



Lurie Garden – Fact Sheet

Quick Facts

Size	~3.5 acres; 2.5 planted
Lead Landscape Architect	Gustafson Guthrie Nichol Ltd. (Seattle, WA)
Perennial Planting Design	Piet Oudolf (Hummelo, The Netherlands)
Civil Engineer	McDonough Associates (Chicago, IL)
Contractor	Walsh Construction (Chicago, IL)
Local Landscape Architect	Terry Guen Design Associates, Inc. (Chicago, IL)
Plant Diversity	The garden contains over 222 types of plants within its relatedly small ~2.5-acre footprint. You will find 20 types of grasses, 26 types of trees and shrubs, 34 types of bulbs, and 142 types of perennial herbaceous plants within the borders of Lurie Garden. Ninety (40.5%) of these plants are native to North America and 26.1% (58) are native to Illinois.

History

- International Design Competition held from August to October 2000
- Commissioned in October 2000
- Completed in June 2004
- Dedicated on July 24, 2004
- Created by the founders of Millennium Park, owned by the City of Chicago, managed by Millennium Park Foundation, and sustained by a generous endowment from Ann Lurie, in memory of her husband, Bob Lurie
- Colleen Lockovitch hired as head horticulturist, 2005-2009; promoted to director and horticulturist in 2008
- Nichols Bridgeway to the Art Institute opened in May 2009
- Jennifer Davit hired as director, 2010-2015
- Dr. Scott Stewart hired as director, 2015-2016
- Laura Ekasetya currently serving as director and head horticulturalist 2017-

Design Highlights

Light Plate	Features perennial plants that thrive in full sun. Refers to Chicago's modern and artistic impact on nature.
Dark Plate	Features plants that thrive in the shade of flowering trees. References the site's early landscape history of a wild shoreline and river delta.
Seam	Boundary between the two planting plates. Wooden boardwalk floats over a shallow water feature. Recalls Chicago's first step to building itself out of the marsh by raising wooden boardwalks over muddy streets and sidewalks.



Ecology Highlights

- Urban rooftop garden – Built over the Lakefront Millennium Parking Garage; located in the 24.5 acre Millennium Park, one of the world's largest green roofs.
- No synthetic pesticides are used on perennial planting beds – Example of sustainable garden management in an ultra-urban setting.
- Haven for numerous animal species, including birds, butterflies and bees. In the last five years, more than 60 bird species have been spotted in the garden and park.
- One beehive installed in 2011, second beehive installed in 2012. In 2016, approximately 70 pounds of honey was harvested from both hives.

Plantings

- One of first examples in the United States of New Wave Planting Style – a relaxed and natural style that aims to make plant design less controlled and geometric than traditional gardens.
- Emphasizes form, texture and the natural harmony of plants that constantly change through all four seasons.
- More than 35,000 perennial plants representing over 200 species and varieties
- Approximately 5,200 woody plants representing 14 species and varieties
- 500 bulbs planted by hand in fall of 2015
- 10,000 bulbs planted by hand in fall of 2014
- 9,500 bulbs planted by hand in fall of 2013
- 5,000 bulbs planted by hand in fall of 2012
- 12,000 bulbs planted by hand in fall of 2011
- 42,000 bulbs planted by hand in fall of 2008
- 60,000 bulbs planted by hand in fall of 2006
- 1,300 perennials planted by hand in 2015
- 1,200 perennials planted by hand in 2014
- 2,100 perennials planted by hand in 2013

Visitor Programming

- Four million visitors from 37 countries and 39 states in 2016.
- 2,600 visitors participated in “Ask Me” events, Sunday tours, and private tours in 2016.
- More than 4,200 people participated in adult and family workshops, lectures, and special events in 2016.
- 1,400 total volunteer hours were given in 2015.
- Open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Awards

- Award of Excellence in General Design, American Society of Landscape Architects, Oct. 6, 2008
- Institute Honor Awards for Regional & Urban Design, American Institute of Architects, 2006
- Best Public Space Award, Travel & Leisure magazine, 2005
- Intensive Industrial Award, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, 2005
- Award of Honor, WASLA Professional Awards, 2005