

Landscaping and Vegetable Garden



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The Museum collaborated with Jacobs/Ryan Associates Landscape Architects, the University of Illinois Extension and Openlands to develop a native and sustainable site landscape for *Smart Home*. From the ground up to the roof, *Smart Home*'s landscape design demonstrates an eco-friendly aesthetic with systems that sustain and replenish the environment: green roofs, Ipê decking, rain barrels, bioswales, porous paving and rain gardens. Prairie, dune and oak savannah plantings recall our region's past and working gardens present food production, indoor climate control and water recycling in action.

The landscape is carefully designed and managed to conserve and protect natural resources.

- Native plants have extensive root systems and are well-adapted to our climate. Moreover, they add year-round beauty and attract beneficial insects.

- Green roofs reduce energy costs; decrease the urban heat island effect by cooling air temperature and slow stormwater run-off.
- Permeable pavements, rain gardens and bioswales (shallow depressions in the ground) ease water run-off into surrounding streams and lakes and enable slow, healthy seepage into the soil.
- Rain barrels harvest rainwater to irrigate plants, so we use less drinking-quality water.
- Fresh, home-grown vegetables and herbs are available three seasons of the year.
- Yard and garden waste is composted and added to the garden as a rich soil conditioner.
- Organic mulch minimizes weed invasion, converts moisture, reduces soil temperature fluctuations, protects root systems and keeps the vegetables clean.
- Space is maximized via trellises, caging and staking tomatoes, container gardening,

and mixing fast-maturing crops with slower growers. The result: greater yield in a smaller space.

- Chemical applications are avoided by starting with healthy seed and transplants, providing optimal growing conditions, scouting for unwanted pests, and removing dead and diseased plants.

University of Illinois

University of Illinois Extension educators train volunteer Master Gardeners to provide gardening programs and horticultural activities to educate the public. U of I Master Gardeners planted and maintain these gardens and are available to answer your gardening questions. For more information, call your local Extension Office or visit us on the web at www.urbanext.uiuc.edu.

Jacobs/Ryan Associates

With strong midwestern sensibilities, Jacobs/Ryan has provided thoughtful landscape architectural consulting services for more than three decades. | www.jacobsryan.com

Openlands Native Habitats Program

Openlands is dedicated to preserving and enhancing public open space in northeastern Illinois. The organization's Urban Greening program supports community- and school-based greening within Chicago. | www.openlands.org

● Green roof | GreenGrid® by Weston Solutions, Inc. | www.greengridroofs.com
| Modular green roof system delivered pre-planted in 100 percent recycled modules. Green roofs save energy and reduce air and water pollution.

● Coordinated landscaping installation, shrubs, perennials and native plant plugs | Gift of: Christy Webber Landscapes | www.christywebber.com

● Porous paver system | Gift of: Unilock | www.unilock.com | Installation Gift of: Clauss Brothers, Inc. | Creates green spaces in every aspect of the horticultural world.