



## Discovery Tour Packet Fourth 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
- 2 Arrival Garden
- 3 Marjorie K. Daugherty Conservatory
- 4 Woodland Trail
- 5 Festival Garden
- 6 Woodland Waterfall
- 7 Hitchcock-Koultze Victorian Garden
- 8 English Perennial Border
- 9 Tree Peony Garden
- 10 Garden in the Glen
- 11 Arboretum and Oberman Bird Sanctuary
- 12 Model Railroad Garden
- 13 Robert H. Storz Family Rose Garden
- 14 Children's Garden
- 15 Herb Garden
- 16 Founders' Garden
- 17 Sunru Castle Gate and Mt. Fuji Replica
- 18 David and Pamela Gross Family Spring Flowering Walk
- 19 Song of the Lark Meadow
- 20 Garden of Memories
- 21 Kenrick Park

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 TRIBUTES | 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 found in this packet:**

SC.4.6.3.B Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

SC.4.13.4.B Make observations and/or measurements to provide evidence of the effects of weathering or the rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, or vegetation.

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

4-LS1-1

Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

4-ESS2-1

Make observations and/or measurements to provide evidence of the effects of weathering or the rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, or vegetation.

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## Suggested Garden Locations and Items of Interest

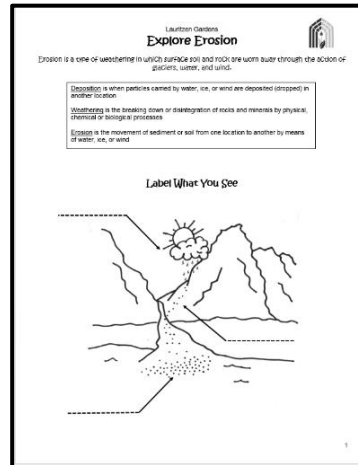
### Woodland Waterfall (#6)

- ❖ 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 the effects of erosion above the waterfall, across the road and down the hill



### Explore Erosion Activity in Student Handout

*The effects of erosion and weathering are apparent at the Woodland Waterfall. Discuss weathering, erosion and deposition. Have students complete the activity on page 1 of the Student Handout.*



### Victorian Garden (#7)

- ❖ Formal garden designed with lots of textures and shapes
- ❖ Middle rectangular beds are planted with annuals (plants that live only one year)
- ❖ Perimeter beds are perennial plants (plants that return year after year)



## References and Notes

To view a video about erosion scan here:



To view a video about annual and perennial flowers scan here:



- ❖ Statues and architectural elements in this garden were salvaged from historical buildings in Omaha and Council Bluffs and demonstrate how we 're-use' and 'recycle' in our garden

## Arboretum (#11)

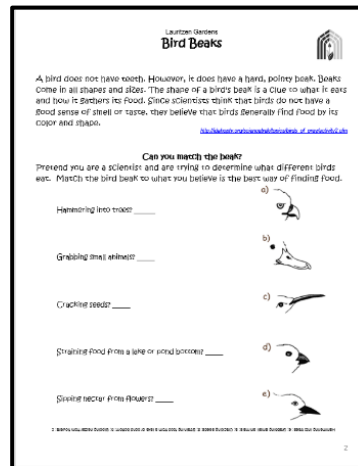
- ❖ 'Arboretum' means garden for trees
- ❖ Bronze sculpture of Sandhill crane; Sandhill cranes are migratory birds that gather along Nebraska's Platte River every spring to rest before traveling north to Canada



- ❖ The Arboretum also serves as a bird sanctuary; look for [cardinals](#), [chickadees](#), [robins](#), and [goldfinches](#).
- ❖ Continue following the path to the left to discover the Marsh Pond

### *Bird Beak Activity in Student Handout*

*Discuss with students how bird beaks are adapted to a specific diet. Have students complete the activity on page 2 of the Student Handout.*



Cardinal Video and Song



Robin Song and Video



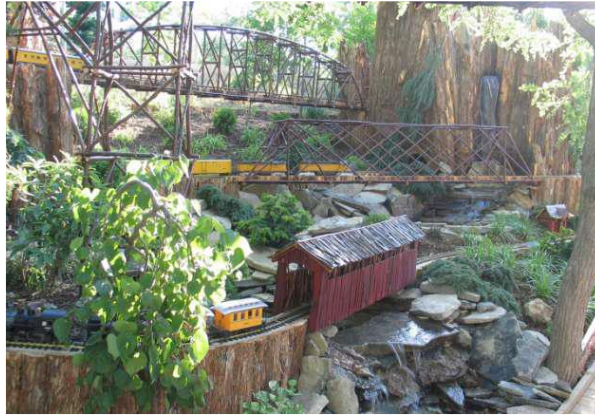
Goldfinch Video and Song



Bird Beak Adaptations

## 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.*

## 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



*Plant Defenses Activity in Student Handout*  
*All of the roses in the Rose Garden have thorns;  
 some have more than others. This is a great  
 segue to discussing how plants defend  
 themselves. Have students complete the activity  
 on page 3 of the Student Handout.*

Lauritzen Gardens  
**Plant Defenses**

Many animals depend on plants as food for survival, but plants don't have feet or legs to escape a hungry animal. Do you or plants protect themselves? Or using their DEFENSES? Plants over time have changed, or adapted, to survive in the environment in which they live. These roses that have learned to protect themselves from heat, cold, wind, rain and even animals. What do you know about plant defenses? Draw a line connecting each plant defense to one or more threats.

Defense	Threat
<b>Thorns or Spines</b> Thorns on a plant can be big or small. The correct choice from thirsty animals who would like to drink their juice. 	<b>Fire</b> 
<b>Thorns</b> Spines and prickles from hungry animals by growing sharp points on their stems. 	<b>Abe</b> 
<b>Skins</b> Trees can grow thick bark to protect them. 	<b>Thirsty Lizard</b> 
<b>Poison</b> Some plants have chemicals in them that can cause itching and a bad taste. 	<b>Hungry Rabbit</b> 
<b>Hairy Dents and Leaves</b> Some big and insects use a chemical that gives a plant sticky latex plants and other and chemical taste. 	<b>A Gardener</b> 

*Thank you for visiting Lauritzen Gardens!*

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