



# Oak Park Conservatory

615 Garfield Street, Oak Park, IL 60304

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Hours: M, 2-4 pm, Tu - Su, 10am-4pm

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## Visit the Conservatory Today !

The Conservatory is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Mondays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Groups of 10 or more can arrange for a guided tour of the conservatory by calling (708) 725-2450 at least two weeks in advance.

## Plant Clinic

Come in to our plant clinic on Mondays from 2pm to 4 pm. We can help with your gardening questions, plant identification or disease diagnostics. We also offer a potting service. Please call ahead. Donations are accepted for this service.

## Party and Meeting Venue

Make your next celebration the envy of all. The Oak Park Conservatory is the ideal location for small weddings, parties, meetings and family celebrations. We can accommodate 60 to 80 people in the Conservatory Center and your guests will enjoy the unique ambience of our tropical, fern and desert rooms. Call Henrietta Yardley at (708) 725-2450 for more details.

## Oak Park Conservatory Photography Policy

Professional photographers are welcome to use the Oak Park Conservatory facility for photo shoots once the proper permit application has been completed. To acquire a permit application, call the Oak Park Conservatory at (708) 386-4700. Tripod are not allowed when the Conservatory is open to the public.

## Special Events

### Spring Perennial & Seedling Exchange Saturday, May 9

Join other gardeners to share favorite plants at the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory sponsored annual plant exchange. Drop off material from 10am to noon at the Conservatory. Pick up plants from 12:30 to 2pm.

### Discover the Exploration Station - FREE PROGRAM Saturdays through May 30

Every Saturday through May 30th from 10 a.m. until noon, docents will offer the Exploration Station! There will be a new program every month highlighting special aspects of the conservatory for both adults and children. Programs will include leaf shapes, ferns, bananas, the chocolate tree, plant movement, birds and fruits from foreign countries. Come explore!

### You can find Conservatory Nature Camps for kids on page 17!

### Garden Walk 2009 Saturday, Jun 27, 9:30am-3:30pm

*Sponsors: Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory & The Garden Club of Oak Park and River Forest.*

Eight private gardens in Oak Park and River Forest will be on display. Garden guides must be picked up at the Oak Park Conservatory at 615 Garfield Street on the day of the walk. Tickets are available in advance for \$15 at the Oak Park Conservatory. Tickets are \$18 the day of the walk at the Oak Park Conservatory, where the walk begins. The Garden Walk will be held rain or shine. No ticket refunds will be given.

**Looking for Oak Park Conservatory Gardening Classes?  
You'll find them under Adult Special Interest on page 64.**

## Show Us Your Green Thumb !

### Volunteers Needed

Help the Conservatory staff beautify over 80 park sites throughout the community this summer. Volunteers are encouraged to contribute 3 hours per week, from 9 am -noon, or from 1-4pm, Monday through Friday. Interested gardeners will learn many new skills and be involved in the growing of a wide range of fall, winter and spring display crops. There are jobs for all skill levels. For more information, please call Deborah Cullen, volunteer coordinator, at (708) 725-2460.

### Conservatory Docents/Guides Needed

Put a spring in your step and learn to interpret the unique habitats of the Desert, Tropical and Fern Rooms at the Conservatory. Become a Docent for children and adults! Weekday and weekend volunteers are needed. Plant enthusiasts are encouraged to apply! For information on upcoming trainings, contact Deborah Cullen at (708) 725-2460.

**For Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory (FOPCON)  
call Jacquelyn Paine at 725-2460.**



## A Growing Gift of Nature: The Adopt-A-Tree Program!

Looking for a unique way to commemorate a birth, celebrate a special occasion or remember a friend or loved one? The Adopt-A-Tree Program may be for you! This program, under the auspices of the Memorial Trust Committee, allows you to adopt a tree in a park in recognition of a special person or event in your life. A special plaque is placed at the base of the tree with your personalized inscription. With many park renovation projects currently underway or in the planning stages, there is a wide variety of trees and locations to choose from. Donations of additional park amenities are also welcome including benches and other landscape features. For more information about this program or to get involved in the Memorial Trust Committee, please contact Henrietta Yardley at (708) 725-2450.



## What's Happening at the Conservatory

How many communities across the country can boast the presence of a conservatory? We are so lucky to have such a resource and yet many Oak Parkers have never visited this wonderful jewel. Our conservatory was built in 1929 and designed by Lord and Burnham in the Edwardian style of glasshouses that was so popular across this country in the early twentieth century. Many of these early conservatories have been torn down to make way for other development, and Oak Parkers had that same discussion in the 70's. But to their credit, residents decided that such a unique resource should be preserved.

What is it all about? It is more than just a place that has plants. Our conservatory has three showrooms with distinct plant material representing ecosystems from around the world. Enter the tropical room and suddenly the urban world fades away, and you are surrounded by large green leaves the size of a child's wagon. Tropical fruits hang from the trees; chocolate pods, bananas, papayas and tropical figs can be seen in the leafy canopy. There is a small pond with water cascading over the rock walls and large fish mingling with turtles and our resident frog. The desert room houses cactus from the North American southwest and succulents from South Africa, Madagascar and Mexico. And do you know why ferns are unique from all other plants? Visit our fern room to find out. Are there really plants that eat insects? Yes! Our bog garden has a wonderful collection of tropical and temperate zone insectivorous plants. Come see how they trap and consume insects.

There are also three greenhouses where our staff grows a wide variety of plants which are used in the showrooms and out in the parks for summer display. Currently, we are nurturing small seedlings that will be the large, healthy plants sold at our major fundraiser during the first weekend of May. Other plants are being grown for bedding that is used in over 50 display beds throughout our parks. The "green" concept is talked and written about almost constantly now but the Oak Park Conservatory has been green since 1929. We have always taken a global perspective whether teaching children about the importance of rainforests in the tropics, about how deserts evolve or teaching adults how to grow healthy and nutritious vegetables. Our bottom line has always been to stay in touch with nature, respect nature and protect nature.

Won't you take a few minutes to visit your conservatory and if you can, bring a child to start the process of introducing the next generation to nature at the Oak Park Conservatory?

