



Tsuru Island

BEHIND THE SCENES:

Each month this segment has been about people working behind the scenes. This month is about something that happened "Behind the Scenes", I did not see it coming.

Have you ever had one of those life things that happen out of nowhere? Sometimes it is something that you wished for or wanted/needed. When it happened...WOW, star spangled banner, fireworks, a feeling of; did that just happen, and pinch me.

In 2011, I wrote a "master plan" document for the garden in order to explain what the garden should be about and that it was intended to be a platform for learning, healing and opportunities. One day the group of Gresham High School students we now call, Kaz Kids came with their teacher and staff. (Go to our website, greshamsistercity.org to learn more about these kids or read some of the previous newsletters). Many days would end with my feeling that we did not reach anyone. When the students graduate most do not come back to volunteer but may come with their families to visit from time to time.

On the last day of school I was invited to GHS to join in a department get together and have a snack and sit with the KAZ KIDS and their families to view a slide show of the past year for them at GHS. The seniors were not there, they had already graduated. As I was getting ready to leave the parents of Nathaniel, a senior, came and asked if I was Mr. Jim. They had a question, "could Nathaniel continue to come to the garden to volunteer even though he was no longer at the high school?" Sometime ago he had mentioned to me that he wanted to continue coming in the summer. I had not paid attention to that statement. I now understand that he has enjoyed his time and it is one of the few places that he is not dealing with that internal emotion that he experiences. So; he can put away the Kaz Kids yellow shirt and put on the black volunteer shirt.

This is one of those goals I had set out wanting to accomplish at the beginning.



Getting the Word Out

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Sometimes we hear people say, "I didn't know Gresham had a Japanese garden!" or "when did this get here?".

To help get the word out an informational display will be used to get people's attention. Our own City Hall will have the display first and progress to other locations that people come and go on an ongoing basis. The display will also be seen in libraries, banks, post offices and so on. We recently designed a tri-fold brochure and have found that business cards are a must for people to reference. These along with our framed posters to spread the news so many more can enjoy this beautiful feature in Gresham.

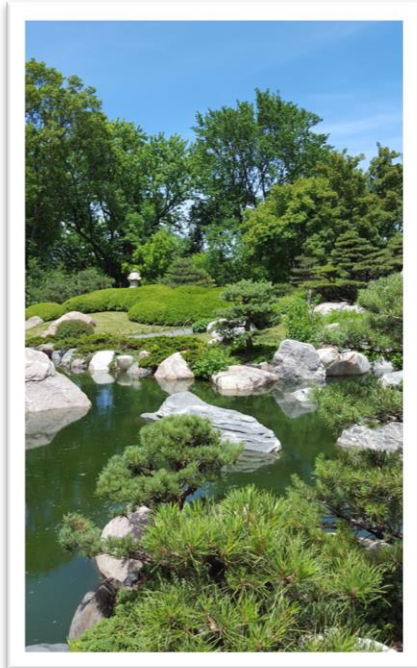
Questions / Comments to:

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Celebrating the Garden

June 30th 2016 completes the 5th year of the adoption of Tsuru Island garden. This spring has been amazing for the garden in more ways than expected colors. New growth is on every plant and some of the growth includes the new fruits coming onto the plants for fall color. When looking at the list of accomplishments over those years, seeing something like "building the bridge" reminds us of how many volunteer hours were given and how many months it took to accomplish the task. Five years...think what will happen in 10 years. One of the things that will happen is maturity of the garden and our understanding of how to foster it for what we will leave behind in 30, 40 and 50 years for the community that follows us. One gets a glimpse of the maturity of some of the plant materials by looking at the plants that were original to the first garden 42 years ago. You are not looking for how tall or wide but the training of the shrubs, trees, vine or ground cover. How well we have done to make it perform as we intended through observation, pruning, general care and the roll that it plays with the rest of the garden. Right along with this perspective we will also be watching through the years how we place and groomed the plant materials in reference to the other surrounding plant materials and the textures, size, colors and shapes as they blend together.

After five years we have just finished the start. Now our goals include the fostering of the garden, that gem that all of us have worked so hard to make one of a kind, special, and something everyone can choose to enjoy in some way. We hope to do this by establishing the endowment that along with volunteer programs we can establish available monies to allow for the garden to be given the care and attention that it will need. The "garden endowment" program will be established with the assistance of the board and other volunteers, over the next few years. It is necessary so that the deterioration of the garden over the past 42 years does not happen again. Sadafumi Uchiyama told Tomiko and I in the first 90 days of our journey that "if they like what they see, they will follow". I can only hope our job has accomplished that sentiment.



Mark the Calendar

Mark the calendar for July 16th 2016, 10am to 4 pm, at Tsuru Island

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION DAY

This is also the completion of our 5th year fostering the Gresham Japanese Garden.

Volunteers and their families are invited to attend. The garden will be closed off to the public for this event.

Some of the day's events will include:

- *Dedication of the Azumaya.*
- *A drawing with prizes.*
- *Lunch*
- *Tea ceremonies with Grace Ishikawa.*
- *Koto presentations by Mitsuki Dazai.*
- *Bonsai demonstrations by Mark Vossbrink.*
- *A lecture and tour of the garden.*
- *Tea and Coffee at the closing of the day.*

There are dozens of volunteers engaged, donors participating, and our Cities unwavering support for our programs in the garden. Almost 13,000 volunteer hours have been accumulated over the past 5 years.

These are some opportunities to serve.

- *A chain link fence installation around the Resource Center*
- *Replace the lawn for the emergency path in front of the Resource Center*
- *Install an additional irrigation main line from the horseshoe area leading to the Resource Center*
- *Place Banners on posts at the park*

TRACKING THE GARDEN PLANTS

People have suggested using placards to identify the plantings in the garden and some information about them. The reason that placards are not used is because this is not a botanical garden, but rather a Japanese garden that has an entirely different approach to education and the plant materials. We asked for assistance to take pictures of our garden plantings with the intention of having a way of introducing the plants to our volunteers and visitors, using technology while in the garden. Bill Peterson, Sue Hughes and I (Jim Card) came up with a whole new approach. Beginning with the July issue of the Tsuru Island newsletter an introduction of two or three plant examples in and around the garden will be featured. These will eventually appear on the website and in a folder. Bill has taken a wide angle and close-up picture of specific plants and has captured the exact setting the photo was taken. Photo cards will be able to not only tell what the plant is but where it came from, size that it was when planted, and if it was a donation or a grant. Potentially photo albums can be made up to be gifted or sold as gifts and greeting cards which can be considered as a fund raiser for the garden. Bill has provided the title "Tsuru Island, Gresham Japanese Garden" on the photos so that it is copyright protected.

Looking back over 5 years or 10 years of the photo library one can see the change in the plant maturity, growth, pruning and in general, changes that have been made to the area. These pictures are being kept in a physical album and in a "master data base".

The photos can also be used for future exercises and games to find the plant like a scavenger hunt. This will be a fun and/or educational event for the KAZ KIDS and others in the community.



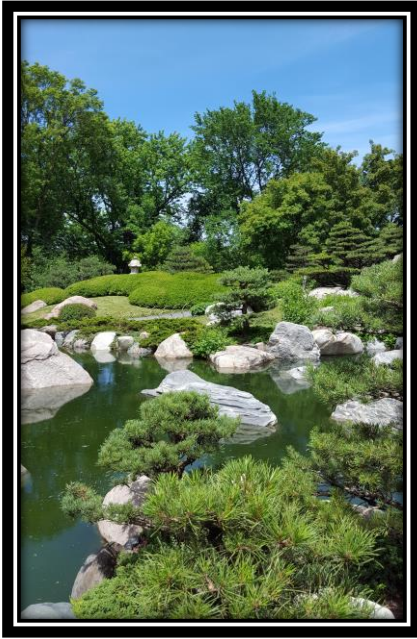
Como Park Japanese Garden in St. Paul, MN

During a recent trip to Minnesota we had a chance to visit Como Park, in St. Paul containing a three acre Japanese Garden. This is the second garden at this location for much the same reason that Tsuru Island garden needed to be replaced. The first garden was built in about 1904 right after the "World's Fair" in St. Louis. The garden at the World's Fair was being disassembled and six stone lanterns were donated to the Como Japanese Garden; four of the original lanterns still exist in this garden today. Nagasaki is the sister city to St. Paul and in 1979 the City of Nagasaki gave a garden design as a gift for the new garden by the designer Masami Matsuda. Those involved could not follow the drawings and had to ask Mr. Matsuda to come to the states to interpret what he was intending. During the next 12 years a total of 8.5 million dollars was raised for the completion of the garden which took place in 1991.

During my tour I learned several things about the garden and here are a few:

- The garden is part of a much bigger venue and is very accessible. Signs present "stay on the path"
- Admission is free. The garden is open from 9am until 6 pm and because of the weather in Minnesota, it is only open from May to September.
- A 16th century Japanese farm house was duplicated in the tea garden section and is available for tea ceremonies every two weeks, by a sign up list, first come first serve
- During the day, the volunteer staff is available to control and inform. The newer volunteers have note books with answers to often asked questions.
- A fine indoor and outdoor bonsai display is present with excellent tables for display (see the pictures).
- The garden is wheel chair accessible
- Pathways are all gravel and have the same problem as we did with loose gravel rolling around.
- Pruning is done by aesthetic pruning people coming in from out of state, some teaching is done with the garden staff.
- All plant materials need to be Minnesota hardy.

It was enjoyable and fascinating to stroll along and view the peaceful beauty.



Tsuru Island over the Past 5 years

- Study of the island and developed a design
- Raised funds and gather support by Tomiko
- Adopted by GSCA (Gresham Sister City Association)
- Partnered with COG (City of Gresham), erosion grant
- Removed 150 cubic yards of debris from the garden areas
- Joined NAJGA (North American Japanese Garden Association), attendance at 3 conferences, Tomiko, Jim and Katey
- Willow tree removal, some wood recycled into the garden by COG
- Installed a drainage system to control standing water and run off
- Design and constructed a steam bed, Wendy, Ron and Jim
- Bamboo fencing and tie system installed
- 29 boulders found throughout Gresham, moved by COG and Campbell Crane and placed onto the island.
- 700 ft. of PVC pipe placed
- 10 irrigation valves installed
- New main waterline under the

- bridge to the island installed
- Sprinkler system materials secured and installed timer, wiring and laterals
- Electricity to the island installed by COG
- Shrubs planted
- Blue stone pathway designed and installed at the garden by Ty Card
- Installed retainers in pathway sides by Tad and others
- Built 2 foot bridges, recycled COG materials used
- Bridge inspection, gifted by PC Engineering
- Purchased Purple Heart lumber, stainless steel hardware, and 9" diameter posts, designed calligraphy and carving
- Machined, sub-assembled and final assembly and dedication
- Pavilion plans purchased, materials donated by Carl Diebold Lumber, materials machined, assembled, roofing purchased and installed
- Water basin areas moved, details and pump system added
- Control signage for the garden entrance areas installed, donated by COG
- Designed and built garden entrance sign of recycled wood
- Signage for the garden interior purchased and installed
- Banners for the park light poles designed and purchased by Janet Lee and Katey Card.
- Gifted the Resource Center usage by COG
- Gifted the greenhouse, Toni and Barry Busse
- Trees donated by Toni and Barry Busse
- Wi-Fi in garden and Resource center by COG with 24 hour surveillance available
- Bark dusted garden areas
- Paver walkway for Resource Center recycled COG pavers used
- Computer and printer donation for
- the Resource Center by Ron Ture
- Sack Lunch Lectures established and program developed by Sue Hughes and Jim
- GESCA website funded and developed including Skosh, Student exchange program and the garden by Sue Hughes and Jim
- Recycled storage cabinets outside installed from COG
- Remodel of the Resource Center inside including clean up, window replacements, curtains, window casings, recycled cabinets from COG and Tomiko
- Remodel of Resource Center exterior including, reconstructing the porch by Paul Warr-King, installed donated railing by G & S Welding, new paint by COG, new roof by COG, capped newel posts and support posts, painted exterior trim and accent by Paul Warr-King, built crawl space door by Paul Warr-King, and removed chain link fencing
- Outdoor lighting donated by Kichler, layout designed and installed by Jim



All photos in this issue taken at Como Park
Japanese Garden, St. Paul, MN