

### Property at a glance

Location: Chene Park, Detroit, MI

Staff: Davey Commercial Grounds Management

Category: Park, recreation area or athletic field

Total budget: \$247,000

Year site built: 1978

Acres of turf: 10.5

Acres of woody ornamentals: 1.3

Acres of display beds: 2.1

Total paved area: 6.5

Total man-hours/week: 180

### Maintenance challenges

- ▶ Location — Central inner city Detroit
- ▶ Full event schedule
- ▶ Steep slopes over terrain

### Project checklist

(Completed in last two years):

- ▶ Re-engineering of water feature
- ▶ Incorporation of perennials
- ▶ New record keeping system

### On the job

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

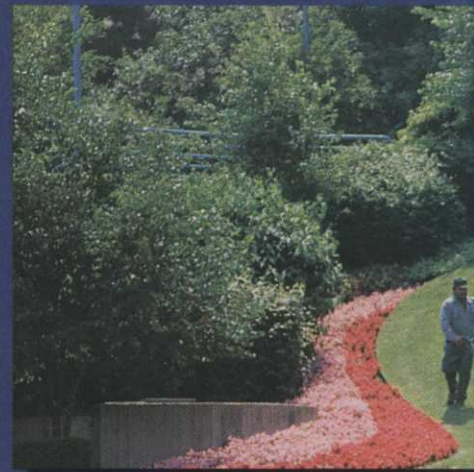
# Chene Park

## The 1999 Grand Award Winner of the Professional Grounds Management Society for Park, Recreation Area or Athletic Field

Put a park smack dab in the middle of inner city Detroit and what do you get? One big maintenance hassle, that's what. Gang members and the homeless play no small part in creating that nightmare, which includes debris, vandalism and graffiti that are handled daily as top priority.

It's the Davey Commercial Grounds Management crew that makes sure Chene Park keeps its reputation as the crown jewel of Detroit's Riverfront Parks. This includes stripping and resodding the turf surrounding the 5,000-seat amphitheater that attracts lots of traffic as it is used for concerts, graduations and civic affairs. Trampled flowers are replaced daily from a supply of backups grown off-site. Steep slopes make for scenic terrain for visitors, but provide a challenge to mowing crews.

But it isn't all mowing and cleaning up graffiti at Chene Park. For instance, take the water features, which act as storm water management ponds. They weren't engineered properly to maintain consistent levels, so the Davey crews re-



Slopes create mowing challenges but provide vivid displays of the landscape.

engineered the overflow/drainage system to divert excess water into the Detroit River.

If these weren't challenges enough, the Davey managers must meet the requirements of a detailed monthly reporting system so approval from as many as eight levels of city officials is granted in a timely fashion. Aspirin, anyone?

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

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Perennials accent the annuals and ornamental plantings in front of a site that used to be a cement plant.

