



THE IDEAL WAY

NOV 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Fall Festival.....	1
Employee Spotlight.....	1
Strategic Planning.....	2
Construction Update.....	2
Playground Update.....	3
Irrigation Update.....	3
Maintenance Update.....	4

CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL SEASON AT OUR ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

In October our entire company, along with their families, joined us for our annual family fall festival. Thanks to all who joined us! The night featured our littlest crew members in their Halloween best and the chance to celebrate our exceptional team members.

We proudly celebrated many of our exceptional team members for their dedication and outstanding contributions throughout the year. Our team's commitment to excellence shines through in their daily work. Congratulations to the entire Ideal team, and a special shout-out to these individuals who've made a significant impact.

Years of Service

Jose Eduardo Gutierrez - 5 years, Zach Rost - 5 years, Otilio Rojas Perez - 5 years, Francisco Javier Sanchez - 5 years, Juan David Montelongo - 5 years, Jen Kratz - 5 years



Specialty Awards

Ideal Heroes: Kayla Legg, Eric Maisel, Chris Vaughn, Fernando Aguirre Barajas, Francisco Aguirre Barajas, Daniel Aguirre Barajas, Paying Attention to Details - Brittany Thompson, Managing the President of ILG - Maddie Hagar, Sideline Motivator - Brad McKay, Safety Award - Lyle Moore, Outstanding Performance - Steve Meier, Most Improved - Ken Hall, Most Versatile - Ralph "Pickle" Butery, Laborer of the Year (LOTR) - Derek Shipman, MVP - David Montelongo, Crew Member of the Year - Saul "Billy" Ramos, Most Improved - Ryan "Gibby" Gibson, Iron Man - Jose "Orejon" Chavarria, Co Tech of the Year - Jeff Williams, Co Tech of the Year - Dan Gruett, Most Improved - Jeff "JJ" Williams Jr

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: STEVE BROOM

Steve Broom, a seasoned professional with over 30 years of experience in the landscape industry, has an extensive background that has shaped his career. Growing up on a small farm in Southern Illinois alongside his five siblings, Steve developed a profound love for outdoor work from a young age. This passion led him to Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Horticulture, with a clear goal of pursuing a career in the landscape industry.



Upon completing his education, Steve ventured into the field, initially joining a national landscape provider. Throughout his career, he primarily focused on managing production and operations within the landscape industry. His daily interactions with both crews and clients honed his skills and prepared him for his current role as an Account Manager at Ideal Landscape Group, where he seamlessly blends his expertise with his natural ability to connect with people.

"Although Steve has only been with us for a short time now, he has hit the ground running. Steve takes ownership of any project sent his way and gets it done," praises Jeff Cassani, our Director of Sales. "I can't wait to see the journey he takes us on. Steve has been a great addition to the team and fits in well with everyone."

Outside of his professional life, Steve enjoys a rich personal life. He has been happily married to his wife Vicki for 33 years, and they reside in Weldon Spring. Together, they have two sons: Matt, who has made his home in Scottsdale, Arizona, and Nick, who is currently enrolled in the Physician Assistant program at St. Louis University. In his free time, Steve finds pleasure in working on DIY projects around the house, both indoors and outdoors. Additionally, he relishes the opportunity to hit the golf course whenever time allows.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR 2024



Taking a breather from the daily grind, our office and management team spent time together during our annual Strategic Planning meeting this month. It was the perfect opportunity to reflect on the year behind us and plan for the exciting goals awaiting us in 2024.

This year's discussions centered around enhancing the customer and employee experience and recognizing that small improvements can make a big difference. Stay tuned for the great things coming our way!



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Check out the exciting updates we've made to these outdoor spaces:

Drace Park - Town and Country, Missouri

The transformation at Drace Park is nothing short of remarkable. We've completed an impressive overhaul, introducing a brand-new wooden play structure, synthetic turf for the playground surfacing, and fresh concrete sidewalks and curbing. The finishing touches? A vibrant landscape that breathes new life into this beloved park, situated at the intersection of 270 and Clayton Road.



Hunter Park - Crystal Lake, Missouri

Our commitment to creating inviting pocket parks continues with the completion of phase 3 at Hunter Park. This delightful green space in Crystal Lake now boasts a new shade structure, a convenient drinking fountain, benches for relaxation, and thoughtfully designed lighting, all set against a backdrop of carefully curated landscaping.



Brooks Park - Overland, Missouri

Ideal's skilled crews have been hard at work at Brooks Park, where we've installed an impressive half-mile walking and biking path that winds its way around the park's scenic grounds. While we've done all we can for now, we're eagerly anticipating the arrival of two fully assembled bridges from Minnesota. These bridges will span the creek at different locations, creating a loop in the pathway, and we anticipate their arrival by mid-December. By year's end, we'll have wrapped up this project, providing the community with a beautiful and functional park for everyone to enjoy.

Deer Creek Trail - Ladue, Missouri

For the City of Ladue, we're in the process of constructing a brand-new half-mile walking and biking trail that spans Highway 40, extending from Clayton Road to approximately half a mile east of this point. It's an ambitious endeavor that marks Ladue's first park. Ideal will be adding the finishing touches to this scenic trail, including landscaping and a creek-spanning bridge, with a target completion date set for year-end. Stay tuned for more updates as this park takes shape



Millennium Park - Creve Coeur, Missouri

A \$2.4 million transformation is underway at Millennium Park in the City of Creve Coeur. This extensive makeover includes the addition of a splash pad, multiple shade structures, park benches, landscaping, and irrigation. New walking trails will also be introduced to enhance the park's recreational offerings. This renovation involves significant infrastructure work, such as storm piping and sanitary sewer rerouting to accommodate the upgraded bathrooms. Additionally, Ideal will construct a new bandstand, where future outdoor concerts will be held. With an expected completion date set for May 2024, Millennium Park is poised to become a hub of community activity and enjoyment. We can't wait to see the result of this exciting project.

White House Retreat - St. Louis, Missouri

Ideal Landscape is honored to be entrusted with a significant project at the White House Retreat in St. Louis, Missouri. We've taken on the comprehensive task of revamping the landscaping at all 14 stations of the cross, a project with an array of impressive elements.

Our work involves extensive boulder wall construction, creating a visually striking and durable landscape. In addition, we're implementing a dry stream feature that adds both aesthetics and functionality. With over 12,000 new plants being introduced, the landscape will flourish with vibrant colors and textures, enhancing the atmosphere.



Each of the 14 prayer areas is set to receive new benches, lighting for both safety and ambiance, and comfortable kneelers to facilitate reflection and prayer. As part of the project, new sidewalk construction will improve accessibility and movement throughout the retreat grounds.



To ensure the landscape's long-term vitality, we'll be installing new irrigation and lawn areas, with the completion date scheduled for spring 2024.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

In Quarter 3, the IPS team continued its journey of creating inclusive playgrounds, starting with a month-long project at Reed's Spring Elementary School, which featured three inclusive playgrounds.

Our collaboration with Weaver Excavating & Concrete in Anna, IL, led us to the exciting site work for Hadley's Haven, an Unlimited Play Playground set to be completed in mid-November. See the playground here: [Hadley's Haven Playground](#).

The IPS team, in partnership with ILC, is gearing up for an installation project at Millennium Park. This venture will encompass the playground, splash pad, and band shelter, taking shape over the winter and into the spring of 2024.

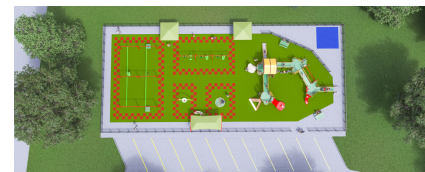
In addition to these remarkable projects, IPS is actively involved in an extensive overhaul of the St. Louis Public School District's playgrounds. We've already made significant progress, removing rubber at six schools to make way for new surfacing, and we're gearing up to completely remove and replace six more school playgrounds in the late first quarter of 2024.

As our efforts continue to grow, we're in search of dedicated crew members to join our team. This expansion is in preparation for what is shaping up to be a remarkable 2024!

We've also secured two substantial splash pad installations, one at Zimmer Park in Waterloo, IL, with Fitzgibbons Contracting Co., and another for the City of Berkeley, where IPS will serve as the General Contractor



Exciting new projects are on the horizon, including the [Tiger Jungle Club in St. James, MO](#), the [Osage County Missouri Inclusive Playground in Linn, MO](#), and the [Harmon Park project in Prairie Village, KS](#).



In addition to these remarkable projects, IPS is actively involved in an extensive overhaul of the St. Louis Public School District's playgrounds. We've already made significant progress, removing rubber at six schools to make way for new surfacing, and we're gearing up to completely remove and replace six more school playgrounds in the late first quarter of 2024.

As our efforts continue to grow, we're in search of dedicated crew members to join our team. This expansion is in preparation for what is shaping up to be a remarkable 2024!

IRRIGATION UPDATE

Season winding down

As the season winds down, our Irrigation crews are hard at work, preparing our customers' properties for the winter. This is no small task, given that we have 162 sites, 330 controllers, and about 6,229 sprinkler zones to maintain. Despite the scale, our crews have admirably managed these properties alongside their regular service work.



As we near the end of this season, our crews are gearing up for new projects in the coming year. Their proactive approach ensures that our clients' properties will continue to thrive.



@ideallandscape

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Bio Monument Sign

Our team recently completed a ground-up transformation of the Bio Merieux front entrance sign, a project that kicks off a dynamic approach to enhancing the campus's initial impression. This endeavor, spanning two years, will not only elevate aesthetics but also infuse sustainability, connectivity, and functionality throughout the campus. The scope of our work will include an all-encompassing campus relandscaping endeavor including walking trails and new outdoor spaces with benches, tables, and pavilions.



Sweet Contribution for a Worthy Cause

This year, we proudly donated 200 pounds (equivalent to 19 gallons) of honey from Mastercard for an important cause. In collaboration with Mastercard's sustainability team, we bottled and contributed 300 bottles of honey to the Unlimited Play Gala. The UP Gala helped to generate funds for the installation of all-inclusive playgrounds across the country, ensuring that children of all abilities have access to the joy of play.



Fall Blooms: Celebrating the Season with Vibrant Mums

Our maintenance crews also recently planted a whopping 1982 mums bringing a burst of fall colors to our properties. Check out these vibrant pictures to see the stunning display of autumn hues. It's a simple way we celebrate the changing seasons and add a pop of color to our landscapes.

