

Award-winning landscape

Property at a glance:

Location: Boise, ID

Staff: in-house

Category: Government Building or Complex

Year site built: Statehouse, 1905; Capitol Mall 1960 - 1980

Total acres maintained: 35

Acres of turf: 12

Acres of woody ornamentals: 5

Acres of display beds: 2.5

Total man-hours/week: 240

The 1998 Grand Award Winner of the Professional Grounds Management Society for Government Building or Complex.

The Idaho Statehouse and Capitol Mall is located in downtown Boise, and is comprised of 11 state government office buildings within a 16-block parcel. The statehouse construction began in 1905 and the mall was built between 1960 and 1980. An historic home, Alexander House, with a formal rose garden and gazebo, is also part of the property.

Visitors and employees alike enjoy touring the well-manicured grounds. The heavy clay soils are prone to compaction and are aerified three to four times a year and spread with gypsum. The 35-acre site is maintained by a six-person crew during the growing season.

Idaho Statehouse and Capitol Mall



management



▲ A formal rose garden and gazebo near the historic Alexander House.

◀ The Idaho Statehouse in downtown Boise, Idaho.

▶ A worker sweeps debris that was left behind after edging the sidewalks. They also clean parking lots and garages with this machine.

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.

LANDSCAPE
management

PGMS

Maintenance challenges

- ▶ cleaning up after vandalism, including resetting monuments
- ▶ keeping up with the sheer volume of traffic seven days a week
- ▶ Christmas decorating
- ▶ maintaining numerous upright planters through dry season

Project checklist

(Completed in last two years):

- ▶ total landscape renovation of the park area directly to the front of the Capitol
- ▶ installation of computer-controlled irrigation systems
- ▶ installation of 2,500 feet of concrete edging

On the job

- ▶ 2 full-time staff, 4 seasonal, 1 licensed pesticide applicator

