

City of Chicago

Property at a glance:

Location: Chicago

Staff: Outside contractor — Chicago Christian Industrial League Landscape Services

Category: Public works sites

Total budget: \$3.5 million

Year site built: 1985

Acres of turf: 1,200

Acres of woody

ornamentals: 115

Acres of display beds: 8 acres

Total paved area: 800 acres, more than 20 miles of planting egress

Total man-hours/week: 5,000

Maintenance challenges

- ▶ Flower care
- ▶ Care of perennial beds
- ▶ Care of specialty trees/shrubs

Project checklist

(Completed in last two years):

- ▶ 1998 spring planting of 8,295, 6-inch pots
- ▶ 1,773 flats of annuals
- ▶ 20,000 fall bulbs in medians

On the job

- ▶ 22 full-time staff, 75 seasonal employees, 15 licensed pesticide operators

The 1998 Honor Award winner of the Professional Grounds Management Society in the public works sites is the city of Chicago, in partnership with Chicago Christian Industrial League Landscape Services and ServiceMaster Corp.

This program keeps the landscapes of Chicago in top condition while providing employment for the city's less fortunate. The city purchases needed landscape services and receives quality service at a competitive price. The Chicago Christian Industrial League provides a social services network, life skills training and work experiences for their clients. Service-

Master offers job skill training, business management expertise and professional work supervision. It gives everyone an opportunity to get the results they want.

CCIL Landscape Services work/training program presently operates 21 crews and employs 75 formerly homeless or unemployed people to produce revenue of approximately \$3.5 million. The program has trained 350 people over the last five years, and maintains 65 health clinics and small



parks; 11 major roadway medians; the Chicago River Walk; 200 Chicago public schools; 10 Chicago community colleges; and also provides nighttime power washing for two miles of sidewalks on State St.

Editors' note: *Landscape Management* is the exclusive sponsor of the Green Star Professional Achievement Awards for outstanding management of residential, commercial and institutional landscapes. The 1999 winners will be named at the annual meeting of the Professional Grounds Management Society in November. For more information on the 2000 Awards, contact PGMS at 120 Cockeysville Road, Suite 104, Hunt Valley, MD; 410/584-9754. Web-site: www.pgms.org

▲ CCIL crew installs a bed.

▶ (large photo) On the Chicago River Walk, planter boxes are installed and planted by CCIL crews.

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▼ Cascading flower pots are used where no planting beds can be developed.

