

ST. PAUL

Public can vote for favorite flower

St. Paul's Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is among a couple of dozen sites to view contestants in this year's beauty contest for new flowers.

The All-America Selections Display Garden Award is the country's only popularity contest for flowers. The public can vote on the flower most appealing for a garden.

The entrants are on display and voting opportunities are available at the conservatory or online at www.startribune.com/al483.

The contestants: *Angelonia angustifolia* "Serena Blue," *Begonia boliviensis* "Santa Cruz

Sunset," gazania "Big Kiss" White Flame Fl, petchoa x hybrida "SuperCal Pink Ice," petunia "Surfinia Deep Red," and sunflower "Goldie" Fl.

The entries include the cascading Serena Blue to the vivid billowing begonias, the purple-and-white striped explosion of gazania to the fluffy sunflower. As of last week the begonias had a slight edge over the gazania.

Voting runs through Aug. 31. Winners will be announced in September.

ROCHELLE OLSON
@rochelleolson

