

Property at a glance

Location: Shelter Gardens, Shelter Insurance Co., Columbia, MO

Staff: Shelter Insurance Co.

Category: Industrial or Office Park

Year site built: 1974

Acres of turf: 22

Acres of woody ornamentals: 14

Acres of display beds: 6

Total paved area: 13

Total man-hours/week: 340

Maintenance challenges

- ▶ Preventing disease and insects
- ▶ Providing for public (safety)
- ▶ Irrigation maintenance

Project checklist

- ▶ Vietnam Memorial
- ▶ Built new stone bridge
- ▶ Installed new irrigation system in garden

On the job

- ▶ 6 full-time staff, 2 seasonal employees, 5 licensed pesticide applicators

Shelter Gardens

A 2000 Grand Award Winner of the Professional Grounds Management Society for Industrial or Office Park

Just because it's an insurance company doesn't mean Shelter Insurance of Columbia, MO, doesn't deserve nice landscaping. It's surprising that any of the employees come back from lunch, with all there is to look at and enjoy: a Vietnam Veterans Memorial complete with bamboo and Japanese maples; a newcomer school that's a 19th century replica of a one-room schoolhouse; and a breathtaking rose garden complete with hybrid teas, floribundas, climbers and shrub roses.

The rose garden takes 20 man-hours per week, a fraction of the time it takes to care for the 8,000 to 10,000 annuals planted the first week of May. Over 22 acres of turf must be mowed two to three times per week, and a chipper sits ready to help after storms. Since the gardens rarely close, grounds crew members have to consider visitors' safety when fixing broken irrigation lines and applying insecticides and fungicides.

Two grounds crew members design and plant one of 23 annual flower beds located on the Shelter grounds and gardens.



PGMS
Landscape
MANAGEMENT

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 2001 winners will be named at the annual meeting of the Professional Grounds Management Society in November. For more information on the 2001 Awards, contact PGMS at:

720 Light St. • Baltimore, MD 21230 • Phone: 410/223-2861. Web-site: www.pgms.org

The Japanese maple garden consists of many varieties of maples. Each variety is labeled and identified. A pagoda gives this garden a taste of the Orient.

