

**From:** Marcus Duck <duckmarc@msu.edu>  
**Subject:** 2011 Rockford Park District Glass House Horticulturist Position - Nicholas Conservatory  
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**To:** Marcus Duck <duckmarc@msu.edu>



The Rockford Park District, the second largest municipal park system in Illinois, is seeking a Glass House Horticulturist for the Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens which is currently under new construction.

The Nicholas Conservatory will be a 22,000 square foot, Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) rated facility with an exhibition house of 10,800 square feet and a supporting production greenhouse. Maximum height of the Conservatory is 52 feet with significant water features inside and outside of the facility. The Nicholas Conservatory will be a prominent feature within the 39 acre Sinnissippi Gardens on the banks of the Rock River. The vision for the Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens is to provide a place where the public will be able to learn about the world of plants and how they play an important role in our daily lives. It will provide a year-round exhibition of beautiful tropical trees, plants, and flowers. The Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens will be open to the public and will be available for special events and meetings. In addition, educational seminars and programs will be presented on a variety of topics focused on the environment, beautification, and recycling. The Conservatory will also be made available to local and regional schools for student field trips. Significant completion of the new construction is scheduled for May of 2011 and opening of the facility is scheduled for the fall of 2011.

The Glass House Horticulturist will be responsible for the care and maintenance of all the tropical plants and gardens at the Nicholas Conservatory. The Glass House Horticulturist will design, arrange and procure floral displays as well as plan and coordinate the construction of exhibits and displays. Using established human resource processes and procedures, this individual will supervise personnel at the Conservatory including one full time employee, seasonal employees and volunteers. The Glass House Horticulturist will assist with the development of training materials and educational programs, will write columns for newsletters as needed, and will be an effective public speaker. The Glass House Horticulturist will develop and maintain working relationships with other Gardens, partners and organizations to promote the Conservatory and Rockford Park District programs.

The ideal candidate will have a Bachelors degree in Horticulture, Botany, Biology, Landscape Design, or a related field and a minimum of four years of relevant work experience. Coursework and/or work experience in floriculture, horticulture, and tropical plant nursery activities is highly desired. Knowledge and experience with tropical plant material and the operation of a conservatory (or a similar facility) are required.

Individuals interested in this position must be willing to adjust their work schedule to accommodate changing priorities including: early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays. Travel in and out of town will also be required. The Glass House Horticulturist reports directly to the Manager of Parks and Horticulture and will work closely with Nicholas Conservatory Programming Staff.

To apply for this position, to view the complete job description and to learn more about the Nicholas Conservatory go to:

<http://www.rockfordparkdistrict.org>

For questions, please contact Kim O'Malley, Human Resources Representative/Volunteer Coordinator at [kimomalley@rockfordparkdistrict.org](mailto:kimomalley@rockfordparkdistrict.org).

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Johanna Oosterwyk  
DC Smith Greenhouse Manager  
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences  
University of Wisconsin