



# THE IDEAL WAY

APR 2023

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Protecting the Planet.....	1
Construction Update.....	2
Irrigation Update.....	2
Playground Update.....	3
Maintenance Update.....	4

## PLAY YOUR PART TO PROTECT THE PLANET

With Earth Day just passing on April 22nd, it is a good time to reflect on the impact we have on our planet and how we can work to preserve it. Did you know that the greenspaces on your property can play a critical role in helping the environment? The trees, shrubs, plants, and lawns on your property can help rid carbon from the atmosphere, helping the environment.

To make sure your property is optimized for sustainability, consider implementing these tips:

**Invest in regular maintenance of your greenspaces.** Healthy trees, shrubs, and lawns are much better at capturing carbon and turning it into organic matter that can improve soil quality. A professional landscaping company can help you find a care plan that will keep your green spaces healthy and vibrant while reducing your carbon footprint.

**Incorporate more trees and shrubs into your landscaping.** These natural elements are not only aesthetically pleasing, but also play an essential role in caring for the planet by sequestering carbon, producing oxygen, and cleaning and filtering the air around your property.

**Plant trees and shrubs in strategic locations.** By planting trees and shrubs that help block strong winds, you can reduce the impact of wind on your commercial property, keeping it warmer in winter. Additionally, planting shade trees in strategic locations can help cool your property in the summer, potentially lowering your energy costs.

**Choose plants that are adapted to the St. Louis climate.** St. Louis has a humid climate, which means hot summers, mild winters, and high humidity. Choose plants that can thrive in this type of environment and are well-suited to the specific conditions of your site. Native plants are a great choice because they are already adapted to the local climate and soil conditions. By selecting the right plants, you can reduce the amount of water and fertilizer needed to keep them healthy, while still enjoying a beautiful and sustainable landscape.



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Our construction crews have been hard at work on several exciting projects. We've recently completed work at Bluff View Park where we built an asphalt trail as well as installed site furnishings such as benches, picnic tables, bike racks, and an overlook. At Ackerman School, part of the Special School District of St. Louis County, we've partnered with the playground division to install a new basketball court, sidewalk, retaining wall, and fence. Over at Camp Cedarledge in Pevely, MO, trail improvements are underway for the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri that includes trail construction, clearing, rock breaking, and wood pedestrian bridge installation.



Our crews have also just finished the substantial completion of a 2-year-long project for the Great Rivers Greenway project which involved 75% of our construction staff. After laying 16 tractor-trailer loads of sod, work is nearing the end on this \$3.8 million project. We're also making great progress at Crystal Springs in St. Charles County, where we're over 70% complete with the project. Our work includes building two retaining walls, replacing three storm outfalls, 2,054 ft of sanitary sewer construction, and 375 ft of waterline construction.



Looking ahead, we're excited to break ground on several new projects, including Brooks Park in the City of Overland which consists of concrete trails and curbs, multiple pedestrian bridges, and landscape retaining walls. We're also gearing up for Deer Creek, a project for the City of Ladue that includes asphalt pavement, pedestrian bridges, landscape components, and site furnishings such as benches, trashcans, and concrete bollards.

Our team will also be working on Drace Park, a project for the City of Town & Country that involves concrete sidewalks, site furnishings such as benches, playground equipment and surfacing installation, and landscaping. We're also excited to be undertaking a project at Hunter Park for the municipality of Crystal Lake Park, which includes site furnishings such as drinking fountains, light fixtures, benches, a shade structure, and landscape work. Stay tuned for more updates on these exciting projects!



## IRRIGATION UPDATE

Our irrigation crews are staying busy! Work is continuing on several comprehensive installation projects. At bioMérieux in Hazelwood, our Irrigation crews are working to complete a system expansion project as part of a total landscaping overhaul being completed by the Maintenance department. Work includes re-designed landscaping and installation of a large monument sign in addition to the upgraded irrigation system.

Our work on the Great Rivers Greenway project in Brentwood should be wrapping up by the end of May. This new walking trail system and park required participation from multiple Ideal divisions:



irrigation, maintenance, and construction. Our crews have also started to rebuild a dog park for the City of Maryland Heights after it was destroyed in last year's summer flooding.

We have also engaged with several golf courses to install chemical injector systems. Chemical injector systems are a type of equipment commonly used on golf courses to apply fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals to the turf. The systems work by drawing the

chemical from a storage tank and injecting it into the water flow that is used to irrigate the golf course. This ensures that the chemicals are evenly distributed across the turf and minimizes waste or runoff.

On top of these projects, our crews will begin turning on over 300 systems in our portfolio. We all know St. Louis weather is unpredictable and our client's systems will need to be ready for flower installation and the warm summer weather



## PLAYGROUND UPDATE

After a quieter first quarter for our Playground crews, they are getting started on multiple projects throughout the state of Missouri. In Charleston, crews wrapped up work on new playgrounds for the city's completely revamped parks that also include shelters and walkways. Site work has begun for Logan's Playground at St. John's United Church of Christ in South St. Louis County, and it promises to be a great addition to the community.



We are also making progress on a splashpad for the City of Potosi, with the concrete pouring being completed in April. We have been awarded the contract to build another splashpad for the City of Berkley. Once finished, these splashpads will supply endless hours of fun and entertainment for kids of all ages. We truly love that we can be a part of developing fun and interactive spaces for communities to enjoy.

Another inspiring project that we will be working on is located at Anna City Park in Anna, IL. Hadley's Haven Playground. This will be an Unlimited Play inclusive playground honoring the life of Hadley Chase – a place where limitations will be forgotten, and differences will be celebrated! IPS will be running the entire project, and we can't wait to create a one-of-a-kind playground that kids are sure to love.





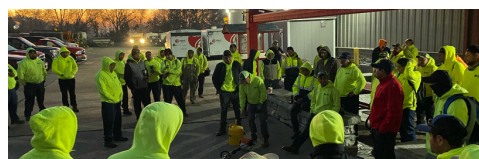
## MAINTENANCE UPDATE

We hosted our annual spring training in February to refresh our team's knowledge on the latest equipment and best practices. Our goal is to provide our customers with the best possible service and experience, and this starts with having a knowledgeable and skilled team. We covered a variety of topics, including safety protocols, equipment maintenance, and new techniques for efficient and effective landscaping.

To make it even more fun, we added a little friendly competition with a game of soccer darts. Congratulations to Cowboy who scored the most points and won tickets to a St. Louis City soccer game! We're proud of our team's dedication and hard work, and we believe that investing in their ongoing training is key to our success. Here's to a great season ahead!

Our Maintenance crews were back in the full swing of things in March and have been crushing their goals! With over 80% of our mulch down by the beginning of April, our crews are well ahead of previous years. Our crews are doing a fantastic job and we don't see them slowing down any time soon.

At the end of March, our mow crews were back on customers' properties and are already off to a great start with their routes. By the end of April and into May, crews will be putting in flowers to get ready for the summer months.



The maintenance division also has multiple broadscale projects wrapping up. By the end of the month, White Flag Church in South St. Louis County will be complete with native prairie plantings, athletic fields, and smart irrigation. Sod, irrigation, and landscaping will be installed at the new Starbucks in Collinsville, IL in time for them to open the doors in late summer. Roosevelt High School is getting a new football/soccer field through our ongoing relationship with the St. Louis Public Schools.

At Mastercard, we will be transitioning to 100% electric-powered equipment. Using all-electric landscaping equipment on commercial properties has several benefits, including reducing emissions and noise pollution. Additionally, it can lower operating costs due to reduced fuel and maintenance expenses. We are eager to make this transition in partnership with our client's initiative to remain a corporate leader in eco-responsibility.

