



Self-Guided Tour Packet Kindergarten 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 Sunru Castle Gate and Mt. Fuji Replica |
| 7 Hitchcock-Koontz 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 Kenrick 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

- 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

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.

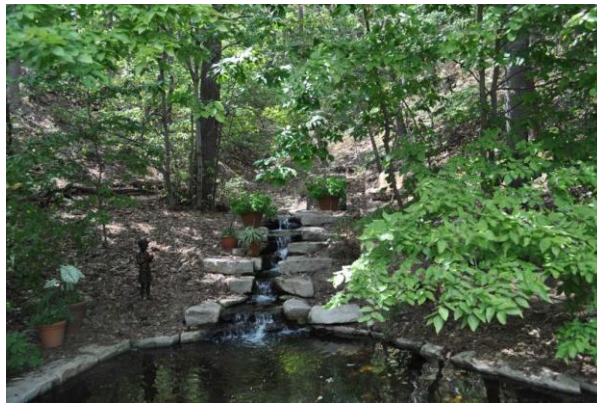
If you are visiting with multiple groups, please consider beginning your tour farther out in the Gardens to avoid congestion.

Self-guided tours do not include visiting the Conservatory, the Woodland Trail or the Visitor and Education Center

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 some of earth's materials (soil, water, wood chips, rocks)
- ❖ Note living and non-living things in this location
 - Living: Trees, plants, any animals that may be present
 - Non-Living: 'New Friends' statue, water, rocks, bench



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



State Standard References and Notes

[NE](#): SC 2.4.2.a

[IA](#): K-ESS2-2

[NE](#): SC 2.4.2.a

[NE](#): SC 2.3.1.a

The formal nature of this garden lends itself to discussing the placement of plants in relation to one another (above, below, beside, in front of, behind, next to)

[NE](#): [MA 0.3.2.a](#);

[SC 2.2.2.s](#)

[IA](#): KG.A.1

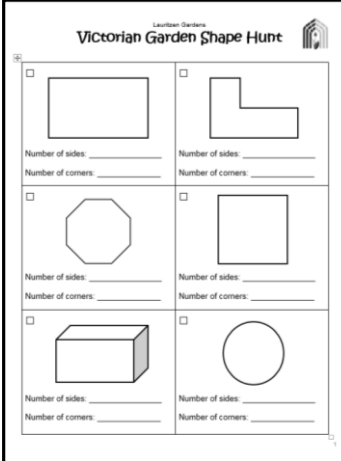
[NE](#): SC 2.4.2.b

[IA](#): K-ESS3-3







Victorian Garden (#7) (continued)

Victorian Garden Activity in Student Handout

Have students identify shapes in this garden and complete page 1 of the Student Handout by counting and recording the number of sides and corners for each shape.



The worksheet is titled "Victorian Garden Shape Hunt" and includes a small house icon. It contains six boxes, each with a shape and two lines for recording information:

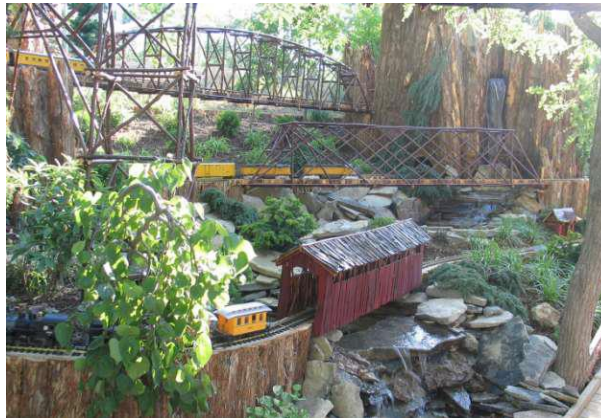
<input type="checkbox"/>  Number of sides: _____ Number of corners: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>  Number of sides: _____ Number of corners: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>  Number of sides: _____ Number of corners: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>  Number of sides: _____ Number of corners: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>  Number of sides: _____ Number of corners: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>  Number of sides: _____ Number of corners: _____

[NE](#): MA 0.3.1.a;
MA 0.3.1.c

[IA](#) K.G.A.2, K.G.B.4

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, pine cones, bark, bamboo, etc.)



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

Arboretum (#11)

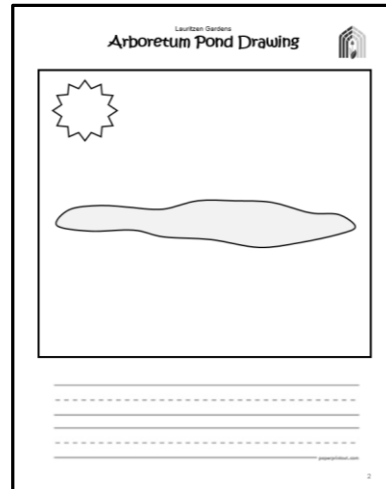
- ❖ 'Arboretum' means garden for trees
- ❖ Bronze sculpture of Sand Hill crane; Sandhill cranes are migratory birds that gather along Nebraska's Platte River every Spring to rest before traveling north to Canada



- ❖ The Arboretum also serves as a bird sanctuary; look for [cardinals](#), [chickadees](#), [robins](#), and [goldfinches](#)
- ❖ Discuss the pond habitat and things you might see (hummingbirds, dragonflies, frogs, water lilies, pond vegetation, etc.)

Arboretum Pond Activity in Student Handout
Have students identify different features of a pond including plants and animals. Students should complete their own drawing of a pond on page 2 of the Student Handout.

Alternate activity: Have students draw what a pond might look like in a different season.



[NE](#): SC 2.1.1.d;
SC 2.3.1.b;
SC 2.3.1.d

[IA](#): K-ESS3-1

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.



[NE](#): SC 2.3.1.c

[IA](#): K-ESS3-1

Children's Garden (#14) (continued)

- ❖ Take a few minutes to notice the garden sculptures (Wood Folk Art sculpture, dinosaur, water feature, wooden benches, etc.)
 - Students can 'compare' themselves to these garden features for height, size and estimated weight (i.e. which is taller? shorter? wider? heavier? etc.)
 - Lithuanian Wood Folk Art sculpture height is 10'; width is 2'
- ❖ 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. This compost is later used to fertilize plants in the garden.
 - Repurposing: The dinosaur sculpture was created from used farm equipment parts
 - The wood mulch pathways are made from downed or damaged trees that have been chipped

[NE: MA 0.3.1.c;](#)
[MA 0.3.3.b](#)

[IA: K.MD.A.2; K.G.B.4](#)

Scan here to find more information about composting:



[NE: SC 2.4.2.b](#)

[IA: K-ESS3-3](#)

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)

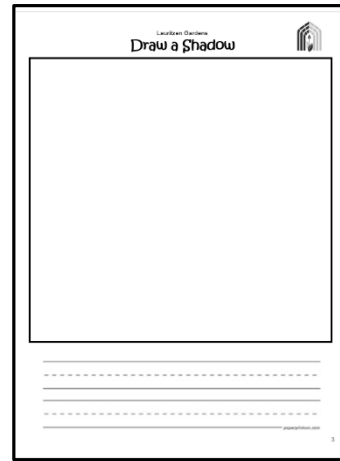
- ❖ The central sculpture in the Rose Garden is an Armillary Sphere;
 - The ancient Greeks are credited with inventing the Armillary Sphere, sometimes also known as the equatorial sundial; the armillary has adapted to reflect measuring time by shadows
 - Today garden armillary spheres are also known 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

[NE: SC 2.4.1.b](#)

Shadow Activity in Student Handout

Have students play Shadow Freeze or draw a shadow they see on page 3 of the Student Handout. Students can also make hand shadows for partners to trace.*

**Shadow Freeze: Have students stand in a line so their shadows are in front of them. When you count to three, the students will raise their arms and dance until you say stop. When you say stop, the students will freeze and look at their shadows. They will compare to see if their shadow is doing what they are doing. Continue doing this several times.*



Thank you for visiting Lauritzen Gardens!

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