

Discovery Tour Packet Fifth Grade Teacher's Guide

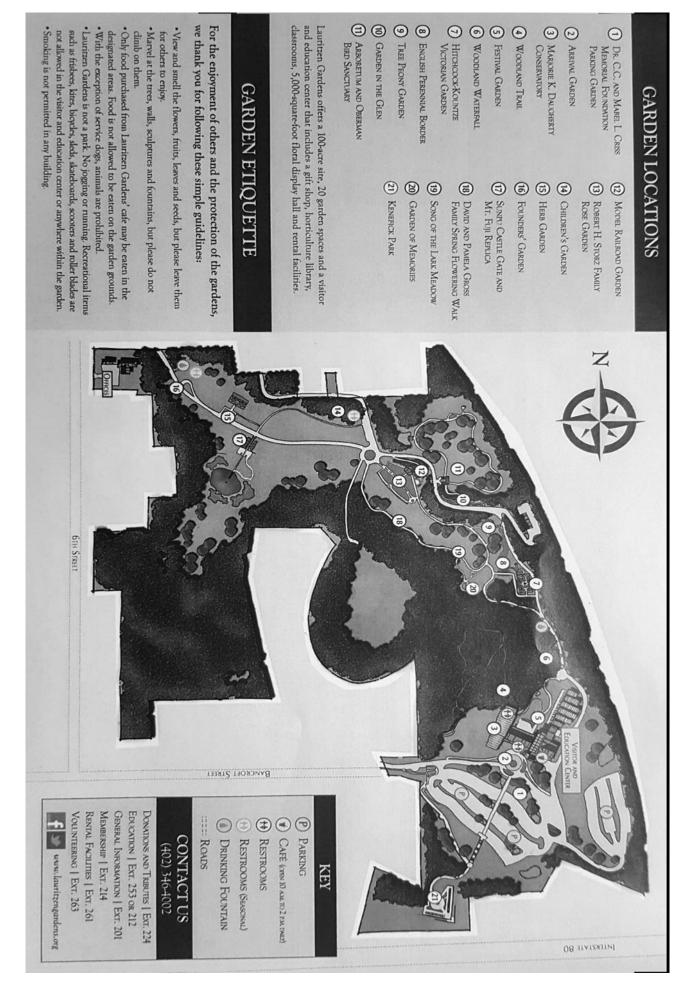
Welcome to Lauritzen Gardens!

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



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:

SC.5.8.2.C Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.

SC.5.13.4.B Describe and graph the amounts of salt water and fresh water in various reservoirs to provide evidence about the distribution of water on Earth.

Iowa State Standards covered in this packet:

5–LS2–1

Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.

5-ESS2-2

Describe and graph the amounts and percentages of water and fresh water in various reservoirs to provide evidence about the distribution of water on Earth.

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



References and Notes

To view a video about erosion scan here:



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)
- 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

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



Annual and Perennial Flowers

<u>Parts of a Plant Activity</u> <u>in Student Handout</u> The Victorian Garden and the Perennial Border Garden (just to the north) are filled with many varieties of flowering plants. This is a great opportunity to discuss with students the different parts of a flower, what is needed for plant growth and plant life cycles.

Have students complete the activity on page 1 of the Student Handout.

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	What I	Do You Know About Fill in the Blank	Plants?	
	leaves	stem	roots	
	sun	water	flower	
The		on the plant h	elps to make seeds	
The absorb the water and hold the plant in the soil.				
		use the sun and air to make food		



Cardinal Video and Song

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

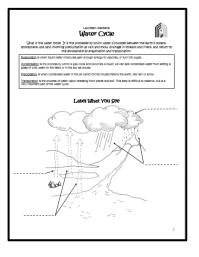


- The Arboretum also serves as a bird sanctuary; look for <u>cardinals</u>, <u>chickadees</u>, <u>robins</u>, and <u>goldfinches</u>.
- Continue following the path to the left to discover the Marsh Pond.

Water Cycle Activity in Student Handout

At either the Arboretum pond or marsh, students may explore the water habitats and discuss the water cycle

Have students complete the Water Cycle activity on page 2 of the Student Handout.





Goldfinch Video and Song

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

Model Railroad Garden (#12)

- Showcases several Gscale 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.)



Children's Garden (#14)

- This garden, when in season, contains many different features for the senses
 - \circ $\,$ '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.



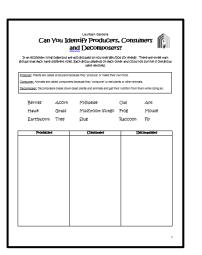
- Take a few minutes to notice the garden sculptures (dragon, water feature, wooden benches, etc.)
- This is a good opportunity to discuss with students recycling, repurposing and re-using
 - Composting: There are 2 bins where garden waste is placed to breakdown into compost; compost is later used to 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

You may find more information about composting here:



Identify Producers, Consumers, Decomposers <u>Activity</u> <u>in Student Handout</u>

Discover the two composting bins and discuss the types of garden waste that are observed. Introduce how composting is an inexpensive and effective way to both reduce household and garden waste and save dwindling landfill space. Composting also converts waste into something useful: compost added to topsoil can improve the soil's structure and overall chemistry, increase beneficial microbial activity, and enhance the soil's ability to retain moisture.



This is a good opportunity to discuss ecosystems and producers, consumers and decomposers. Have students complete the 'Can You Identify Producers, Consumers and Decomposers' activity on page 3 of the Student Handout.

Thank you for visiting Lauritzen Gardens!

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