

# Award-winning landscape

## Abbott Park

### Property at a glance:

**Location:** Abbott Park, IL

**Staff:** In-house staff

**Category:** Industrial or Office Park

**Year site built:** 1966

**Acres of turf:** 153

**Acres of woody  
ornamentals:** 16

**Acres of display beds:** 21

**Total man-hours/week:** 610

*The 1998 Honor  
Award Winner of the  
Professional Grounds  
Management Society  
for the Industrial or  
Office Park category.*

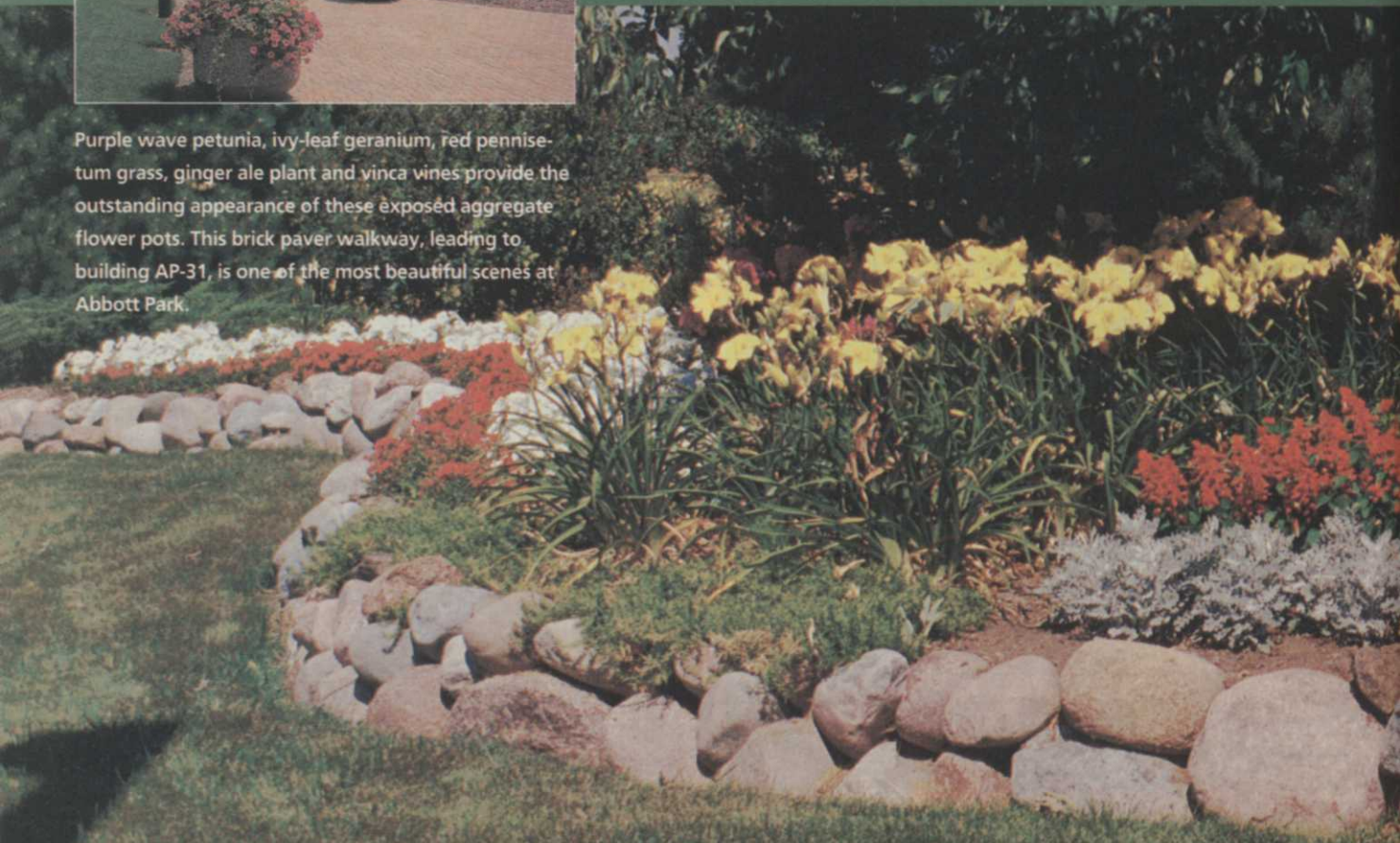
**A**bbott Park, located on 481 acres in northeastern Illinois, is the corporate headquarters for Abbott Laboratories. The in-house staff maintains the K-Complex (45 acres) and Abbott Park East (89 acres). Gardeners are assigned to one of seven zones and are responsible for day-to-day maintenance. An "Area of the Year" competition, judged by the staff and management, encourages pride and ownership by the landscaping staff.

The staff maintains 153 acres of turf, 62,400 sq. ft. of perennial beds and 24,500 sq. ft. of annual flower beds. Abbott Park also has 89 acres of parking lot, over eight miles of roadway and nine miles of sidewalk, for which the staff is responsible for during the winter months.

Abbott Park Grounds is committed to the preservation and repopulation of the Eastern prairie white-fringed orchid, once common throughout the North American grassland system east of the Mississippi River.



Purple wave petunia, ivy-leaf geranium, red pennisetum grass, ginger ale plant and vinca vines provide the outstanding appearance of these exposed aggregate flower pots. This brick paver walkway, leading to building AP-31, is one of the most beautiful scenes at Abbott Park.



# management



▲ A prioritized turf fertilization program is responsible for the lush green turf in this picture. Priority 1 areas (20.5 acres) receive 3 lbs. slow-release Nitroform nitrogen per year. Priority 2 areas (123 acres) receive 2 lbs. of sulfur-coated urea. Priority 3 areas (10 acres) receive no fertilization. This system allows Abbott Park to maintain very high quality turf while staying within the budget.

▼ The southmost entrance of Abbott Park uses fast release 13-13-13 fertilizer and composted materials, which are incorporated into the soil of all annual flower beds prior to planting in mid-May. Another fertilizer application is made in early July.

## Maintenance challenges

- ▶ Prairie maintenance/restoration
- ▶ Snow/ice removal
- ▶ Control of aquatic weeds/algae

## Project checklist

(Completed in last two years):

- ▶ three acres of prairie restoration
- ▶ installation of quick-coupler irrigation lines by staff
- ▶ spring start-up of irrigation systems by staff

## On the job

- ▶ 12 full-time staff, 6 seasonal staff, 1 contract person, 13 licensed pesticide applicators

Editors' note: *Landscape Management* is the exclusive sponsor of the Green Star Professional Achievement Awards for outstanding management of residential, commercial and institutional landscapes. For more information on the 1999 Awards, contact PGMS at 120 Cockeysville Road, Suite 104, Hunt Valley, MD; 410/584-9754.

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