

Hours of Operation

Monday Closed; Plant Maintenance

Tuesday–Friday 9:00 am–5:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday . . 10:00 am–3:00 pm

(Outdoor Sinnissippi Gardens are FREE and open to the public every day, dawn–10:00 pm)

Seasonal, Holiday, and Exhibit Extended Hours:
Call 815-987-8858 or visit nicholasconservatory.com

Admission

Adults (of Winnebago County)

Resident/Non-Resident \$6.00/\$8.00

Seniors (65+) and Veterans

Resident/Non-Resident \$4.00/\$6.00

Ages 5–17

Resident/Non-Resident \$4.00/\$6.00

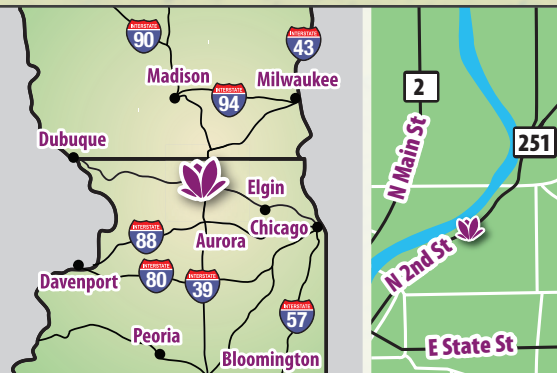
Ages 3–4 (must be accompanied by an adult)

Resident/Non-Resident \$1.00/\$2.00

Ages 2 and Under

Resident/Non-Resident FREE

Tropical Tuesdays (every Tuesday) . . . \$3.00



Directions

• Just 90 minutes from Chicago's O'Hare Airport, Milwaukee, and Madison

• 2.5 hours from Bloomington

• Only 60 minutes from Janesville and South Beloit

NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY & GARDENS

1354 N. 2nd St. – Rockford, IL 61107
nicholasconservatory.com | 815-987-8858

A facility of the
ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jack L. Armstrong • Douglas J. Brooks
Julie Elliott • Ian K. Linnabary • Tyler Smith

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Tim Dimke

INSIDE THE CONSERVATORY



Other Map Symbols



A Indoor Plants

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Allspice Tree | M. Puerto Rican Hat Palm |
| B. King Alexander Palm Tree | N. Jackfruit Tree |
| C. Old Man Palm Trees | O. Lobster Claw |
| D. Milky Way Tree | P. Zombie Palm Tree |
| E. Cabbage Palm Tree | Q. Coffee Tree |
| F. Epiphyte Tree | R. Maya Palm Tree |
| G. Bismark Palm Tree | S. Mango Tree |
| H. Pineapple | T. Coconut Palm Tree |
| I. Papayas | U. Carpoxyllon Palm Tree |
| J. Sugar Cane | V. Queen Emma's Lily |
| K. Star Apple Tree | W. Lychee Tree |
| L. Dwarf Banana | X. Cacao Tree |

V Indoor Attractions

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Rainforest Teaching Hut | 4. 'King' and 'Queen' Sculptures |
| 2. 'El Generale' Sculpture | 5. Stairs to green roof and viewing deck |
| 3. Kaleidoscope | 6. Café |

OUTSIDE THE CONSERVATORY

Green Roof The green roof at the Nicholas Conservatory consists of a variety of succulents and hardy perennials, and covers 4,300 square feet of roof space above the lobby and offices. The plants and soil reduce runoff, and filter pollutants by absorbing excess rainwater and slowly filtering it through the soil. The green roof also insulates the roof of the building, keeping the facility warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. The green vegetation even mitigates the urban heat-island effect by absorbing the sun's energy, whereas a conventional roof surface would reflect the heat, resulting in adverse weather effects. Last, but not least, the green roof provides a beautiful urban habitat for butterflies, bees, birds, and other wildlife!



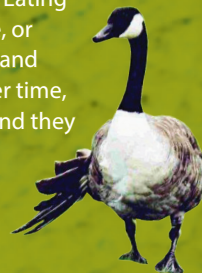
Eclipse Lagoon

The Eclipse Lagoon is 500 feet long, and has been a landmark in the community since the 1920s. Families gather for picnics, weddings, or to watch the fish, ducks, swans, and herons. The lagoon area underwent significant restoration after the opening of Nicholas Conservatory in 2011, and was re-opened in the fall of 2012. In the winter, the lagoon serves as a popular outdoor skating and hockey rink.



Let Them Be Wild ...

While feeding the ducks, geese, and swans in and around the lagoon became a tradition for many people over the years, research shows that feeding bread, popcorn, and other "people food" is harmful to wildlife. Lack of proper nutrition may cause a condition known as angel wing. Eating processed foods causes the duck, goose, or swan to lose out on nutrients in grasses and seeds found in their natural habitat. Over time, this loss causes their wings to atrophy, and they can no longer fly. *See photo »*



Enjoy watching these beautiful creatures, but please refrain from feeding them.



Sinnissippi Rose Garden

Built in 1924, Rockford's All-American Rose Selection accredited rose garden, Sinnissippi Rose Garden, contains approximately 2,000 rose bushes of 62 varieties. Sinnissippi is one of the few rose gardens in the United States allowed to show the latest award-winning roses before they reach the market. The garden also features a 32-foot diameter floral clock, built between 1984 and 1987, housing annuals every summer. Come enjoy the beauty of Rockford's prized rose garden!



Forest City Queen & Trolley Transportation

Take a scenic ride to or from Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens via river or rail! Ride the historic Trolley Car 36 or the one-of-a-kind Forest City Queen riverboat to discover the beautiful gardens, sculptures, and scenery in the Sinnissippi Gardens, Eclipse Lagoon, and along the Rock River!



Great for family outings, field trips, and groups! Ride times and departure locations vary. The season runs late spring to early fall—please visit our web site for exact dates and times:
www.rockfordparkdistrict.org/boatandtrolley

Fun facts about Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

- The land now known as Sinnissippi Gardens was purchased in 1909 by the newly formed Rockford Park District.
- Sinnissippi is the Native American word for the Rock River, translated to mean 'clear flowing.'
- The Nicholas Conservatory was Rockford Park District's centennial project; doors opened in October 2011.
- The exhibition house covers 11,000 square feet, and is 52 feet tall at its tallest point. The facility, including offices, growing greenhouse, mechanical areas, classroom, and rental spaces, is 22,000 square feet.
- Temperatures inside the conservatory varies between 65° and 105° F.
- Eleven public sculptures can be seen from the Rock River recreation path. Pick up a "Sculpture Walk" brochure at the Nicholas Conservatory information desk.
- A 142-foot long hand-painted mural by William Hueg graces the lobby walls, and depicts the incredible story of life along the Rock River.
- Art beneath your feet! Terrazzo art flooring in the Nicholas Conservatory lobby titled "River Within," is by artist Linda Beaumont, and portrays the local river system. Much of the floor is made from recycled materials. Can you find the seashells?

A Truly Green Garden

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certified. You will find a variety of green features throughout the facility in items such as furniture, wall coverings, and carpet tiles. Our gift store and outdoor patio gates were crafted by John Verl McNamara, and are made from recycled metal donated by Joseph Behr & Sons.

Garden Gate Gifts

Looking for the perfect gift? Look no further! Garden Gate Gifts, located inside Nicholas Conservatory, is your home for unique and inspired items, specializing in nature and garden-themed gifts and décor.



Membership

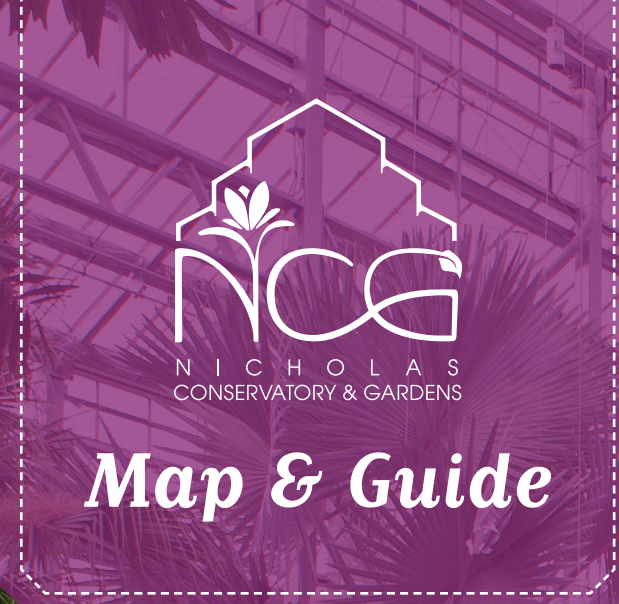
Memberships are available, including individual and family levels, with members enjoying a variety of benefits such as unlimited FREE admission for one year, discounts on classes and gift shop items, and special member events.

Group Tours

The Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens is a year-round group tour and field trip destination! Call 815-987-1654 for information on group rates, workshops, and availability.

Etiquette

- Please silence cell phones and refrain from loud conversations so that all may enjoy the peace and serenity of the gardens.
- Thank you for not using profanity in the gardens.
- For the safety of visitors and plants, please refrain from walking in planting beds.
- Please use caution when walking on the conservatory pathways; surfaces may be wet. It is recommended to wear rubber-soled shoes.
- If you are visiting with children, for their safety, please keep them within sight. No children under the age of 13 are allowed in the gardens without adult supervision.
- No outside food or beverages are allowed in Nicholas Conservatory. Food and beverages are available for purchase from our in-house café.
- Feeding fish and other wildlife is prohibited. For the health of the wildlife, please do not throw coins, or wade in the water features.
- No skateboards, bicycles, wagons, rollerblades/ skates, razor scooters, or retractable 'heely' shoes are allowed.
- Smoking is prohibited within 50 feet of garden structures and facilities.
- Leashed pets are welcome on the outdoor grounds of the gardens. No pets are allowed inside the Nicholas Conservatory.
- **Rockford Park District and Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens are not responsible for lost or stolen items.**



Map & Guide



A facility of the
ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT

- 1
- Points of Interest
1. Bioswale

Monarch Watch certified Monarch Waystation garden

2. Holiday Tree

3. Conservatory Donor Brick Pavilion

4. Green Roof Garden

5. Sightseeing Garden Waterfalls

6. Riverview Terrace

7. Boat Dock

8. Ice Skating Deck

9. Eclipse Lagoon

10. Tea House Garden

11. Waterfall Garden

12. Lagoon Donor Brick Pavilion

13. Sinnissippi Rose Garden and Floral Clock

14. Perennial Garden and Tea House

- A
- Public Art*
- A. "Suspended Motion"

Gene Horvath (1927-1995)

B. "Anemotive Kinetic"

Robert Mangold (b. 1930)

C. "Wildflower" Fountain Sculpture

Jerry Peart (b. 1948)

D. "Dancers"

O.V. (Verne) Shaffer (b. 1928)

E. "Sightseeing" (Photographer)

J. Seward Johnson (b. 1930)

*Pick up a copy of our "Public Art Walking Tour" brochure to view more art along the Rock River


- Other Map Symbols
- Restrooms

Water Fountain

Electric Car Charging Station

Trolley Car 36 Stop

Forest City Queen Riverboat Stop

 We welcome the opportunity to assist guests with disabilities to enjoy ALL our facilities, programs, and services. For assistance and information on accessibility, call 815-987-8800.





Toni's of Winnebago Café

Serving fresh, local, and seasonal salads, sandwiches, soups, snacks, and more!

Hours: Tuesday–Friday; 11:00 am-2:00 pm

Located inside Nicholas Conservatory (behind the children's garden). Open year-round and serving on the Riverview Terrace during the summer.





For more information about the plants, gardens, and other points of interest, look for these **QR codes** to access informative videos, photos, and more. Use your smartphone or other mobile device to scan the code and access the information. If you do not have a QR code reader, visit the app store on your device to download a free QR code reader. Don't have a smart phone or mobile device? All of our videos are available on the Rockford Park District YouTube page.

Connect with us!

