

LM100

20 Leading Grounds Organizations

Talk about clean cuts and top-notch scenery. These grounds, whether they be located in parks, office or residential complexes, or schools, inspire awe from those in and out of the Green Industry.



Peterson Air Force Base Colorado Springs, CO

More than 28 miles of edging along 117 acres of irrigated bluegrass is accomplished by Blane Pshigoda and his crews on behalf of this Embassy Lawn/Davey Commercial joint project. Spit and polish procedures apply throughout the 1,327-acre space program base, which must be policed daily. No weed over 2 inches in height or width is allowed, and rock beds coexist with trees, turf and ornamentals.

City of Mission Viejo Mission Viejo, CA

John Hall and his SpectrumCare colleagues tend medians totaling 43 miles with 55 acres of display planter beds decorating this master planned community, which includes 27 acres of turf to be mowed weekly. Traffic is a major concern, and the workers value their bright vests and the many cones poised for protection. Scheduling is tight and the city's expectations are high regarding the lush landscapes.



Rock Creek Ranch Greenwood Village, CO

CoCal Landscape's Gilberto Funes deals daily with multiple mowing heights as his crew tackles 144 acres of irrigated turf and 163 acres of as-

sorted native grasses and plants. The 1,200 homes here are complimented by numerous sophisticated landscape elements, including 20 aerated ponds, a gray water irrigation system, a wastewater treatment plant, wetland areas, parks, ballfields, sculptures, jogging trails and playgrounds.

Lincoln Elementary School Olympia, WA

Tom Kuehn successfully implemented an exceptionally high-profile "No Pesticide Zone" schoolyard here, and the widely publicized program has made the grade largely because Kuehn took an active role meeting with zero-pesticide advocates and cheerfully addressing their concerns. An existing strong integrated pest management (IPM) program was already in place throughout the district's 19 schools, and Kuehn was careful to explain that the resulting landscape would have a more rustic look sans pesticides.

Blue Hills Country Club Linwood, KS

Horticulturist Monica D. Higgins and her assistant are responsible for all the landscaped areas here, including the area surrounding the clubhouse, tennis court and swimming pool, plus some two acres of turf and landscape areas composed of trees, shrubs and flowers divided into more than 40 separate bed areas, and more than four acres of wildlife areas.

Xavier University Cincinnati, OH

Founded in 1831, a campus highlight is Horticulturist Walter Bonnell's reconstructed Academic



Mall. It's a place where all folks can enjoy serenity amid seating for 500, ornamental beds and sodded areas atop plastic turf-lock that allows access for emergency vehicles and other equipment. With irrigation throughout "during the hottest days of summer the mall is as green as it is in springtime," Bonnell says.

Multnomah Bible College Portland, OR

Grounds Supervisor Alfred McInturf hears plenty of humorous green references to his last name as



he, Ron Casey and student staffers tend to a campus that includes two dormitories, 35 houses and 52 apartment units. The perennial plant mix is ever-expanding, and mature evergreens are complimented by younger ornamental trees.

Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park Clearwater, FL

Among his other tasks, Grounds Manager Dusty Hallman is overseeing the pruning of each of the 1,100 southern live oaks growing amid 40,000 graves on 95 acres. Horticultural challenges abound over the digging that's necessary for burials; but the pruning program lets the sun shine in to cover formerly bare ground with lush St. Augustine turf.

College of the Holy Cross Worcester, MA

This 175-acre campus rests on five large terraces graced with 10,000 annuals on the northern slope of Mt. St. James. The 15 crew members under Grounds Superintendent James Long wear football spikes while mowing the 300,000 square feet of banks. Long's been here for 42 years—it's the only job he's ever had; other workers have longevity rates of 20 to 45 years.



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Texas A&M University College Station, TX



A 2,000-acre campus that includes the showplace President George Herbert Walker Bush Library (with red, white and blue flowers) is a large undertaking for the 145 workers under Tom Dew, landscape supervisor. Some 500 30-gallon trash

containers are emptied each day on a site with 10,000 trees, 40,000 irrigation heads and 190 controllers.

White Cliffs Community Association Plymouth, MA

Severe weather conditions and salt spray from the roiling Atlantic below challenge David Foster as he cares for six homeowner associations on 35 acres. "A consistent quality product" is what he grows to show the upscale residents that "they're getting a big bang for their buck." Many people here take an active interest in the landscaping, and Foster says communication skills are particularly important.



Anne Arundel County Annapolis, MD

Founded in 1649, the county contains 116 separate landscapes under the care of Michael Burton, such as 11 miles (309 acres) of showplace median strips spread over 419 square miles. Some 70 acres of turf and 32 acres of display beds are among the municipal building sites and welcome-sign areas maintained to perfection by a crew of five full-time staffers.



Pinehurst Resort and Country Club Pinehurst, NC

Being in the transition zone requires special attention to the turf from 28-year-old Dustin Blackwell, who must remain significantly site-specific when selecting seed for the 1,000-acre complex,



which is world-famous for its golf and other recreational activities. For Grounds Superintendent Blackwell, this means scheduling conflicts that must be resolved, plus each year he mounts an aggressive fungicide program.

Brandon Oaks Roanoke, VA

At age 29, Dwayne D'Ardenne gets a lot of compliments—plus much advice on landscape management—from the 300 elderly residents of this 21-acre upscale retirement community.



"They've taken care of their own yards for a long time," D'Ardenne explains as he notes that "the main thing is to treat them with respect and listen to what they have to say." Slopes throughout the property create horti-

cultural challenges as he pursues a landscape of "comfortable elegance."

Abbott Laboratories North Chicago, IL

When "Abbott on the Lake" was built in the 1920s, very little attention was paid to the landscaping as the structures were sited tightly together—thus Jim Richardson takes special pride in dressing up the limited space with creative plantings of trees, annuals and perennials surrounded by manicured turf. Snow removal is a top priority as the plant operates 24 hours a day.

Leisure World of Maryland Silver Spring, MD

As the East Coast's first planned retirement community ever built in the 1960s, there are now 22 separate board-governed entities among the 800 acres under Brickman's Brad Johns. Responsibility is all inclusive, ranging from total turf management, four yearly flower rotations, shrub and tree care and 24-hour snow removal on more than 55 miles of streets and lots. An integrated pest management (IPM) program is among the innovations being applied.

American University Washington, DC

Summer heat and humidity take a toll on Mark Feist's crew members as they battle fungi and other turf diseases. This year they are implementing a centrally controlled irrigation system that monitors evaporation rates to apply pinpoint watering accuracy. A weather station on the campus aids in the turf care, which includes special areas for Frisbee, volleyball and other activities.

Dwight-Englewood School Englewood, NJ

With an annual budget of \$160,000, the precision landscaping found at this 109-year-old private K-12 school "proves that more can be done with less," according to Grounds Manager George Van Haasteren. The campus, which serves 1,200 students, consists of more than 30 acres of athletic fields, gardens, lawn areas, tennis courts, playgrounds, parking lots, walkways and steps.

Westmoor Farm Nantucket, MA

Candace Clough and Julie Spigelmyre have created a showplace setting among 18 houses and five barns (plus a greenhouse) at this 64-acre private estate, which includes a regulation-size baseball diamond, an 18,000 square-foot ornamental vegetable garden, a miniature apple orchard and an acre of man-made ponds and water features. Clough is particularly proud of the "color bomb" container gardens.



The Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades Media, PA

Donald Jackson, director/instructor of horticulture in the landscaping and turf management program, is a teacher who thrives on getting down and dirty with his students. He stresses not only the glories of proper and creative horticulture—such as preparing a paper on landscaping with yellow flowers—but also his budding superintendents are taught people management skills to succeed in today's job market.