

**100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park
at the Indianapolis Museum of Art**

Landscape Design Fact Sheet

**Landscape
Designer:**

Edward Blake

Designed by landscape architect Edward Blake, pathways, made of compacted fine grit gravel wind through the park and offer visitors opportunities to interact with the range of terrain and communities of plants and animals throughout the Park. The journeys Blake designed include paths that explore the bottomlands near the river and lake, the ridgeline that sits above the eastern edge of the Park, and a timberline path that exposes the results of strong storms on an area of dense forest. The landscape journeys connect from the car park off of 38th Street, Southside Overlook, and Lake Terrace, and lead to the Visitors Pavilion. Easily navigable and intended to direct visitors through the park, the paths are envisioned by Blake to be journeys that connect the visitors to nature in both body and mind.

Location:

Throughout the Park, specifically in the woodland area

Size:

2.8 miles of paths (.6 miles meet ADA requirements)

Materials:

Compacted fine grit gravel

Process:

Paths constructed and maintained by IMA Grounds Staff

**Architect
Biography:**

Edward L. Blake, Jr. was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania and grew up in Mississippi. He is a landscape architect and founding principal of The Landscape Studio of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Mr. Blake has pursued four decades of planning and design inquiry within private, academic, and non-profit arenas of landscape architecture. His work is recognized for evoking the poetics of place and region.

Blake's planning for The Crosby Arboretum at Picayune, Mississippi has received international recognition. His work at Hattiesburg, Mississippi's Lake Terrace Convention Center and The Crosby Arboretum received Centennial Medallion Awards commemorating the 100th anniversary of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Blake is a recipient of ASLA's Alfred B. LaGasse Medal for notable contributions to the management of natural resources and public lands. His early work at the Crosby, done in collaboration with Andropogon Associates, received an Honor Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects and is the first national award of excellence received of built work in Mississippi. Locally, The Crosby Arboretum has been honored by the Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts.

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Located on 100 acres of land that includes untamed woodlands, wetlands, a lake and meadows adjacent to the Museum, 100 Acres will be one of the largest museum art parks in the country and the only one to feature the

Nature Park: ongoing commission of temporary, site-responsive artworks. The Park will open with eight newly commissioned inaugural works by international artists, a LEED-certified visitors pavilion and numerous walking trails that highlight the indigenous landscape. As with the IMA galleries, admission to 100 Acres will be free.

Opening Date: June 20, 2010

Fundraising: To date, the IMA has raised \$23.6 million toward the Park's campaign goal of \$25 million.

Inaugural Commissions: In 2008, the IMA announced the eight inaugural commissions for the Park. **Atelier Van Lieshout, Kendall Buster, Alfredo Jaar, Jeppe Hein, Los Carpinteros, Tea Mäkipää, Type A** and **Andrea Zittel** have spent several years working closely with the IMA to develop projects that explore and respond to the varied environments of 100 Acres. The IMA's goal is to present contemporary art projects and exhibitions that provoke a reexamination of humanity's multifaceted relationship with the environment. The inaugural artists were selected by Lisa Freiman, Chair of the IMA's Department of Contemporary Art and Director of 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, and Sarah Green, Associate Curator of Contemporary Art.

For more information about 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park at the IMA, visit imamuseum.org or artbabble.org.

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