

## Property at a glance

**Location:** Abbott Park, Abbott Park, IL**Staff:** Abbott Park Grounds

Department

**Category:** Industrial or Office Park**Year site built:** 1966**Acres of turf:** 155**Acres of woody ornamentals:** 16**Acres of display beds:** 21**Total paved area:** 135 acres**Total man-hours/week:** 650

## Maintenance challenges

- ▶ Snow removal
- ▶ Prairie maintenance
- ▶ Patio/outdoor eating area maintenance

## Project checklist

- ▶ Abbott Park Zone 30 patio installation project
- ▶ Sports field construction
- ▶ Abbott Park Zone 52 patio installation project

## On the job

- ▶ 15 full-time staff, 7 seasonal employees, 15 licensed pesticide applicators

## Abbott Park

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

The Abbott Park Grounds Department has its work cut out for it. The staff is not only responsible for Abbott Park, the 481-acre Abbot Laboratories corporate headquarters located in northeastern Illinois, but it also cares for the 45-acre "K-Complex" and 89-acre Abbott Park East nearby.

With so much territory to cover, organization is key. That's why Abbott Park, Abbott Park East and the K-Complex are divided into eight zones. Once crew members are assigned to a zone, they "own" it. This instills a great sense of pride in the work each crew performs.

Winter can be miserable in northeastern Illinois, especially when you have to clear snow and ice from 98 acres of parking lot, 11 miles of sidewalks and eight miles of roadways that must remain open to traffic 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Crew members work three shifts to provide 24-hour coverage Sunday evening through Friday evening, then remain on call over the weekend.

The best time to see the Abbott Parks Grounds Department in action is shortly before Abbott Labs' annual shareholder

meeting in late April. Gotta impress those shareholders! The crews remove all the sod that's been damaged by road salt and replace it along all roads, sidewalks and parking lot perimeters. They also apply about 1,850 cu. yds. of shredded hardwood mulch to shrub beds and tree rings, and to highlight the pansies, forced tulips, hyacinths and daffodils that beautify the executive patio.

Nontraditional plants like pennisetum grasses, blue salvia, purple wave petunia and verbena bonariensis provide this flower bed with a unique design.



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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 2001 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:

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An employee sets up a sprinkler at a display bed near Abbott Park's Gate 1 entrance. These beds are designed differently each year.



Each crew member works in one of eight zones on the property, and takes ownership in its care and appearance.

