



Tsuru Island

James Card: Editor

Upcoming Celebration
Members and volunteers

September 8th

10am until 12

Entertainment, prizes and light
food along with tea, coffee
and water.

The first 75 visitors will be
given a special gift

Purchase a "touchstone" Paver
during the event and receive a
commemorative

"T shirt" celebrating Ebetsu
Plaza.



Additional lights for the Garden

To reduce the number of vandalism issues that take place in the garden causing great frustration some have suggested adding more lighting. That seems simple enough unless you think about the options. We cannot just add another lamp to the end table next to the bench along the path. We cannot expect that the garden will be gifted a 30 foot pole with a super bright LED lamp attached. At the beginning of the refurbishment two 120 volt outlets were placed on the island. Those were placed for easy access for irrigation, low voltage lighting, and a small water pump at 2 opposing areas of the garden. Increasing the number of amps needed to add high current fixtures, at this point is not practical

A few months ago new lights were provided by Kichler Lighting for the bridge. That was to compliment the lights that had previously been gifted by Kichler for highlighting the plant materials and the pathways. There were a number of the path lights victim to vandalism and it was decided to remove them until we had a greater sense of security in the Garden. It is possible at this point with the addition of garden "greeters" and 3 more cameras, the lighting can be put back. Light will be installed in a few trees to add illumination to the garden in a

downward focus. Most of these lights will have a 60 degree spread and will provide a range of lumens up to 835 while only requiring 12 watts of power, lasting up to 50,000 hours per module at 12 volts. All this is powered by a transformer or power center that converts high voltage into low voltage. The transformer was provided by Kichler a few months ago as a gift, a 300 watt unit that has an eye to detect light. It comes on at dusk and goes off at dawn.

Once again the garden has to thank KICHLER for the 16 new lights. "Thank you" does not seem like enough. To be supported by our friends at Kichler is a true blessing.

If you would like to learn more about outdoor lighting and some choices available, contact Jim Card at Gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com. If there is a good amount of interest a workshop will be set up in the fall for more information.

Representatives from Kichler will be visiting Gresham next spring. We are excited to show them the magnificent lighting in the garden.





Community Message Board

Recently the covered rest area, bench and garbage can has been removed near the Springwater Trail. Jim Card has received permission to build a community bulletin board at Ebetsu Plaza and there in the storage unit is the remains of the rest area structure. Although the roof does not need to be as high off of the ground. It will have access from both sides for display of information and directions to various parts of the park via a map. This unit will be mounted at the north end of the lawn section at the upper parking lot by the Plaza. It will have the sidewalk on the front side and a paver walk on the other side. The information area will be covered with Plexiglas and locked. Both sides span 8 feet wide which will contain a map and various Spring Water Trail and Resource center information. This is just one more new development in the effort to improve Main City Park for our community.



A Winter Craft Program

In order to present and promote the Japanese Garden to the community, Jim Card and John Clark have produced gifts to be given to community groups, as fundraisers, silent auctions, and also sold by various groups in the area. The Garden benefits by being visible and earning money to sustain it. John has made as efforts to engrave items and assemble gift baskets. One item is a wine box made of recycled cedar, along with bottles of white and red wines from the Willamette Valley, displayed with two engraved wine glasses nestled in a blanket of black fabric. There are also cutting boards of various sizes engraved with the Tsuru Island Logo. They are made of bamboo or hardwoods suitable for food. Jim has decided to involve volunteers and community with production of items during the late fall to the end of spring. Such as assembling the woods for the cutting board. Also dried flowers in framed displays also utilizing recycled woods. Do you have other ideas of what could be included for promotional use? Let us know at gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com



Ebetsu Plaza - Before



Movie Scene at the Garden

Two weeks ago there was an inquiry from a film company that wanted to produce a scene in the Japanese garden. The scene was going to be for a movie being filmed in our area by a local production company. It is a full length movie called, at this time, "Her. He. Him." directed by Daniel Hill. The decision to use the Garden was made after viewed a short film produced by the City of Gresham entitled "The Gift". The movie company originally requested the use of the Portland Japanese Garden but was denied access. The scene was shot in the "ocean area" of the garden on a Wednesday for about 2 hours with 15 people involved. The film envisions a woman relaxing in a peaceful setting raking the sand in the garden. The director requested an authentic rake be used by the actor, Which Jim Card provided by reproducing a typical rake with recycled wood and a bamboo handle. The crew was pleased with the environment and provided additional sand for the area and a nice monetary gift for the use of the garden which will be placed in the maintenance fund.



Pulling the Rake

Sand or dry gardens are called Karesansui in Japan. Many sizes and shapes of the dry areas exist in Japanese and North American Gardens. Specific sand is used for these areas and project the feeling of an island in the ocean.

The process of this activity begins the removal of any debris such as leaves and twigs and tree needles. Then the custodian must smooth the area and select the pattern to be used. The rake(s) are usually of different materials depending on the sand and the pattern. If rocks or islands are involved then an additional rake is needed to form the pattern around those areas.

These rakes are made of wood with a specific design. Each having specific variation and widths. Then a broom is used to level areas that are desired to be smooth. Another tool is used to repair a pattern that has interrupted the flow by a foot print or something that has fallen into the sand. Once raking begins it must be a finished cycle. A major stop and start point cannot be visible to the eye. These are the easy parts to maintaining the sand of the Karesansui. The hard part is producing the patterns and moving out of the sand area without leaving any foot prints or voids. This is an art form in itself. One trick to the trade is the watering down of the sand before attempting to rake it. This practice creates substance to the sand not to speak of the weight. The payoff is that the peaks and valleys stay in place.

Jim Card's rake



Bark Dust Fires

There is a City ordinance that says "No Smoking" in Gresham City Parks. It is not important to some citizens who choose to smoke in Main City Park. The remains of the cigarettes end up in flower beds and then the bark dust begins to burn. The volunteers have put out two fires this past week. One fire was close to the Coho pavilion and the other at Ebetsu Plaza.

Cigarette remnants are continuously found and picked up by visitors and volunteers in the Garden. It is just a matter of time before we have a major event.

Part of the communication board at the Springwater Trail entrance will be dedicated to presenting a "No Smoking" rule. But in the meantime please keep your eye out signs of smoke hovering over the bed areas inside the park.

Heavy Pruning

Several months ago a decision was made to remove the main portion of the pine tree that occupies the south side of the bridge on the garden side. There are original pictures of the tree when it was planted in 1974. It can be identified by the shape of the tree. The tree had not been trimmed or shaped for all of those years. As it grew the growth of another tree, a palmatum maple, began getting wider and consumed the part of the pine that was growing upward. The removal of the main growth of the tree was done by arborist Chris Brinkman of Honl tree care. Thank you Chris for your time and great work. Along with that tree trimming and shaping of the pine to the west of the Azumaya was completed. As time goes on this tree will become shorter as we remove some of the height so that we can safely get to the top growth for pruning.



Gresham branch

Thank you for the 1st corporate donation to the Japanese garden "Touchstone" project and the Kaz Kids.

A drone view of Ebetsu Plaza next to the Springwater Trail

Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,
Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues,
With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by;
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.

For where the old thick laurels grow, along the thin red wall,
You will find the tool- and potting-sheds which are the heart of all;
The cold-frames and the hot-houses, the dungpits and the tanks:
The rollers, carts and drain-pipes, with the barrows and the planks.

And there you'll see the gardeners, the men and 'prentice boys
Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise;
For, except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare the birds,
The Glory of the Garden it abideth not in words.

And some can pot begonias and some can bud a rose,
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows;
But they can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and loam,
For the Glory of the Garden occupieth all who come.

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing:— "Oh, how beautiful!" and sitting in the shade,
While better men than we go out and start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives

There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick.
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one.

Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders,
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden.

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hand and pray
For the Glory of the Garden, that it may not pass away!
And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away!

By: [Rudyard Kipling](#)



"Touchstones" Engraving completed

