

Frequently Asked Questions

Reiman Gardens is a beautiful educational display garden and a unique tourist destination.

1. How does the Conservatory compare to other botanical gardens, and the Des Moines Botanical Center in particular?

We are so happy to be near other gardens because it creates a wonderful visitor destination, which will positively impact Iowa tourism.

Reiman Gardens and the Botanical Center both provide tropical plant displays, water features, and rotating seasonal displays in a garden under glass.

The Botanical Center is more established; it was completed in 1979. However, even though Reiman Gardens is only eight years old (dedicated in 1995), we offer many beautiful features in our garden under glass: the Conservatory. We provide educational programs, facility rentals, group tours, a café, a gift shop, volunteer and membership opportunities, and seasonal displays. Several of the plants in our collection are rare and endangered.

Reiman Gardens is committed to providing educational opportunities for the ISU community and all of Iowa – ISU classes frequently visit the Gardens and use it as a living laboratory, ISU students always receive free admission to the Gardens, and adults and children have numerous educational opportunities throughout the year.

2. Are there other butterfly flight houses in the Midwest?

The Christina Reiman Butterfly Wing is the only one of its kind in Iowa. It is also the only one of its kind in the nation located at a university garden facility, making it an exciting opportunity for educators and scientists.

Currently, the nearest butterfly flight houses are:

Judy Istock Butterfly Haven at the Nature Museum in Chicago, IL (361 miles)
Botanica – The Wichita Gardens in Wichita, KS (425 miles)
Mackinac Island Butterfly House in Mackinac Island, MI (777 miles)
The Butterfly Place in Branson, MO (434 miles)
Sophia Sachs Butterfly House in Chesterfield, MO (382 miles)
Milwaukee Public Museum in Milwaukee, WI (398 miles)

Reiman Gardens is only 34 miles north of Des Moines.

3. How was Reiman Gardens created, named and funded?

The University master plan called for moving the old horticulture gardens, which were formerly located north of the ISU campus. Generous philanthropists Roy and Bobbi Reiman of Greendale, Wisconsin provided \$1.3 million to support the establishment of Phase 1 of Reiman Gardens. Over the past seven years, hundreds of donors have provided private support for the additional phases. Each phase of the Gardens has been developed as private donors provided funding they specifically designated for the Gardens.

For more information, please contact Phyllis Lepke, vice president of communications for the ISU Foundation at 294-6655.

4. How much of Reiman Gardens' funding comes from Iowa State University?

Approximately \$775,000 per year, or fifty-six percent of the total operating budget of the Gardens revenue is supplied by Iowa State University. The total operating budget of the facility is \$1.38 million. The Gardens pays its own heat and electricity bills to the City of Ames as it is located too distant from ISU utilities to take advantage of ISU generated electricity and the steam tunnels.

5. What are some other unique features of Reiman Gardens?

The Griffith Buck rose collection

Griffith Buck, an Iowa State horticulturist, created nearly 85 hardy and disease resistant rose varieties. We have 80 of his varieties on display in the Helen Latch Jones Rose Garden.

The Carillon (the Campanile)

As Iowa State University's garden, the 50-foot carillon in the Margaret Penkhus Campanile Garden is reminiscent of the Iowa State University campus campanile.

Eleven individual garden areas situated on 14 acres

- Wetland Garden
- Herb Garden
- Helen Latch Jones Rose Garden
- All-America Rose Selection (AARS) Trial and Display Garden
- Margaret Penkhus Campanile Garden and Carillon
- Town and Country Garden
- Stafford Arboretum Garden
- Patty Jischke Children's Garden
- Hillside Garden
- Trial Gardens
- Dunlap Entry Courtyard

Rare plants in the Conservatory

6. How many people do you expect to visit Reiman Gardens?

We anticipate about 200,000 visitors per year.

7. How are ISU students affected by Reiman Gardens?

Reiman Gardens supplements their learning opportunity by giving them a living laboratory to work and study from.

We look forward to involvement from 7 colleges: Agriculture, Design, Family and Consumer Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Engineering. Students in horticulture, entomology, landscape architecture, botany, biology, geology, hotel, restaurant and institution management, business, design, photography, fine arts, journalism and mass communication, engineering, architecture, and many others are able to benefit from Reiman Gardens.

Ames area students in grades K-12 are also frequent visitors.

About 25 ISU classes from various disciplines have already visited Reiman Gardens this year.

8. How many plants are on site from how many varieties?

There are about 500 plants from 120 varieties in the Conservatory. In the Butterfly Wing, there are about 400 plants from 70 varieties.

There are more flowering (nectar) plants in the Butterfly Wing than in the Conservatory. Also, the Conservatory will have a much more dense canopy than that of the Butterfly Wing.

9. Who is Reiman?

Reiman Gardens is named after Roy Reiman. Reiman Gardens was created through a 1993 donation by ISU alumnus (agriculture journalism, 1957) Roy Reiman and his wife, Bobbi. The Reimans created Reiman Publications, which operates out of Greendale, Wisconsin, and includes such publications as *Country*, *Country Woman*, *Birds & Blooms*, and *Reminisce*.

10. Do you have any plans for future expansion?

Work is still continuing on several garden areas, including the Hillside Garden, the Stafford Arboretum Garden, and the South Field Trial Gardens, which will one day be a State of Iowa Garden.

11. Why were the Conservatory and Butterfly Wing built?

The Conservatory was part of the original master plan for the Gardens. A donor and the Department of Entomology at Iowa State University were very interested in building a butterfly flight house at Reiman Gardens.

12. Who paid for the construction of the Conservatory and Butterfly Wing?

Private donors paid for the construction of the Conservatory and Butterfly Wing.

13. What is the cost of admission now?

Admission to Reiman Gardens, including the Conservatory and Christina Reiman Butterfly Wing, will be \$5 for adults. Adults over 65 receive a 50-cent discount, while children ages four to 18 are \$3. Children three and under, ISU students and members of CoHorts receive free admission.

14. What are the CoHorts?

The CoHorts are our volunteer and membership organization. They assist with various aspects of the Gardens, including garden planting and maintenance, tours, event planning, and more. They are essential to the Gardens success, and will become even more instrumental with the opening of the Conservatory and Butterfly Wing.

15. Who is the Butterfly Wing named after? Hazel's Kitchen? Hughes Auditorium?

The Christina Reiman Butterfly Wing is named after Roy Reiman's mother. Hazel's Kitchen is named after Hazel Hughes, the wife of Dwight Hughes Sr. Hughes Auditorium is named after Dwight Hughes Sr. The Hughes were major contributors the Conservatory Complex project, and are the owners of the Dwight Hughes Nursery in Cedar Rapids.