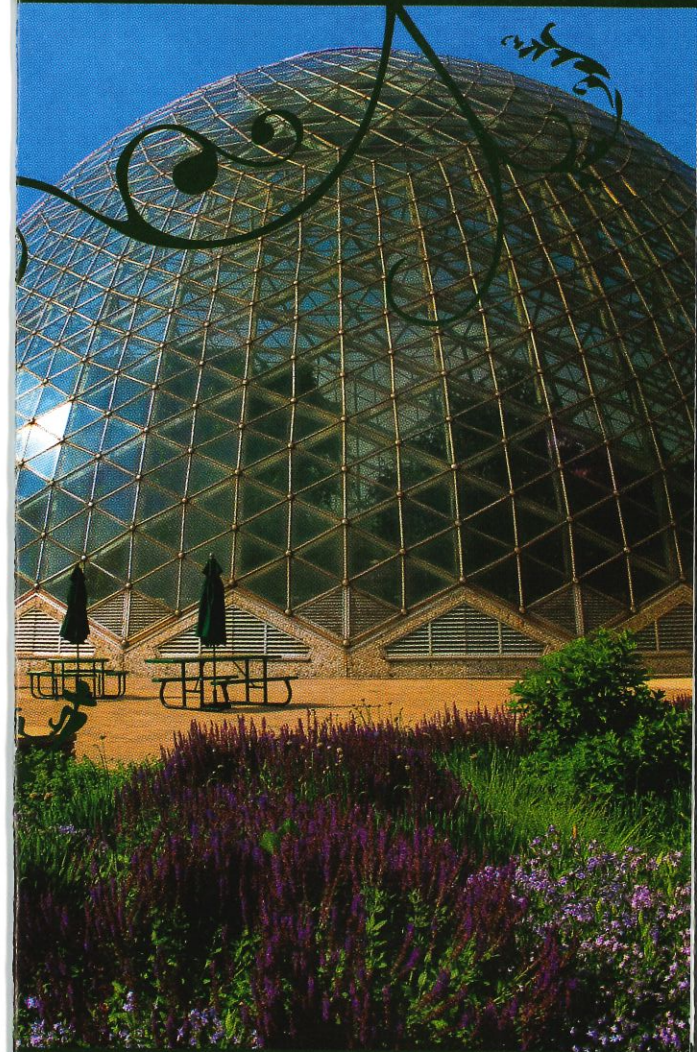




# Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory

## The Domes



Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory  
524 S. Layton Boulevard (27th Street)  
Milwaukee, WI 53215  
414.257.5600  
[www.countyparks.com](http://www.countyparks.com)



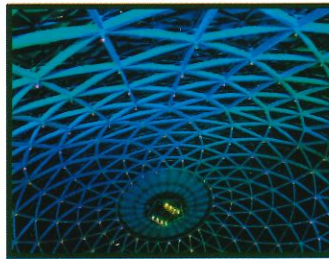
## MILWAUKEE'S LIVING LANDMARK

Experience an icon – one of Milwaukee's top tourist destinations. Visit a desert oasis, a tropical jungle and special floral gardens all at the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. Nearly 5,000 plants from over 100 countries, representing 6 continents, are exhibited under glass in these domes.

Each dome is 140 feet wide by 85 feet high (that's seven stories), offering 15,000 square feet of growing space for plant displays. Each one has approximately 2,200 panes of 1/4" thick wireglass originally imported from Germany. Three distinct climates and plants make up the Conservatory.

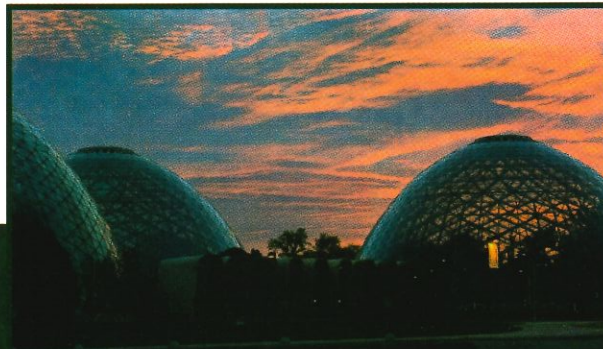


The Domes also host numerous special events throughout the year. Fabulous mini ethnic festivals in the winter and spring celebrate the diverse cultures around Milwaukee and fascinating educational events make learning about our planet fun for the whole family.



Our popular *Music Under Glass* concert series highlights live local music every Thursday night from January through March. A luminous L.E.D. lighting system lights up the night with

colorful halos on each dome, and brilliant "pixels" of light play spectacular light show routines set to music in the Show Dome.







### THE SHOW DOME

The Show Dome offers five seasonal displays each year. The theme of each show dictates the setting, landscape design, plantings, and prop design. These amazing floral exhibits draw visitors with backdrops of color and beauty for photos and special events.



### THE DESERT DOME

The Desert Dome hosts one of the world's finest collections of cacti, succulents, and other desert plants. The plants of Africa, Madagascar, Australia, Asia, South America and North America are all represented with intriguing geometric forms and unique adaptations.

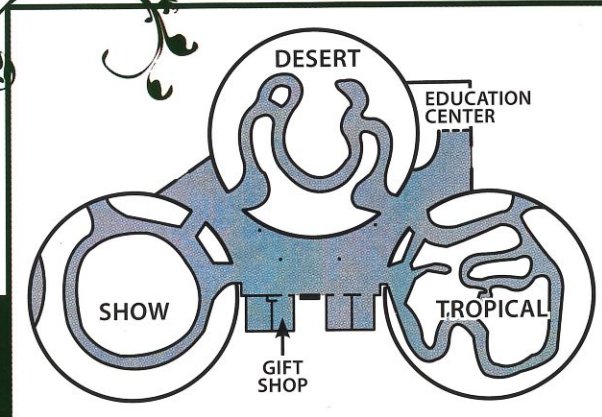


### THE TROPICAL DOME

The jungle-like trails of the Tropical Dome showcase the rich diversity of plants from the rainforests of the world. See flowers, fruits, nuts, spices, orchids, wildlife and the 30 foot waterfall all within this lush paradise.



## ENJOY VISITING MILWAUKEE'S FAVORITE LANDMARK





## HISTORY

Mitchell Park is one of the oldest parks in the Milwaukee County Parks System. The park was named after Milwaukee's respected Mitchell Family.



The original conservatory, built in the traditional glass house style, opened to the public in 1898. The plans were drawn by architects C. Koch and Company.

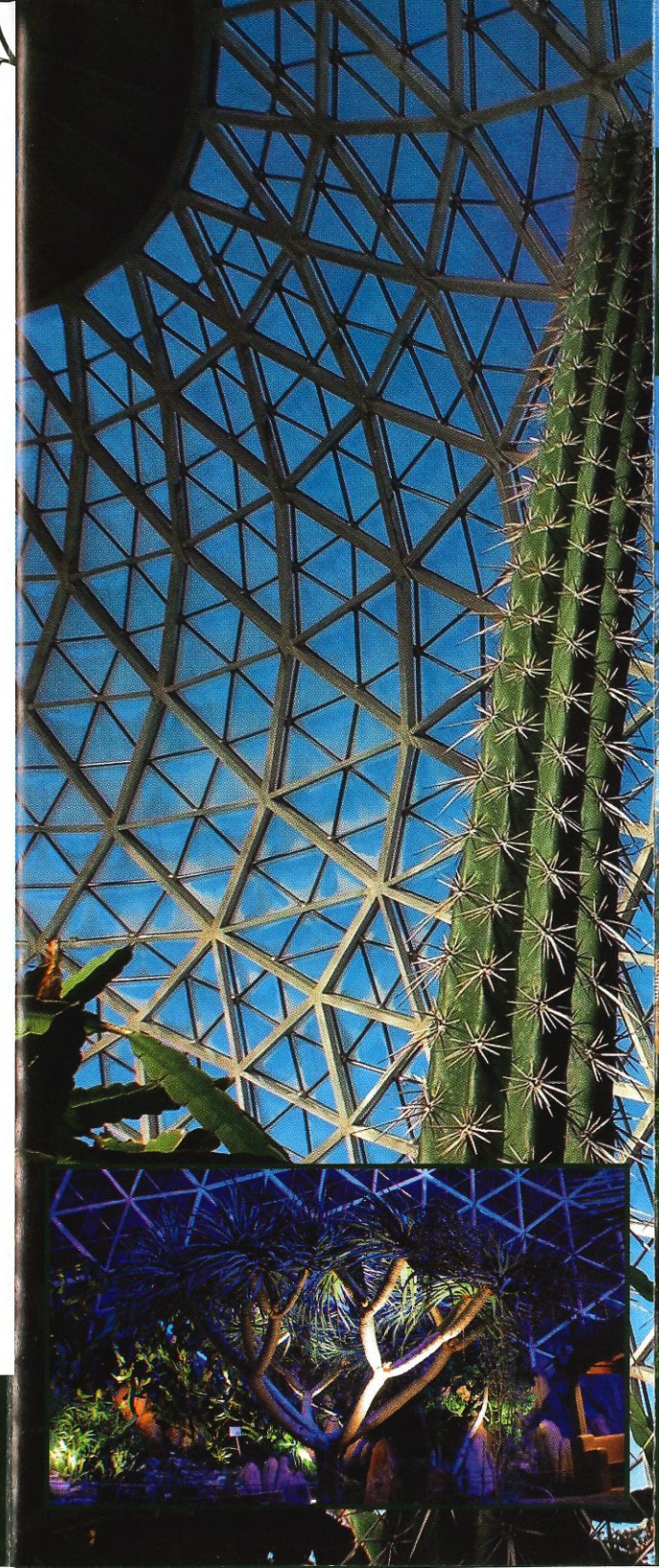
In 1955, the old conservatory was removed to make way for the construction of the new domes. Local architect, Donald Grieb, designed the uniquely shaped domes of the current Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory.

The three domes are the first and only conoidal (bee hive shaped) glass structures to house plants in different climates. The shape allows an excellent angle for efficient solar heating and more height for taller plants. Grieb's award-winning design drew accolades from around the world.

The Show Dome was the first to open in December 1964 with a holiday display. The Tropical Dome opened in January 1966, and the Arid Dome was opened in October 1967.



The Domes were officially dedicated in 1965 by first lady Mrs. Claudia Alta "Lady Bird" Johnson.







### **EDUCATION CENTER**

Education Center offers programming for school groups from grade K5 through college. Scouts, youth groups, and adult clubs with a minimum of 20 individuals are also welcome. To register your group, please contact:

**Domes Education Coordinator**  
414.257.5603  
[www.countyparks.com](http://www.countyparks.com)

### **SPECIAL EVENTS VENUE RENTAL**

The seasonal floral shows and beautiful plant displays of The Domes are a perfect setting for your special evening event. Zilli Hospitality Group is the vendor for the facility. For more information, please contact:

**Zilli Hospitality Group**  
262.547.9447  
[www.zillihospitalitygroup.com](http://www.zillihospitalitygroup.com)

### **FRIENDS OF THE DOMES**

Friends of the Domes is a nonprofit group whose purpose is to support and promote the Conservatory through fund-raising events, educational programs and facility enhancements. For Domes membership and special event information, please contact:

**Friends of The Domes**  
414.257.5608  
[www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org)

### **GIFTS UNDER GLASS GIFT SHOP**

The gift shop has an excellent selection of unique souvenirs, art and gifts. The shop is open daily and is managed by the Friends of the Domes.

**Gifts Under Glass Gift Shop**  
414.257.5606  
[www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org)







**Milwaukee County  
Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture**



**2016 HOURS OF OPERATION**

**January 1<sup>st</sup> – March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday:	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday:	9:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. (Music Under Glass 6:30 - 9:00pm*)
Saturday, Sunday & Major Holidays	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Music Under Glass Concert Dates:**

January 14, 21, 28  
February 4, 11, 18, 25  
March 3, 10

**March 11<sup>th</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>**

Monday – Friday:	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday & Major Holidays	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**2016 ADMISSION RATES**

<b><u>Adults:</u></b>	\$7.00 (age 18 and older)
<b><u>Youth:</u></b>	5.00 (ages 6 – 17)
<b><u>Students:</u></b>	5.00 (with School ID)
<b><u>Disabled Adults:</u></b>	5.00
<b><u>Milwaukee County Seniors with ID:</u></b>	5.00 (age 60+)
<b><u>Children:</u></b>	FREE (age 5 and under)
<b><u>Group Rate (20 or more in group):</u></b>	6.50 (Adults) 4.50 (Youth)
<b><u>Educational Programs:</u></b>	Special Group Rates Apply

**FREE MONDAY MORNINGS:**

Milwaukee County Residents (w/proof of Milwaukee County Residency) with the exclusion of major holidays

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ONLY**





# Storytime at the Domes

Stories! Indoor Activities! Outdoor activities!

Readings by Domes Educator, Paula Zamiatowski

**Mondays October 10 - November 7**

**10:30 AM -11:00 AM**

**OCT 10**

**FUN FALL FLOWERS**

*Chrysanthemum* by K. Henkes

*If you Love Honey* by M. Sullivan

*The Beeman* by L. Krebs and V. Cis

**OCT 17**

**COLORFUL LEAVES**

*Bear Sees Colors* by K. Wilson

*Leaf Hunt* by S. Metzger

*There was an Old Woman Who Ate Some Leaves* by L. Colandro

**OCT 24**

**TERRIFIC TREES**

*This Tree Counts* by A. Formento

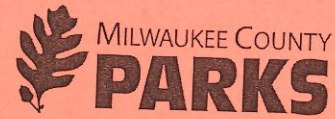
*Room for Bear* by C. Gavin

*Little Tree* by L. Long

Afterwards, we will become trees, by playing out the roles of a tree's root system, branches and leaves!







# Exit Survey – We want to hear from you!

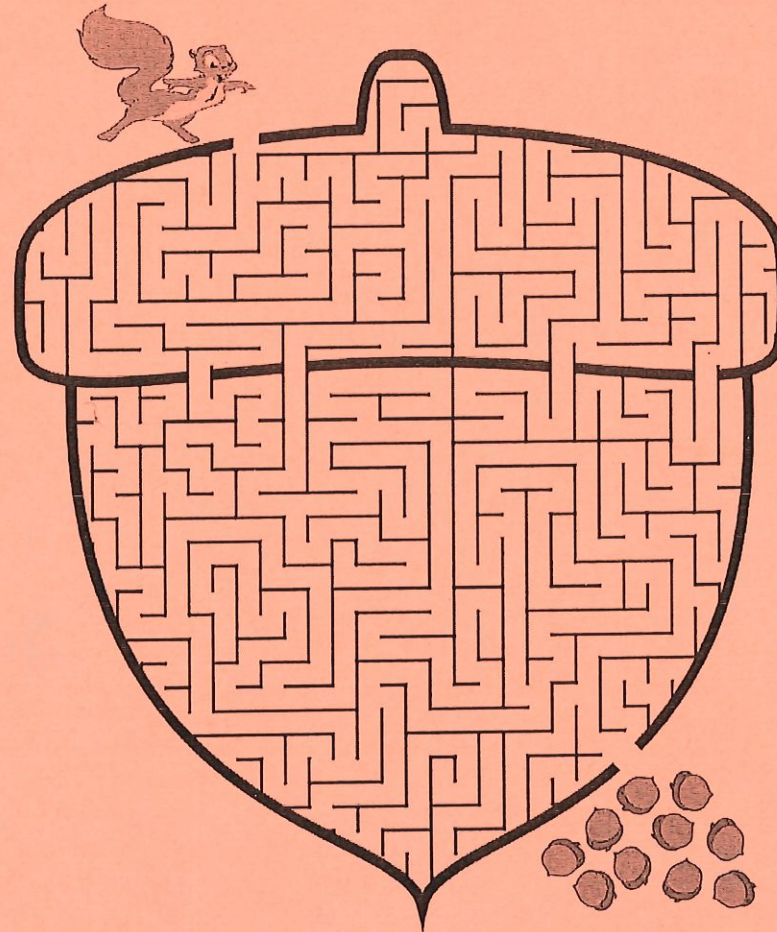
We value your comments about your experience today. The information you provide will be used to improve our facility and programming. Thank you!

- 1 What day of the week and time did you arrive? S M T W T H F S – a.m. or p.m.?
- 2 Have you ever visited The Domes?  
yes .....  no, first visit today..
- 3 How did you FIRST hear about The Domes?  
please choose ONE:  
 passing by.....   
 newspaper.....   
 recommended by family / friend.....   
 social media.....   
 tourist center / information.....   
 website.....   
 other specify \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 What was your reason for visiting today?  
 passing by / accidental.....   
 recommended by family / friend.....   
 sightseeing.....   
 professional / related to work.....   
 to see a particular exhibit or event.....   
 school project / field trip.....   
 other specify \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Did you find the map/brochure guide helpful?  
 Yes.....   
 No.....   
 I didn't know about a self-guided brochure
- 6 What did you LIKE about your visit?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 What would you IMPROVE about your visit?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Did you enjoy the 3 scavenger hunt sheets?  
 Yes.....   
 No.....   
 I was unaware of any sheets.....
- 9 Would you recommend The Domes to others?  
 yes.....  no.....
- 10 Would you visit again in the future?  
 yes.....  no.....
- 11 What was your age at your last birthday?
- 12 Gender  
 female.....  male.....
- 13 How long did you visit today?  
 \_\_\_\_\_





Help the squirrel through the maze to find its acorns



**Storytime Returns on October 3rd!**

**Visit the Education Center every Monday morning at 10:30am!**

October 3<sup>rd</sup>: FUN FALL FLOWERS! *Chrysanthemum* by K. Henkes, *If you Love Honey* by M. Sullivan, *The Beeman* by L. Krebs and V. Cis

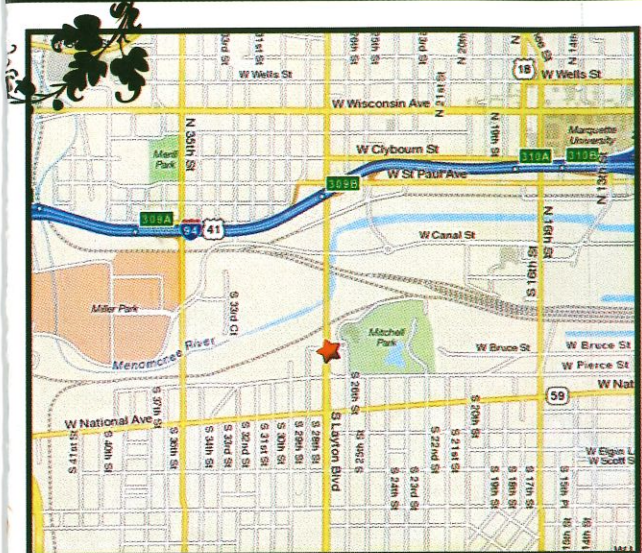
October 10<sup>th</sup>: COLORFUL LEAVES! *Bear Sees Colors* by K. Wilson, *Leaf Hunt* by S. Metzger, *There was an Old Woman Who Eat Some Leaves* by L. Colandro





## Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory

524 S. Layton Boulevard (27th Street)  
Milwaukee, WI 53215  
414.257.5600  
[www.countyparks.com](http://www.countyparks.com)



### Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Saturday/Sunday/Holidays: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Open 365 days a year. Extended winter hours.

### OUR MISSION

To provide the residents and their visitors a horticultural showcase featuring five changing floral shows per year, examples of tropical and arid flora displayed as naturally as possible, educational opportunities, cultural programs, horticultural information, and the protection of certain rare and endangered species.





## MITCHELL PARK HORTICULTURAL CONSERVATORY 2015 SHOW & SPECIAL EVENT SCHEDULE

Schedule subject to change. Please call 414.257.5600 to confirm events or visit our website at: [countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com) or [milwaukeedomes.org](http://milwaukeedomes.org)

### 2015 FLORAL SHOWS

January 17 – March 15	A Space Odyssey (Trains)
March 28 – May 25	That's Amore! (Spring)
June 6 – September 13	Practically Perfect in Every Way (Summer)
September 26 – November 8	"Clueless" (Fall)
November 21 – January 3, 2016	Gingerbread Land (Holiday)

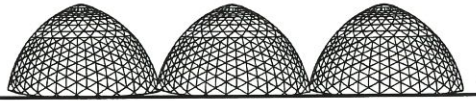
### MUSIC UNDER GLASS CONCERTS

January 8 – March 19  
Weekly Thursday Nights ONLY  
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

### 2015 SPECIAL EVENTS

January 17	Poland Under Glass Festival This mini festival offers visitors a glimpse of the culture, food and traditions of Poland.	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	2000+
January 24-25	Chinese New Year's Celebration Celebrate the Chinese New Years in a traditional way recognizing customs with displays & programs.	Sat: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Sun: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm	3500+
January 31 & February 1	Collectible All-Scale Lobby Train Exhibits Displays of different scale train sets and layouts by hobbyists and train enthusiasts complimenting the Train Show	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	1000
February 14	Hearts Under Glass (Valentines)*	6:30 pm – 9:30 pm	800+
February 21	Turkey Under Glass Festival Learn more about Turkey through dance, food and interactive displays.	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	1800+
February 22	STEAM ENGINE & GARDENS & GEARS STEAMPUNK DAY Enjoy & reminisce the lost age of steam trains and the eclectic mix of costumed steam punk characters & vendors offering a one of a kind gadget filled garden party!	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	1600+
February 27	Restaurants Under Glass* Milwaukee's 20 top restaurants offer samples of their menus for tasting. Great night out!	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	900+
March 7	Germany Under Glass Festival Enjoy the tastes, culture and sounds of Germany, Prosit!	9:00 am – 5:00 pm	3400
March 15	Irish Family Day A mini ethnic festival showcasing the culture, dance and food of Ireland.	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	2000
March 21	Dare to be Aware Fair A holistic health fair featuring alternative and natural ways to a healthier lifestyle.	9:00 am – 5:00 pm	1100+
March 29	Very Fairy Princess Day Join us for an enchanted visit & experience the magical wonder of the small world of these mystical creatures. Wear your best fairy wings or costume & WIN a prize!	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	2000+
April 18	Green Living Festival Celebrate our planet with earth-friendly activities, resilient living tips, samples, food and animals!	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	1200+
May 10	Mother's Day Jewelry is Fun Show*	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	
August 14-16	Mitchell Park Domes Art Festival* The Cultural Event for the summer showcasing juried fine artists in & around the Domes.	Hours vary daily	
Sept 19 & 20	Orchid Show & Sale Orchid displays, exhibits and programs showcasing this amazing exotic plant.	Sat: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Sun: 9:00 – 4:00 pm	1000+





# MITCHELL PARK DOMES

## FAVORITE FACTS ABOUT THE DOMES

**DESIGN:** Donald Grieb, a local architect, won the design competition and construction began in 1959.

**SIZE:** 1 acre under glass; each dome is 140 ft. across by 85 ft. high (7 stories) from the lobby floor; 750,000 cubic ft.

**SHAPE:** The world's only conoidal (not geodesic) glass house; the shape allows a better angle for solar heating and more height for tall trees.

**GLASS:** Approximately 2,200 panes in each Dome; 1/4" thick wireglass originally imported from Germany.

**ANNUAL ATTENDANCE:** More than 250,000 people from around the world, including 20,000 students, visit the Domes annually, and 10,000 go through the Education Center.

**AGE:** The Show Dome opened in Dec. 1964; the Tropical Dome in Feb. 1966; the Desert Dome in Oct., 1967. The facility was dedicated by First Lady, Mrs. Ladybird Johnson.

**RAREST COLLECTION:** Madagascar collection in the Desert Dome.

**TALLEST TREE:** The Kapok, *Ceiba pentandra*, located in the center of Tropical Dome grows 25 ft. annually!

**WILDLIFE:** 8 species of tropical birds, frogs, fish, and lizards live in the Tropical Dome. Beneficial insects and toads live in all three domes.

**WATERING:** The plants are watered by hand every day. City water is pumped in to a water tank and then heated. The Tropical Dome also makes use of an extensive misting system.

**PEST CONTROL:** No pesticides are used on the plant material. Beneficial insects and toads eliminate harmful pests.

**HEATING:** 4 one million BTU low-pressure boilers fueled with natural gas with a fuel oil backup system heat the complex.

**COOLING:** A fan system around the base and at the top of each Dome keeps them ventilated. A complete air change can be made in 3 1/2 minutes.

**GETTING TO THE TOP:** A maintenance elevator is suspended inside the top of each Dome and can be lowered to within a few feet of the floor.

**"Gifts Under Glass" GIFT SHOP:** Operated by Friends of the Domes to generate funding for educational programming.

**STAFF:** 5 full time horticulturists, as well as an interpretive educator and support staff care for the Conservatory collection, outdoor gardens, and green roof.





#### DOMES MISSION

To provide visitors a horticultural showcase featuring five changing floral shows per year; examples of tropical and arid flora displayed as naturally as possible; educational opportunities; cultural programs; horticultural information; and the protection of certain rare and endangered species.

#### INTERPRETIVE EDUCATIONAL THEMES

Tropical Dome: Plants and people surviving together. (economically useful plants)

Desert Dome: A different kind of home. (exotic plant adaptations from around the world)

Show Dome: The garden - a model for the earth. (horticultural influence on plants)

#### FRIENDS OF THE DOMES MISSION

FOD is a support group whose purpose is to enhance projects and programs in Milwaukee's Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory – "The Domes".

**The Friends of the Domes welcome you to the Conservatory. Please consider a membership for yourself, your family, or as a gift. Perks include admission," Gifts Under Glass" Gift Shop discounts and a subscription to the Friends Newsletter.**

**Sign up today at the "Gifts Under Glass" Gift Shop or on our website  
[www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org) and support our efforts.**

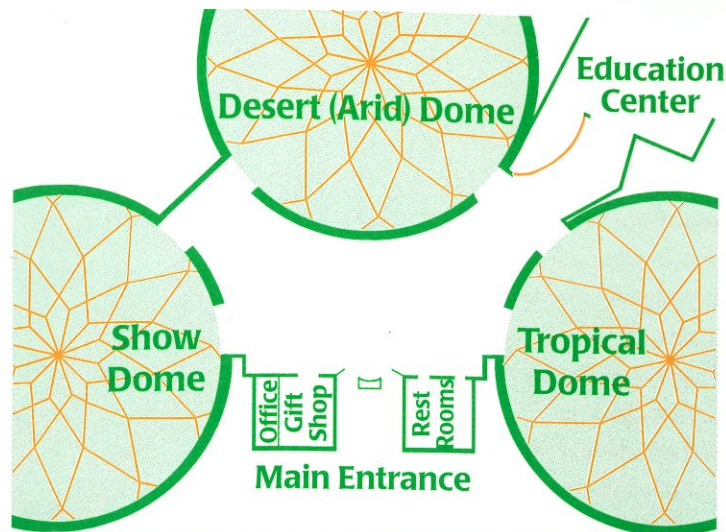
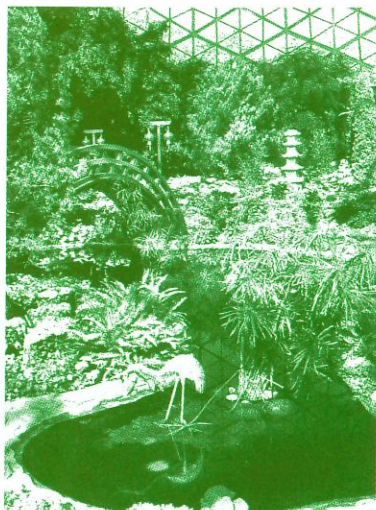
PRINTING COURTESY of FRIENDS OF THE DOMES

**MITCHELL PARK HORTICULTURAL CONSERVATORY  
524 S. LAYTON BLVD. MILWAUKEE, WI 53215  
OPEN DAILY  
414-257-5600 | MILWAUKEEDOMES.ORG**



## About the Show Dome...

This Dome may be anything from a Chinese garden to a Victorian park! Five seasonal floral displays are done yearly. Our annual winter garden railroad show is a favorite of thousands of families and hobby enthusiasts. The theme of each show dictates setting, landscape design and prop design. Each show requires extensive long-term planning while the actual changing takes place in 2 weeks or less. Thousands of individual seasonal plants are used in each show. Varieties such as lilies, poinsettias, azaleas, chrysanthemums, tulips, cyclamen, geraniums and hundreds of others are featured. Often, special events and displays are planned based on the creative floral show themes.



The Conservatory was built to exhibit plant collections from the arid as well as tropical regions of the world. In conjunction with the Show Dome, it affords visitors an opportunity to observe exotic and, in some cases, rare and endangered species growing in naturalistic settings. Come, stroll along the winding paths past a waterfall, lagoon and an oasis.

Where else can you travel around the world without leaving Milwaukee? A Brief History....

The Park Commission purchased land for Mitchell Park in 1889. As the first permanently named park, Mitchell is the oldest park in the system. The original Conservatory, built in the traditional glass house style, opened to the public in 1899. The site was further enhanced in 1904 with exterior plans that included fountains and an extensive parterre garden, better known as the Sunken Gardens. The tradition of flowers continued as the old Conservatory was razed in 1959 to make way for the new construction of the three conoidal-shaped Domes that presently house the botanical collections. This award winning and unique design by Donald Grieb drew accolades from around the world.

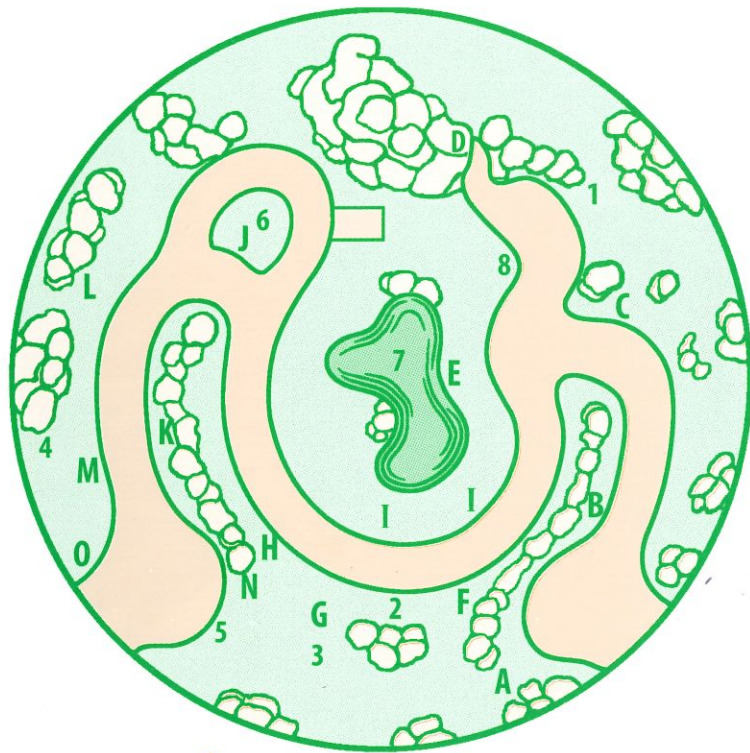
In 2008, after an extensive restoration of the facility along with the installation of a new nighttime LED lighting system, the Conservatory reopened with a gala hosting thousands of enthusiastic visitors! The movement for a sustainable and energy efficient greenhouse facility, an Urban Agricultural project and an educational program that reaches out to the community continue to keep the Domes as an ever-evolving attraction and Milwaukee icon.



# The DOMES

*Milwaukee's Living Landmark*





### About the Arid Dome...

The desert of the American Southwest as well as Africa, Madagascar, South America, and Mexico are represented in this Dome. A world class collection of cacti and succulents thrives in a natural setting complete with an oasis of palms and grasses. The Dome is divided geographically into Old World and New World growing areas. Visit the Sonoran (1), Northern Mexico (2), and even mountainous South American (3) desert plantings. Enjoy the Madagascar (4) collection, where endangered and unusual plant forms find sanctuary, and the South African (5) and Canary Island (6) collections—where you may just see some familiar plants. The oasis (7) area is used for displays and plant groups that don't fit into the other geographies. You'll find an oasis and a crop garden (8) in this Dome. We hope your desert experience will be one to remember!

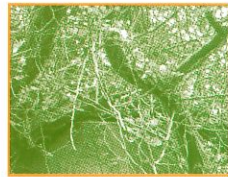
## Desert (Arid) Dome



A-Pereskia Vine



B-Woolly Torch Cactus



C-Elephant Tree



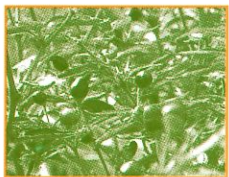
D-Bougainvillea Vine



E-Ponytail Palm



F-Golden Barrel Cactus



G-Wild Chilies



H-Welwitschia



I-Date Palm Trees



J-Dragon Tree



K-Jade Tree



L-Alluaudia



M-Opercularia Tree



N-Big Tooth Euphorbia



O-Periwinkle Vinca



### About the Tropical Dome...

The humid air, bird calls and earthy aroma let you know you've entered a world far from Wisconsin. Over 450 species of tropical plants can be found in this small area of less than 15,000 sq. feet. This corresponds to the kind of diversity that might be found in many tropical regions. It is estimated that 50% of all species of plants and animals live in the tropical forests, an area that comprises only about 7% of the land surface of the earth. Our microcosm of the rainforest features orchids, lush foliage, economic plants and a beautiful waterfall. As you tour the Tropical Dome, take care to look up, as well as from side to side. In addition to the plants, there are several species of birds, fish and even a world of insects living here.

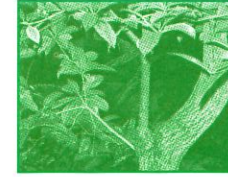
## Tropical Dome



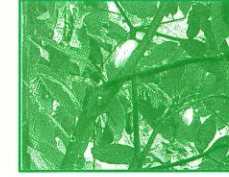
C-Curare Vine



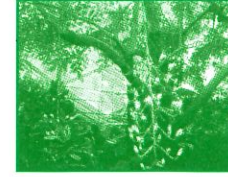
D-True Mahogany



E-Chicle Tree



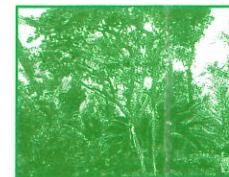
F-Cacao Tree



G-Sausage Tree



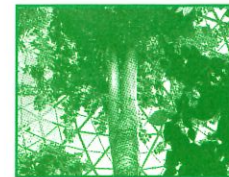
H-Variegated Banana



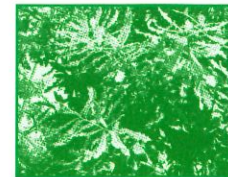
I-Banyan Tree



J-Vanilla Vine Orchid



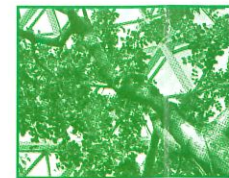
K-Kapok Tree



L-Macadamia Nut Tree



M-Sour Orange Tree



N-Carob Tree



O-Rangoon Creeper



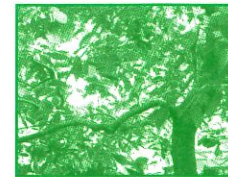
P-Black Pepper Vine



Q-Pomello Tree



A-Ambarella Tree



B-Paraguay Tea Tree