

PGMS Salutes University of Rochester for Grounds Maintenance Excellence



Manager of Horticulture and Grounds John McIntyre received the Honor Award on behalf of the University's Horticulture and Grounds department.

Forest Hill, MD (October 2019) – The Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) recognized **University of Rochester's** Horticulture and Grounds staff in Rochester, NY with an Honor Award in the Society's 2019 Green Star Awards® competition. The award was given in the University and College Grounds – Mid-Size category for exceptional grounds maintenance. Winners were honored during the Society's 2019 Awards Dinner held Oct. 17 in conjunction with the School of Grounds Management & GIE+EXPO in Louisville, KY, Oct. 15-18.

The University of Rochester River Campus, located along the Genesee River in upstate New York, has a long, rich tradition of incorporating trees to enhance the beauty of this unique setting. Founded in 1850, throughout the University's history trees have been planted, maintained, and preserved. As further support of these efforts, in 1999, the president's planning group approved portions of the campus to be established as the University of Rochester Arboretum. Also known as the 'URboretum'.

The tradition is an extension of the arboricultural legacy of the Rochester area. Sections of the city and the University's Mt. Hope Campus still harbor remnants of the Ellwanger and Barry Nursery. The nursery trade

that flourished in the late 1800s and early 1900s in Rochester was once the largest of its type in the country and has left a lasting impression on the city and throughout the campus.

The River Campus occupies the original setting of the Oak Hill Country Club. The University purchased the Oak Hill grounds in 1923 and initially raised 10 million dollars for the establishment of the college on this site. Ground was broken for Lattimore Hall in 1927, the first University to be constructed, located in the northwest corner of the Eastman Quadrangle. The integrity of the landscape was insured when Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. was retained as designer and consultant to the architects. The Olmstead international fame stems from his father's design of such well-known areas as Central Park, the Arnold Arboretum, and Yosemite National park. The University endorsed the River Campus in 1930 as the primary site of their men's college.

Frederick Law Olmstead, Sr. was responsible for the design of a "River Walk" of oak trees along the Genesee River. This portions of the campus was sold to the City of Rochester, with contributions from Bausch & Lomb, to establish more parkland along the river corridor. Included along this three-quarter-mile stretch are 197 oak trees with more than 15 different species identified between Elmwood Avenue and Intercampus Drive.

Although they are not located on the River Campus, the University of Rochester also harbors two former champion trees – a weeping willow and a ponderosa pine. These giants, along with the canopy of cover from trees on the rest of the campus, add tremendously to the aesthetic appeal of the grounds while complementing and softening the existing architecture. The visual impact that trees have on the University grounds with their fall colors, winter texture, and spring flowers is invaluable. The flora is a welcome sight to student, faculty and staff after a long winter that averages nearly 100" of snow.

The Green Star Awards program brings national recognition to grounds maintained with a high degree of excellence, complimenting other national landscape award programs that recognize outstanding landscape design and construction. Overall, PGMS presented six Grand Awards, its highest honor, as well as 14 Honor Awards and four Merit Awards in nine categories of competition. To view a complete list of winners please visit <https://pgms.org/2019-green-star-award-winners/>.

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About the Professional Grounds Management Society

Serving the profession for over 100 years, PGMS is an individual membership society of grounds professionals dedicated to advancing the grounds management profession through education and professional development. Further information on PGMS is available online at www.PGMS.org.

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