

Brief Teacher's Guide – Lauritzen Gardens

Arrival and Parking Gardens

- The arrival garden is the first visual experience visitors encounter when entering the garden.
- Guests are welcomed by displays of perennials and colorful annuals that lead to the visitor and education center as well as a hillside of wildflowers.

Kenefick Park

- On grand display are Centennial No. 6900 - the largest and most powerful diesel-electric locomotive ever built - and Big Boy No. 4023 - the world's largest steam locomotive.
- Featuring several plazas, seating areas, a grand staircase, "canyon" stone walls, interpretive signage, sculpture and walkways, the park documents Union Pacific Railroad's role in the development of Omaha and the West.

Visitor and Education Center (not available for self-guided tours)

- The 32,000-square-foot visitor and education center includes a 5,000-square-foot floral display hall, an education wing containing two classrooms and one of the region's only horticultural libraries.
- Additionally, the visitor center houses the great hall, community room, café, and gift shop.

Marjorie K. Daugherty Conservatory

(not available for self-guided tours)

- A study in luxuriant flowers and foliage, unusual plant life, dramatic water features and panoramic views, the 17,500 square foot conservatory is a walk-able work of art for all four seasons.
- From tropical gardens with soaring palms and vibrant flowers to temperate gardens with moss-covered oak trees and blooming azaleas, to an ever-changing gallery space for magnificent floral displays and special events, guests can explore picturesque garden areas and experience creative horticultural designs throughout the year.

Woodland Trail (not available for self-guided tours)

- Meandering through a century-old forest of bur oak, trail hikers enjoy the serenity of this wooded area while observing the native plant community that has long existed on our riverside Loess Hills.
- In addition to bur oak, the trail winds past American hop hornbeam, gooseberry, Kentucky coffee tree and shagbark hickory.

Festival Garden

- Its large lawn area is surrounded by ever-changing vibrant colors throughout spring, summer and fall.
- From azaleas in the spring to a wide array of mums blooming through fall, the festival garden gives joy to all who take part in its unique beauty.

Woodland Waterfall

- This area features a waterfall and two small ponds, and the “New Friends” sculpture that charmingly depicts a young boy holding a frog.

Victorian Garden

- Architectural remnants from razed Omaha and Council Bluffs buildings are prominently featured throughout this perennial garden.
- The floral design changes seasonally, presenting annual plantings in geometric configurations.

English Perennial Border

- More than 300 different plant species and cultivars are displayed amongst the thousands of individual sun and shade-loving perennials.
- English gardens are known for their masses of colorful plants and informal design style.

Peony Garden

- With many different varieties featured, the garden has an extended blooming period from late April through early June.
- This serves as a beautiful segue between the early spring blooms of bulbs and flowering shrubs and the perennials of summer.

Garden in the Glen

- Along with astilbe, bleeding heart, ferns and Japanese maple, a historic collection of locally bred hostas is displayed.
- This valley, or glen, includes a 300-foot-long stream meandering through the existing stand of black locust. With the trees providing shade, the stream and upland plantings provide the garden visitor with an experience that is very different from our more typical sunny garden spaces.

Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary

- The Arboretum and Oberman Bird Sanctuary is a four-acre site with seven regional plant communities: prairie, savannah, oak hickory forest, maple linden forest, farmstead windbreak, marsh and flood plain river margin.

Model Railroad Garden

- The garden was meticulously handcrafted by landscape designer Paul Busse and his team at Kentucky-based Applied Imagination.
- This garden features several G-scale model trains, which travel past replicas of historically and culturally significant Omaha buildings.
- The buildings, bridges, and trestles are constructed using all-natural materials like seedpods, twigs, and whatever else nature has to offer.

Rose Garden

- This formally designed garden is planted with nearly 2,000 rose plants.
- Hybrid tea, grandiflora, floribunda, climbing and shrub roses are all planted in this garden.
- Two peak blooming seasons occur; the first around the end of May and the second beginning around the 15th of September and continuing through frost.

Children's Garden

- No other garden better illustrates Lauritzen Gardens' educational focus than the children's garden.
- It is the site of many of the garden's children's activities including school tours, youth organization projects, and garden children's programs.

Herb Garden

- A favorite place of both gardeners and cooks, the herb garden consists of nine different planting beds nestled under a prairie-style arbor that provides anchorage for many climbing plants.
- Each bed has its own theme such as: culinary, medicinal, natural dye and ethnic.

Founders' Garden

- This garden is made up of hundreds of beautiful hosta representing nearly 50 varieties.
- Other shade-loving perennials and ferns – representing more than 150 varieties - are joined with annual plantings to provide color throughout the season.

Japanese Garden

- Visitors may walk on a path, through a kabuki gate which signals “public space,” through the Sunpu castle gate to a red torii gate at the base of the scaled replica of Mt. Fuji.

Song of the Lark Meadow

- The Song of the Lark Meadow is filled with beautiful wildflowers and other native Nebraska flowers and grasses.
- This native wild flowering meadow is named after the short story of the same name by Willa Cather, a well-known Nebraska author.

Garden of Memories

- The Garden of Memories serves as a symbolic space for the celebration of life’s milestones.
- A primary feature of the garden is a 40-foot-wide half-circle reflecting pool – the largest formal water feature at Lauritzen Gardens.

Spring Flowering Walk

- The David and Pamela Gross Family Spring Flowering Walk is made up of thousands of spring flowering bulbs and accented with beautiful spring flowering trees and shrubs.
- Flowers begin blooming in March and last into May.