



Reopening of the Outdoor Gardens

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 6/16/2020

Please contact us at 608-246-4550 or olbrichinformation@cityofmadison.com if you have a question that is not answered below.

Can I still rent a room or host a wedding at Olbrich?

Yes, if all those in attendance comply with [CDC guidelines](#) and restrictions set forth in the [Forward Dane Plan](#) by Public Health Madison & Dane County.

When will the Bolz Conservatory reopen?

We do not yet have a firm reopen date for the Bolz Conservatory. The narrow pathways and enclosed area of this space present unique challenges for reopening. We are hard at work on a comprehensive plan to safely welcome back visitors to the Conservatory, and will share more information as soon as we have it.

When will the Gift Shop and Library reopen?

These spaces are both enclosed areas with tight corners, leaving little room for physical distancing. Staff are working on ways to allow more room for physical distancing, and we hope to reopen one or both of these spaces soon. Stay tuned!

Can I still purchase a photo permit for engagement/maternity/etc. photos?

Yes, but only for times outside of our current public hours. Available times are 5:45 – 6:45 pm nightly and for one hour between 9 – 11 am on Saturdays and Sundays. Applications must be approved in advance and regular rules and fees apply. Olbrich is closed to the public during these times, so unless you apply in advance, staff will not be onsite to provide access. The need for a permit is based on what you are doing (using the gardens as a studio/backdrop for posed photography), not who is taking the photos (friend, family, or professional). Review our [Photo Policy webpage](#). Download a [Photo Permit Application](#).

Are Sunday Guided Garden Strolls still happening?

No. Until further notice, free Guided Garden Strolls are canceled. We hope to be able to offer a version of this programming again later in the summer or fall.

Can I bring non-member guests with me on Member Mondays?

Yes. Feel free to bring along guests on Member Mondays according to your membership level. You can see how many guests your membership includes [here](#).

Will membership extensions/refunds be offered for the time you were closed?

All questions pertaining to membership can be directed to [Elizabeth Spry](#), *Membership & Development Associate*, at 608-246-4724.

Is there still a place to eat food onsite?

Eating food within the gardens is prohibited, but there are white picnic tables on the patio near the front entrance available for sitting and eating. Some tables have been removed to provide more space between each table.

Is the new Learning Center open? Can I go on the rooftop deck?

No. The new Frautschi Family Learning Center is closed to the public until further notice. We are still planning on holding a grand opening event at some point in the future when it is safe to do so. The rooftop deck is currently closed to the public while it is being worked on by our Horticulture staff. We plan to open it up as soon as we are able to.