Guided Tours – Large Group Options

Reiman Gardens strives to have the best learning experience possible for all of its guided tours. To maintain this high quality experience, maximum student numbers are needed. If your group exceeds the maximum number allowed for the tour, we do have other options to accommodate your group when they visit the Gardens.

Option 1: Consider adding on a class – Reiman Gardens has several options available to allow various size groups to have a wonderful experience. If your group is too large, adding a class will increase the tour capacity

Option 2: Split the group – if possible, break the group into multiple trips to the Gardens. Bring part of the group in the morning and the other part in the afternoon or some on one day and the rest the next day.

Tour	*Max # of students*	*Length of Tour*
Guided Tour	60	1 hour
Guided Tour with Insect Zoo	60	2 hours
Seeds Class or Pollination Class	60	2 hours
Seeds Class or Pollination Class with Insect Zoo	90	3 hours

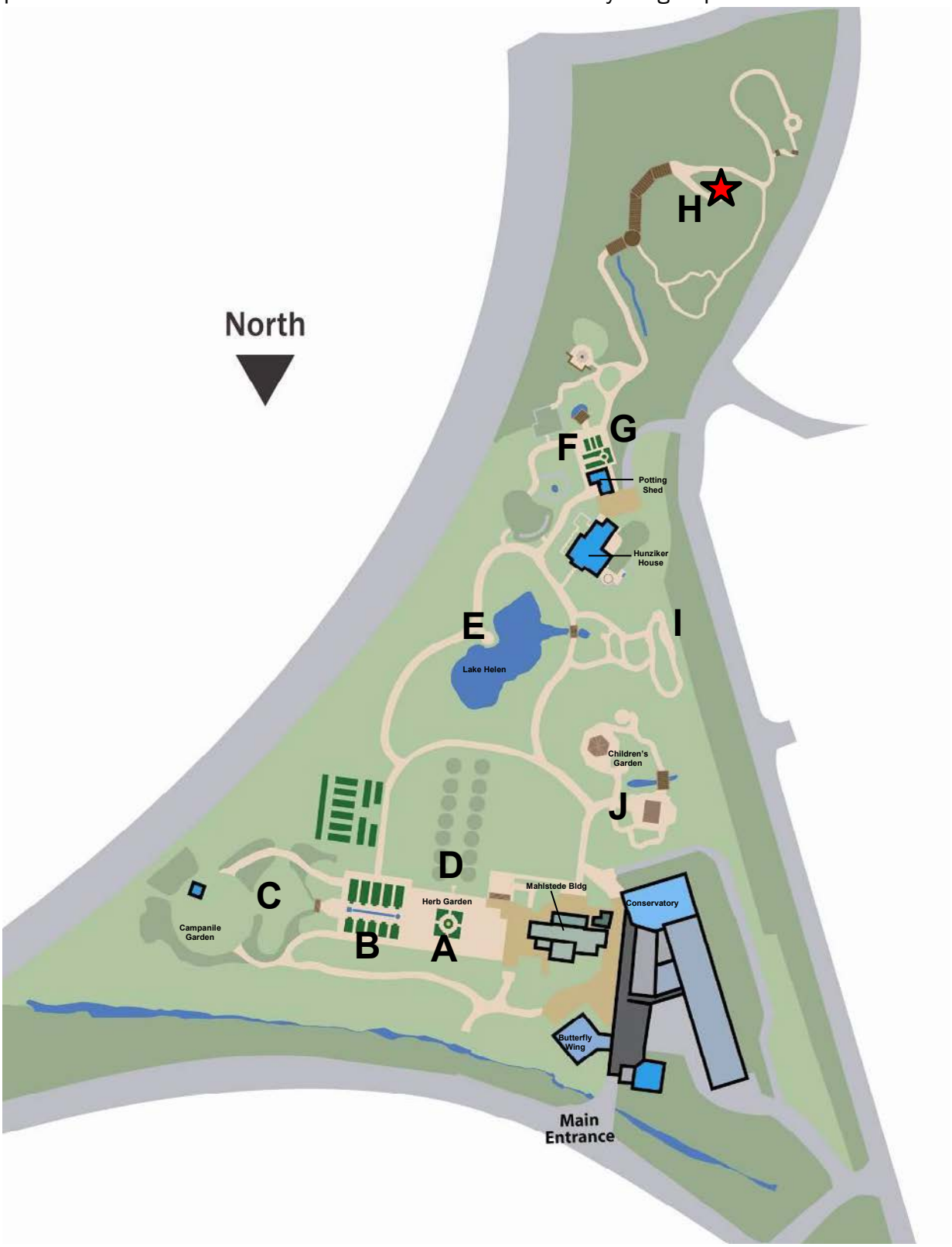
Option 3: Add on a free self-guided tour –This option allows you to bring your entire group without raising the cost. We will split the group with one part participating in the guided tour and the other part doing the self-guided tour. After one hour, we will switch the groups, allowing all of your students to participate in the guided tour. If you choose to do this option, refer to the table below to see how many students you can bring and how that will change the length of your tour.

Enclosed is our Self-Guided Tour packet. It includes information about the outdoor Gardens and a walking route that will allow your students and the adults/chaperones in your group to explore the outdoor Gardens for one hour.
In the event of inclement weather, limited self-guided indoor activities can be arranged in place of the self-guided outdoor tour.

Tour	*Max # of students*	*Length of Tour*
Guided Tour + Option 3	120	2 hours
Guided Tour with Insect Zoo + Option 3	90	3 hours
Seeds Class or Pollination Class + Option 3	90	3 hours
Seeds Class or Pollination Class with Insect Zoo + Option 3	120	4 hours

Reiman Gardens Self-Guided Tour

Use the route printed on this map to see many of the fun and unique features of Reiman Gardens. Included in this packet is information about each stop on the tour and a few questions to stimulate a conversation with the students in your group.



Stop A: Herb Garden

The herb garden has a very formal layout, typical for this type of garden. Each year the plants inside this formal garden change and theme of the garden is different. Look for any signage in the herb garden to learn more about the plants featured.

You are allowed to touch plants in the herb garden – many of them smell interesting. Remember to be respectful and to leave all plants looking good for the next visitors to the Gardens. Please do not eat any of the plants; not all of them are edible and some may make you sick.

What is an herb?
What about the layout of the garden makes it "formal"?
Where in the world are these plants from? How did they get to Iowa?
What do you think these plants are used for?
When you smell the leaves and stems of these plants, what does it remind you of?

Stop B: Jones Rose Garden

This beautiful garden with its long fountain down the middle also has a very formal landscape design. It features roses and other plants that are easy to take care of. Roses are beautiful flowers, but many can be difficult to care for because they are prone to disease that causes ugly black spots on their leaves. These roses and other plants are resistant to the disease that causes black spots and therefore look better and are easier to grow. This garden is often filled with insects pollinating the many flowers in this garden. Remember if you leave the insects alone, they will leave you alone!

What type of insects do you see in this garden?
What are those insects doing?
What colors are the most common in this garden?
Why do you think the insects are attracted to the flowers in this garden?

Stop C: Campanile Garden

This open expanse of turf grass is surrounded by a colorful annual flower display. In the early spring more than twenty thousand tulips and other bulbs bloom here. Once they have finished blooming, the display is replanted with colorful annuals – plants that only live for one season. This display changes each year to fit the theme year. Look for signage in the campanile garden to learn more about the plants featured.

The garden campanile is a link to the landmark structure on the ISU central campus. The fifty- foot, open steel structure includes a "singing carillon", which plays programmed chime-type music.

What type of insects do you find in this garden? How are they different from the insects in the other gardens we've visited?
Listen for the clock tower to chime, what time is it? How do you know by listening to it?
What is the most interesting plant you have found in this garden? Why is it so interesting?

Stop D: Dancing Chimes and Bald Cypress Alleé

Embedded into the small plaza here is a musical instrument. Step firmly to cause the metal blocks to chime.

Even though they look like evergreens with their needle-shaped leaves, this grove of trees is deciduous – meaning they lose their leaves each year. This line of trees makes you look up and down the alley with the herb garden sundial as a focal point on one end and the lake as a focal point on the other.

What songs could you create on the Dancing Chimes?
What happens when two people step on different squares at the same time? Does it sound pleasant or not?

Stop E: Lake Helen

This artificial lake is home to goldfish and aquatic plants, including lotus and many exotic water lilies. The large-leafed Victoria water lily is often grown here as an annual and started in our own greenhouses from seed. The lily pads have spikes on the underside to protect them from fish. Each lily pad has potential to reach six feet in diameter. The fish are left to over-winter in the pond. The lake is five feet deep, lined with a 45 millimeter rubber liner and rocks. There are 'plant shelves' around the edge for the marginal plants.

Lake Helen is also home to many frogs and tadpoles. Approach the edge slowly and quietly or the frogs will jump and hide in the murky water before you get a chance to see them!

What type of insects do you think live in the lake?
What type of animals do you think live in the lake?
If you lived in this lake, what would be your favorite part? What would you be worried about? Why?

Stop F: Home Production Garden

The Home Production Garden is one of twelve smaller gardens in the area surrounding the Hunziker House intended as home demonstration gardens. These areas are intended to generate "ideas" for home gardeners.

The raised beds in the Home Production Garden show recommended and unusual vegetable and fruit plants, and illustrate methods for *espalier* (selective pruning and shaping) and other vertical gardening techniques. The greenhouse and cold frames demonstrate ways of extending the growing season in the spring and the fall. Each year new vegetables are planted based on a theme. Look for the signage in the home production garden to learn more about the plants featured. Excess produce is donated yearly to local food pantries.

What part of the plant are you eating on each of these vegetables? Leaves? Stems? Flowers? Etc.
What is your favorite vegetable here?
Why are vegetables good to eat?
Besides people, what other creatures enjoy eating these plants? Look for evidence of other animals eating these vegetables.

Stop G: Elwood – The largest concrete garden gnome in the world
Built as the tallest concrete garden gnome in the world, this fifteen-foot gnome is a unique and delightful recreation of the traditional and much smaller garden dweller. This larger than life gnome was commissioned by Reiman Gardens and constructed by National Rock & Sculpture, Inc. in Wisconsin.

The painted gnome we know today was first produced in quantity by clay potter Philipp Griebel around 1872 in Germany The garden gnome often became a treasured family heirloom handed down from generation to generation. It is good luck to place a gnome in the home and garden. In the 1960's mass production of plastic garden gnomes tarnished the reputation of the classic clay gnome statues. Although your lawn gnomes may be outside day in and day out, lawn gnomes are only active at night where they help humans with gardening and farming tasks.

Be sure to take a class photo with Elwood – he is very photogenic!

How much do you think Elwood weighs? (3500 lbs)

***Coming Soon!* Stop H: Sycamore Falls**
This southernmost portion of Reiman Gardens is undergoing a great transformation! This area is being converted to Sycamore Falls, which will feature waterfalls cascading over native limestone walls, flanked by colorful swaths of ornamental plants, and ending in a large reflecting pool.

The plan incorporates seven iconic sycamore trees that have been on the property for about 80 years, and designs are being considered for a tower-like structure at the south end with bathrooms on the lower level, and above, a beautiful view of the entire garden space.

CHECK BACK OFTEN TO SEE PROGRESS ON THIS GARDEN AREA, WHICH SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE SPRING OF 2019.

Stop I: Hillside Water-Wise Garden *(NEW – Summer 2017)*
Supported in part by a donation from the ISU class of 1955, this garden showcases five different water-wise garden tiers, featuring plants which are drought-resistant, or otherwise use water very efficiently. This area offers an accessible winding path adjacent to a grand staircase; at the top of the limestone steps, the visitor is rewarded with a captivating and surprisingly broad view of the Gardens.

The five garden tiers include a rain garden, a Dutch wave garden, a high plains area, a sand garden, and an ornamental garden.

What do you think makes each garden area "water-wise"? How do the plants highlighted use and/or store water?
What areas can you see from here that we have already visited?

Stop J: Children's Garden
With agriculture as its main theme, the Patty Jischke Children's Garden contains many elements you expect to find on an Iowa farmstead. The ultimate goal is to get children

interested in plants and nature at a young age and hopefully this interest will carry on later in life. This whole area is a great place for exploration and discovery!

The corncrib pavilion is used as a teaching facility for children's programs, and features a semi-permanent interactive display: *Make Things Move – The 6 Simple Machines on the Farm.* The children's plaza surrounding the corncrib pavilion features botanic impressions made by local school children using leaves, flowers, nuts, berries, and their hands, and the teleidoscope (!) allows visitors to see kaleidoscopic patterns made with real plants and flowers.

The covered bridge provides an ideal spot to watch the water flow through the stream garden. The tunnel hideout provides a secret place for children to hide. The meadow maze uses tall perennials to create screens to enhance the imagination of children playing here. The frog pumps are a safe place to play with water. The Scarecrow garden is an area that can be changed each year. It typically has a large scarecrow sculpture rising above the plants. In some years this is taken down to accommodate a special display. Look for signage in the scarecrow garden to learn more about the plants featured. Part of the Children's Garden is also planted and cultivated by children and their families who attend our youth gardening program, Plant Pals, in the summer.

The Tumble Mounds are located at the south end of the Children's Garden. These large grassy berms are an invitation for children of all ages to burn off a little energy. Be sure to rub the nose of the bronze farm dog, Shep, located at the entrance to the Children's Garden – its good luck!

What plants and animal tracks can you see in the concrete around the corn crib pavilion?
What about this area reminds you of a farm?
What are your favorite plants in this garden? Why?
What type of animals would you expect to see living in this environment? How are they the same or different from the animals that live in the other garden areas you've seen today?