



Krohn Conservatory and its site are loaded with history. This architecturally significant structure just celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2008, but greenhouses have been part of the Eden Park landscape since long before Krohn was built.

Eden Park's first greenhouses, built in the 1880s, were used strictly for growing plants. In 1902, a new greenhouse designed for public displays was opened. The following year, the display greenhouse held a chrysanthemum show, and the Park Board decided to maintain a consistent change of plants and flowers to keep displays new and attractive to visitors. As a result, more than 300,000 people visited the greenhouse in its first two years.

In 1930, the Park Board decided to replace its old greenhouse buildings with a modern plant conservatory. The new building was designed in the Art Deco style, the leading design movement of the 1920s & '30s, and was built of aluminum and glass.

The Eden Park Conservatory opened to the general public on Sunday, March 26, 1933. That December, the Conservatory began a holiday tradition of exhibiting its Educational Christmas Tree, decorated with ornaments made of natural materials and crafted by Conservatory horticulturists. On April 30, 1937, the Board officially named the new conservatory the Irwin M. Krohn Conservatory, in honor of Irwin Krohn's 25 years of service on the Board of Park Commissioners.

Since its construction the building has undergone many improvements in order to house more displays, serve visitors better, and be more accessible. In 1939, an addition was built to hold the Desert House, where different types of cacti, succulents, and blooming desert plants grow. In the 1970s, the gift shop was built, and the entrance to the building was enlarged. The Terrace Garden, the octagonal garden between the parking lot and Eden Park Drive, was planted in 1993. In 1995, the Bonsai display was opened, thanks to the generosity of the Bonsai Society of Greater Cincinnati. Krohn was renovated again in 2004, and an addition was built for the Orchid House, which provides a naturalistic setting for many different varieties of orchids.

Today Krohn Conservatory houses a collection of more than 1,000 different species of plants in six permanent display areas. The Tropical House and Palm House are like mini rainforests, with ferns, chocolate, vanilla, and guava in the Tropical House, and palm trees, vines, and a 20-foot waterfall in the Palm House.

The Floral Display House has a collection of citrus trees and changing seasonal exhibits. The Bonsai Collection houses beautiful tiny trees, many of them in peak seasonal color. The Orchid House, between the Bonsai and Desert Houses, displays many species of orchids in perfect bloom. The horticulturists at Krohn lead educational programs, and the gardeners and designers help to create floral displays for Krohn's five annual Flower Shows and the Butterfly Show.

Krohn Conservatory continues to delight thousands of visitors each year with permanent displays of more than 3,500 species of exotic plants from around the world, a rain forest waterfall, and seasonal treats like the annual springtime Butterfly Show. Krohn offers visitors wireless internet service and an outdoor terrace.

Krohn Conservatory also hosts plant societies and special events throughout the year. It's one of the major attractions of Eden Park, for both its architecture and its botanical displays. It remains a popular rental venue for weddings, business meetings, and parties, and its spectacular annual shows have become Cincinnati traditions.

Krohn Conservatory is open 365 days of the year from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and has extended hours during special shows and events. Admission is free, but donations are welcome, as are volunteers. Some special events, such as “The Butterfly Show,” do charge admission.

The Visitor Center for Cincinnati Parks is located in the lobby of Krohn Conservatory. The Visitor Center receives and responds to inquiries about Cincinnati Parks as well as Krohn Conservatory, and makes Parks-related brochures available in the lobby kiosk. The Visitor Center is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, please call (513) 421-5707 or (513) 352-3380 (TTY).