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NATURAL WANDERS LILAC-PALOOZA

Lilac Time Festival

A sure sign of spring — the first peek of tulips breaking ground. Lilacia Park in Lombard features thousands of them, 25,000 to be exact, complimenting the park's historic draw: 700 lilacs. It's an 8.5-acre horticultural showcase beckoning you to enjoy a stroll. Be a part of this local tradition — turn a walk in the park to a stay, as the Lilac Time Festival features many special events, from tastings to tours and concerts to coronation.

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Follow the Bloom-O-Meter and details on the festival at lombardlilactime.com.

Lombard's collection was a gift from Col. William Plum and his wife Helen Maria Williams Plum who fancied the famous gardens of Victor Lemoine (1823-1911), in Nancy, France. Their lilac-packed estate has since become synonymous with Lombard, affectionately known as the Lilac Village. Famous landscape architect Jens Jensen designed the park as you experience it today.

