

Property at a glance

Location: College Station, TX
 Grounds Supervisor: Tommy Palmos
 Category: School or University Grounds
 Total budget: \$177,500
 Year site built: 1997
 Acres of turf: 75
 Acres of woody ornamentals: 22
 Acres of display beds: 19,600 sq. ft.
 Total paved area: 15 acres
 Total man-hours/week: 320

Maintenance challenges

- ▶ Zoysiagrass panels
- ▶ Alternanthera bed preparation & maintenance
- ▶ Tree & shrub maintenance

Project checklist

- Completed in last two years:
- ▶ Presidential gravesite
 - ▶ Star-shaped design for fountain bed
 - ▶ Restructuring of lakeside beds

On the job

- ▶ 8 full-time staff, 0 seasonal employees, 2 licensed pesticide applicators

George Bush Presidential Library

2002 PGMS Grand Award Winner for School or University Grounds

"George and Barb were out here the other day," says Tommy Palmos, Superintendent for Landscape & Pavements Maintenance.

He's referring of course to the President and his wife, who Palmos is on a first-name basis with. And why not? He sees them often enough when they visit their apartment at the library named after George's father at Texas A & M University.

But being that close to the President isn't all it's cracked up to be. Palmos says there are foreign dignitaries and former Presidents passing through all the time, which means the grounds can never have an off day.

A section leader, a crew leader, and a six-person crew work together to handle mowing, woody ornamental and shrub



Over 19,600 sq. ft. of color display beds — now that's a lot of deadheading for Tommy Palmos (left) and crew to do.

maintenance, and color bed preparation and upkeep. Special events frequently take place on the grounds, so the crew has to work around that schedule. Palmos empowers crew members to make their own decisions on that end.

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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 2003 winners will be named at the annual meeting of the Professional Grounds Management Society in November. For more information on the 2002 Awards, contact PGMS at:

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Over 8,000 plants in the circle beds on the grounds demand constant attention from the crew.



More than 22 acres of woody ornamentals that tend to give crews maintenance headaches please the dignitaries who pass through the site.