

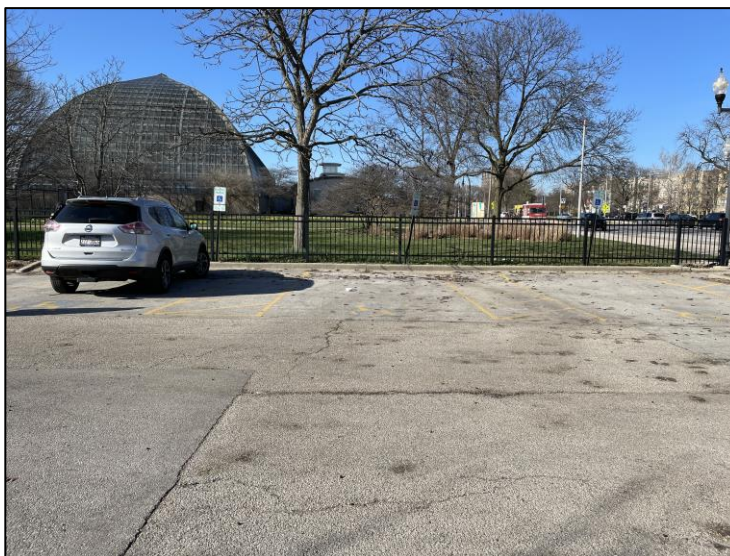
Social Narrative for Visiting Garfield Park Conservatory

Arrival to the Conservatory:

When I arrive to visit Garfield Park Conservatory, I may travel by CTA Green Line, come in a car, or come on a bike. The closest bus route is a couple of blocks away.



If I'm coming from the CTA train, I'll get off at the Conservatory/Central Park stop. From the tracks, I can see the Conservatory, a glass roofed building, so I know which direction to go. There are elevators from the track down to the street level, though check the CTA's website to make sure they aren't currently under construction.



If I'm coming in a car, there is parking in the free visitor parking lot at the corner of Lake Street and Central Park Avenue, with the entrance on Central Park Avenue. There are three accessible spaces in the parking lot.

If there isn't space there or if I prefer, there is also street parking on Central Park Avenue, which is also free. There is a drop-off area at the front of the main entrance if that is more convenient to drop off people before parking.

If I'm coming on a bike, there are bike racks to lock my bike on to and a DIVVY station by the visitor parking lot.



From all arrival areas, there is a paved pathway, with mostly even ground. Leading up to the Conservatory's main entrance, there are two ramps at a slight incline. Neither ramp has a railing. There is also a set of stairs with two series of 4-5 steps separated by a flat landing. These stairs have railings. The uneven pavement here has been spray painted with orange outline to make it easier to avoid.



When approaching the front doors, the middle doors are automatic, operated by pushing a button. There are two sets of doors to go through, each has a different button that opens the door. The outer pairs of doors are not attached to an automatic opener.

Entering the Lobby:

Once I enter the lobby, there are likely going to be a lot of other visitors, potentially some groups of children, security staff and visitor services staff. The restrooms can be found to either side of the lobby, as well as a Gift Shop to buy souvenirs and snacks. There are also a few chairs and benches in case I need to take a rest. There are printed map copies I can take or a QR code I can scan to have the map on my phone. The only restrooms are in the lobby.

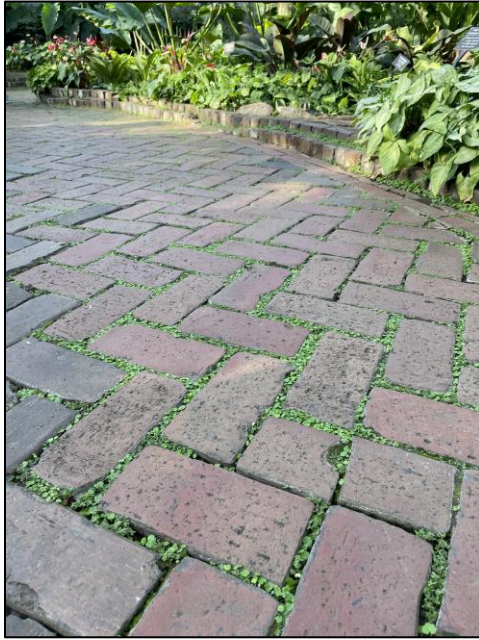


Visitor services staff sit behind a podium to greet visitors and also behind a desk. If you registered before arriving, they will ask you for your registration and can either take your name or scan your reservation QR code. If you need to make a reservation, the staff at the desk can help by asking the questions needed to fill out the reservation form. It is free to visit, and most people stay for around 60 minutes or so.

Depending on the time of year, the lobby may be hot or cold – usually the opposite of what it is outside – so wearing layers is advised. Once you enter the plant areas, it can be hot (75 degrees or higher), humid, and there may be water in puddles on the ground or dripping off leaves. There are coat racks in the colder months in case I want to hang up my coat instead of carrying it around. Most rooms are warm, though some rooms may be colder.

Plant Display Houses and Outside:

Each room has plants from around the world with some growing closer to the ground and others growing close to the high ceilings. With a glass roof, the rooms may be sunny, and on hot days, the fans may be on making a loud noise in the Palm House, the first house I enter from the lobby.



Some pathways have brick, some are flat. If the room was recently watered, there may be puddles on the ground or drops of water from plants. It is OK to touch plants in most rooms, though I won't pick any flowers or leaves.



Going between each room, there is a set of doors that swing both ways. This door may squish my fingers if I hold the edge. They can also be heavier, and I may need help to open them. If I open them far enough, the door will click open to remain open for other visitors. If no one is

behind me, I will close the door to help maintain the temperature differences between rooms. Some rooms do not have these doors, including Sugar from the Sun.



Horticulture Hall has bench and table seating on a first come first served basis. Some days and times there may also be a coffee cart with Monday Coffee company. They may make loud bangs as they make certain drinks. I may choose to eat at the tables or benches.



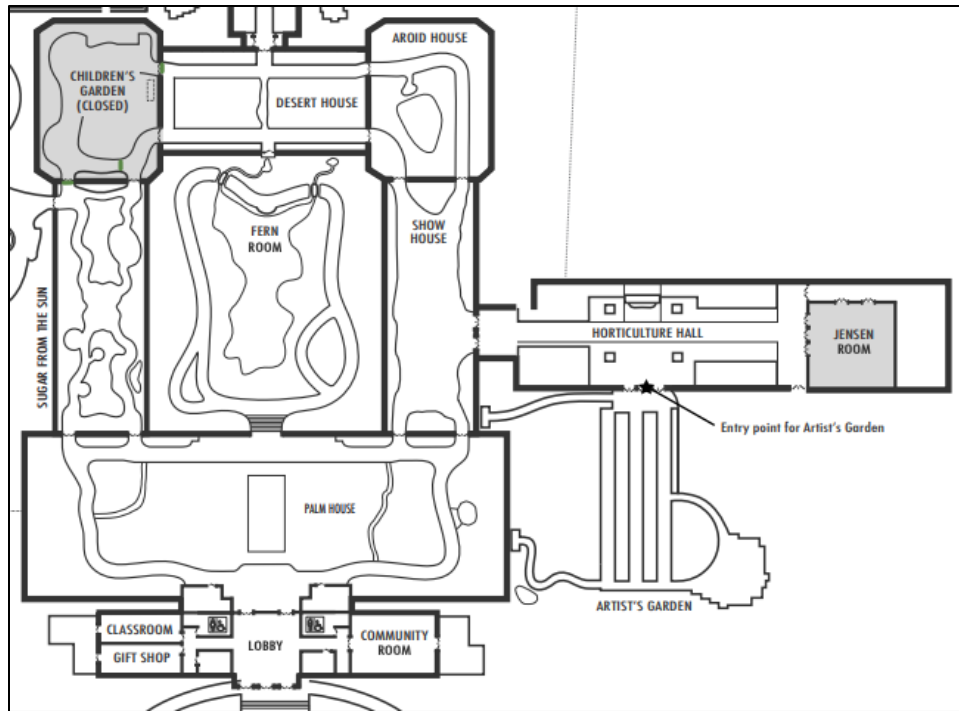
Three rooms have ponds with fish and the Fern Room also has turtles. In Sugar from the Sun the fish pond is visible from the inner pathway closer to the Palm House by the waterfall. I may get little splashes of water on me by the waterfall. The pond in the Fern Room is accessible after going down a staircase with no railing. Halfway around the room there are cut outs in the pathway to allow the waterfall water to go into the pond. These rocky steps may be slippery at times. I can watch the fish and turtles, but not feed them. The Aroid House has a pond accessible by cobblestone pathway with short steps.



The Desert House is a room where I do not want to touch any of the plants because they are sharp and may get stuck in my skin. They also may cause an allergic reaction depending on the plant. I also won't pick up the rocks because they may also have sharp parts mixed in-between the rocks.



From the Desert House, I can make my way outside to the 10 acres of outdoor gardens to explore. There is seating on the Bluestone Terrace. The terrace is made up of smaller flagstones which may be uneven. Outside there are a few pathways made of compacted gravel, cobblestones, poured concrete or limestone screenings. The areas that are accessible to a wheelchair user are available on the map provided in the lobby. The entire outdoor area is fenced in, so when I'm ready to leave, I can go back into the Conservatory through the Bluestone Terrace/Desert House doors or the Sensory Garden/Sugar from the Sun doors (if it's warm outside).



The inside of the Conservatory is a big circle of attached rooms, with the exception of Horticulture Hall and the Fern Room. Horticulture Hall is a long arm off the Show House and the Fern Room is an inner circle located at the back of the Palm House. If I follow the pathways in the rooms, I will eventually find my way back to the lobby to exit.