

Wonderland Express, running now through January 6, features model trains rolling through miniature city scenes with landscapes using many varieties of evergreens. The greenhouses are brightened with poinsettias, Christmas cactus and amaryllis. Shifting patterns of snow and ice creates picturesque scenes, as it covers garden beds, shrubs, slopes and lakes. Many trees and shrubs, such as crab apples, roses, winterberry, and beautyberry are adorned with vivid berries, which will remain to provide a feast for the birds. The twigs of redosier dogwood and the branches on willows are more prominent now.



Christmas cactus
Schlumbergera truncata

Alfresco Amaryllis
Hippeastrum 'Alfresco'



Winterberry
Ilex verticillata



Royal paintbrush
Haemanthus albiflos

Aquatic Garden: The roots of hardy waterlilies and lotus remain in their submerged tubs all winter, impervious to freezing temperatures.

Bulb Garden: Winter interest: IVORY HALO® Tatarian dogwood (*Cornus alba* 'Bailhalo') –red stems, blue berries on Trautman Chinese juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* 'Trautman'), fuzzy buds on magnolias (*Magnolia* 'Susan' & *M. x loebneri* 'Merrill'), red crabapples on *Malus* 'Adams' & 'Red Jade', decorative seed heads on Hameln dwarf fountain grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln'), cones on cave Hill baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum* 'Cave Hill').

Circle Garden: The annuals have been removed. Bulbs are planted for next spring's display.

Dwarf Conifer Garden: Colorful fruit: Hesse cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* 'Hessei'). Tough evergreens will withstand the coldest weather.

Enabling Garden: Entrance & Central Gallery: Displays for next year are being planned. Shaw Flower Walk: Ornamental fruit: Northern catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*).

English Oak Meadow: Look for a new display in the spring.

English Walled Garden: Winter interest: Seed heads on various hydrangeas, evergreen boxwoods, fruits on crabapples and Warren Red possumhaw (*Ilex decidua* 'Warren Red'), and redleaf rose (*Rosa glauca*).

The Esplanade/Crescent Garden: Thousands of tulip bulbs have been planted.

Heritage Garden: For the winter display, a lighted white fir (*Abies concolor*) is the focal point of the garden, surrounded by Kallay and Dwarf Japanese junipers, with Sea Green junipers (*Juniperus x pfitzeriana* 'Sea Green') in the pools. Winter interest: Pyramidal silver fir (*Abies alba* 'Pyramidalis'), Issai purple beautyberry (*Callicarpa dichotoma* 'Duet') –purple berries, redosier dogwood (*Cornus sericea* – red stems), Bizon blue

spruce (*Picea pungens* 'Bison Blue'), Goldilocks Japanese white pine (*Pinus parviflora* 'Goldilocks'), Windswept white pine (*Pinus strobus* 'Windswept'), Albyn's Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris* 'Albyn's'), Schwerin pine (*Pinus x schwerinii* 'Wiethorst'), Chinese hemlock (*Tsuga chinensis*).

Lakeside Gardens: Ornamental fruit: Black alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), flowering Japanese crabapple (*Malus floribunda*), Calocarpa redbud crabapple (*Malus x zumi* 'Calocarpa').

Landscape Gardens: Winter color: Japanese beautyberry (*Callicarpa japonica*) –purple fruit, cranberry cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* 'Hessei' & *C. apiculatus*) –red fruit, spreading cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster divaricatus*) –red fruit, crabapples (*Malus* 'Beverly' & *Malus sargentii*) –red fruit, MORNING SUN™ crabapple (*Malus* 'Joy Morton') –yellow fruit, Adirondack crabapple (*Malus* 'Adirondack') –red fruit.

McGinley Pavilion: Winter interest: Whitespire birches, Ruby redosier dogwood.

Native Plant Garden: Notice various seedpods and red berries on trees and bushes as the garden gets ready for its dormancy in winter.

Rose Garden: Autumn interest: Purple beautyberry (*Callicarpa dichotoma*), - lavender berries, sweetbriar rose (*Rosa rubiginosa*) –rose hips, crabapple (*Malus* 'Red Splendor') –red fruit.

Sensory Garden: Winter interest: Seed heads on SUGAR SHACK™ buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis* 'SMCOSS'), SUGARTINA® summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia* 'Crystalina'), Sixteen Candles clethra (*Clethra alnifolia* 'Sixteen Candles') – seed heads, bladdernut (*Staphylea colchica*); berries on Warren Red possum haw (*Ilex decidua* 'Warren Red'), Red Sprite winterberry (*Ilex verticillata* 'Red Sprite'), crabapples in Meadow, fuzzy buds on Yellow Lantern cucumber magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata* 'Yellow Lantern'), twisted branches on Unryu contorted mulberry (*Morus bombycis* 'Unryu'); evergreen leaves of SILVER SPRITE™ Northern Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica* 'Morton'), Green Sheen pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis* 'Green Sheen'), Martin K Oriental spruce (*Picea orientalis* 'Martin K'), Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), bark of Eastern sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), Oriental planetree (*Platanus orientalis*).

Waterfall Garden: Winter interest: Evergreens at every level, white bark and drooping branches of European white birch (*Betula pendula* 'Youngii'), red stems of Tatarian and redosier dogwood (*Cornus alba* 'Siberian Pearls' and *C. sericea* var. *coloradensis*), yellow stems of Bud's Yellow redosier dogwood (*Cornus sericea* 'Bud's Yellow'), green segmented stems of common horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*).

Shorelines: All the native plants have wrapped up their bloom season. Grasses are turning brown, seed pods and fluffy seedheads add interest. Grasses and sedges help protect the shorelines from eroding, as well as providing cover for waterfowl.

ISLAND GARDENS

Evening Island: Winter interest: Colorful fruit: cranberry cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster apiculatus*) –red berries, Winter King hawthorn (*Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King') –orange berries, crabapples (*Malus* 'Prairifire'), Calocarpa redbud crabapple (*Malus x zumi* 'Calocarpa'), Korean mountain ash (*Sorbus alnifolia*). Seedheads: PINKY-WINKY® panicle hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Dvppinky'), Tardiva panicle hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Tardiva'), staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) –reddish brown seed heads. Colorful branches & bark: gray birch (*Betula populifolia*), Tatarian dogwood (*Cornus alba* 'Siberian Pearls') –red stems, Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) –grayish blue stems.

Fruit & Vegetable Garden: Look for new displays next April.

Japanese Garden: Winter interest: Dogwoods (*Cornus alba*, *Cornus sericea*) – colorful twigs, cranberry cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster apiculatus*)—berries, Liempde white willow (*Salix alba* ‘Liempde’) –orange bark, weeping willow (*Salix x fragilis* ‘Tristis’). Fresh snow (when it arrives, and it will) on the trained pines and lanterns provides picturesque photo opportunities.

Spider Island: Winter interest: Whitespire birches, redosier dogwood.

OUTLYING AREAS

Kleinman Family Cove: The leafless dogwood shrubs prominently display bright red bark and the baldcypress has russet foliage. This is a good spot to step out on the deck to view the lake, the brightly colored willow shrubs, and the yellow grasses and sedges along the shore.

Grunsfeld Childrens Growing Garden: Look for new displays in the spring.

Nature Play Center (Regenstein Learning Campus): Fall interest; Grassy hummocks surrounded by yellow and copper grasses of varying textures, twigs of redosier dogwoods, pods on catalpa trees, foliage of amsonia.

Visitors Center: Winter decorations: IVORY FEATHERS® dwarf pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana* 'Pumila'), winterberry, redosier dogwood branches, balsam fir, pines, southern magnolia leaves and willow branches.

Parking Lots, Lake-Cook Entrance & Gatehouse: Winter interest: Manchurian birch (*Betula platyphylla*) - white bark, dwarf blood-twig dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea* 'Winter Flame') -branches, spreading cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster divaricatus*) -fruit, ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) –yellow fruit, Red Sprite winterberry (*Ilex verticillata* 'Red Sprite') -berries, Scarlett O'Hara winterberry (*Ilex verticillata* 'Scarlett O'Hara') -berries, London plane tree (*Platanus x acerifolia* 'Bloodgood') –bark.

Plant Science & Conservation: Common witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) still blooming December 1. Winter interest: Many varieties of prairie grasses bearing seedheads, butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) – seed pods, swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) –pods, Whitespire gray birch (*Betula populifolia* 'Whitespire') –bark and catkins, Cardinal redosier dogwood (*Cornus sericea* 'Cardinal') –red stems, swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*) –hips.

NATURAL AREAS

McDonald Woods: The woods are dormant. Most trees have lost their leaves; however, some of the oaks will hold onto their leaves during winter. Take a walk along the many paths and enjoy the fall/winter solitude. Come back to the woods in early spring and find the spring ephemerals.

Prairie & Skokie River: The prairie has gone dormant. The remnants of prairie plants will provide food and shelter for prairie critters during winter. Take a walk through the prairie and feel its winter solitude. Come back in spring to see the prairie wake up.

RESEARCH/EVALUATION

Lavin Plant Evaluation Garden: Centered by the sundial sculpture, with a backdrop of Trellis Bridge and Evening Island, Lavin Garden welcomes winter. White bark of birch trees (*Betula populifolia* ‘Whitespire’) and red bark of red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ‘Bergesson’s Compact’) flank the entrance.

THE GREENHOUSES

Arid Greenhouse: Seasonal: Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*). Whitethorn acacia (*Acacia constricta*), sweet acacia (*Acacia farnesiana*), SAFARI SUNRISE® Aloe (Aloe 'X5'), aloes (*Aloe* 'Christmas Carol', 'Delta Lights', 'Guido'), *Aloe harlana*, jade plant (*Crassula ovata*), necklace vine (*Crassula perforata*), ancient's spurge (*Euphorbia antiquorum*), *Euphorbia biselegans*, *Euphorbia capuronii*, *Euphorbia croizatii*, *Euphorbia geroldii*, cow milk bush (*Euphorbia hamata*), crown-of-thorns (*Euphorbia milii* 'Ruby Red', var. *imperatae*, var. *sonora*, var. *tanarivea*), Masai spurge (*Euphorbia neococcinea*), *Euphorbia pedilanthoides*, *Gasteria maculata*, royal paintbrush (*Haemanthus albiflos*), window plant (*Haworthia cymbiformis*), feltbush (*Kalanchoe beharensis*), living stones (*Lithops bromfieldii*), twin-spined cactus (*Mammillaria geminispinata*), Madagascar palm (*Pachypodium lamerei*), Mexican flame vine (*Pseudogynoxys chenopodioides*), Kirk sansevieria (*Sansevieria kirkii* var. *kirkii*), sausage plant (*Senecio articulatus*).

Tropical Greenhouses: Seasonal: PRINCETTIA® Hot Pink poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima* 'Bonpripicom'), Titan White poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima* 'Titan White'). Chenille plant (*Acalypha hispida*), Anouk flamingo flower (*Anthurium* 'Anouk'), Garfield anthurium (*Anthurium x garfieldii*), Panama queen (*Aphelandra sinclairiana*), giant yellow shrimp plant (*Barleria oenotheroides*), red powderpuff (*Calliandra haematocephala*), ylang-ylang tree (*Cananga odorata*), *Dendrobium* 'Andree Millar', *Dendrobium* Napporn Fancy, *Dendrobium* Roy Tokunaga, mother-in-law plant (*Dieffenbachia oerstedii* 'Variegata'), Lady Doorly's morning glory (*Ipomoea horsfalliae*), Purple Lady bloodleaf (*Iresine herbstii* 'Purple Lady'), Brazilian plume (*Justicia carnea*), West Indian holly (*Leea coccinea* 'Rubra'), orange medinilla (*Medinilla scortechinii*), *Oncidium* Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance', tricolor peperomia (*Peperomia obtusifolia* 'Tricolor'), buccaneer palm (*Pseudophoenix sargentii*), tropical cucumber vine (*Psiguria triphylla*), Panama rose (*Rondeletia leucophylla*), hand of God (*Trimezia steyermarkii*), white candles (*Whitfieldia elongata*), beehive ginger (*Zingiber spectabile*), cattleya orchid (x *Brassocattleya* Maikai 'Mayumi').

Semitropical Greenhouse Seasonal: Florist's cyclamen (*Cyclamen persicum*), amaryllis (*Hippeastrum* 'Alfresca', 'Inferno', 'Merry Christmas'), star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum arabicum*). Chinese perfume tree (*Aglaia odorata*), Ikon Blush White begonia (*Begonia* 'Ikon Blush White'), paper flower (*Bougainvillea* 'Pink Pixie', 'Singapore White'), Little John bottlebrush (*Callistemon citrinus* 'Little John'), Java glory vine (*Clerodendrum x speciosum*), Calypso Queen dracaena (*Dracaena fragrans* 'Compacta'), *Hebe* 'Co-ed', angel wing jasmine (*Jasminum nitidum*), orange jasmine (*Murraya paniculata*), Plum Passion ground orchid (*Spathoglottis* 'Plum Passion'), bird-of-Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae* 'Mandela's Gold'), Orange Jubilee esperanza (*Tecoma* 'Orange Jubilee'), bush clock vine (*Thunbergia erecta*), blue trumpet vine (*Thunbergia grandiflora*), Brazilian spider flower (*Tibouchina urvilleana*).