Landscape architect
	Elisabeth Svalin Gunnarsson	Journalist
	Ms. Ann Larås	TV journalist
	Mr. Richard Aulin	Briggs & Stratton Sweden
Poland	Maja Popielarska	TV author "Maja in the Garden"
	Wojciech Jasiński	Briggs & Stratton Poland
	Tomasz Terteka	Spokesman for the City of Żywiec
	Grażyna Retelewska	Chief Gardener of the City of Łódź
	Anna Olaczek-Wołowska	Parks and Garden Department, City of Łódź
Germany	Prof. Albert Schmidt	Former FLL President
	Werner Küsters	Gartenhof Küsters, former BGL President
	Marlon Treptow	Briggs & Stratton Germany

Europe's Best Parks: Winners in Previous Years

2007: Villa d'Este, Tivoli, Italy

2008: Pollok Country Park, Glasgow, Great Britain

About Briggs & Stratton

Briggs & Stratton is the world's largest manufacturer of air-cooled 4-cycle petrol engines for outdoor power equipment, including lawnmowers, generators and pressure washers, as well as many industrial/commercial applications. Established in 1908 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, the company now designs, manufactures, markets and services these products for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in over 100 countries all over the world. Briggs & Stratton has a long-standing commitment to protect the environment and through continuous R&D investments, has reduced the emissions produced by its engines by almost 75 percent since 1990.

More Information:

www.aaseepark.de