



GRESHAM JAPANESE GARDEN



Tsuru Island

Photography: Bill Peterson

James Card: Editor



What a Year

A Note from Jim Card

The holidays were busy with activities and family functions. But the garden was also busy with projects and volunteers. Looking back over the past year, December seemed to match the business.

Nothing would get done without the volunteers. We do this for the community and that is what volunteers are, the community. A calculation of hours and projects is done each month and filed with the city. Approximately 500 hours has been clocked for December.

We are now well over 25,000 volunteer hours since July of 2011. That is an average of over 3500 hours per year for a little garden in the middle of Main City Park. That is why we appreciate the volunteers so much.

Looking back over the year of projects is amazing. The planning of the plaza started in December

2017 and by late January the vision started taking shape. It was finally completed mid-summer. The existing projects did not stop when the Plaza started. Particularly the Garden maintenance that is needed to provide a peaceful and beautiful atmosphere for the community. As you know some do not respect the effort. This is a constant effort and volunteers are so very much appreciated.

I hope that 2019 will be as exciting as 2018. It could not have been better for me personally. Because of the Garden I have had the pleasure of meeting new people, working on projects, joining organizations, working with the Kaz Kids, writing two grants for funding, planting new trees, learning from others, teaching and working with some of the best people I have ever met.

Now I ask, "what can the Garden do for you today?"



Ambleside Annex



It is hard to remember what the Plaza looked like a year ago. New additions to the Plaza are the stone planters circling each of the Cherry trees in the patch of grass. That patch of grass has been name "Ambleside Annex". Last year garden volunteers removed plant material from a housing site off Hogan Road at Ambleside and transferred them to Main City Park. Some of those plants will be placed in this area, thus the name "Ambleside Annex". The largest of the lace leaf maples will be replanted to the north of the annex in an existing bed with plenty of drainage. This spot also is ideal for viewing the maple from all sides, especially when sitting on one of the benches at the Plaza. The replanting will take place in January.

Once the trees are planted in the Annex there will be room for picnic tables, and 2 more benches. Flowers will be placed in the planters around the Cherry trees. An Information Board will be built from materials salvaged from the shelter that was along the Springwater trail. And lastly a lawn made from artificial turf will be inserted. The product is very realistic and maintenance free.

All the material for this project, except the plants are provided by the Gresham Parks Department. A huge thank you goes to the Parks department for all the assistance and support they have provided.



PLANT SALE

Plans are being made for a plant sale in June 2019 that will benefit the "student exchange program" of the Gresham-Ebetsu Sister City Association. Plants include conifers, deciduous trees, bonsai and some floral.

Some students receive scholarships in order to travel to Japan and use their Japanese language skills and experience the culture.

There will be a lot to do to prepare for this event. If you can assist in any way, please contact Alison Hunting at mandysmom1946@yahoo.com for more details.



A Grant Application

The garden has applied for a grant offered through the City of Gresham. It is designated to the building that some refer to as the "Shoe Box" or the Resource Center. This building is a double wide trailer first installed in the mid-1980's. It has remained much the same inside ever since. The inside is kept clean by those young folks dressed in yellow called the KAZ KIDS. The plan is to remodel and update the interior so that it becomes more of a teaching/learning environment. This lends itself to providing an appropriate area for workshops, classes and other types of presentations to students and the community in general.

Along with that phase, an additional nursery area will be added that will be equipped with heated planting beds, climate controls and potting areas. The purpose of this is to offer horticultural and floricultural training to the community and the special education students in the Gresham area. With the training, the students can have an opportunity to learn about tasks and responsibilities in the nursery industry. They may be able to apply for and work in the business. In time we hope to graduate efforts to include not only the training but also shadowing and on the job training at potential businesses. We are working with the Gresham-Barlow School District in hope to move this program forward. Further interest and questions can be directed to the garden website or contact gresham.japanese.garden.com



In late November, Robert Higgins visited Gresham with some Junior High school exchange students. Robert is from Gresham and lives in Ebetsu with his wife and children. He is responsible for international relations for the city and has been with our delegation and the Ebetsu delegation to Gresham as an interpreter.

I am pleased to see an increase in communications with Ebetsu, Japan. Robert and I met to discuss the sister city agenda for the next few years. From my point of view, the relationship has been regenerated between our cities especially since our 40th anniversary celebrations. I can attribute some of this improvement to the year 2015 when the bridge project was completed. Gresham had a ribbon cutting ceremony with the delegation here from Ebetsu. The communications and hospitality shown by Ron and Yoshiko Ture provided nutrition to the seed that had been planted a long time ago.

I am told that the presentation of Ebetsu Plaza may have been the beginning of yet another step forward in the bonding of our future. It seems to have increased the visibility of our commitment to the continuance of this relationship. The garden and the plaza have been designated as priority visitation spots by each Ebetsu student and adult delegation that come to visit Gresham.

Gresham will provide the exchange students going to Ebetsu with gifts that relate to Ebetsu Plaza; such as engraved ornaments, and gift bags. Robert will receive a special bound keepsake book showing the construction and completion of the Ebetsu Plaza along with T-shirts to be presented to the delegates from Ebetsu.

John Clark has also had conversations with Robert presenting the "Touchstone" paver sales in Ebetsu.

Please join this effort by providing ideas of how we may advance our presence to Ebetsu.

Jim Card,
President, GESCA
Director, Gresham
Japanese Garden

