



## 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  
<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-Koontz 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 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.

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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



### 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



## References and Notes

To view a video about erosion scan here:



Erosion and Soil

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



Annual and Perennial Flowers

Parts of a Plant Activity  
in Student Handout

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.

Lauretta Gardens  
**Parts of a Plant**

There are 3 main parts to plants and they have all 3 parts to get roots and live. Some are the leaves of the plant and are the green parts that make food for the plant. Some are the stems and are the brown parts that hold the leaves up. Some are the roots and are the white parts that hold the plant in the ground. There are also small parts called leaves and roots that do the same as moving the water and nutrients. When you see the water and mineral up to the leaves and then after the leaves do their job, the water and mineral go back down to the roots. Leaves are the green parts that make food for the plant. Leaves are the green parts that make food for the plant. This is done by a process called photosynthesis.

**What Do You Know About Plants?**  
Fill in the Blank

leaves	stem	roots
sun	water	flower

To grow, a plant needs \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ on the plant helps to make seeds and fruit.

The \_\_\_\_\_ absorb the water and hold the plant in the soil.

The \_\_\_\_\_ use the sun and air to make food for the plant.



Robin Video and Song



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 [cardinals](#), [chickadees](#), [robins](#), and [goldfinches](#).
- ❖ Continue following the path to the left to discover the Marsh Pond.



Goldfinch Video and Song

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.

Lauretta Gardens  
**Water Cycle**

Water is the water cycle! It is the process by which water circulates between the earth's oceans, atmosphere, and land involving precipitation as rain and snow, drainage to streams and rivers, and return to the atmosphere as evaporation and transpiration.

**Evaporation** is when liquid water molecules gain enough energy to vibrate, or turn into a gas.

**Condensation** is the process by which a gas cools and becomes a liquid; we can see condensed water from setting a glass of cold water on the table or in the fog on clouds.

**Precipitation** is when condensed water in the air falls from clouds back to the earth, like rain or snow.

**Transpiration** is the process of water vapor (escaping) from plants and soil. This step is difficult to observe, but is a very important part of the water cycle.

**Label What You See**

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

## 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.)



## 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.)
- ❖ 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  
Activity  
in Student Handout

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.

Lauritzen Gardens  
**Can You Identify Producers, Consumers and Decomposers?**

In an ecosystem living organisms are not produced for you to use for food or energy. There are three main groups that each have different roles. Each group depends on each other and could not survive if one group were missing.

**Producers:** Plants are called producers because they produce or make their own food.

**Consumers:** Animals are called consumers because they "consume" or eat plants or other animals.

**Decomposers:** Decomposers break down dead plants and animals and get their nutrition from them while doing so.

Berries	Acorn	Millipede	Owl	Ant
Hawk	Grass	Mushroom (Fungus)	Frog	Mouse
Earthworm	Tree	Slug	Raccoon	Fly

Producers	Consumers	Decomposers

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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.*