



# Tsuru Island



GRESHAM JAPANESE GARDEN

## A New Website

At this time the Tsuru Japanese Garden information can be found on the Gresham Ebetsu Sister City Association (GESCA) website. At the beginning of the year a website specifically for the Garden will be launched. There will be continued information to the GESCA website in the Garden section. As the programs expand for community involvement, there will be highlights and schedules for events taking place at the "Resource Center" and in the "Garden" during the late spring and summer months. Tomiko has been working behind the scenes to put together some of the tea ceremonies, displays and entertainment that will take place in 2017.

By having a specific site for the Garden it will increase visits to the site and allow greater accessibility to web viewers. This may be more important as the "Endowment" program moves along and we present ourselves for grants to institutions, communities, foundations and other non-profits. Also specific information will be provided for the Kaz Kids, volunteers, and garden associations such as the North American Japanese Garden Association (NAJGA)

As the garden becomes known in and beyond our city and our programs continue to evolve, being identified on social media will be key.



**THANK YOU**

Our initial goal was to make Tsuru Island a better place because we appreciated the original intent of the first builders. Our objective being to simply clean it up. The depth of our goals changed with the possibilities of what could be achieved. With the realization that others would be willing to help, thus allowing more to be completed in a shorter time coupled with momentum, energy and those

involved enjoying what was happening. "Who would ever have thought?" is something that Tomiko and I say to each other all of the time. One of our consultants in the beginning said to us, "do what they like and they will come". This statement could not have been more true.

We were asked by a person in a meeting a few weeks ago how we got the money that we run on. My answer was, "Oh we do not run on money, we run on energy". I do not know why I said that to him and certainly never thought of it that way before, but I have come to realize that there is more truth to that than I originally thought. We have never had money as the main goal, but sometimes it was a necessity to reach the objective. We have been provided materials to achieve our goals dozens of times. Materials have been recycled and/or made to fit the need. Plants that were not wanted/needed anymore were used to fill a spot in the garden or sold at a plant sale.

The result of efforts put forth can be measured by the volume of people that visit the garden, the number of strategic partners, and the number of donors that have provided gifts that foster the garden.

Our current goals go beyond the actual Garden. The goals must change and adapt to the current and future needs that have been created through the evolution of the project.

1. Early in the second year of the project the garden began being utilized as a platform for education. This aided the community by providing classes and workshops and other learning experiences to hobbyists, special needs individuals, Japanese cultural enthusiasts, environmental and wildlife individuals. We have partnered with the City of Gresham and gained a written use agreement for the "Resource Center" that is located between Johnson Creek and the Springwater Trail and near the Garden. We hope to include and expand the general public and allow our organization to partner with other organizations.

2. Improving the watershed around Tsuru Island has become a specific topic of interest with encouragement from Shirley Craddick, Metro Council. Meetings with City officials, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Metro and the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District are taking place to achieve and reach the improvement goals for the areas around Tsuru Island. The overall vision will include the planting of native trees and shrubs in specific locations along the banks of the creek.

3. The Endowment for the Gresham Japanese Garden is in the process with the assistance of the City of Gresham to solidify a working agreement so that the fostering of the garden can continue for decades to come. This funding is vital to the program and is essential for future success.

With all of this being said, we realize that none of these things could be accomplished without the volunteers. YOU came rain or shine every week all year long asking, "what would you like me to do". Some have specific duties they like to do, while others have no boundaries. You are the weeders and pruners, those that rake and sweep and others that just plain make things nicer.

This is the season to be thankful and we extend Thanksgiving wishes to each of you. We are honored that you choose to be a volunteer, partner, donor or supporter of Tsuru Island. THANK YOU for every one of the 14,000 hours that have been recorded. It is our privilege to have the opportunity to spend time with YOU. The following pages pay tribute to the many people who contribute to this beautiful project.

Jim Card and Tomiko Takiuchi







