



## Discovery Tour Packet First Grade Teacher's Guide

Welcome to Lauritzen Gardens!

We are providing this guide to assist you and your students in learning about nature and the various gardens within our 100-acre property. This guide includes suggested stops and activities in addition to general garden information.

Please note that you will likely not be able to visit all areas of the Garden during your visit.



Scan or click here  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UlwypYakqx4> for a brief  
introduction to Lauritzen Gardens.

## GARDEN LOCATIONS

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | Dr. C. C. and Mabel L. Criss Memorial Foundation Parking Garden | 12 | Model Railroad Garden                               |
| 2  | Arrival Garden  | 13 | Robert H. Storz Family Rose Garden                  |
| 3  | Marjorie K. Daugherty Conservatory                              | 14 | Children's Garden                                   |
| 4  | Woodland Trail  | 15 | Herb Garden   |
| 5  | Festival Garden   | 16 | Founders' Garden                                    |
| 6  | Woodland Waterfall  | 17 | Sunni Castle Gate and Mt. Fuji Replica              |
| 7  | Hitchcock-Koontze Victorian Garden                              | 18 | David and Pamela Gross Family Spring Flowering Walk |
| 8  | English Perennial Border  | 19 | Song of the Lark Meadow                             |
| 9  | Tree Peony Garden   | 20 | Garden of Memories                                  |
| 10 | Garden in the Glen  | 21 | Kenefick Park                                       |
| 11 | Arboretum and Oberman Bird Sanctuary                            |    |   |

Lauritzen Gardens offers a 100-acre site, 20 garden spaces and a visitor and education center that includes a gift shop, horticulture library, classrooms, 5,000-square-foot floral display hall and rental facilities.

## GARDEN ETIQUETTE

For the enjoyment of others and the protection of the gardens, we thank you for following these simple guidelines:

- View and smell the flowers, fruits, leaves and seeds, but please leave them for others to enjoy.
- Marvel at the trees, walls, sculptures and fountains, but please do not climb on them.
- Only food purchased from Lauritzen Gardens' cafe may be eaten in the designated areas. Food is not allowed to be eaten on the garden grounds.
- With the exception of service dogs, animals are prohibited.
- Lauritzen Gardens is not a park. No jogging or running. Recreational items such as frisbees, kites, bicycles, sleds, skateboards, scooters and roller blades are not allowed in the visitor and education center or anywhere within the garden.
- Smoking is not permitted in any building.



### KEY

- PARKING
- CAFE (OPEN 10 AM TO 2 PM DAILY)
- RESTROOMS
- RESTROOMS (SEASONAL)
- DRINKING FOUNTAIN
- ROADS

### CONTACT US

(402) 346-4002

DONATIONS AND TABLETS | EXT. 224  
 EDUCATION | EXT. 253 OR 212  
 GENERAL INFORMATION | EXT. 201  
 MEMBERSHIP | EXT. 214  
 RENTAL FACILITIES | EXT. 261  
 VOLUNTEERING | EXT. 263



[www.lauritzengardens.org](http://www.lauritzengardens.org)

*You will enter the main Gardens through the Visitor and Education Center. It is recommended that you make brief stops at points that interest your group, but proceed to one of the highlighted gardens for your first activity.*

*If you are visiting with multiple groups, please consider beginning your tour farther out in the Gardens to avoid congestion.*

*Discovery tours do not include visiting the Conservatory, the Woodland Trail or the Visitor and Education Center*

**Nebraska State Standards covered in this packet:**

MA 1.3.1 Characteristics: Students will identify and describe geometric characteristics and create two- and three dimensional shapes.

SC.1.6.2.A Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.

SC.1.6.2.D Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.

**Iowa State Standards covered in this packet:**

1-LS 1-1. Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.

1-LS 3-1. Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.

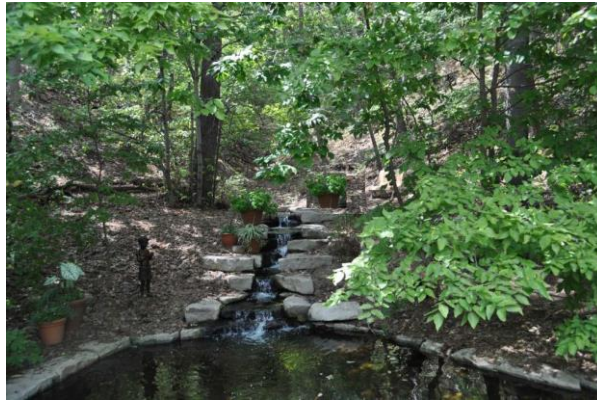
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## Suggested Garden Locations and Items of Interest

## References and Notes

### Woodland Waterfall (#6)

- ❖ Notice the animal burrows in the Loess Hill soil to the left of the pathway just prior to the waterfall
- ❖ Take the opportunity to identify some of earth's materials (soil, water, wood chips, rocks)
- ❖ Note living and non-living things in this location
  - Living: Trees, plants, any animals that may be present
  - Non-Living: 'New Friends' statue, water, rocks, bench



### Garden in the Glen (#10)

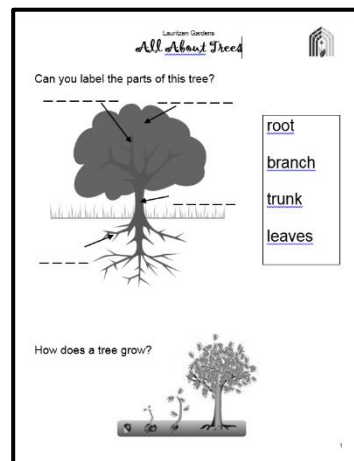
- ❖ A 'glen' is a valley between two hills
- ❖ The glen is lined with black locust trees which provide shade for the shade-loving plants that thrive in this garden



### Deer Ears:

Gather students on the path across from the waterfall. Have them make cups with their hands and place their cupped hands behind their ears to listen to the water. Experiment by having students change the position of their hands; does the volume of the sound change?

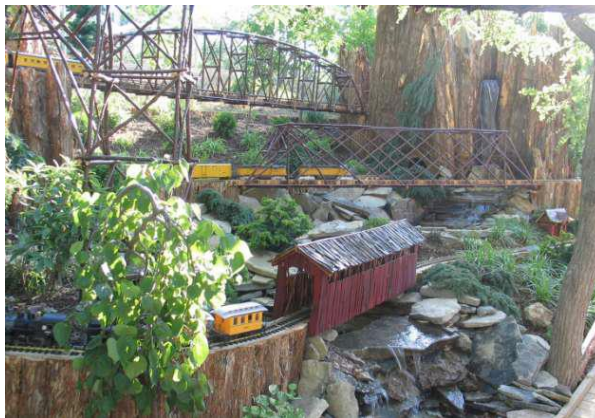
All About Trees Activity in Student Handout  
Identify the parts of a tree with your students and discuss how trees grow from nuts or seeds into mature trees. Students can complete page 2 of the Student Handout. Also discuss how young trees are similar to, but not exactly like, mature trees.





## Model Railroad Garden (#12)

- ❖ Showcases several G-scale model trains
- ❖ Buildings are replicas of historically and culturally significant Omaha buildings
- ❖ Buildings, bridges and trestles are constructed using all natural materials (seedpods, twigs, pinecones, bark, bamboo, etc.)



*Model trains and building replicas are on display May – October.*

Levitt Garden  
**Model Railroad Garden**  
**Scavenger Hunt**

As you wander the Model Railroad Garden, see if you can find the following shapes. Make a tally in the blank once you have found one.

|                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Circles: _____            | Half Circles: _____    |
| Squares: _____            | Cubes: _____           |
| Rectangles: _____         | Spheres: _____         |
| Triangles: _____          | Quarter Circles: _____ |
| Trapezoids: _____         | Cylinders: _____       |
| Rectangular Prisms: _____ |                        |

### Model Railroad Garden Scavenger Hunt in Student Handout

*Have students observe the various 2D and 3D shapes within the Model Railroad Garden and have students complete the activity on page 2 of the Student Handout.*

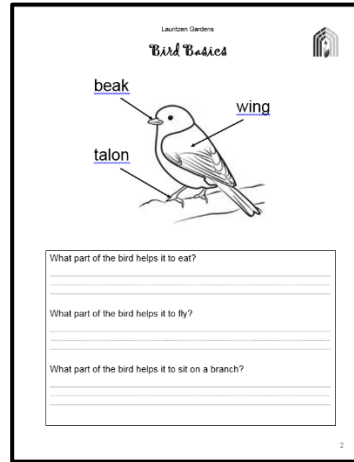
## Arboretum (#11)

- ❖ 'Arboretum' means garden for trees
- ❖ Bronze sculpture of Sandhill crane; Sandhill cranes are migratory birds that gather along Nebraska's Platte River every spring to rest before traveling north to Canada
- ❖ The Arboretum also serves as a bird sanctuary; look for [cardinals](#), [chickadees](#), [robins](#), and [goldfinches](#).



### Bird Basics Activity in Student Handout

Have students observe birds in the arboretum beyond the pond area. Discuss the parts of a bird and have students complete the activity on page 3 of the Student Handout.



### Children's Garden (#14)

- ❖ This garden, when in season, contains many different features for the senses



- 'Smell' garden features both lemon balm and mint
- 'Taste' garden contains nasturtium, chocolate mint, chives, stevia, basil (Genovese and lemon) and cherry tomato
- 'Touch' garden features sensitive plant, lamb's ear, fennel, junkus and daylilies

- ❖ While discovering the softness of the lamb's ear plant in the 'Touch' garden, discuss how plants use their external parts to help them survive and grow where they live. The lamb's ear's fuzzy leaves deflect wind, thereby reducing water loss from the plant. These same fuzzy leaves help to channel water. Lamb's ear also has light-colored leaves which reflect the sun's rays and help to modify temperatures.



- ❖ Take a few minutes to notice the garden sculptures (dragon, water feature, wooden benches, etc.)
  - Students can 'compare' themselves to these garden features for height, size and estimated weight; i.e. which is taller? shorter? wider? heavier?
  - Students can also use the length of the Student Handout to "measure" objects in the garden (benches, plants, etc.)
- ❖ This is a good opportunity to discuss with students recycling, repurposing and re-using

- Composting: There are 2 bins where garden waste is placed to breakdown into compost; compost is later used to fertilize plants in the garden
- Repurposing: The dragon sculpture was created from used farm equipment parts
- The wood mulch pathways are made from downed or damaged trees that have been chipped

## Rose Garden (#13)

- ❖ This formal garden is planted with almost 2,000 rose plants including hybrid tea, grandiflora, floribunda, climbing and shrub roses
- ❖ There are two peak blooming seasons for the rose garden: late May and mid-September through frost
- ❖ Roses smell sweet to attract pollinators; roses have thorns to protect themselves from predators
- ❖ The central sculpture in the Rose Garden is an armillary sphere
  - The ancient Greeks are credited with inventing the armillary sphere, sometimes also known as the equatorial sundial; the armillary has adapted to reflect measuring time by shadows
  - Today garden armillary spheres are also known as “shadow clocks”
    - As the sun travels across the sky, the central arrow (or gnomon) of our armillary sundial casts a shadow onto a surface that indicates the hour.



*You may find more information about composting here:*




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*Thank you for visiting Lauritzen Gardens!*

*Restroom facilities and drinking fountains are located in the southwest corner of the Visitor and Education Center.*