



# Tsuru Island

## Fund Raising for

### Tsuru Island Japanese Garden

Tsuru Island will embark on a fundraising program in December to raise money for the maintenance of the garden and the *Garden Endowment*. The program will be spearheaded by John Clark, Garden volunteer and owner of

*Stamp-Connection*, [www.stamp-connection.com](http://www.stamp-connection.com)

Individuals will have the opportunity to purchase engraved paver stones that will be used to construct the paved areas of Ebetsu Plaza.

*Willamette Gray Stone*

([www.willamettegraystone.com](http://www.willamettegraystone.com)), a local manufacturer of hardscape products will provide the products. The grading and site preparation will be performed by Ty Card @

*Cardscapes Creative Landscaping*

([www.cardscapes.net](http://www.cardscapes.net)).

This is much more than a fundraising project for the Garden it is a community project that has fostered relationships with the Gresham Rotary Club, the Gresham History Museum, Gresham-Barlow Youth Baseball and Softball, Historic Downtown Business Association, The City of Gresham, Gresham Chamber of Commerce and more.

Go to Tsuru Island [www.greshamjapanesegarden.com](http://www.greshamjapanesegarden.com) for photo updates and comments.



## The Plaza

For several months discussions have taken place about the area in front of the Resource Center. One of the challenges has been the emergency lane that runs through this area. Expanding the paved area would include the fire lane and part of the grass area. The addition of cherry trees would also add to our cultural goal for Tsuru Island. As seen in the Japanese culture, hundreds of cherry trees are planted in and around Kyoto. These trees signal to the people that spring is coming which is a new beginning. The site is beautiful when they are in bloom and when they are in leaf they provide a shaded environment that invites sitting and enjoying the area.

12 Akebono cherry trees have been graciously donated by our friends at J. Frank Schmidt Nursery, to fill the area around the pavement and the benches. Just imagine coming through the park or walking along the Springwater Trail and seeing this site.

The project will require more pavers than those left by other city projects. A grant is in the works to provide the pavers and hopefully the installation will be accomplished with the volunteers providing the labor. Now that there is a plan, the drawing, the OK to proceed, the trees and the pavers, there are still additional items such as benches, plant materials, soils, boulders and mulch to dress the planting areas.

The benches will be made from the old bridge wood. The plan/drawing of the dimensions and procedures to make these Asian style benches are available and the process will be started soon. The soil and boulders will be moved from other City locations. The plantings and mulch have been donated and currently in the greenhouse. This will be completed within 1 year.

## Greeter

Looking for approximately 5 individuals for a volunteer greeter position at Tsuru Island. One person to manage a shift from 2pm until dusk when the weather is pleasing. There is no need to be onsite during inclement weather.

The garden is a public place with no admission. Individuals and groups are present most every day. Guidelines for visitors are posted but sometimes visitors need to be reminded to stay on the path and adhere to the posted requests.

There are no other duties expected.

Volunteer positions are coordinated with the Garden Director and/or the Volunteer Coordinator.

The Gresham Japanese Garden, Tsuru Island, is located in Main City Park and is part of the Gresham-Ebetsu Sister City Association.

The Garden is operated and maintained by volunteers in the community. All projects, maintenance and programs are undertaken by the volunteers and donors that dedicate themselves to the Garden.

## Clerical Volunteer

This position requires knowledge of Word.. Duties include:

- 2-4 hours per week
- Prepare and send mailings.
- Document information related to the Garden (i.e. plants used in the garden and the green house area, including an inventory).
- Update a garden calendar of activities, workshops. Send information to other volunteers, stakeholders and webmaster.
- Prepare general information and provide same to the webmaster.
- Coordinate signage that would be produced for special projects and programs.

**NOTE:** The amount of activity in this position will grow as the Garden and its programs continue to grow. Eventually we hope to fund this position through Grants. A computer and printer are available.

To volunteer, please send an email to [gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com](mailto:gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com)



## The Plaza continued

This area is considered a plaza. Since visiting Ebetsu it seemed fitting to establish the name Ebetsu Puraza which is a modern Japanese word for plaza. It is an acknowledgment of the 40 years of association with Ebetsu

In November, Gresham's sister city, Ebetsu sent a delegation to Gresham to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. After giving a tour of Tsuru Island, they were escorted to the puraza area. A tree planting ceremony took place.

For more information contact [gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com](mailto:gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com).

Last month we told a bit about the history of the plaza project and that we decided to honor the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Sister City friendship. With that decision a plaque was presented to the Mayor Miyoshi of Ebetsu, Hokkaido, Japan. By the way that plaque was generously donated by John Clark of the Stamp-Connection. Along with the presentation of the plaque a tree planting ceremony of one of the Akebono cherry trees was performed by both Mayor Miyoshi and Mayor Bemis and it appeared that there was media coverage by the Gresham Outlook with the front page article being published on November 9th.

For more information about the *Plaza* and getting involved please contact us at [gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com](mailto:gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com)



## Time in Kyoto by Jim Card

This past October several members of the Sister City Association spent time in Japan. The 1<sup>st</sup> part was to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of sister city friendship in Ebetsu, Japan. The second was vacationing in Kyoto, Nara and Osaka.

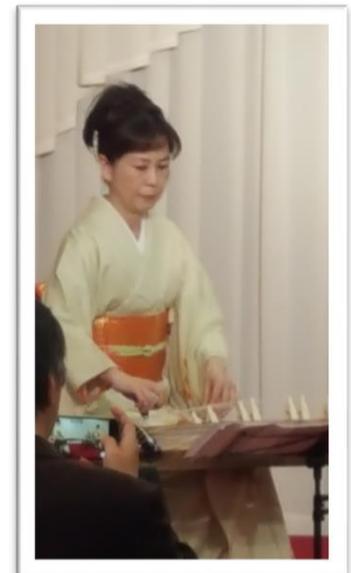
For me it was more than a vacation but an opportunity to see firsthand what the countryside and cityscapes were really about.

Like most places there is not enough time to absorb everything the first pass through. That means another trip to Kyoto for sure. Many of the locations we visited were intended to be considered as a whole not just smaller segments. An example is a castles we visited. The castle is a seamless complex made up of smaller structures, defense systems, gardens and large structures for larger groups as housing and/or gathering spaces. All of these places were not completed at the same time and maybe not even the same century. But they appear to be designed and constructed at the same time by the same people. In most situations, these complexes had been in existence for hundreds of years and had been added to, rearranged and rebuilt after fires and/or military battles.

I have had years of experience with building projects. It takes planning, execution of the plan, and finances. It is one thing to go to the store and purchase a 2x4x8 foot board to build something and an entirely different thing to find the tree, cut it down, get the stripped section to a location that it can be worked with, process the tree to make a shape of it, get it to the place where it will be used and then get it to the right size and shape and fasten it to the rest of the support system.

It takes certain skills to organize and process the functions that I have just described. Now think in terms of what it really took to accomplish some of these projects. 1<sup>st</sup> finding an old growth forest with the right kind of trees most likely was the easiest part to accomplish. Everywhere we visited we found massive amounts of stone used for walls, moats, steps, floors and walkways that were all hand carved. Much of the time made of granite, all fitting together perfectly.

*Misc. Japanese pictures from our trip below*





## Too close to Wisteria



Do not stand too close to a wisteria. It won't take long to wrap itself around you. Most people who wish to have vines in the garden will include a wisteria because of its beautiful purple or white hanging blooms. These sun loving vines go well in moist, well drained, soil but

not wet. The exposure and micro-climate will determine exactly when it will bloom.

Wisteria come in two types; Chinese or Japanese. The Chinese wisteria will bloom on bare branches whereas the Japanese will bloom on partial to full foliated branches. Fertilize sparingly with this plant, even starting a new plant. These plants will grow several feet per year. For those who insist that fertilizer will help, make sure you understand that more fertilizer is not better. Half of what the directions says and only every other season.

Wisteria should be pruned two times per year in order to take away the long and wandering stems. 1st pruning should be in the winter after defoliating is done. Prune again in the late spring after they have had a push of growth. Sometimes the plant will need to be root pruned as well to keep the growth down and in check. Root pruning is done with a shovel. Move away from the base about 12 and 24 inches and put the shovel through the roots in a circle and the job is done.

If the plant is not blooming; was it blooming when purchased? If so then it should bloom again once you plant it. Otherwise be patient because it may not bloom for 3 to 4 years. If not after this many years consider allowing the soil to dry out some, which will stress the plant and cause it to bloom.

Be cautious about of this plant. The seeds that fall off of the blooms may be toxic if ingested.

### Small Business Education by James

I was recently invited to an education program presented by the City of Gresham that I became aware of on ExploreGresham.com. This department within the City has its focus on assisting new, existing or future business owners in learning of opportunities to promote their products and services. The program is headed by Alexandra Logue (Walker), the small business coordinator.



TO ALL THE WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS WHO GAVE SO MUCH TO THE GARDEN THIS PAST YEAR. YOU ARE TREASURED



Plaza will extend out from here



The first program I attended was on "social media". Many small business owners plus interested citizens of the community were in attendance. The motivation was to learn about socials media, the best choices for a particular business or interest, application, and what part of the public will be reached.

A few days after the program I received a follow up note asking me for comments and suggestions and other topics of interest. Also what would be helpful in keeping the Japanese garden operations up to date? I was pleased to respond and send my appreciation for this fine program.

The program is part of "Community Development", a resource that provides training, planning mentors, advice, networking and growing small businesses. For further information contact Alex at alexandra.walker@greshamoregon.gov or by phone at 503 618 2872. I was introduced to this program by ExploreGresham.com