

## Property at a glance

Location: Allendale, MI  
 Grounds Supervisor: Ken Stanton  
 Category: School or University Grounds  
 Total budget: \$522,000  
 Year site built: 1963  
 Acres of turf: 90  
 Acres of woody ornamentals: 3.75  
 Acres of display beds: 3,000 sq. ft.  
 Total paved area: 54 acres  
 Total man-hours/week: 1,120 in summer

## Maintenance challenges

- ▶ Snow removal
- ▶ Keeping campus litter free
- ▶ Alumni House gardens/grounds

## Project checklist

Completed in last two years:

- ▶ Transplanted 80 shade trees with tree spade
- ▶ Re-sodded football field
- ▶ Installed eight display gardens at Alumni House

## On the job

- ▶ 9 full-time staff, 4 seasonal employees, 4 licensed pesticide applicators

# Grand Valley State University

## 2002 PGMS Grand Award Winner for School or University Grounds

Taking care of the grounds at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI, is a big job. Just look at these numbers: 90 acres of turf, 3,000 sq. ft. of display beds, 54 acres of parking lots. And 19,000 students to make sure the trash pickup crew is always busy.

Ken Stanton's just the man for that type of job. A Certified Grounds Manager, Stanton uses all the skills and experience accumulated over 25 years in the grounds business to supervise 13 full-time groundskeepers in the summer. With three degrees, including a bachelor's degree in human resource management from Lake Superior State University, it's not surprising that Stanton's big on continuing education.

"I think that's important, keeping up with industry trends and changes," Stanton says. "I know it's increased my learning capacity and helped me deal with



Ken Stanton, CGM, left, supervises a staff of 9 full-time and 4 seasonal employees at GVSU.



the challenges that arise in my current position."

Eight individual garden spaces at the Alumni House and Visitors' Center must always be in tip-top shape as many parties, wedding receptions and other special events are held there. The GVSU must also look after the clubhouse grounds of the school's 18-hole public golf course.

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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 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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A blend of trees, turf, beds and containers provide GVSU's 19,000 students with a pleasant learning environment.



The 3,000 sq. ft. of display beds get special attention from Stanton's well-trained crew.

