

CHICAGO OASIS



The Greenest Show on Earth

Garfield Park Conservatory ~ Centennial 2008 *By the Numbers*

100 years old in 2008

12 acres

8 indoor display houses under glass on **2.8** acres

3 outdoor gardens on **9.5** acres

8 water features, including a lagoon and prairie waterfall

3,000-square-foot outdoor labyrinth in the classical (Cretan) **7**-circuit style

16 yellow lily pads in the “Persian Pool,” created by Dale Chihuly for the Aroid House

Plants

700 species of plants indoors

200 species of plants outdoors

150 species of ferns in the Fern Room

1 dozen varieties of bananas, including a dwarf banana

500 species of cacti and succulents in the Desert House

35 palms, plus 65 other species of trees

1 double coconut palm – the largest growing under glass in the world

Programs (2006 figures)

1,050 programs, workshops, classes, school visits, etc.

12 percent of all field trip visitors are preschoolers

400 teachers attend training workshops

100 kids participate in the Green Teens (jobs training) and Flower House Kids (after school) programs

20 teens hired for public art project

Programs (continued)

21 sponsored gardens: **2** community, **2** parkway, **1** garden plaza and **16** container gardens (plus **2** community gardens in the planning stages)

600,000 bagged tulip bulbs distributed to area organizations over the last three years

476 jars of honey harvested from our working beehives and sold in the gift shop

624 people served by the Plant Clinic

Public Events and Exhibits

4 seasonal displays: Spring Flower Show, Summer Tropical Show, Fall Flower Show and Winter Flower Show

2 major public events annually – Chocolate Fest and County Fair – plus several special events

700 poinsettias fill the Conservatory during the winter holiday

6,547 visitors to Chocolate Fest in 2007

575,000 people visited “Chihuly in the Park” exhibit in 2001-2002

34 monumental and playful fiberglass artworks in “Niki in the Garden exhibit” in 2007

\$4.75 million permanent exhibition, “Sugar from the Sun,” opening in 2008

People

200,000 visitors from all **50** states and **34** foreign countries last year

30 percent of visitors are from Chicago’s West Side

1,100 Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance members

450 volunteers

61 staff, including Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, Chicago Park District and contract employees