



# Tsuru Island

James Card: Editor

## Help Us Out ... Main City Saturdays

by James Card

"Main City Saturdays" has been around for a year now and The garden has enjoyed hosting many groups and organizations to volunteer at Main City Park. In many articles in this newsletter I have said that more is not better, but in this case that is exactly what is better... More, More and More volunteers are needed.

Each year the landscaping along the Springwater Trail Spur becomes more established, additional maintenance is needed. The first group for 2018 will be coming mid-January and will be able to tackle some of the cleanup and pruning that needs to be done. There is an abundance of pruning still to be accomplished.

Do you have a group or organization that you can volunteer on Saturdays? Everything is supervised, no special requirements for experience, and easy access to all the work areas. Contact Michael Gonzales at [michael.gonzales@greshamoregon.gov](mailto:michael.gonzales@greshamoregon.gov) or Jim at [gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com](mailto:gresham.japanese.garden@gmail.com).



## In The Future

Over the past 4 years there has been many ideas to promote Tsuru Island, utilize the Garden and attached areas for visibility and fundraising opportunities. Many suggestions have come into being over several months or even years after being realized. With the time and resources of volunteers it is sometimes a slow process

2018 is not going to be any different in regards to time and accomplishments. Some of the items in the works started in January 2017, includes the Plaza project. The weekly Saturday volunteer day continues and will expand to Thursdays in the spring. Each "workshop" will have a planned schedule and they will become even more diverse. The storage yard will be revamped as stored material is moved around to make additional room for the Garden project growth and supplies. Kaz Kids will enjoy additional hands on projects that the Tsuru Island will host either at Gresham High School or at the Resource Center. the installment of a gifted metal CRANE (TSURU) will take place at the Garden.

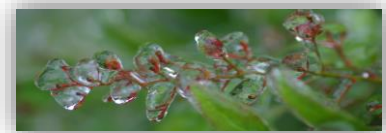
Some fundraising proposals for the future, such as weddings in the Garden, tea ceremonies to the public as part of other ceremonies such as promotions, elections, anniversaries and more will be introduced. Along those same lines memberships will be offered as gifts for special occasions along with attendance at some of the workshops or private classes such as "aesthetic pruning" or "design assistance".

These are some of the items expected to be accomplished. An active calendar of events for the Tsuru Island will be produced for event phases extending over 90 days.

If you have an idea or suggestion, contact [gresham.japanese.gardem@gmail.com](mailto:gresham.japanese.gardem@gmail.com)



# JAPANESE GARDEN 2017 by Jim Card



We have a tendency to think back over the year around January first for many parts of our lives. At the Garden that happens more often during the year as we update readers in the newsletter and make announcements to the volunteers. An overview of the year is always a positive experience at the garden. There tends to be so many things happening and so many people involved that the overall picture can get lost. The following is a recap of those events that consumed our time and energy

- The year started with an opportunity to capture "ice on the plants" for the photo enthusiasts.
- Pokémon continued to insist that the Garden was a prime destination.
- Trees were donated by J, Frank Schmidt and Son Nursery not once but two times during the year.
- Additional outdoor lighting for the bridge and beyond was provided to the Garden by Kichler Lighting.
- 4 new Giboshi topped the posts for the bridge and installed before the 2017 Skosh Festival.
- New lattice was milled out of the old bridge wood and installed at the Garden for the Azumaya.
- An Irrigation line was installed to provide water to the Resource Center landscape and supply water to the greenhouse.
- The redesign of the ocean area of the garden was completed with a donation from J Frank Schmidt Nursery.
- A special poem was written for the garden by Kazumi Heshiki and was engraved on a stone for placement by the Azumaya.
- A "crane" created with metal art was donated by citizens from the community and associated with the Historical museum.
- A partnership with Rotary and Tsuru Island volunteers was formed to refurbish the campus at the history museum and campus.
- Permanent Wi-Fi was installed in the Resource Center and the Garden.
- The "Aesthetic Pruning" group became a monthly program for those interested in the Art with two visits to our Garden this year.
- Classes were set up for Tia Chi each Tuesday and Thursday near the Garden.
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- Bonsai Classes were set up and scheduled to start in January of 2018.
- A projector and movie screen were purchased with donations so presentations can be made in the Resource Center.
- Thirteen Garden presentations and/or personal tours were provided during the year for garden clubs and supporters.
- The Gresham Japanese Garden hosted the Friday morning Chamber of Commerce event for the Rotary Club of Gresham.
- The "interactive garden" project by Bill Peterson continued for the website allowing a special game to be designed for the Kaz Kids.
- The Gresham Japanese Garden applied to the North America Japanese Garden Asso. presentation committee for the fall of 2018 conference to be held in Portland.
- Main City Saturdays began in January 2017 and has established itself as a volunteer/community project for everyone.
- The Kaz Kids continued with new support for hosting the lunches that are part of the volunteer days.
- Tsuru Island joined the Chamber of Commerce and the Japanese American Citizens League.
- A new document was established between the City of Gresham and Gresham Ebetsu Sister City Asso. for the use and longevity for Tsuru Island.
- Garden volunteers as part of the Gresham Ebetsu Sister City Association delegation went to Japan for the 40th anniversary of the relationship of the two cities.
- The "Ebetsu Plaza" project was presented to the delegation from Ebetsu by Mayor Bemis along with a tree planting for the 40th anniversary celebrations.
- A bronze plaque was provided by the Stamp-Connection as a permanent fixture at the entrance of Ebetsu Plaza.
- The "Garden Endowment" was established for the continued fostering of the Garden for the next 75 years.
- The Ebetsu Plaza project was announced with City approval. Preparations for a paver engraving fund raiser began.

## KAZ KIDS SCHEDULE

The Kaz Kids schedule will start on January 19th. The work day will continue as before unless there is inclement weather then they will meet in the "Resource Center". The construction of bee houses will take place indoors with prepared lunch for the students. Wish to join us...Kaz Kids project begins at 9am to 2pm. Several volunteers are needed to assist with the student construction of the housing.



## New Workshops Begin

The Japanese Garden will begin a series of workshops open to the public and advertised on EventBrite as well as Facebook and our website.

*The first program will be about "Aesthetic Pruning" sponsored by Tsuru Island and presented by Maryann Lewis a member of the Aesthetic Pruners Association located in Oakland CA. This class will introduce aesthetic pruning principles and techniques applicable to any woody plant and many garden styles. Registration will begin on January 1st, 2018 at [www.maryannlewis.com](http://www.maryannlewis.com). The date will be January 27, 2018 at 1pm till 4:30 pm and the cost will be \$40.00.*



The second program will be a series of bonsai

classes conducted by Mark Vossbrink.



Classes will be on the 3rd Thursday of each month beginning January 18<sup>th</sup> through June 21<sup>st</sup>. Classes will include all materials, will be 2 hours beginning at 1pm. Cost of \$45.00 each class.

*The third program aimed at homeowners, will be on irrigation and sprinkler systems. "Understanding Residential Irrigation" on Saturdays for 2 sessions February 17 and March 17. The cost is \$45.00 for both sessions and will last 2 hours. The workshop will provide an understanding of design and installation of irrigation systems, preventative issues, and how to save energy and costs.*



## Endowment Program

As a part of endowment program, the Ebetsu Plaza project will include concrete pavers at the plaza entrance and the emergency lane which is part of the area. A small committee consisting of John Clark, Sue Hughes and Jim Card will be putting together the sale of engraved concrete pavers for that area.

John is planning the engraving program, the promotion of the product and providing the engraving of the pre-sold pavers. John is awaiting delivery of the engraving equipment that he recently purchased and will begin prototypes in January.

Sue will oversee the advertising and will provide promotional materials, and social media to spread the word.

Jim will oversee the construction of the plaza area, collect materials, and organize the installation of the engraved pavers.

The Garden will be partnering with other non-profit organizations to promote the sale of these engraved pieces of history.

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

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