

Property at a glance

Location: Abbott Laboratories,
Chicago, IL

Staff: North Chicago Grounds Maintenance

Category: Industrial or office park

Total budget: \$805,000

Year site built: 1925

Acres of turf: 42.7

Acres of woody ornamentals: 11.2

Acres of display beds: 1.5

Total paved area: 73.6 acres

Total man-hours/week: 515

Maintenance challenges

- ▶ Congestion — air quality
- ▶ Company growth/expansion
- ▶ Regulatory compliance

Project checklist

(Completed in last two years):

- ▶ Building R14
- ▶ Parking lot 5
- ▶ Gate 2 entrance

On the job

- ▶ 10 full-time staff, 6 seasonal employees, 6 licensed pesticide operators

Abbott Laboratories

The 1999 Grand Award Winner of the Professional Grounds Management Society for Industrial or Office Park

Who ever said that science wasn't beautiful? Located on a 220-acre tract of land bordering the shores of Lake Michigan in North Chicago, the grounds at "Abbott on the Lake" are expected to be nothing short of perfect. That's not a surprise considering that Abbott Laboratories is a Fortune 500 health care and pharmaceutical company.

During peak growing season, North Chicago Grounds Maintenance mow and irrigate turf areas at least once a week, routinely maintain flower beds and hedges and collect litter.

Snow removal has been a top priority at Abbott ever since a 1979 New Year's Eve storm left the manufacturing plant buried for two weeks. From Nov. 1 to April 1, the entire grounds crew is on 24-hour call in case of any sudden snowstorms. Snow has to be cleared from 70 acres of pavement and hauled away to a remote snow dump site on the perimeter of the property.

Can you imagine being told that you cannot use mowing equipment, fertilizers and pesticides one day because the ozone levels exceed the national standard? That's another challenge the contractor has to overcome, as well as strict plant cleanliness requirements from the government and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.





► Edging a sidewalk is easier using a trimmer with edger attachment.

▼ Effective use of both color and texture make this flower bed a real focal point.

Editors' note: *Landscape Management* is the exclusive sponsor of the Green Star Professional Grounds Management

Landscape
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Awards for outstanding management of residential, commercial and institutional landscapes. The 2000 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

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