



LAURITZEN  
GARDENS

**Lauritzen Gardens Contact**

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100 Bancroft Street • Omaha, NE 68108

**REJUVENATING FOR THE FUTURE: LAURITZEN GARDENS  
ANNOUNCES TWO-PHASE PLAN TO ENHANCE THE LANDMARK  
MARJORIE K. DAUGHERTY CONSERVATORY**

(OMAHA): Starting May 13, 2024, the Marjorie K. Daugherty Conservatory will undergo its first temporary closure for major enhancements since the iconic building opened almost ten years ago.

The 17,500 sq. ft. building's temperate and tropical houses, built to showcase plants that can't overwinter outside in Nebraska, has incredibly complex internal systems that work together to create an environment for plants to flourish. This two-phase project will allow the garden the opportunity to upgrade these systems to the latest in technology and to diversify the individual plant communities within the conservatory's collection.

"This renovation is one of many projects that will lead to transformational growth for Lauritzen Gardens, in our pursuit to be a world-class botanical garden," said Ennis Anderson, CEO of Lauritzen Gardens. "We are excited about how these improvements will enhance the Marjorie K. Daugherty Conservatory experience for our plant collections and guests for years to come."

Working alongside project partners HDR, Inc., Kiewit Building Group, and TRI Project Solutions, first-phase improvements to the conservatory will include larger fans, new shade cloths, and upgrades to the LED lighting system and the Argus climate control system.

"Through updates to operational systems, our goal is to improve the conservatory's internal environment so that our already thriving plant collection can grow bigger and better," said the garden's Chief Operating Officer Victoria Schoell-Schafer. "While we will miss being able to share the conservatory's collection with the public during the renovation, this project is an investment in the garden's future and we look forward to the expanded palette of plants that our guests can experience and learn about upon its completion."

After the completion of phase one, the Marjorie K. Daugherty Conservatory will reopen to the public on November 22, 2024 for the garden's holiday show Merry & Bright and its Bright Night events. A second temporary closure for a ground-level phase, including soil improvements and the establishment of new and more diverse plant specimens, is expected to begin in January 2025.

The existing plant collection will be protected as much as possible, with valuable specimens relocated to other garden areas or taken off display and housed in the Claire M. Hubbard Plant Production Center.

Throughout the duration of the project, the woodland trail, the garden's century-old bur oak forest, and J's Coffee will also be closed to the public. The visitor and education center, gift shop, and café will remain open.

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#### **About Lauritzen Gardens**

*[Lauritzen Gardens](http://www.lauritzengardens.org) is a 100-acre botanical garden, located in Omaha, Nebraska, whose mission is to provide thoughtful, ecologically-minded practices and to curate accessible, educational, and inspirational experiences that enhance lives. The garden aims to be a vibrant place for the community to learn about and connect to the natural world and the organization strives to impact every visitor through the beauty of its horticultural displays, enriching educational programs, entertaining special events, or via its research to conserve the endangered plants of the Great Plains. For more information, visit [lauritzengardens.org](http://www.lauritzengardens.org).*

#### **Media Images**

*Photo credit listed in file names, if applicable.*

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