

# Myriad Botanical Gardens

Oklahoma City, OK

*The renovation of Myriad Botanical Gardens has transformed 15 quiet, underutilized acres of open space into a highly programmed urban park and the center of downtown public life.*

OJB worked with a broad coalition of public and private stakeholders to re-envision the park as a vibrant and iconic setting for the city's civic and cultural events.

The framework of the park evolved to preserve over 300 high-value specimen trees and to direct on-site stormwater to the renovated central lake, where it supplements irrigation. Permeable and inviting along its edges, the garden draws visitors onto a tree-lined promenade that loops through botanical plantings around the lake's upper rim. Quiet, shaded berms to the northwest overlook the 28,000 SF Great Lawn and a sculptural bandshell by Gensler's David Epstein. Along Hudson Avenue to the west, a grove of Sycamores buffers the street while providing flexible garden space to support Oklahoma City's annual Festival of the Arts. To the south, an interactive water feature marks the entry to a children's garden that balances active play with natural learning. A dog park, a fountain plaza, and a restaurant with outdoor dining enliven the eastern portion of the site.

Extensive programming by the Myriad Garden Foundation utilizes the park's garden rooms year-round for a variety of purposes including concerts, plays, weddings, galas, and sports and fitness events.

Since its 2011 reopening, the park has welcomed more than a million visitors annually and catalyzed downtown economic development, earning it a ULI Urban Open Space Award.

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## Client

The City of Oklahoma City

## Size

15 acres

## Dates

2009-2012

## Cost

Confidential

## Team

Gensler  
Fluidity Design Consultants  
Fisher Marantz Stone Partners  
Pacific Aquascape  
Murase Associates  
Cardinal Engineering  
Alvine Engineering  
Thornton Tomasetti  
Frankfurt Short Bruza Associates  
Endrestudio  
Robert Birchell & Associates  
Sweeney Associates  
Mike Schnelle, Ph.D  
Mary Irish  
Dyal and Partners

## Awards

2015 ULI Urban Open Space Award  
ASLA San Diego Chapter Awards

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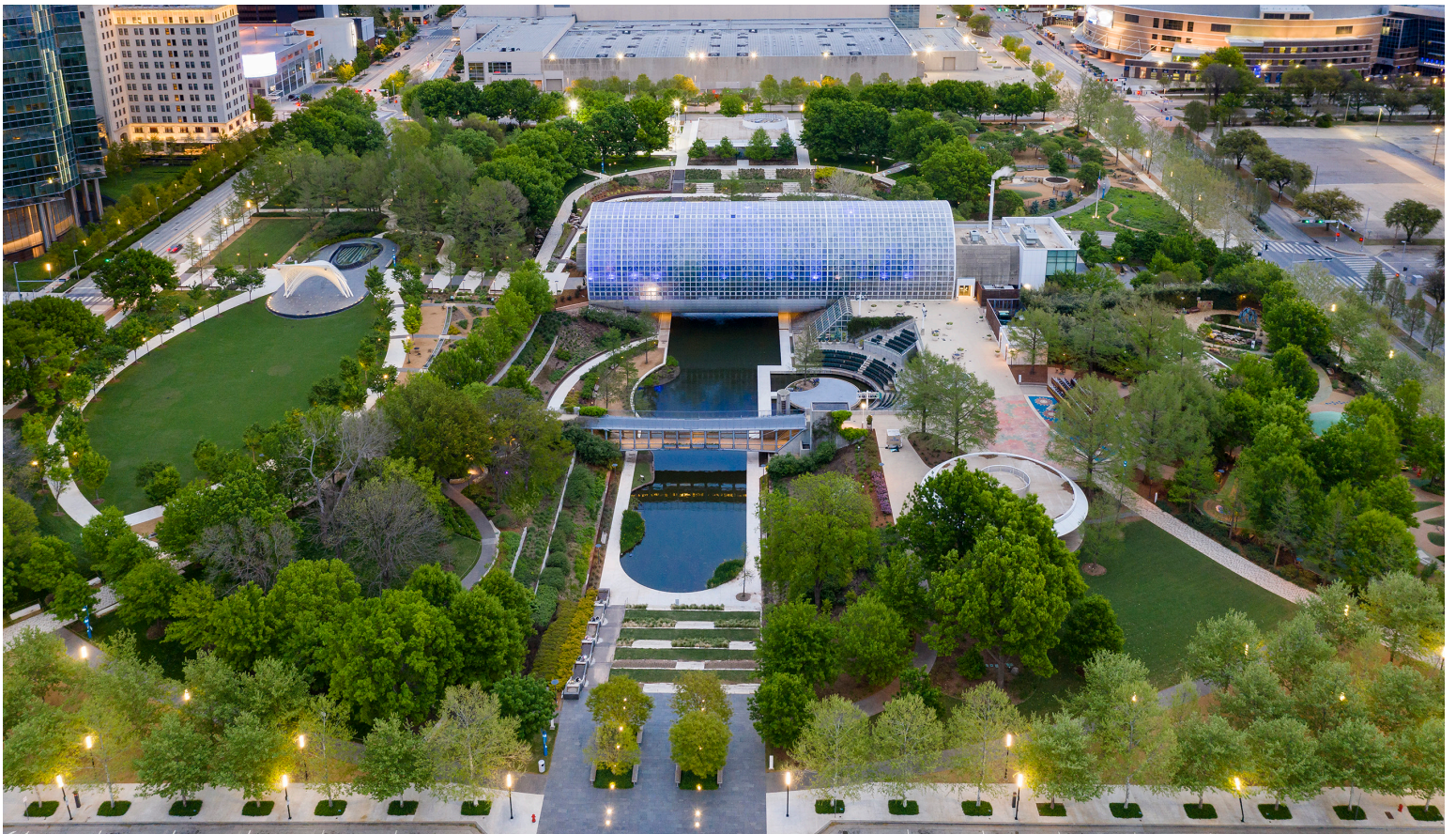
























# Sustainability

*The renovation and enhancement of the Meinder's garden is true to the original garden design and celebrates the natural beauty of northeast Oklahoma's Ozark mountain range.*



## LAND

The design restored and enhanced the existing 15-acre Myriad Botanical gardens. The existing Ozark trees have been maintained and new native forest, meadow and aquatic plants are being installed.

By removing the high perimeter berm and opening up the park, visitors were encouraged to walk into the park and felt a heightened sense of security.

The historic context of the site was enhanced, through renovations of the Crystal Bridge.

A series of erosion control strategies were implemented, including geotextiles to stabilize the soils and retaining walls to divert the water.



## ECONOMICS

Property values increased due to the park's restoration.

Maintenance savings were achieved due to the design strategy.



## SOCIAL

The site attracts 1,000,000 people a year, creating jobs and supporting the local economy. Events are held in the park on a daily basis, with a huge event schedule and park programming committee.

The park is filled with programed spaces, including: on-street parking, an auto court, a 6,500-SF dog park, an arena plaza, a restaurant, a 10,500-SF seasonal plaza, a 28,000-SF event lawn, groves, an arts plaza, a botanical garden, a café, a 9,400-SF activity lawn, a fountain plaza and a 35,000-SF children's garden.

The gardens have educational signage about plants, place and ecology. The entire park has a free wireless network.



## CARBON, ENERGY & AIR

The project used regional materials such as locally sourced stone and gravel.

The tree canopy reduces temperatures and creates energy cost savings.

The trees sequester 81,600 pounds of carbon annually, which is the equivalent to a standard car driving 111,003 miles.\*\*



## WATER

A three-acre central lake is fed by groundwater.

Rainfall was captured in the storm system and directed back to the existing lake, where it is reused for the water features and irrigation for planting.

85% of surfaces are permeable.

The water quality of the existing lake was improved, turbidity decreased, and temperature was regulated to support a healthy ecosystem. The whole lake was dredged, removing sludge and debris from the bottom. A bio filtration basin was made with a deep gravel bed, aeration tubes and aeration features.

Trees have the potential for intercepting 169,000 gallons of water which is the equivalent to the water usage for 169 American residents for one day.\*

A shelf was installed around the lake for public safety.



## PLANTING

300 existing trees were saved on-site.

380 trees were planted, including shumard oaks, American sycamore, bald cypress, allee elms, river birch, Chinese pistache, American holly and bur oak.

25 high value specimen trees and several trees ranging from 16" to 24" were transplanted on-site.

A butterfly garden in the children's play area and a prairie garden at the entry support pollinators.

Mycorrhizal fungi was used in the soil amendment.

Vegetated wetland planters were used to clean the lake, filter water and add aesthetic beauty.

\*The tree average for water interception is 500 gallons. American's use an average of 100 gallons of water per day (EPA's water trivia facts).

\*\*120 pounds of CO2 per tree annually (This number is based on an average from the National Tree Benefits Calculator) One car produces an average of 8,320 pounds of CO2 per year (The Code of Federal Regulations - 40 CFR 600.113).