

GARDENS & COCKTAILS

William T Evjue Rooftop Gardens – “The Crown Jewel of Monona Terrace”

Frank Lloyd Wright’s ambition was to create architecture that was harmonious with the landscape and sympathetic to the needs of humanity. This “Organic Architecture” philosophy was employed to connect Monona Terrace to the natural and urban features of the downtown isthmus and has also served as a guide in the planting of the gardens.

Pairing that philosophy with a “Do right by Wright” motto, the plantings attempt to emulate nature through abstraction, symbolism, and elevating elements of the natural world. This biophilic design process mirrors FLW’s by embracing inspiration from nature to create spaces that align with our innate tendency to seek connections with nature and other forms of life.

The result is a naturalistic planting design that not only offers some visual quality and interpretation, but more importantly, embraces ecological value in the urban landscape. By focusing on native and low-maintenance plants, we offer ecosystem services to our area pollinators and fauna by providing food sources, refuge, and life-cycle environments.

HIGHLIGHTS:

THE PRAIRIE PLANTING

Replaced 8 stressed Norway Maples and annual plantings with 3800 sq ft of native prairie plants

THE REDBUD PROJECT

Removed 8 stressed Japanese Tree Lilacs and replaced with 18 native Eastern Redbuds

COMMUNITY TERRACE PLANTER

Removed high-maintenance perennials from south-facing, inaccessible planter ledge and replaced with 1500 sq ft of Little Bluestem cultivars and strains.

IRRIGATION

Completely overhauled the site irrigation to an automated smart and LEED-friendly system drastically reducing our water consumption

LANDSCAPE LIGHTING

Currently replacing the entire rooftop landscape lighting to a programmable LED lighting system that allows dimming and color control for any outdoor nighttime experience.



MOST POPULAR PLANTS AT MONONA TERRACE

(people love to ask questions about these)



PRAIRIE DROPSEED (*Sporobolus heterolepus*)



PURPLE PRAIRIE CLOVER (*Dalea purpurea*)



PRAIRIE DOCK (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*)



BLAZINGSTAR (*Liatris ligulastilis*)



ROYAL CATCHFLY (*Silene regia*)