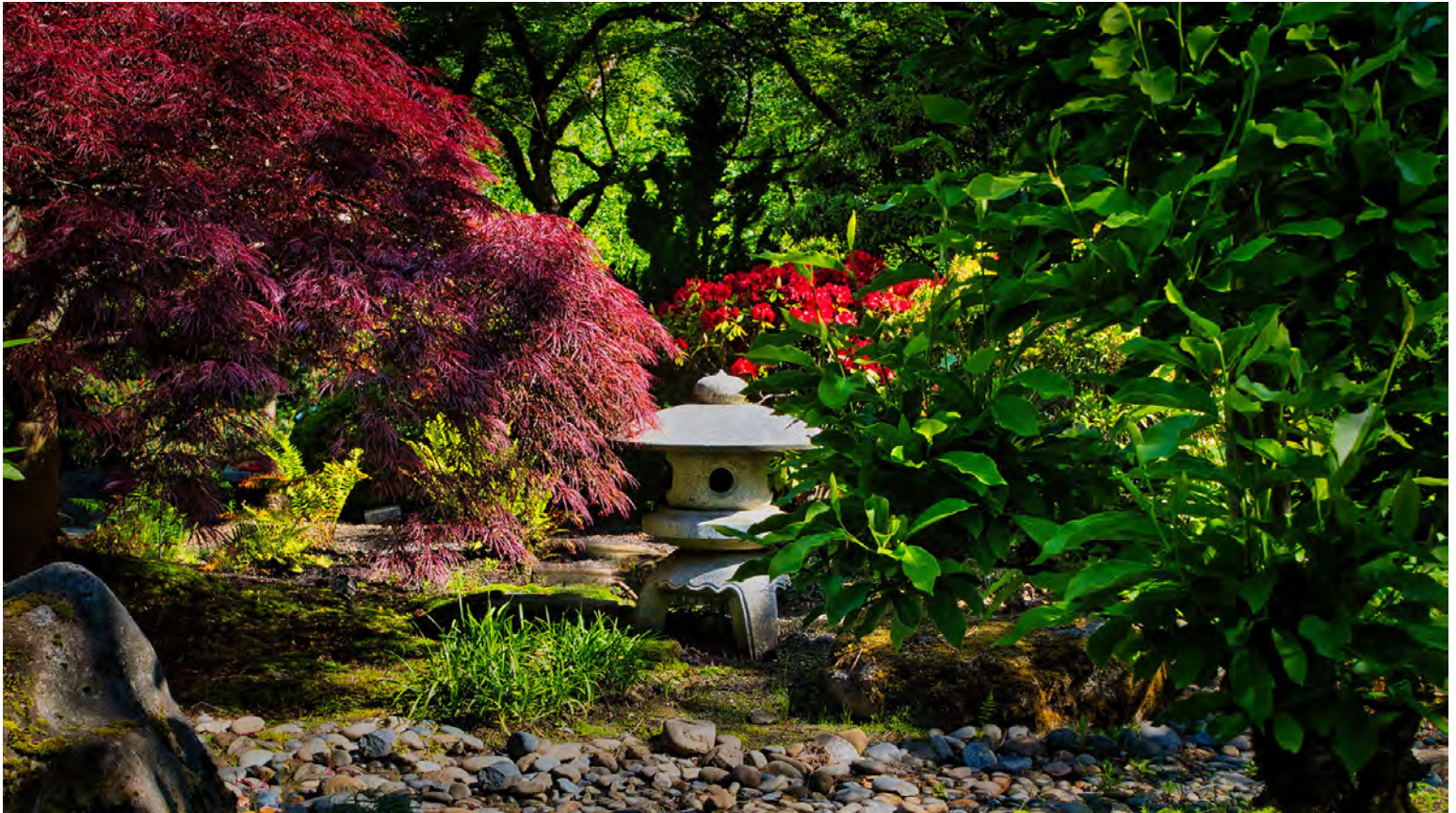


# Tsuru Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



## Improvements at the Park



**T**he large red building between Tsuru Island and the Kyodou Center is affectionately known as "the barn." It houses City of Gresham Parks Department equipment, as well

as storage space for the Gresham Japanese Garden and the Gresham Young Baseball and Softball programs. For years, it was seen as a necessary, but not particularly attractive, feature

of the south end of Main City Park. In the past few years, the Garden has helped to improve the area by creating and maintaining a garden on the west side, as well as painting a mural depicting

*a late spring day  
flowers and maple  
a warm stone lantern*

— Bill Peterson

Gresham's agricultural history on the barn's façade.

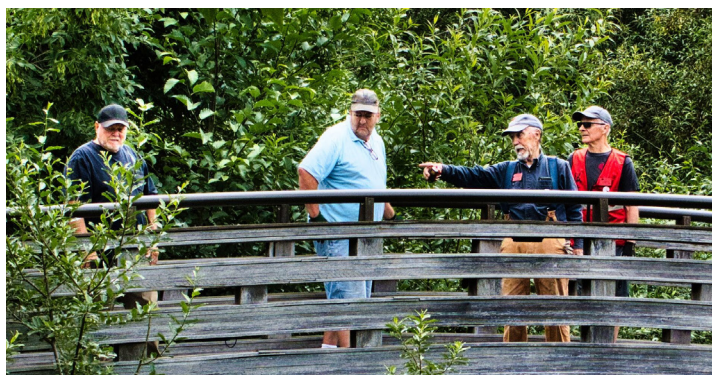
The City has enlarged and paved the parking lot between the barn and the Kyodou Center, making it easier for Garden volunteers to move about. The side of the barn that faces the Kyodou Center is getting new siding and will be painted to match the Center, giving the area a more cohesive look.

As Jim Card, Garden Director has said, "We couldn't ask for a better team of City staff to work alongside." Thank you, City of Gresham!



# New Railings Adorn the Island

by Jim Card



*Chuck Page directing the installation of the new railing.*

Some months ago, we decided to replace the hand rails on the moon bridge that leads onto Tsuru Island. The original wood railing from 2012's renovation had de-laminated due to the failure of the glue.

Several phone calls, research, and meetings took place with vendors to determine the best approach to materials and the process for forming the new railings. The result was that we would utilize a 3-inch tube of carbon steel for the railings and that it would be formed to follow the arched flow of the bridge. A vendor in Tualatin was selected to do that work. Since the bridge railings are 55 feet long, and the material only comes in 20-foot lengths, we would need three sections on each side, with

the center section of each 18 feet. This also meant that the process would become even more complicated by having to calculate 3 sections rather than one section. After viewing the vendor's process and seeing the work that they had done for other

customers, there was no doubt in our mind that this was a go for them.

The second part of the process was determining the coating process. The final choice was powder coating and that vendor was a company just down the street from the tube bending company; a seamless transition from one vendor to the next.

We also handmade custom cradles for the railing to sit on out of the same wood as the bridge, purple heart. And, since the railings were engineered in three pieces instead of one piece, we decided to make brackets to cover the seams. Rather than just have two on each side we decided to have a hold-down bracket at each cradle which we felt would make it feel and look

complete. These brackets were made by a highly recommended vendor located in Boring. These were also powder coated to match the railing, and yes everything matches. One volunteer said that they look like they have always been there.

Last week, the sections were ready for pickup. My son, Ty Card, had a trailer long enough to haul the railings to the Garden. We assembled the railings on June 27. Minor adjustments were made by Chuck Page, and Jim Buck is making wood end caps for the railings.

We thank the City of Gresham Parks Department for the funding of the new railing. Their recognition of the work we do for the community and their financial support really helps us to fulfill our mission!



*Close up of the railing and brackets.*



*Bruce Janes and Scott Evans carry a piece of the new railing down to the island.*

## Ikebana



July's arrangement was made by Nana Bellerud, consisting of maple branches, azalea flowers, and ladies mantle.

## Gresham Beavers Get Noticed



In the June 2025 issue of *National Geographic*, there is an article about how the Gresham beavers are keeping the creeks clean and are a perfect self-maintaining system.

We have beavers that builds a dam every year on Johnson Creek at the east end of Tsuru Island. We would like them more if they would stop eating our tree bark.

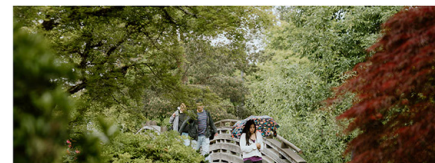
## Willamette Week

WILLAMETTE WEEK NEWS • CULTURE • FOOD • DRINK • MUSIC • CALENDAR • GUIDES • WW STORE • SUPPORT

### Gresham Has Its Own Japanese Garden

The gateway to Mount Hood holds the tastes, charms and natural beauty of the biggest city.

Expand



Thanks to *Willamette Week* for highlighting the Gresham Japanese Garden, along with food venues, shops, trails, events, and more in Gresham. [Read the article here.](#)

# GJG Receives Travel Oregon Grant



June 17, 2025 will hold a special spot in the heart of the Gresham Japanese Garden. On this date, we received word that we are the recipients of a Travel Oregon Competitive Grant award in the total amount we requested of \$130,000.

From Travel Oregon: "The Oregon Tourism Commission, dba Travel Oregon, is awarding nearly \$6.2 million to 65 groundbreaking projects through the agency's 2024-25 Competitive Grants Program. This significant investment represents the agency's commitment to fostering remarkable visitor experiences that increase access and inclusion for historically and currently under served or under-resourced communities.

"The 2024-25 Travel Oregon Competitive Grants Program was designed to increase access and inclusiveness for those who may have experienced barriers to visiting our great state—whether by better addressing various mobility challenges or celebrating the diversity of people

and communities who live in and travel to Oregon. This year's grant awardees represent meaningful work from all seven of Oregon's tourism regions, creating a statewide network of accessible and inclusive experiences."

*"The primary driver has always been to better our community through accessible, welcoming spaces for everyone to enjoy."*

– Sue Protz, Activities Director

This is the first time GJG sought a grant of this magnitude. Our primary driver has always been to better our community through accessible, welcoming spaces for everyone to enjoy.

We chose the renovation of Tsuru Island because after twelve years the Japanese garden is showing wear-and-tear, especially the stone pathway.

A significant portion of the grant funds will cover the cost of high-quality materials needed to enhance and expand the garden's infrastructure. This includes:

- **ADA-Compliant Pathway:** Bluestone, a durable, non-slip natural stone will blanket the accessible pathway and

floor of the seating areas, ensuring a safe, even walking surface, and comfortable experiences for all visitors, especially those with mobility challenges.

- **Bamboo Fencing:** Natural and synthetic bamboo fencing will line the perimeter of the Japanese garden to define visual boundaries for erosion control. Additional bamboo fencing will encase the entrance gate to create a barrier to after-hours access.
- **Entrance Gate:** A Japanese-style gabled roof will be built with an electronically controlled entrance gate and people-counting device to control access to the Japanese garden while preserving its aesthetic integrity. The gate to Tsuru Island will remain open sunrise to sunset.
- **Water and Plant Enhancements:** The tsukubai (a water feature associated with quiet sound) will be enhanced with large boulders, sensory plants and sound-enhancing material contributing to the space's tranquil ambiance, elevating the power of water to wellness. The east end of the garden will be redesigned.
- **Audio Accessibility Tools:** Multilingual audio guides will be purchased to assist with hearing impaired or non-English speaking visitors, making guided tours accessible to a diverse audience.
- **Cultural Enhancements:** To complement Yozakura (cherry blossom viewing) and other evening events, solar-powered lanterns, uplights, string lights, and Take-Akari bamboo lights will be added. We plan a Fall Illumination Festival for fall 2026.

## New Directional Sign



Pedestrians and cyclists coming off of Springwater Trail can now find their way around Main City Park with the new directional sign on the Reader Board.

The same sign is installed near the entrance to Tsuru Island and is viewed frequently.

## Last Free Seminar



The last of the four free seminars this year for the community was taught by Jim Card in Ebetsu Plaza.

The pruning seminar concentrated on rhododendrons and azaleas, although students learned that the same pruning techniques can be applied to most broadleaf shrubs that grow on new wood.

Download the complete list of recipients at: <https://industry.traveloregon.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/2024-CG-Grant-Awards.pdf>

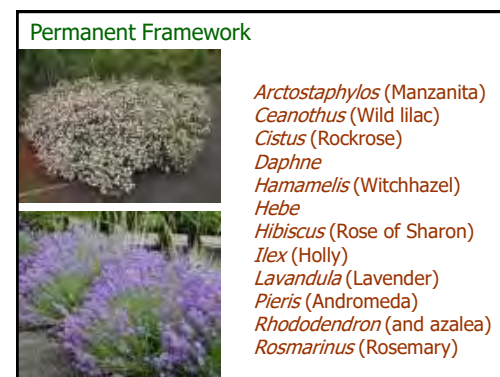
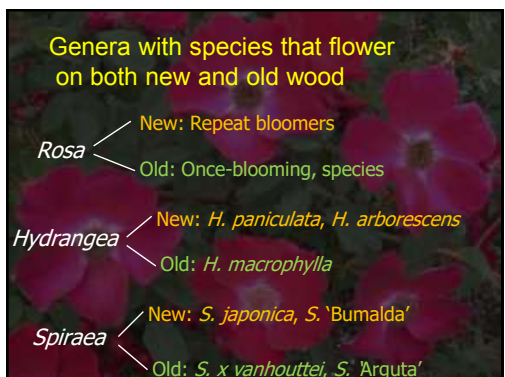
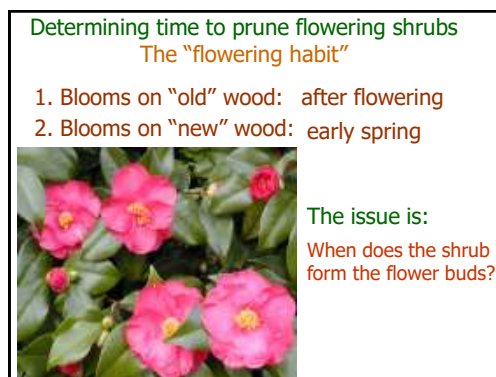
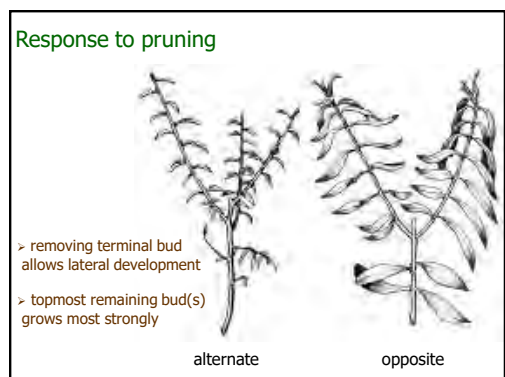
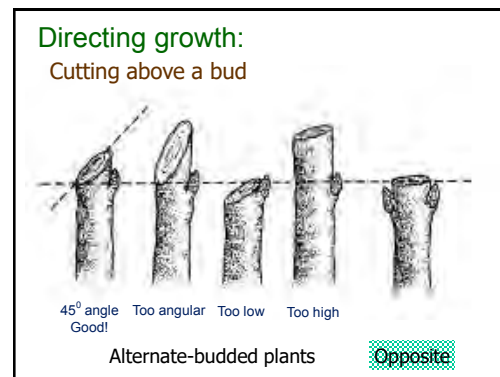
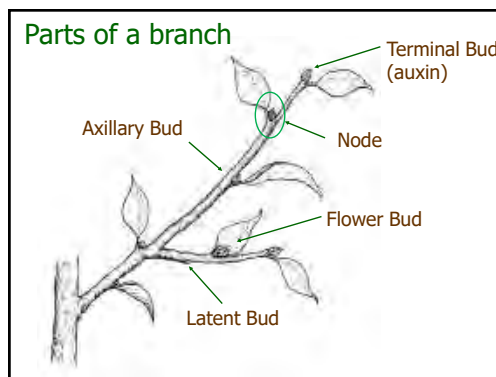
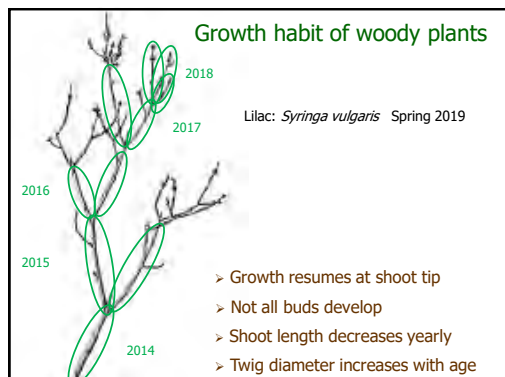


# Pruning Flowering Shrubs

**W**hen should you prune flowering shrubs? For gardeners interested in

pruning their flowering shrubs to control size and/or to produce flowers, the following images were pulled from a

slide deck [available for download](#) from Oregon State University OSU Extension Services containing interesting horticulture facts, details, and reminders.



## GJG Upcoming Pruning Courses

[REGISTER FOR PRUNING COURSES HERE](#)

**Fall Pruning Hands-on Workshop: Saturday, September 6th, 2025, 10am-4pm – \$100 at Vanport International in Boring**  
**FRANCESKA SNYDER, INSTRUCTOR:** This workshop will focus on vine maples and upright Acer palmatums. You must be comfortable on tall ladders. *Certified by the Oregon Landscape Contractors Board. Licensed landscape construction professionals receive five Continuing Education Hours (CEH).*

**Pruning a Laceleaf Maple Tree: Saturday, November 1, 2025, 10am-2pm – \$55 at TBD**  
**FRANCESKA SNYDER, INSTRUCTOR:** This is a hands-on workshop where students will be learn pruning techniques, and receive instructions, and personalized feedback as they prune an overgrown laceleaf maple tree.

**Pruning Conifers for Health and Aesthetics Course: Saturday, November 15, 2025, 1-3pm – \$45 at Tsuru Island**  
**MARYANN LEWIS, INSTRUCTOR:** The course offers valuable insights into the art and science of conifer pruning. *Certified by the Oregon Landscape Contractors Board. Licensed landscape construction professionals receive two Continuing Education Hours (CEH).*