



## Discovery Tour Packet Eighth 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 | Sunny 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**

- P PARKING
- C CAFE (OPEN 10 AM TO 2 PM DAILY)
- R RESTROOMS
- R+ RESTROOMS (SEASONAL)
- F 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.*

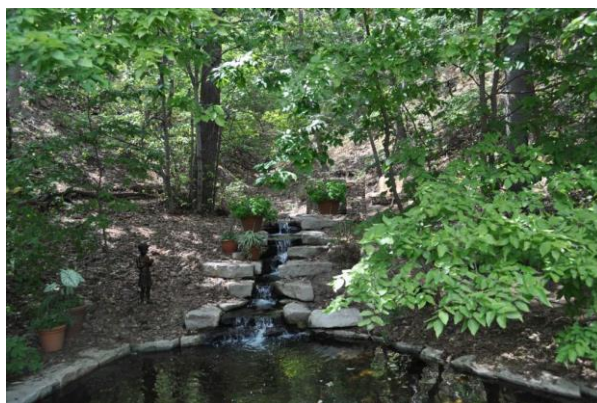
*Discovery tours do not include visiting the Conservatory, the Woodland Trail or the Visitor and Education Center*

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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 and across the road and down the hill



## **State Standard References and Notes**

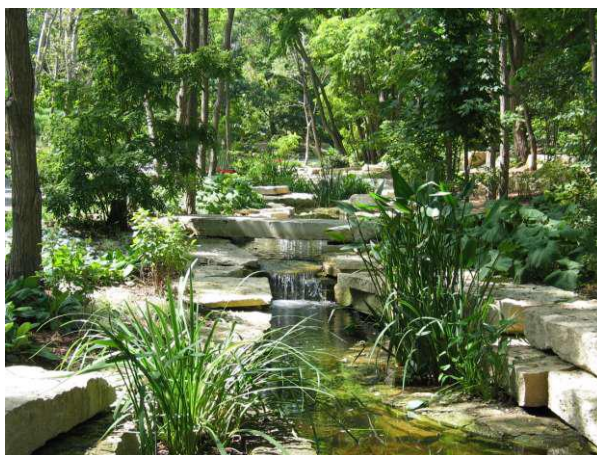
[NE:](#) SC 8.4.2  
[IA:](#) MS-ESS2-4

To view a video about erosion, scan here:



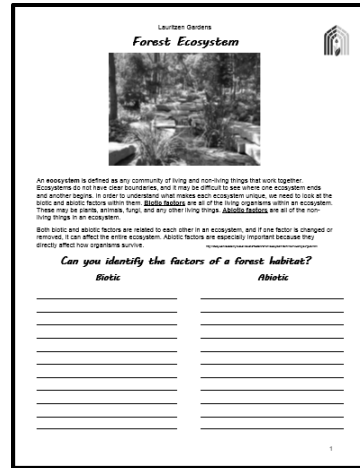
### Garden in the Glen (#11)

- ❖ A glen is defined as a valley between two hills
- ❖ Garden is shaded by Black Locust trees
- ❖ Most plants in this garden prefer shade and not direct sunlight



Forest Ecosystem Activity  
in Student Handout

Find a place where your students may observe the ecosystem around them while staying on the path. (Be aware the tram will use this pathway April – October.) Discuss the forest ecosystem and identify its characteristics. Have students complete the activity on page 1 of the Student Handout.



NE: SC 8.3.3  
IA: MS-LS2

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](#).



Cardinal Video and Song



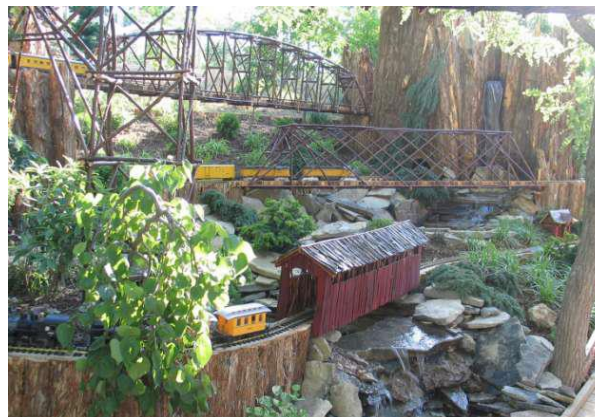
Robin Video and Song



Goldfinch Video and Song

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.

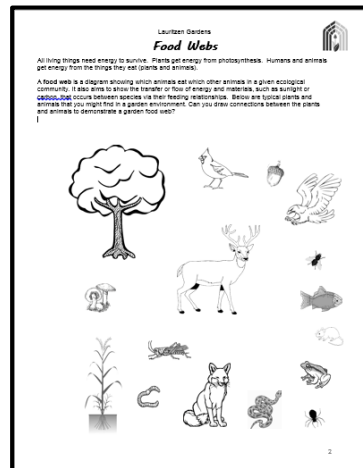
## Children's Garden (#14)

- ❖ 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
- ❖ 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 food chains and webs. Have students complete the food web activity on page 2 of the Student Handout.*



[NE: SC 8.3.3](#)  
[IA: MS-LS2-5](#)

## 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



## Rose Garden (#13) (continued)

- ❖ 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 and other characteristics of plant adaptation. Have students complete the activity on page 3 of the Student Handout.*

Lauritzen Gardens  
**Plant Adaptations**

Plants adapt (change) to their habitat in order to get sunlight, water, carbon dioxide and nutrients. Plants also need to their environment in order to protect themselves and reproduce.

Look around you and find a plant or tree that interests you. Describe it below or draw a picture, noting characteristics that you think exist but may not be able to see (youth, flowers, etc.)

Describe or draw your plant here:

Identify characteristics or adaptations of your plant that help do the following things to survive:

Obtain sunlight:

Obtain water:

Filter carbon dioxide and nutrients:

Protect itself:

Reproduce:

3

[NE: SC 8.3.4](#)  
[IA: MS-LS4-4](#)

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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.*