Lurie Garden – Fact Sheet

Quick Facts

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>over 3 acres</th>
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<td>Lead Landscape Architect</td>
<td>Gustafson Guthrie Nichol Ltd. (Seattle, WA)</td>
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| Perennial Planting Design | • Piet Oudolf  
• Jacqueline van der Kloet (spring bulb design) |
| 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 | Over 350 total species, cultivars, and selections  
104 species are regionally native |

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, Robert 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 and Head Horticulturist 2010-2015
- Scott Stewart hired as Director, 2015-2016
- Laura Ekasetya currently serving as Director and Head Horticulturist 2017-present

Design Highlights

<table>
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<th>Light Plate</th>
<th>Features perennial plants that thrive in full sun. Refers to Chicago's modern and artistic impact on nature.</th>
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<td>Dark Plate</td>
<td>Features plants that thrive in the shade of flowering trees. References the site's early landscape history of a wild shoreline and river delta.</td>
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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 | 14-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 95 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 2018, approximately 80 lbs. of honey was harvested from both hives. Plenty of honey remained on the hives to feed the bees over the winter.

Plantings

- Piet Oudolf’s first commission in North America
- 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.
- The first matrix plantings in a public garden in the states.
- The garden design emphasizes form, texture and the natural harmony of plants. Designed specifically to be interesting and dynamic with textures, color, and structure for all four seasons.
- Juxtaposition of relaxed, naturalistic matrix plantings in the Meadow and more graphic block plantings in the rest of the garden.
- More than 40,000 perennial plants representing over 300 species and varieties can be found in the garden.
- 50 species/varieties of woody plants including approximately 1290 trees that make up the Shoulder Hedge
- Over 30 species of bird-friendly regionally native shrubs comprise what we refer to as our “Bird Border”
- 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. In 2019 another 61,000 were added to the garden as a design refresh.
- 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. Many of the bulbs were donated by C.S. Weijers.
- 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.
- Jacqueline van der Kloet refreshed her design in 2019 which added 61,000 bulbs and 6,000 non bulbs (the Anemone rhizomes/rootlets)

Bird Border

- The planted border shared with the garden and Monroe and Columbus Avenues is planted and cared for Lurie Garden.
- The entire Bird Border was designed by Director and Head Horticulturist, Laura Ekasetya
- The Bird Border mainly consists of over 30 species of bird-friendly, regionally native shrubs.
- The Monroe side of the border was installed in 2017 and has 15 bird-friendly native shrubs. The Columbus side of the border was installed in 2018 and has 20 bird-friendly native shrubs.
- The north-most section of the Columbus Bird Border has been planted specifically to avoid erosion.

Shoulder Hedge (Screen Hedge, Living Wall)

- Exemplifies the unusual boldness, strength and structure of the Garden and protects the unique perennials within.
- Two deciduous trees--the European Beech, which holds its leaves until spring, and the Hornbeam provide color and texture throughout the year.
- Five varieties of evergreen trees are robust and opaque year round.
- 14 ft. tall frame is called the Armature -- it is made of powdered coated steel, which is a reference to the steel industry and the city’s first skyscrapers.
- Carl Sandburg's poem “Chicago” refers to Chicago as the City of Big Shoulders.
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 and because of the nature of our plantings, we do not label all of the plants in the garden as individual signs near plants would interfere with the visitor’s appreciation of the garden.
- We will place up to 10 plant labels to call attention to garden highlights.
- Larger windmaster signs around the edges of the garden give more information to help visitors ID plants.
- Lurie Garden website has a Plant Life section to help identify plants at 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.
- The plantings are designed to minimize the need for water, allowing us to use 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 7,000 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, 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

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.
- Lurie Garden’s Landscape Architecture firm, Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, helps support a position every year, The GGN Public Garden Apprenticeship, that helps with maintenance and public programs.

Public Support for Lurie Garden

- Lurie Garden depends on additional funds to help support and expand initiatives such as its free events and education events, volunteer program and communications. The public can help support Lurie Garden by making a donation at luriegarden.org/support.