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=UlwyPakqX4 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.7.7.3.A Construct an explanation that predicts patterns of interactions among organisms across multiple ecosystems.

SC.7.8.4.A Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for the role of photosynthesis in the cycling of matter and flow of energy into and out of organisms.

SC.7.8.4.D Develop a model to describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem.

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

MS–LS1–6

Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for the role of photosynthesis in the cycling of matter and flow of energy into and out of organisms.

MS–LS2–3

Develop a model to describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem.
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 and 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.

Victorian Garden (#7) (continued)

*Photosynthesis Activity in Student Handout*

Take the opportunity to explore the various plants and flowers in the Victorian Garden. This garden provides an excellent opportunity to discuss plant cells and the photosynthesis process.

Page 1 of the Student Handout provides a brief description of photosynthesis and provides students an opportunity to identify the various elements of the process.

A critical thinking activity is provided on page 2.

State Standard References and Notes

**NE**: SC 8.4.2

To view a video about erosion, scan here:

**NE**: SC 8.4.3

**IA**: MS-LA1-6

To view a video about plant cells and photosynthesis, scan here:
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.

Arboretum (#11) (continued)
Habitat Ecosystem in Student Handout
After visiting the Arboretum Marsh, discuss the components of an ecosystem. Explore biotic and abiotic factors in a marsh ecosystem and each affects the entire ecosystem. Students may then complete the activity on page 3 of the Student Handout.

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

Children’s Garden (#14) (continued)
- ‘Touch’ garden features sensitive plant, lamb’s ear, fennel, junkus and daylilies

- The Children’s Garden also features various plants and vegetables typically planted in a home garden. Take the opportunity to explore these different gardens and prompt students to discuss their knowledge of food sources.

**Food Chain Activity in Student Handout**

Discuss simple food chains utilizing the example on page 4 of the Student Handout. Have students complete their own example of a food chain and complete the critical thinking activity.

---

**Thank you for visiting Lauritzen Gardens!**

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