

Van Zelst, Inc. wins awards from state landscape group

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Staff Reporter

Van Zelst, Inc., a design-build landscape contractor, won gold and silver awards at the Illinois Landscape Contractors Assn. (ILCA) meeting held in Chicago.

The Wadsworth-based firm is active in design, construction and maintenance of landscapes for homes, businesses and institutions in northeast Illinois.

"There is a growing trend in the industry for one firm to handle the total landscape project from design through the final construction phase and then maintain the property. The ILCA awards reflect this design-build concept," David Van Zelst, landscape architect and firm president said.

"The association looks for quality and workmanship in landscaping," Greg Rippel, landscape architect said.

A gold award for excellence in landscape design and construction was given for a Libertyville residence. The home was constructed two years before the landscape project began. A major objective was to solve horticultural problems caused by the original construction process in which tree root zones had been compacted, resulting in loss of trees. New drainage systems were developed and special mixes of soils used to protect remaining and newly planted trees.

Extensive lighting was used as a final touch.

A gold award was received for a two-acre residential property in a wooded area of Lake Forest. Perennial gardens, groundcover beds, bluestone hardscapes and sparkling turf are features.

The company's silver award

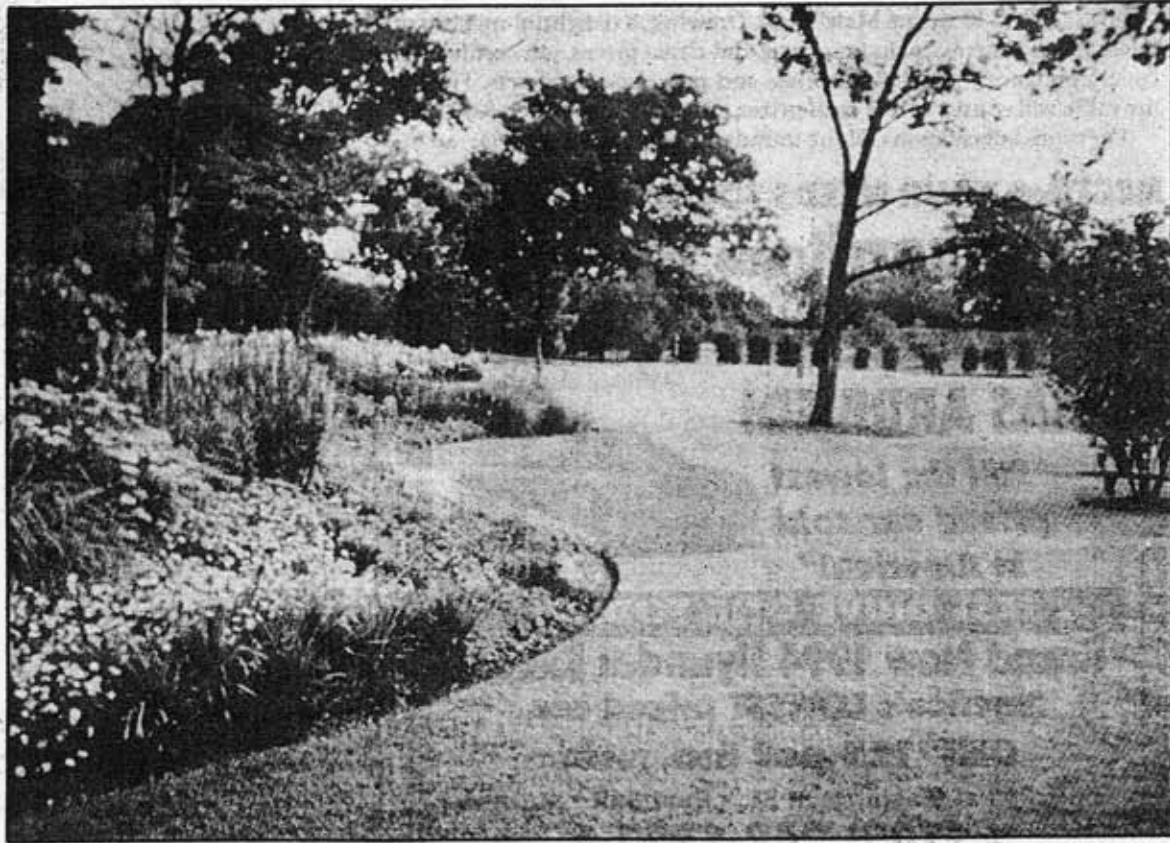
came for a landscape design and construction of a residential project in Barrington. The landscape elements complimented the prairie surrounding the home. Features include a 150 foot prairie garden that runs along the property's edge.

Van Zelst representatives

meet with a client at the beginning to plan the full service project.

"A lot of people think we are in Florida over the winter, but we are working on designs for next spring," Rippel said.

The firm employs some 70 people during the busiest seasons.



Van Zelst, Inc. received the 1995 gold award from the Illinois Landscape Contractors Assn. (ILCA) for landscape design and construction of a new residential property in Libertyville. A variety of perennials and grasses planted in the garden provide a colorful and constantly changing appearance. Special features include a circular brick drive and night illumination.