The 50-acre gardens and historic home were donated to the City of Orlando in 1961 by Mr. Harry P. Leu and his wife, Mary Jane. Their passion for horticulture transformed their estate into a wonderful botanical oasis with over 40 different plant collections.

Our mission is to provide a cultural venue that promotes the awareness and understanding of plants, the environment and the Gardens’ history.

Harry P. Leu Gardens is governed by a Board of Trustees, the Mayor and City Council of Orlando. We hope you enjoy your visit.

Welcome to Beautiful Leu Gardens!

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Our Central Florida climate and soil allows for a diverse collection of plants, and as a result, we are always evaluating new selections. To better assist you, interpretive signs, QR Codes and plant labels can be found throughout the gardens. Please ask any member of the staff if you have any questions. We hope you enjoy your visit.

1 Garden House Welcome Center
The Garden House Welcome Center provides a unique venue for any occasion including receptions, meetings, and retreats. Guests and locals enjoy the art gallery, gardens’ classes, Gift Shop and researching in the botanic library.

2 Tropical Stream Garden
The Upper and Lower levels display a variety of tropical plants – bananas, bird-of-paradise, bromeliads, calatheas, gingers, heliconias, palms, tree ferns and vines which mimics a tropical rainforest.

3 Idea Garden
Ten distinct gardens illustrate a variety of plants, horticulture techniques and garden designs: i.e. Urban Patio Garden, Bird Garden, Perennial Garden, Fragrance Garden, Evening Garden, Subtropical Fruit Garden, Wildflower Garden, Shade Garden, Bog Garden and Enabling Garden.

4 Herb Garden
Displays of both culinary and medicinal herbs make up this garden. Reminiscent of kitchen gardens from the turn of the century, the herb garden is very aromatic.

5 Butterfly Garden
A favorite among children and adults, the butterfly garden puts a smile on everyone’s face. A wide variety of flowers are planted to attract different types of butterflies.

6 Vegetable Garden
Fruits, berries and seasonal vegetables suitable to the Central Florida climate are planted in this garden and donated to local food banks. A variety of growing techniques and planting styles are also exhibited.

7 Rose Garden
Mary Jane Leu loved roses. She saw the garden as a place of beauty and education for future generations. This is the largest formal rose garden in Florida and contains old garden roses, those existing prior to 1867, and modern roses.

8 Color Garden
Enjoy the beauty of flowering plants year-round.

9 Leu House Museum
Step back in time with a tour of the Leu House. 30-minute tours: Tuesday - Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on the hour and half-hour. Closed in July.

10 Palms, Cycads & Bamboo
This garden is sometimes referred to as the dinosaur garden with many plants dating back to the prehistoric age. Palms are very useful providing food, furniture, even wax for surfboards: i.e. Carnauba Wax Palm. Cycads are cone bearing plants and are not related to palms. Bamboo is a woody-stemmed plant in the grass family.

11 White Garden
Only plants with white blooms or green and white variegated foliage make up this unique garden.

12 Arid Garden
Plants which need little water flourish in this area. No irrigation is used in this garden, only natural rainfall, which demonstrates good plant selections for a drought tolerant landscape.

13 Camellias
Leu Gardens is home to the largest documented camellia collection in Eastern North America. Nestled under the towering oak trees in the north and south woods, Mr. Leu’s favorite collection consists of over 200 varieties which bloom from mid-October through March.