

## Property at a glance

**Location:** Chicago, IL

**Staff:** Chicago Christian Industrial League Landscape Services

**Category:** Public Works Sites

**Total budget:** \$1,400,000

**Year site built:** 1996

**Acres of turf:** 0

**Acres of woody ornamentals:** 2.9

**Acres of display beds:** 3.4

**Total paved area:** N/A

**Total man-hours/week:** 3,750

## Maintenance challenges

- ▶ High traffic locations
- ▶ Environmental stress
- ▶ Diverse microclimates

## Project checklist

Completed in last two years:

- ▶ Michigan Avenue streetscape seasonal displays
- ▶ Congress Parkway seasonal plantings and holiday treatments
- ▶ LaSalle Street seasonal plantings and holiday treatments

## On the job

- ▶ 20 full-time staff, 75 seasonal employees, 10 licensed pesticide applicators

# Chicago Central Medians

## 2001 PGMS Grand Award Winner for Public Works Sites

What started as a way to provide work experiences for the homeless has turned into a \$3.5 million venture for the non-profit Christian social agency, Chicago Christian Industrial League (CCIL). It all started in 1993 with a three-year, \$350,000 contract with the City of Chicago for landscape care. With the addition of many new roadway medians to Chicago in 1996, CCIL expanded its maintenance operations on several high visibility areas located within the city.

The Central Business District contains 16 major roadway medians with more than 17 miles of plantings, 167,000 sq. ft. of planting beds and 865 trees. Harsh winters, hot summers and pollution take their toll on these plants, and many locations have specific needs and require constant maintenance.



Because most of the maintenance work is done on highway medians, workers must observe strict safety rules and wear orange work vests.

Since all of these locations are high traffic areas, safety is a huge challenge. All median work requires lighted arrow boards, orange work vests and safety cones. The heavy traffic also provides plenty of trash for the crew to pick up, and makes sweeping and power washing all hard surfaces a must.

**PGMS**  
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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 2002 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:

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What started in 1993 as a \$350,000 venture to provide work experiences for the homeless has grown to a \$3.5 million operation directed by the non-profit Chicago Christian Industrial League. Workers maintain 17 miles of plantings and 865 trees on highway medians and other high visibility areas in the City of Chicago.

