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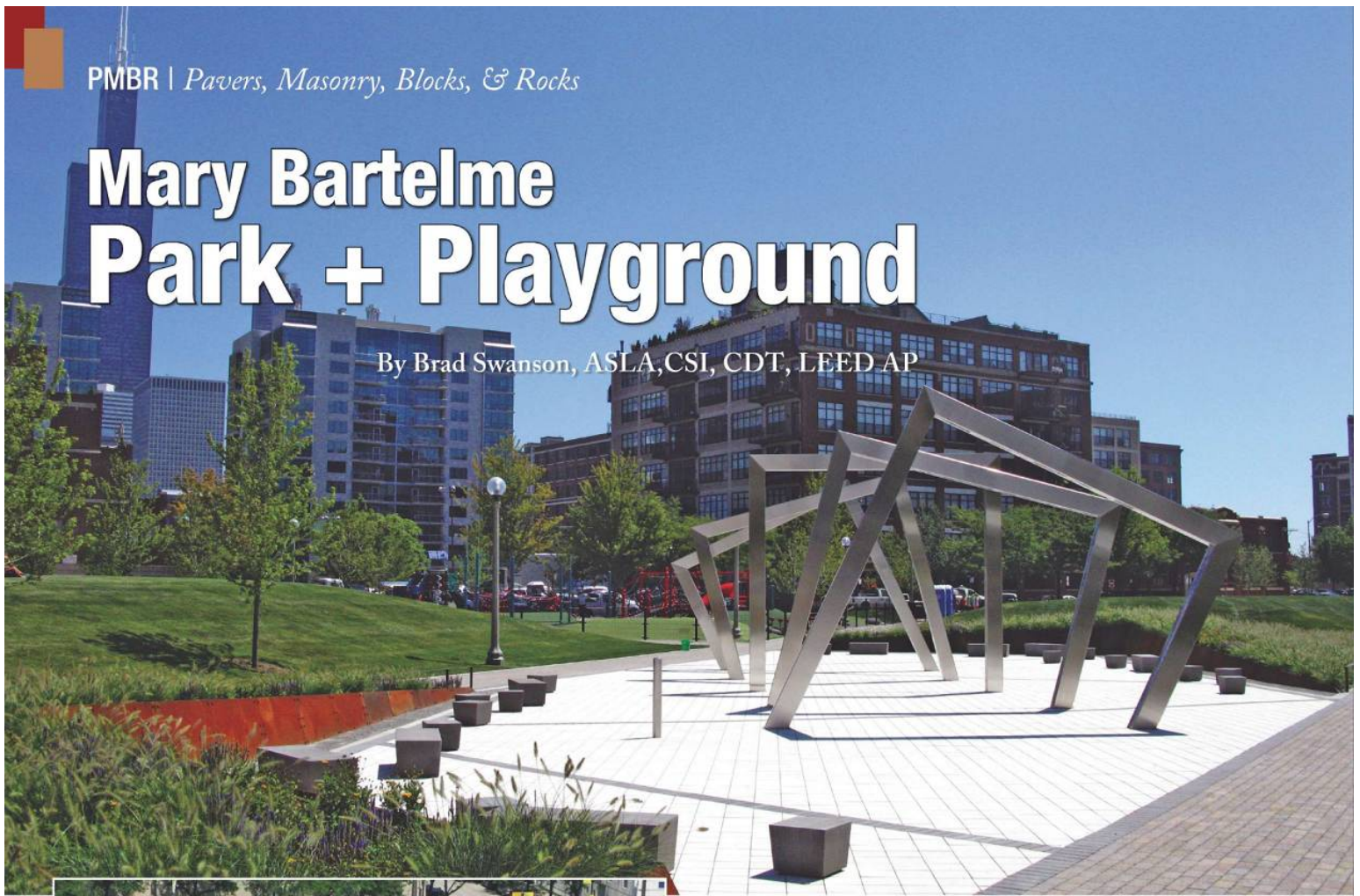
World Premiere

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PMBR | *Pavers, Masonry, Blocks, & Rocks*

Mary Bartelme Park + Playground

By Brad Swanson, ASLA, CSI, CDT, LEED AP



Above: Five large stainless steel gateway structures twist through a field of brilliant white TX Active permeable pavers. Sun rays activate the photocatalytic reaction within concrete made with Essroc's TX Active and destroy organic and inorganic compounds before they have a chance to adhere to its surface. The organic pollutants decompose into oxygen, water and harmless salts. While the photocatalytic properties of the pavers clean the air on a clear day, on a rainy day their permeable solution allows rainwater to flow through their surface rather than being discharged into local sewers. In the United States, Gray or White Portland Cement Type I, II, and III complying with ASTM C 150 is made with the addition of proprietary particles of titanium dioxide (TiO₂) specifically engineered for use in the manufacture of concrete and concrete products.

Left: A shortened walk cuts through the raised steel planter with the elevated turf landforms in the background partially screening the children's play area.

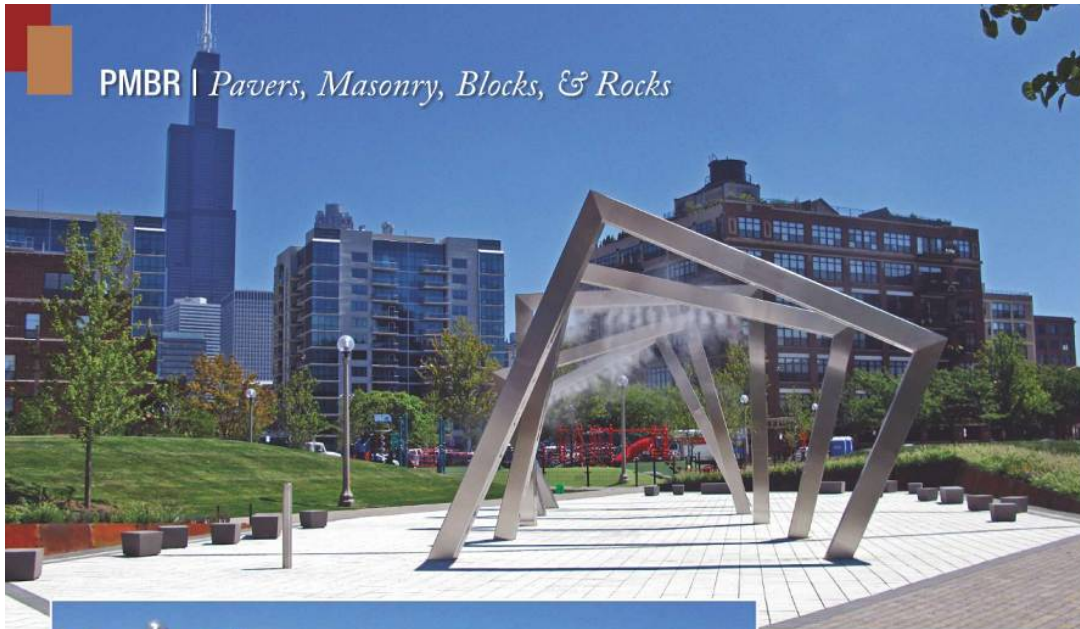
Site Design Group, an award-winning landscape architecture firm, worked in collaboration with the CPD and the West Loop Community Organization to design this truly unique park. Features include salvaged and reutilized architectural elements from the previous on-site building, native plant materials to conserve water, and the newest technology in architectural paving.

In late August, City of Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley along with television journalist Bill Kurtis, 2nd Ward Alderman Bob Fioretti, 27th Ward Alderman Walter Burnett, Jr., and the Chicago Park District (CPD) held a dedication for the recent completed Park 542

located in the West Loop community. Now called Mary Bartelme Park, it will offer the neighborhood much-needed open space, a children's playground, and a dog play area. Besides the uses commonly found in an urban park, the project includes innovative features conceived by Site Design Group, an award-winning Chicago landscape architecture firm.

Working in collaboration with the CPD and the West Loop Community Organization, Site Design Group created this truly unique urban park that was once occupied by two buildings. Mary Bartelme Park encompasses one full square block surrounded by residential condominiums and warehouse buildings. A few of the innovative features include salvaged and reutilized architectural elements from the previous on-site building, elevated turf landforms to increase usable green space, native plant materials to conserve water, and the newest technology in architectural paving.

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Left: Kids can play under the sculpture-like gateways as it mists much needed relief from the summer heat.

Middle, left: From above on an adjacent roof top, the bisecting walkways can be seen separating the sunken dog park, gateway plaza, elevated turf landforms and the children's play area.

Bottom, left: The pavers clean the air on a clear day and on a rainy day the permeable surface allows rainwater to wash away pollutants by infiltrating them back into the ground, rather than being discharged into local sewers.



feature, surrounded by contrasting steel planter walls filled with native perennials and grasses, is the park's signature element.

The park's three other main features, dog park, playground and lawn areas, are bisected by three primary walkways. Sometimes walkways can be an overlooked blank canvas. Designers unfortunately default to poured-in-place concrete to often for various reasons, when instead they should be designing walks, plazas, building entries, etc. as an opportunity to distinguish a project. Incorporating concrete pavers or permeable concrete pavers doesn't mean sacrificing design intent or project integrity. Good designs use natural materials to be safe. Great designs transcend regardless of material type. Designing with concrete pavers can require a greater skill but also offer a higher reward and be award winning. Designing with concrete pavers can require a greater skill but also offer a higher reward and still be award winning. (Delete last sentence).



Pavement Selection Process

Once again the landscape architect took advantage of the walkways as an integral part of their design. Utilizing permeable pavers throughout the park was desired but that wasn't challenging enough for the landscape architects. They wanted the walkways and plaza to be a statement for contemporary urban parks. The color, finish textures, laying pattern, joint material, and new technologies were thoroughly discussed and well thought out. Site Design Group worked with their local paving manufacturer Unilock, the premier manufacturer of architectural and permeable paver stones as well as segmental retaining walls, to select a permeable paver that met all the project needs.

Eco-Priora® was their choice for the basis-of-design because it meets the requirements of accessibility with a 1/4 inch (7 mm) joint while offering several architectural finishes and colors. The CPD most recently used this for the Buckingham Fountain Renovation completed last year because the product is ADA accessible.

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Unique Design Opportunities

At 2.3 acres, Site Design Group capitalized on their design opportunity for Mary Bartelme Park. The abundance of green space is highly desirable in urban parks. To achieve this they designed elevated turf landforms and raised planter areas to create angles to maximize the appearance of additional green space while separating the park spaces. In doing so and incorporated a striking sculpture-like gateway, visitors are drawn into park.

Identifying the park is a plaza area with five large stainless steel gateway structures appearing twisted set in a field of brilliant white permeable pavers placed in a simply stacked-bond pattern in the direction of the gateway. This interactive misting water

Innovative Product Uses

Said Ernest Wong, Principal of Site Design Group. "In order for the plaza area to remain brilliant white over time, we included Unilock's TX Active® Pavers to reduce the need for cleaning. And by using permeable pavers throughout park, the native plant materials will benefit from rainwater infiltrating into the ground."

Mary Bartelme Park provides exemplary performance for design innovation. 

ECO-PRIORA™

Next-Generation Environmental
Architectural Concrete Pavers

Customizable Colors & Textures

Purifies the air with TX Active® cement

Recharges the water table

Reduces stormwater runoff

ADA Compliant Joint Size

Multi-component for variable design

*Unilock introduced the first permeable concrete pavers
to North America nearly 20 years ago.*

Once again we are the first to bring you new innovation
with our Eco-Priora™. A sleek, modern approach to
permeable paving with customizable surface colors and
textures.

For more information, samples or to arrange a lunch and
learn session for your company call us today.

Bartelme Park & Playground, Chicago, IL

