



**Media Contact**  
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## Lurie Garden – Fact Sheet

### Quick Facts

Size	over 3 acres
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)
Plantsman/Horticultural Consultant	Roy Diblik, Northwind Perennial Farms
Plant Diversity	293 total species, cultivars, and selections

### 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 horticulturist 2017-present

### 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.
Shoulder Hedge	15-foot-high, dramatically lit hedge that encloses Lurie Garden on two sides. References the "City of Big Shoulders."



## 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, bunnies and bees. In the last five years, more than 96 bird species have been spotted in the garden and park.
- One beehive installed in 2011, second beehive installed in 2012. The honey harvest varies each year. In 2016, approximately 70 lbs. of honey was harvested from both hives. An additional 70 lbs. of honey remained on the hives to feed the bees over the winter.

## 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 293 species and varieties can be found in the garden.
- Approximately 1289 trees make up the Shoulder Hedge.
- Spring bulbs were introduced in 2006 with 60,000 bulbs planted. Over the years over 100,000 bulbs were added. In addition, many have naturalized in the garden.
- A vast number of our plants support the local insect and bird population.

## Bulbs

- Dutch bulb and landscape designer, Jacqueline van der Kloet, in consultation with Piet Oudolf, created a bulb design specifically for Lurie Garden using eleven combinations of perennializing bulbs. The bulbs were donated by the International Flower Bulb Center.
- 60,000 bulbs were naturalized throughout the garden in a mass planting in 2006.
- Over 150,000 bulbs have been added to the original design since 2006.
- Due to the naturalizing characteristics of the bulbs close to 178,000 bulbs bloom each spring.

## Shoulder Hedge (Screen Hedge, Living Wall)

- 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



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## Meadow

- Stylized prairie planted on a matrix, is the most prairie-like feature of the garden.
- The design evokes nature but does not copy it.
- Stretches across the south end of the garden and narrows as it reaches the Shoulder Hedge to symbolize the disappearing prairies due to urban sprawl.

## Pathways

- In 2011, Earth Stone Midwest supplied a post-consumer, 100% recycled granite to use in the pathways throughout the garden.
- In 2013, the blue rayon granite walkways were replaced with concrete pavers with a crushed granite aggregate finish.

## Plant Labels

- Since we are not a botanic garden, labels are not in our future plans.
- Individual signs near plants would interfere with the visitor's appreciation of the garden.
- Windmaster signs placed in the garden featuring a selection of plants per season can help visitors ID plants.
- Lurie Garden website has a Plant Life section to help identify plants at [luriegarden.org/plantlife](http://luriegarden.org/plantlife).

## Sustainability

- Urban model of responsible horticulture, providing a healthy habitat for a wide variety of plants and wildlife.
- No chemicals or pesticides are used.
- Occasionally we use integrated pest management (IPM) to control pests. This involves releasing beneficial insects as a biological control.
- We water wisely.
- Garden designed to absorb storm water runoff



## Visitor Statistics/Programming/Volunteer Hours

- Over 2,500 visitors from over 40 countries and over 40 states participated in “Ask Me” events, Sunday tours, and private tours.
- More than 5,000 people participated in adult and family workshops, lectures, and special events.
- Over 1,500 volunteer hours are given each year
- Open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., everyday

## Awards

- Best Continued Use, Friends of Downtown, 2017
- Award of Excellence in General Design, American Society of Landscape Architects, Oct. 6, 2008
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## Financing the Garden

- The garden is fully endowed by the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Foundation in memory of Ann’s husband, Bob Lurie.
- Her gift is used for the care and maintenance of the garden.
- It reflects the family’s commitment to Chicago as well as a desire to provide a tranquil and serene space for visitors to Millennium Park.

## Public Support for Lurie Garden

Lurie Garden depends on additional funds to help support and expand initiatives such as its free programming and education events, volunteer program and communications. The public can help support Lurie Garden by making a donation or becoming a member at [luriegarden.org/support](http://luriegarden.org/support)

## Online Presence

Website: [luriegarden.org](http://luriegarden.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/theluriegarden](https://facebook.com/theluriegarden)

Instagram: [instagram.com/luriegarden/](https://instagram.com/luriegarden/)

Twitter: [twitter.com/LurieGarden](https://twitter.com/LurieGarden)