



# THE IDEAL WAY

JAN 2022

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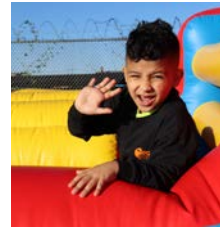
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## BUSY AT THE OFFICE

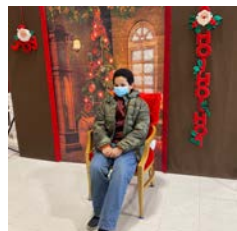
We are well on our way into the year, and excited to bring you our January issue of The Ideal Way! We accomplished many great things as a team in 2021 and are looking forward to what lies ahead in 2022. You can read all about what Ideal Landscape Group has been up to below, and as always if there is something you want to know more about, send us an email at [info@ideallandscape.com](mailto:info@ideallandscape.com)!

Our office stayed busy over the last few months of 2021! In October we held our annual Family Fall Festival for all of our employees and their families. Being able to celebrate the successful summer season is something everyone looks forward to each year!

To finish off the year we held our Christmas Luncheon where food and fellowship were had by all. Having the opportunity to thank everyone for a successful year is very important to us and it is always a great way to end the year before the holidays!



## ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS TOY DRIVE



Right before Christmas several of our staff members played the role of "Santa's Helper" and helped students pick out toys as part of the "Toys for School Kids" toy drive. Our employees, along with many others in the community, helped donate enough toys for over 600 students to choose whatever they wanted. It was awesome seeing the kids' faces light up when they found their favorite book or chose the perfect toy.

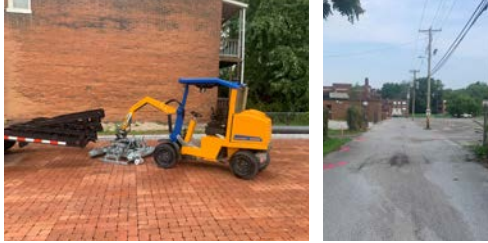
After being unable to participate in 2020 due to the pandemic, going back in 2021 was extra special. Thank you to all of our employees who donated toys, gave their time, and brought so much joy to the students of Monroe Elementary!



# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Finishing out 2021, our construction division completed some fun projects for a variety of customers.

In Maryland Heights we completed the Westglen Estates trail connection project which included a 2.5 mile trail and the installation of a pedestrian bridge. This project started in March of 2021 and was completed in December. Residents of the area are now able to enjoy the outdoors with a safe and accessible paved trail.



In the city, our construction division installed what we believe to be the largest paver parking lot in the area at 64,000 sq. ft. Working with the Metropolitan Sewer District, West Side Missionary Baptist Church installed a paver parking lot the size of almost 1.5 acres. Using permeable pavers, which allows storm water to drain through and remain in place, the project met the requirements of MSD's Project Clear and obtained \$300,000 in funding to help complete the project. To get the project started several old city flats were torn down to create room for the parking lot. This project took about three months to complete with the finishing touches added in early January 2022.



Out West, our team built a brand-new splash pad for the city of Fayette, MO. The effort to build a splash park in Fayette has been ongoing for nearly four years. A survey was circulated in 2018 among the community regarding water recreation in Fayette. A splash emerged as the favorite option. At a total cost of \$321,900, the splash park was completed in November 2021.



Looking forward in 2022, we have some equally exciting projects on the books!

Working with the Great Rivers Greenway project, Ideal Landscape Construction will be completing about a half mile portion of the new trail. As part of the project, Ideal will also build a new trail head parking lot and outdoor amphitheater around the lake. ILC will also be installing over half a million dollars' worth of new landscaping including trees, shrubs, and native plantings along with several acres of new turf and irrigation. Work is beginning shortly and is scheduled to be completed in late 2022. For more information check out the Brentwood Bound website [here](#).



Ideal is also working in Labadie, MO at Camp Fiddlecreek. The Girl Scout camp, in partnership with Spire, is undergoing a 2.5-mile trail restoration project which includes 5 new log bridges, numerous low water crossings over creeks and streams, and log steps in steep areas of the site. Included in the design is an ADA accessible trail that is easily navigable by explorers of varying experience and ability. Restoration begins this month and is expected to be completed by April 2022.

In University City, ILC will be doing a complete renovation of Ackert Park. The work includes new ADA-compliant walkways, splash pad, sculpture park, and renovation of the 1900 trolley depot. Ideal will also be installing rain gardens, extensive landscaping, signage, and irrigation. Work has recently begun and is scheduled to be completed in June 2022, weather permitting.





# PLAYGROUND UPDATE

2021 was a BUSY year for Ideal Play and Surfacing, so busy that they traveled almost 75,000 miles across the Mid-West working in Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, and Iowa!

Over the summer our crews spent most of their time in Independence, MO renovating 22 playgrounds at 18 schools in the Independence School District. Work included demolition of existing structures and the building and installation of brand-new equipment. This project took about 4 ½ months to complete.

In Perryville, MO a crew spent about 1 ½ months building Lucas & Friends Playground. This playground was built in partnership with Unlimited Play and has an incredible story behind it. At school Lucas noticed that his friend who used a wheelchair was unable to play with the kids on the playground and he knew he had to do something about it. With the help of Unlimited Play, Lucas spoke about the project with numerous people, including the Perryville city council, to help raise funds to build an inclusive playground for the city. Ideal Play and Surfacing was proud to help Lucas' wish become a reality. Hopefully, in 2022 we will be back to complete the second phase of the playground!

At Manion Park in Florissant, MO, IPS built the first inclusive playground in north St. Louis County. Angie's Playground took about two months to complete with Ideal Construction doing the site work. Angie Behlmann's father, Gary, had a dream of building an inclusive playground in her honor after she passed away in 1991. Gary passed away in 2013 and now his dream is becoming a reality.

Looking ahead in 2022, our playground division has some equally special projects coming up with Unlimited Play. In St. Peters, IPS will be building an inclusive playground at City Centre Park. The city of Lathrop, MO will also be adding an inclusive playground to the city park. The Friends of the Lathrop City Park Playground will feature inclusive pieces like the Quiet Grove, a Rock'n Raft and a Rail Rider, along with a custom splash pad and a covered stage for live music! In Raymore, MO IPS will be building an inclusive playground at [Hawks Ridge Park](#). The construction of these playgrounds is scheduled to start in late Spring.



# IRRIGATION UPDATE

As many of you have read in our previous newsletters, Ideal's Irrigation Division has become a Weathermatic premiere partner, and we could not be more excited about the opportunity to improve efficiency and save water for our clients.

We are heading into our third year of converting our customers to the SmartLink system. As of January 2022, 70% of our portfolio is now using the SmartLink water management system and our goal is to have 100% of our systems converted by the end of 2022. Being a Weathermatic partner allows us to bring water and cost-saving opportunities directly to our customers while saving lives. Through Weathermatic's Save Water Give Life program, for every smart controller installed, one person will receive a lifetime supply of water. In our two-year partnership together Ideal, Weathermatic, and YOU, our customers, have helped save the lives of over 120 people by donating freshwater wells in areas of the world in need.



Two exciting SmartLink conversions that we completed took place at Forest Park and the Humane Society of Missouri in Maryland Heights.

At Forest Park, we have converted two irrigation systems throughout the 1,326-acre park. Our work began with the systems at the Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center and the World's Fair Pavilion. We are proud to be partnering with Forest Park Forever to update the park's systems and aid in sustainability & beautification efforts.

In 2019, our construction, maintenance, and irrigation divisions built a new dog park for the Humane Society of Missouri. From there on, we have maintained and irrigated the entire property. Before upgrading the SmartLink system at the end of 2020, the dog park suffered from frequent flooding and overwatering. Using the SmartLink system Ideal was able to monitor and adjust watering levels, saving the Humane Society almost 500,000 gallons of water in 2021.

Click [here](#) to see how the Weathermatic SmartLink system could benefit you!

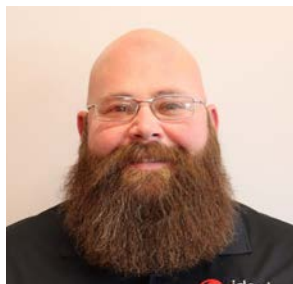


# MAINTENANCE UPDATE

## MAINTENANCE DIVISION ADDS TWO NEW TEAM MEMBERS

We are excited to welcome Nick Fischer and Adam Hunter as Account Managers. Read more about their journey to Ideal below.

### Nick Fischer



Starting in the lawn and landscaping industry at the age of 14, Nick has over 25 years of experience. In the past, Nick worked for several smaller companies before taking on the role of On-Site Manager for a large, national landscaping company. In his role, he oversaw day-to-day operations on the property and coordinated crews for additional site work. In 2012 Nick incorporated his own company where he serviced residential properties. As the owner of the company, he wore many hats but found his main responsibilities to be overseeing route scheduling and collaboratively solving his customer's problems. In 2021 he sold his business and joined the Ideal team as an Account Manager. We believe the skills he has learned through his many years in the industry and experience working one-on-one with his clients will make him a successful Account Manager for both Ideal and our clients. Nick lives in St. Louis with his wife and enjoys traveling, the outdoors, and woodworking.

### Adam Hunter



Adam brings over 23 years of experience to Ideal Landscape Group. He started a landscape business with his dad while in high school. Together they grew their business for over 10 years, while also working for a golf course in Pevely, MO. In 2012, he started his own company servicing residential and commercial clients in landscape maintenance and snow and ice services. He became a Snow and Ice Management Association (SIMA) member and was recognized in the snow industry at the annual SIMA conference in 2015. He also worked for one of the largest snow contractors in St. Louis as an area manager where he worked with crews to ensure that expectations were met for the scope of work. In the spring of 2020, he joined the Ideal team as a production manager overseeing crews in the field for daily processes, and in December of 2021, he accepted a position as Account Manager. Adam resides in Arnold, MO with his 5 children. He enjoys supporting and coaching them in sports, boating and trail riding with family at their lake house. He is also a passionate outdoorsman.

## SLOW START TO WINTER WEATHER

While we wish mother nature would bring some more winter weather our way, we have used the two minor events to make sure we are prepared for anything that comes our way. It has been a slow start, but our crews have done an awesome job of keeping our customers properties safe and cleared. When most people head inside for snow and cold temps, our crews are the ones heading out to make sure businesses stay open and we are very grateful for their hard work and dedication.

## H2B WORKERS RETURN

As many of our customers know, over the past two years we did not receive any H2B visas which presented the challenge of hiring and training an almost entirely new work force. While we were able to overcome this, we were very excited to find out that we were granted the H2B visas that we requested. Some of these employees have worked for Ideal for over 8 years and are as much a part of the Ideal family as any other employee. We are excited to have them back at Ideal and working with the crew members we gained over the past two years. We look forward to the experience and quality they bring with them!

