

# 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Lauritzen Gardens Guide

Gardens are full of surprises and fun things to discover!  
Work as a group to complete the tasks and answer the questions.

### Festival Garden Patio

- Find a plant that looks familiar to you and read its common name.
- Why do you think people gave it this common name?
- Find the plants scientific name (genus followed by species).
- Can you pronounce it?
- Who might use scientific names rather than a common name? Why?
- Find a plant you know or think is pretty. Repeat both its common name *and* scientific name over and over to memorize and share.

### Woodland Pond and Waterfall

- Look at the waterfall and forest understory.
  - If you were an artist what would you draw? Why?
  - If you were a scientist what would you study? Why?
- What characteristics would it take for a plant to live near the ground? To grow to the top? What animals/ insects might you find here?

### Victorian Garden

- If you drew a line down the center of the garden, it would look the same on one side as on the other. What kind of symmetry is this? \_\_\_\_\_
- The outer beds in this type of garden are usually perennials and the inner beds are usually annuals. Can you find a favorite of each?
- Find an architectural artifact from the Omaha area and read its history.

### Garden in the Glen

- Shade plants thrive in this garden. What produces the shade? \_\_\_\_\_
- A storm uprooted several Black Locust Trees, what did the gardens put up in place of the trees to provide shade? \_\_\_\_\_
- What would have happened to the plants if shade was not provided?

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- Can you find any animals that enjoy the water and shade in this garden?

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**Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary**

- Can you see any tadpoles or fish swimming in the entrance pond? There is another pond on the circular pathway to your right you can look for more water creatures there.
  - What similarities do you find among animals that live in the water?
  - What similarities do you find among animals that live on the land?
  - What similarities do you find among animals that live in the air?
- An arboretum is known as a garden for trees. How many things can you name that come from trees?

**Model Railroad Garden**

- Can you find any buildings you recognize in Omaha?
  - Which building is a model of Lauritzen Gardens?
- What is the strongest shape used in building? Can you find any triangles used in the Railroad Garden?
- Sound travels through physical compression of molecules.
  - Will a train whistle travel faster through a solid, a liquid or a gas?
  - Will a train whistle sound like a higher pitch (frequency) when the train is speedily moving toward you, or away from you?

**Rose Garden**

- What characteristics are similar between all the roses? Different?
- Breeders cross different roses to get different genetic varieties. Some roses were bred to only look beautiful but have no smell. What other characteristics do you think a breeder would consider in crossing two plants to create a new one?
- Stop and take a whiff. Which rose smells the best? (Watch out for bees!)

**Song of the Lark Meadow**

- What plants, animals, and insects can you find?
- All life’s energy comes from the sun! How does energy from the sun flow through the web of plants, insects and animals you could find on this native prairie planting?

**Garden of Memories**

- Pause in this garden, and sit on the bricks. People have written on the bricks about the people and events they want to remember. Read a few bricks with your group. They can write up to 3 lines of 13 characters (including spaces). This would typically be 6-8 words.
- What 7 words would you write to help remember your visit today?
