



# Franklin Park Conservatory Ameriflora

Columbus, Ohio



The original specification for the Franklin Park Conservatory's 80,000 square-foot expansion and renovation project was a 3-coat paint system. After months of marketing, construction meetings, and downright persistence, the specification was amended to hot-dip galvanizing with a 2-part paint system. The project included two new plant houses with several distinct environments within them— a desert room, a tropical rain forest, a Himalayan room, a Pacific Island water garden, and an orchid display. The varieties of temperatures, humidity levels, and herbicide exposure make this conservatory a candidate for extreme corrosion. Once the architect and ownership group realized this, they were sold on the idea of galvanizing.

Since the Ameriflora event, the Conservatory has hosted hundreds of events including artistic displays, blown glass exhibits, and several hundred weddings. It has become a gathering place for school groups and families of all ages. The original structure has maintained its overall appearance and has shown no signs of corrosion. Very little touch-up, if any, has been required. In Dawson's opinion, the use of galvanizing was a wise choice and has saved the Conservatory time and money over the years. →



According to Bill Dawson, Head Curator of the Conservatory, the structural steel that was galvanized and painted has held beyond the expectations of the owner over its 20-year existence. The expansion was created for the Ameriflora 92 event, but the entire community knew the structure would have to stand for years beyond in order to justify the investment.

## Galvanizer

V&S Columbus Galvanizing LLC

## Architect

James H. Schirtzinger, AIA  
NBBJ  
Moody Nolan

## Owner

Columbus Department  
of Parks & Recreation

## Fabricator

Terry Binz  
Herman Binz & Sons Ironworks, Inc.

lifetime achievement



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The Franklin Park Conservatory nurtures plants and people. The Conservatory houses a seasonal butterfly exhibit called *Blooms and Butterflies*. It also shows the Chihuly Exhibit, which makes Franklin Park the only public botanical garden in the world to own and show these magnificent glass artworks. Franklin Park is not just any conservatory though, it is truly a museum with special exhibitions. Also, its extensive plant collections makes it a learning center for Ohio and beyond.

During a 2012 inspection, the duplex system showed no signs of paint failure or corrosion. There is significant and constant moisture and humidity levels on the majority of the steel due to the greenhouse atmosphere. The readings (above) were taken on the steel and show enough coating to last another 50 years or more, even in this humid environment.

Without having to worry about constant structural corrosion maintenance, the Franklin Park Conservatory continues to be a gathering place for learning about the natural world, gardening, and the arts. Thanks to hot-dip galvanizing, Franklin Park can continue to serve the community and the State of Ohio for many years to come. 🌱

Franklin Park Conservatory						
Produced 1992, Tested 2012:						
Sample Area	Readings (mils)					Average
Catwalk	10.8	11.4	11.6	10.7	10.9	11.08
Pipe Column	12.3	11.4	12.1	11.7	11.2	11.74
Angle Bracing	9.6	8.9	8.9	9.2	9.0	9.12



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