



Tsuru Island

James Card: Editor

CHAMBER NOTES

The Gresham Japanese Garden is a member of the Gresham Chamber of Commerce. What that means is that there is access to other members of the chamber as well as the many programs that the chamber offers. Opportunities and meeting other people that thrive in the community, that otherwise would not be available to Garden members. That is exactly what our community does...It thrives. The chamber meets on Fridays at 7:20 am. The people in attendance can identify themselves and give a description of their business or program. The host gives a bit more about their organization and programs available.

The awareness of the garden has grown and is consistent since joining the Downtown Business Association and the Chamber. You can find out about the garden by looking at the Outlook, KATU 2 news, several small publications, the Gresham History Museum, on-line at the web site, greshamjapanesegarden.com or ebetsuplaza.com and on Facebook.

The City of Gresham gave the garden focus in 2017 and 2018 through the rebranding program currently being promoted. That included the postcard of the garden bridge and a video presentation called "The Gift" which also led to a news presentation by KATU channel 2.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to all of those that help with promoting the awareness. We love our city and community and we are glad that they are enjoy our Garden and Plaza.

CHOOSING THE DESIGN

The Plaza will be mostly complete in a few months. In the meantime the progress will continue as the funds are available. Grants have been applied for and gifts have been bestowed upon us that will accelerate the progress.

Many have seen the original rendering for the plaza. As in all projects there are issues and problems that arise during construction. The design was made with the understanding that the plant material would have to fit the availability and budget at the time of planting. Many of the specimen plants that act as the foundation of the site were donated and had come from other mature landscapes. Some had been aesthetically pruned which makes them even more valuable. Of course the primary foundation of the area are the 12 cherry trees. They are magnificent and will only get better in time. The growth of the lower branches will provide strength to the stalk as time goes on.

People have commented on the mounding and height of the Cherry trees. The drainage and amount of water from the hillside south of the Springwater Trail never seems to dry out over the summer. Planting the trees higher ensures their good health.

Another issues noted was the amount of water that was standing behind the entrance monument at the Trail. To provide somewhere for that water to go, a carved streambed was placed to allow the excess water to be moved to the west and north. The water caught by the emergency lane will move north and will not affect the planting area.

Cont. choosing a design

Benches will be installed around and in the plaza inviting those that are in the area to stop and relax. Originally the benches were going to be constructed out of the old bridge wood. These benches would require a lot of maintenance and probably suffer vandalism. So that idea was abandoned. The City did not have any benches available. One of the volunteers donated funds for nine new benches that match the Main City Park benches and will be installed in the near future.

The City of Gresham has removed the old wood mile markers along the Springwater Trail and given them to the garden. They will be cleaned, paint removed and rotten areas redressed. Then will become decorative pillars in two's connected with chain. One of the pillars will be cleaned up and given to the Gresham History Museum for display.

Walking by the northwest corner of the Plaza, one cannot help but notice the granite Japanese lantern. This was another gift. The imported lantern weighs about 600 pounds and is called a Misaki. As time goes on the lantern will become weathered and tarnished blending in and maturing with the plantings that have been chosen.

The shaded areas of the cherry trees, in time will be enhanced by the natural shape of the tree and cover the lower plantings in the area which include, rhododendron "Taurus", euonymus "Spring Bouquet" and Japanese Aralias. Stepping down in size are the azaleas "Hino Crimson", barberry "Crimson Pigmy", euonymus "Gold and Green". Stepping down once again, several varieties of ferns and ground cover, blended together with dark hemlock mulch and black lava

The existing high pressure system was replaced with drip irrigation which reduced the pressure to allow the water to run at 30 psi. A mainline drip tube was installed and individual emitter tubes circle around each plant.



Neighborhood Association Membership

One of the many reasons that neighborhood associations exist to advocate for activities within a city and provide communication and dialog with city government for such things as crime prevention. There are 15 associations in Gresham and are coordinated by the City department of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement.

The Gresham Japanese Garden, the Resource Center and Ebetsu Plaza is located in the Gresham Butte boundary neighborhood associations, Jim Buck, president. The Garden volunteers became a part of the association in April of 2018

There is a program offered by the City for each association to submit a grant proposal that would provide a 50% match for a new project or upgrade of an existing component in that neighborhood. At the last association meeting for the Gresham Butt Association a unanimous vote was obtained for Ebetsu Plaza grant request for \$1500.00 towards the installation of the stream bed/drainage at the plaza and plant material. It has been submitted to the City for consideration.



Vandalism at the Garden

It seems that every spring I begin writing about vandalism. This spring is no different with several incidents taking place.

One of the issues marks the 3rd or 4th time that damage has taken place on the stationary gate at the ocean scene. Bless John and Tad for the patience that they display with the repairs each time. If you ask John, he keeps a log of his hours spent making the repairs. He keeps it on the refrigerator.

There is a security camera in the garden. We have found that much of the vandalism is taking place out of sight of the camera. So just what is the answer to control the issue and preserve our time, money and energy dealing with these types of behavior? Some of the suggestions have included notifications, asking for more attention to be paid to the park/garden, including the storage yard, where something usually happens twice a week.

There is a belief that if several volunteers were around at certain times of afternoon to evening; just their presence would lend to the issue

In the next few days I will be contacting Garden volunteers to form a committee to contact some organizations such as scout groups, police cadets, senior groups, neighborhood associations, local National Guard, watch groups and others. I will also be contacting councilor's French and Hinton to assist with other approaches.

Additional cameras may help identify these perpetrators. Those volunteers that are around the park during the afternoon and evening could watch their phones and see the camera footage and report it as it is happening. Unfortunately it is too costly to obtain extra cameras from the garden budgets. A grant may be possible for the expense but this too take time and effort for volunteers. In the meantime valuable plants and property that have been donated are being destroyed. It is a shame.

Updates will continue via this newsletter. If our readers have additional suggestions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

What Is That Thing?

Ever since the volunteers began having access to the barn and storage yard by the garden, we have wondered what the concrete structure next to the Resource Center is or was and can we get rid of it?

Most of the time it has been full of debris, storing tools, keeping things out of site and so on. Since it is at an odd angle it seems out of place and even in the way. It can be removed but at quite an expense since it is thick concrete and descends into the ground.

A couple of weeks ago there was a gentleman standing at the entrance of Main City Park and just looking around. When I started up a conversation with him, he said he was reminiscing. He said he had lived in Gresham all of his life. I asked him if he knew about the wrecking yard and how the area looked in the past. With that I asked him if he knew what that concrete structure was and he remembered it well.

Years ago he said that there was an above ground water line that was big enough for a adult to stand in. There were several running through the City with water that fed Portland from Bull Run. One of the water lines ran from northeast to southwest. It crossed Johnson Creek and went toward that Springwater Trail area, even before the train line was built. The above ground water pipe was supported by a series of abutments above the ground. The cement structure in the barn yard is one of those abutments.

To verify the time that this might have existed, I went to the Gresham Museum and looked at a panoramic picture of Gresham with a view from south to north and there it was, plain as day. Mystery solved.



Seeing It Again

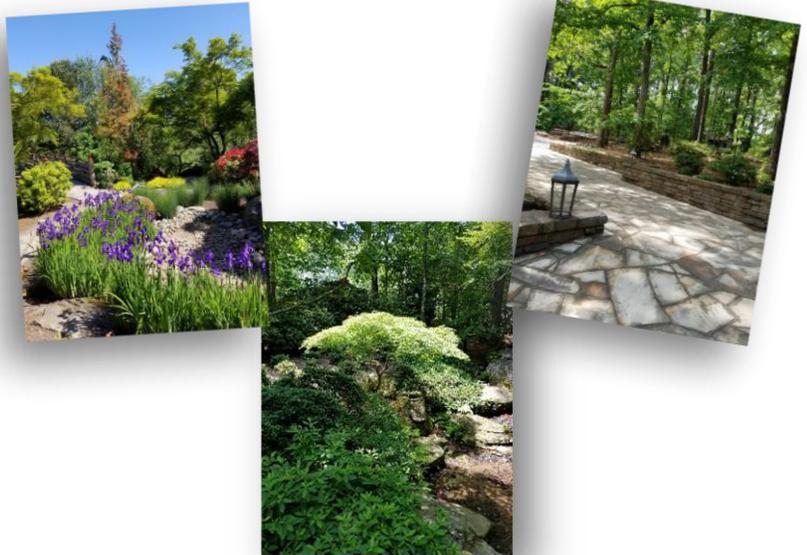
Located in southwest Arkansas is a wonderful garden known as the Garvan Woodland Gardens, a botanical garden of the University of Arkansas. The main expanse of the garden was designed by David Slawson who is a major presence in Japanese style gardens. I visited this wonderful facility about 7 years ago and once again realize why this garden is listed as one of the 5 best Japanese gardens in North America. The land was originally owned by the Garvan family and was given to the university as a gift for development when Mrs. Garvan passed.

The garden expands over several acres. There are classes and workshops of interesting for any member of the family. An event that takes place annually is a display of national artists setting up their art work, which includes everything from handmade quilts to glass art and projects for the kids. Another interesting event takes place 2 times per year is the "tree identification hike". I like this idea for Main City Park and the surrounding area.

If you have a chance to visit this garden in Hot Springs, Arkansas, you will be exposed to magnificent boulder placement, waterfalls, stream beds and dozens of Japanese maples of every size and texture that you might imagine. Bridges are an intricate part of the paths that connect the various and significant areas. All areas are wheelchair accessible and paved either by well-planned concrete bases or paver stone or both.

I had the opportunity to meet with the director of the facility, Susie Burch who walked me through her volunteer process. There are about 300 volunteers, with 100 being active at regular intervals. Although we did not specifically discuss the facility budget amount, I did learn that they receive \$250,000 from the University annually and they have exceeded that amount almost every year for the past several years. The balance is made up of entrance fees at \$15.00, event rentals, and specific fund raisers and so on. Fifty-one employees are on site which includes administrative staff, restaurant staff, security and the garden staff.

Much of the grounds are maintained by large groups that come on a routine basis, much like Gresham's Main City Saturdays. Some of the volunteer duties are covered by interns from the University, who conduct golf cart tours, act as greeters and drive the "G" scale train that take folks through certain areas of the facility. Many other opportunities exist for specialized volunteers for events that take place every month of the year.



Another highlight of this trip was to tour the Anthony Chapel. This unbelievable church setting is located in the middle of the forest and is marked by a towering and dedicated monument constructed in a Frank Lloyd Wright theme; specifically the tree of life. The chapel is made of wood and glass with a concrete floor. It seats about, 350 people for programs. Completely lit at night including the paths to get to it, it has state of the art sound systems, interior lighting, every view from the inside is 360 degrees and 90 percent of the view is the forest. A must to see if you are there.

