



Why is Franklin Park Conservatory expanding its visitor experience?

The Conservatory is known for its botanical biomes and seasonal exhibitions, and growth over the last 25 years has the building bursting at the seams. In May 2018, the visitor experience grew from 3 acres to 13 acres. Along with the Children's Garden, the Conservatory has enclosed 10 acres of its property to the north and west of the main Conservatory building, creating endless possibilities for exhibitions, art installations, formal gardens, events and classes.

What exhibitions will the Conservatory have in the Grand Mallway?

- Expanded **Harvest Blooms**: The Conservatory has expanded its autumn exhibition by adding whimsical pumpkin structures and seasonal plantings to the Children's Garden, while the Grand Mallway has taken on a more formal feel with elegant, seasonal plantings and décor.
- Expanded **Conservatory Aglow**: The Conservatory's signature holiday exhibition has grown in popularity over the years; the extra space has allowed the light show to expand exponentially and offers guests a unique experience.
- Expanded **Columbus Blooms**: The Conservatory's spring exhibition has painted the Grand Mallway and the Children's Garden in vibrant seasonal color.
- In addition to expanded exhibitions, the Grand Mallway has opened numerous possibilities for art installations and displays from emerging and world-renowned artists.

Why did the Conservatory install a fence around 10 acres of its property?

- **For Safety** - Visitor safety is a top priority for the Conservatory and the addition of a fence protects children from wandering too far from their guardians or into traffic on Broad Street.
- **For An Expanded Experience for Visitors** - Enclosing 10 acres of the Conservatory's property allows it to expand its gardens, exhibitions and educational opportunities which will help accomplish its mission.
- **For Financial Sustainability** - Securing financial sustainability through earned revenue from the new 10-acre visitor experience allows the Conservatory to thrive for generations to come while continuing to provide horticulture services and security to the entire 88 acres of Franklin Park.

Why is there an admission fee for the Children's Garden?

The Conservatory receives funding from public and private donors for large capital projects such as the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden. However, after a new experience is created, operational costs must be covered and that funding comes from earned revenue streams like admissions, membership, gift shop, food & beverage, etc.

How is Franklin Park Conservatory and Franklin Park Managed?

Franklin Park consists of 88 acres. The Conservatory owns and operates 40 acres and the remaining 48 acres are owned and operated by Columbus Recreation & Parks. While Columbus Recreation & Parks oversees the infrastructure of Franklin Park, Conservatory staff provides horticulture services and security for the entire 88 acres of the park.

To help ensure that the Conservatory is part of the community for generations to come, it is important for the organization to achieve financial sustainability. The new 10-acre visitor experience helps generate revenue and allows Conservatory staff to continue horticulture and security services for the entire Franklin Park. Financial sustainability at the Conservatory will also allow for additional botanical beautification projects throughout the remaining 75 acres of Franklin Park for the public to enjoy at no cost.

The Conservatory has a lot to offer families and children with its new experiences, will there be any access for those who can't afford admission or membership?

Franklin Park Conservatory strives to be an inclusive and accessible facility. For this reason, the Conservatory has created the following Access Offerings.

- **Community Days at the Conservatory**, on the first Sunday of each month, the Conservatory is free* for residents of Franklin County and the City of Columbus during regular operating hours of 10am to 5pm. **Does not include "Special Engagements," i.e. Conservatory Aglow evening hours.*
- **Access Family Membership** (\$35) for families in eligible programs with proof of participation: CareSource, Ohio Directions card, Medicaid card, W.I.C. card or Molina card. Franklin Park Conservatory Access memberships are available by mail or at the Visitor Center only.
- **1,000 Columbus Recreation & Parks campers** will have all fees to the Conservatory waived.
- **Up to 1,000 students' program fee waived** through School Trip Program from August to February.
- **50% off Summer Camp fee**, for participants in the Free & Reduced lunch programs.
- **Conservatory Membership Cards** are available for checkout at the Martin Luther King, Shepard and Driving Park branches of the Columbus Metropolitan Library. With an active library card, patrons can check out a temporary Conservatory membership card that will grant up to two adults and six children free admission to the Conservatory for 2 days.

How does the Conservatory support and give back to its community?

- **Growing to Green** offers free consulting advice, training and ongoing resources to individuals and organizations who wish to start community gardens, school gardens, and neighborhood beautification projects.
- **Green Corps** serves up to 15 adults annually providing 10 weeks of paid job training for the green industry focusing on landscape horticulture, interiorscape and greenhouse production.
- **Teen Corps** serves up to 15 teens annually providing eight weeks of paid job training focusing on vegetable gardening, plant science, nutrition and entrepreneurship.
- The Conservatory is a partner of the **Summer Food Program**; Coordinated by Columbus Recreation & Parks, this program offers free nutritionally balanced meals during the summer months at community centers, along with other various locations, for ages 1-18 years.
- The Conservatory is a partner of **Healthy Harvest**, at Heavenly Kids Center for Learning Market Days, serves families by providing monthly sessions focusing on nutrition, meal planning and preparation, incorporation of fresh fruits and vegetables into home menus, and how food is grown and harvested.
- **Farmers Market** on Wednesday evenings through the summer attracts local vendors and serves the neighborhood by providing seasonal vegetables and fruits, meats, dairy and baked goods. EBT is accepted at the Market, along with incentive dollars through the Produce Perks program (formerly Veggie SNAPs).