

Conservatory

CONSERVATORY FACADE AND ROOF RESTORATION

The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) and Architect of the Capitol (AOC) are restoring the deteriorating stone facade and roof of the historic USBG. In a modest addition at the rear of the building, the historic Conservatory exterior remains unchanged from its 1933 appearance. The USBG Conservatory contains 10 gardens and 10 garden rooms under glass, totaling 28,944 square feet of growing space, and also has two exhibit galleries. The USBG is one of the most visited gardens in the United States, welcoming more than 1.2 million visitors annually.

Why is the Conservatory facade and roof under restoration?

Years of weather have led to discoloration, cracking, and deterioration of the facade and decorative features. Water proofing on the roof has failed, leading to water infiltration. What are the benefits of the project? The project will restore damage to the limestone facade and restore the integrity of the roof, preserving the building for decades to come.

What are the impacts of this project on staff and visitors?

The USBG will remain fully open and accessible throughout construction. During construction, the stone facade will be fenced-in, but accessible paths and gardens will remain open. Access to the National Garden will remain available through two entrances on Maryland Avenue SW and Independence Ave SW. Some construction activity will create noise, but will occur before the Conservatory opens and have minimal impact on visitors.

[Click here to view what's in bloom in the Conservatory](#)



Plants appeal to the senses - visitors of all ages are captivated by the sights, smells, sounds,

and tastes that surround them in our Conservatory.

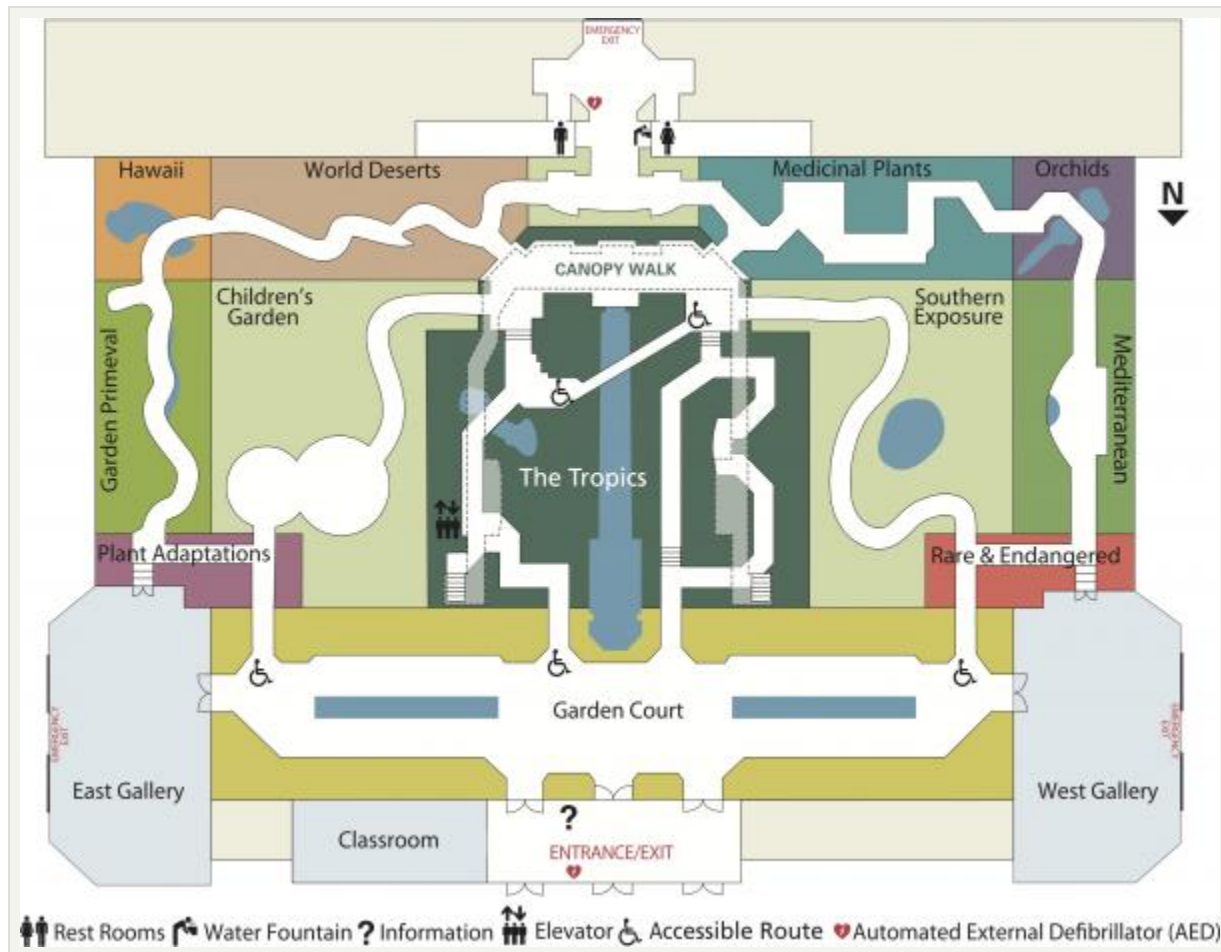
The U.S. Botanic Garden is a museum with a difference. Our artifacts are the living treasures of the plant world. The towering leaves, graceful flowers, and colorful fruits of plants at their peak are displayed artfully throughout the historic Conservatory.

You will find a world of plants and environments in our permanent exhibits and gardens:

- **Garden Court:** The colorful foliage and flowers create a beautiful setting to feature economic and ethno-botanical plants used in products that range from food and beverages, cosmetics, wood, species and more.
- **The Tropics:** A tropical rainforest overtakes an abandoned plantation. The dome rises to 93 feet and has a mezzanine level from which to view the forest.
- **Plant Adaptations:** Shows some of the fascinating adaptations that have evolved in the plant world.
- **Garden Primeval:** A reconstructed Jurassic landscape of ferns and other ancient plant groups that have survived for 150 million years.
- **Hawaii:** A collection plants native to Hawaii, where species have adapted to live in the specialized conditions of the remote volcanic islands.
- **World Deserts:** Filled with succulents, grasses, shrubs and other flowering plants.
- **Medicinal Plants:** Explores the origins of plant medicine and displays a collection of medicinal plants from all over the world.
- **Orchids:** An ever-blooming, ever-changing display of these mythic plants. Our orchid collection numbers about 5,000 specimens, with hundreds of new specimens added each year.
- **Mediterranean:** Explore the plants, culture, and food of the world's Mediterranean climatic regions.

- **Rare and Endangered Species:** A changing display of rare, threatened or endangered plants and habitats.
- **Southern Exposure:** A micro-climate outdoor garden featuring North American plants native to the Southeast, the Southwest and Mexico. **Closed for winter November 11, 2017. Will reopen Spring 2018.**
- **Children's Garden:** an outdoor area where children can play in a garden and learn informally about plants. **Closed for winter November 11, 2018.**
- **West Gallery and East Gallery:** Host seasonal exhibits designed to delight, educate and inspire visitors to become more active stewards of the planet on earth.

Conservatory Map



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