Modern Public Parks Advances the Public Botanical Enrichment

Wednesday, June 21st

Presenters Andi Pettis, Scott Stewart, Greg Levine, and Tom Smarr
environmental movement

(1803 - 1882) Ralph Waldo Emerson & (1817-1862) Henry David Thoreau

1872 Establishment of Yellowstone National Park

1858 Central Park, NY Designed by Calvert Vaux & Frederic Law Olmsted

1949 A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold

1961 Silent Spring by Rachel Carson
Central Park

operated by Central Park Conservancy
owned by the City of New York

Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, winners of the 1858 design completion
Reimagining the Urban Park

- Celebrate and restore historic parks
- Reimagine abandon spaces and relics
- Plan in opportunities in redevelopment
- Preserve and plan ahead of urban expanse
UNPRECEDEDENTED SUCCESS
AMONG NYC’S MOST VISITED
LANDMARKS

Attendance (millions)

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<tr>
<th>Landmark</th>
<th>Attendance (millions)</th>
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<tr>
<td>High Line</td>
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<td>Metropolitan Museum of Art</td>
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<td>Bryant Park</td>
<td>6.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statue of Liberty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empire State Building</td>
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<td>Museum of Modern Art</td>
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<td>Guggenheim</td>
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<td>Whitney Museum</td>
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<td>New York Botanical Garden</td>
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Celebrating the GRASSLANDS

Presented by Friends of the High Line

All September, celebrate the Chelsea Grasslands with Friends of the High Line. Planted between 18th and 20th Streets, the Grasslands are inspired by the tallgrass prairie of the American Midwest.

ggrasslands.thehighline.org
prairie dropseed
*Sporobolus heterolepis*

When flowering, this grass has a distinct fragrance. Some liken it to cilantro, others think it smells like buttered popcorn.
Horticulture as Culture
How Millennium Park & Lurie Garden Define a Horticultural Experience

Scott Stewart, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Millennium Park Foundation
Millennium Park
Chicago, Illinois
Millennium Park & Lurie Garden
Millennium Park & Lurie Garden
Millennium Park & Lurie Garden
Millennium Park

• Timeline:
  • Idea Born, 1997
  • Plan Approved, May 1998
  • Fundraising Initiated, June 1998
  • Construction Initiated, October 1998
  • Completed, July 2004

• Designers & Artists:
  • Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)
  • Anish Kapoor
  • Jaume Plensa
  • Frank Gehry
  • Renzo Piano
  • Edward Uhlir

• Size: 24.5-Acres
Millennium Park

• Staff:
  • Millennium Park Foundation, 2 FT
  • Millennium Park, ~150 FT + PT (peak season)
  • DCASE, ~40 FT + PT (peak season)

• Visitors: 20 Million (2016)

• Programming: ~500 Free Public Cultural Programs & Activities Annually

• Costs:
  • $490 MM ($220 MM Private + $270 MM Public)
  • $10 MM Annual Operating Budget
  • $2-5 MM Average Annual Capital Improvement Budget
Lurie Garden

• Timeline:
  • International Competition, August-October 2000
  • Commissioned, October 2000
  • Completed, June 2004

• Designers:
  • Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Lead LA Design
  • Piet Oudolf, Perennial Plant Design
  • Jacqueline van der Kloet, Bulb Design

• Size: 3.5-Acres (2.5-Acres as Perennial Beds)

• Plant Diversity: ~220 Species, Selections, and Cultivars
Lurie Garden

• Staff: 4 Full-Time, 2 Seasonal Apprentices, 65-70 Volunteers

• Visitors: 2.25 Million (2016 est.)

• Education & Outreach: ~80 Free Public Programs Annually

• Visitor Experience:
  • Free App-Based Tour by GrowIt!
  • Web-Based Plant Finder
  • Free Tours by Trained Volunteers (3X per week)
Influence of Millennium Park

- **Local:**
  - Town Square
  - Cultural Learning Space

- **National/International:**
  - Benchmark Case Study

- **Political:**
  - Cultural Environment Conversation
  - Budget Priorities/Force
Influence of Lurie Garden

• Paradigm Shift in Public Landscape Design
• Long-Term Relationships with Designers
• Operated as Public-Private Venture
Connections & Partnerships

• Lurie Garden + NeighborSpace
  • Creates neighborhood presence
  • Bring public garden to new, diverse audience

• Millennium Park + Illinois Science Counsel
  • Adult-oriented science + arts programming

• Millennium Park + Chicago-Based Talent
  • Leverage to promote Chicago landscape talent
Horticulture as Culture
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Scott Stewart, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Millennium Park Foundation
scott.stewart@mpfdn.org

Web: millenniumparkfoundation.org
Web: luriegarden.org
Facebook: Lurie Garden
Twitter: @LurieGarden
Instagram: luriegarden
Pinterest: luriegarden
The Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum
A garden without a gate

June, 2017
Greg Levine,
Co-Executive Director
Trees Atlanta - Community Citizen’s Group

- Dedicated to protecting the urban forest by planting, conserving and educating
Atlanta BeltLine 2005 Components

- Trails
- Transit
- Re-development
- Parks
- Reconnecting the City
Imagine what it might have been!
One Big Experiment: Arboretum-A Gateless garden

• Restoring highly contaminated sites
• Invasive species
• Soil
  – Sterile
  – High pH
Beltine Arboretum – A Unique Opportunity For Public Horticulture

• Connecting our mission to the people everyday
A Public Arboretum

- Always open, free, currently running through 13 neighborhoods
- New developments - building along the linear arboretum
- Repeat users for recreation, travel and socializing
- Captured Audience
- Level 2 accreditation by Morton Arboretum
BeltLine Arboretum 2016
- Over 1.7 million visitors a year
- 4000 volunteer hours (1100 Corporate)
- 1000 visitors on docent tours

Organization growth since 2011
- Nearly doubling yearly volunteer hours to 33,000 in 2016
- Budget from 1.7 to 4.2 million
- Opened second facility - the Tree House
Education Opportunities

• Signage
  • Public Horticulture
  • Restoration
  • Collections
• Environmental Education (Tree House)
• Hands on community involvement – Learn by doing!
• Cross Marketing
Physical Presence Grows Partnerships

- Atlanta School System
- Atlanta Canopy Alliance
- Parks Department
- Atlanta BeltLine Inc
Environmental Benefits

- Over 3000 trees planted - 150 woody species and cultivars
- 12 acres of meadow - 60 species
- 5 times the bees species as turf near by
- Replacing a community vector: a monoculture of invasives, community trash and brownfields
- Using less water, chemicals and fossil fuels than in typical parks
Healing the City and Its People

- Reconnecting Neighborhoods
- Bringing people together
- Improving everyone's mobility
- Passion and energy from the community volunteers
• Adjacent parks and development
Not without Challenges

- Maintenance with so much edge
- Constant use
- Continual construction
- Future Transit
- Ownership
Reach more people – influence a greener world

- Find an opportunity
  - Partner with park
  - Be part of infrastructure project
  - If you build it, they will come and fulfill your mission
operated by 21st Century Parks partnership with Metro Louisville and Future Fund opened in 2012
The Parklands of Floyds Fork

- 4,000-acres in eastern Louisville
- Shelbyville Rd. to Bardstown Rd.
- 4 parks within system named for tributaries
- 27 miles along Floyds Fork creek
- 19 miles of the Louisville Loop (walk & bike trail)
- 2016 completion (started in 2012)
Project Scale

NYC’s Central Park  778 Acres
High Line  6.73 Acres
Millennium Park (Chicago, IL)  24.5 Acres
Atlanta Beltline (Atlanta, GA)  1,300 Acres of Parks
Lincoln Park (Chicago IL)  1,200 Acres
Shelby Farms (Memphis TN)  4,5000 Acres
Other Louisville Parks  @2,000 Acres
The Parklands (Louisville KY)  4,000 Acres
Impact/Benefits

- Health benefits to the public – play in outdoor activities
- Access to public lands – many lands privately owned or public spaces too far away
- 2.7 million visits in 2016 (population of Louisville is @ 600,000)
- Providing a sustainable ecological landscape
MASTER PLAN
Garden Elements
Quercus coccinea – Scarlet Oak
Future for Parks

Proposed Project “Lowline” on the Lower Eastside, NYC
Presenters

Scott Stewart
Executive Director
Millennium Park Foundation
scott.stewart@mpfdn.org

Andi Pettis
Horticulture Director
Friends of the High Line
andi.pettis@thehighline.org

Greg Levine
Co-Executive Director
Trees Atlanta
greg@treesatlanta.org

Thomas Smarr
Horticulture and Natural Areas Director
21st Century Parks / Parklands of Floyds Fork
tsmarr@21cparks.org