

Concord – Kitakami Friendship Garden

Concord Ambassadors <http://www.concordambassadors.org/>

Summer, 1980 The Concord – Kitakami Friendship Garden, with a plaque commemorating the Sister City relationship, which began in October 1974, was established at Concord City Hall in the area next to the Concord Library.



October, 1987 Concord resident and nationally recognized landscape architect Henry Matsutani designed and directed construction improvements for a 14th century Japanese Rock Garden to replace an earlier Japanese Garden at Concord City Hall. The new Japanese Garden was part of the welcoming ceremonies for a delegation from Kitakami on October 23, 1987.



October 20 – 23, 1994 The City of Concord along with the Concord Ambassadors welcomed a delegation of 77 officials, businesspersons, students and journalists from Kitakami to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship.

Celebration ceremonies included the dedication of the “Communion Bridge” sculpture in the Concord - Kitakami Friendship Garden at Concord City Hall. The commissioned sculpture is the work of artist Etsuko Sakimura.



The celebration included the “Communion Bridge 20 Years of Friendship” Post Office ceremony where Kitakami and Concord Mayors were deputized Postmasters for hand-cancelling the Official 20th Anniversary commemorative envelopes.



May 15, 2012 The year 2012 marked the 100th anniversary of the gift of 3,000 cherry blossom/Sakura trees from Japan to the United States. Those trees were planted in Washington DC’s Tidal Basin where they still blossom each year. To commemorate the centennial and to thank the City of Concord and the Concord Ambassadors for their ongoing support of their Sister City – Kitakami, Japan – the Japanese government donated a cherry blossom/Sakura seedling to be planted at City Hall outside the City Council Conference Room. The Consul General of Japan - San Francisco joined current and former Concord Mayors and members of the Concord Ambassadors in the tree planting ceremony and City Hall reception that followed.

