

INTRODUCTION: The face of the traditional Japanese garden was molded by three major forces: religion, a love for nature and a heavy use of symbolism. These three forces blend together to create a beautiful culturally enlightening area. *The Japanese Garden is considered one of the highest art forms in Japan.*

1. MAIN ENTRANCE (Seimon) — Sentry rocks protect the gate and those who enter. As we enter through these gates, let's leave the noise and troubles of the modern world behind and absorb the peace and tranquility of this beautiful garden. Built in 1987 by local artisans and funded by local citizens, the Korakuen Gate was modeled after a 300 year old Lord's Gate in Okayama's Korakuen Garden. The roof tiles were specially crafted in Japan, and Shachi, a creature from legends, protects the gate from fire.

2. SAGO PALM GROVE (Sotetsu En) — Shows the unification of Japan.

3. MAIN WALKWAY LANTERN (Kasuga Doro) — A pedestal lantern, and the most popular stone lantern all over Japan. Originated at the Kasuga Shrine in Nara Japan. Often features a carved deer on the firebox. The umbrella, the firebox and the firebox base are hexagonal in shape. The base is decorated with lotus petals. This Kasuga Doro carved in granite over 450 years ago, was a gift to San Jose from Mr. Gump of Gump's in San Francisco.

4. MOON BRIDGE (Taiko Bashi) — Legend says it is good luck to see the reflection of yourself and the bridge in the water by moonlight.

5. OKAYAMA LANTERN (Okayama Doro) — There is a beautiful reflection of this spectacular lantern in the water. This three-ton snow lantern was a gift from Okayama upon the opening of the Garden.

6. PINE TREE — Many pines have two needles per bract, representing conjugal love and can be found all around the Garden.

Aderyn Clark, founder of the Friends of San Jose Japanese Friendship Garden, produced this walking map for her Girl Scout Gold Award project, Troop #61303, Girl Scouts of Northern California, Service Unit 661.

This walking map was made possible by City of San Jose Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services, San Jose-Okayama Sister Cities, Japantown Lions Club and Foundation and Nikkei Matsuri Organization. Special thanks to Deb Kramer of Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, and the Santa Clara Valley Koi and Water Garden Club, and the San Jose Parks Foundation.

Welcome to San Jose's

Japanese Friendship Garden



6. SENRYU STONE INSCRIPTION — Form of Japanese poetry and a translation.

7. FATHER AND SON — Often a large rock placed next to a small one represent a father talking to or teaching his son. There are families of rocks all around the Garden. Can you find the 3 Grandfather Stones nearby overlooking the garden?

8. PAGODA (Goku-no-to) — A replica of a Japanese temple. The five tiers represent either the five elements: wind, fire, water and metal; or the five directions: north, south, east, west, and center.

9. TEA HOUSE (Chaya) — It is here the famous Japanese tea ceremony would take place.

10. IRIS (Hanshobu Batake) — The Iris stands for purity, innocence and chastity. Its sword-like leaves bring to mind things straightforward and upright.

11. ZIG-ZAG BRIDGE (Vatsuhashi) — The wooden zig-zag bridges encourage awareness and mindfulness. Folklore says bad spirits can only walk in a straight line, so they fall into the water.

12. LOWER ENTRANCE – ROOFED GATE (Kabuki Mon) — Passing under this gate, you are symbolically cleansed of your worries and cares of the outside world. Built in 2004, this gate was funded from our 40th anniversary gift from Okayama with City of San Jose.

13. AMBASSADOR'S CHERRY TREE — A gift from Japan Ambassador to San Jose in 2012. Grown from the 1912 gift of friendship that Tokyo presented to our First Lady Helen Taft, where 3,020 cherry trees were planted in Washington DC. The tree brings renewed life each spring after the long winter months that echo the spirit of friendship.

14. TURTLE ISLAND (Kamejima) — Can you see how this island got its name? The turtle is a symbol of longevity.

15. THREE WISE MEN ROCKS (Sanson Seki) — Also known as Trinity Stones. Said to represent a wise deity. In listening to the rushing water, his wisdom will be revealed.

16. WATERFALL (Taki) — A waterfall is said to represent a wise deity. In listening to the rushing water, his wisdom will be revealed.

17. FLOWER LANTERN (Hana Doro) — A type of pedestal walkway lantern.

18. CHERRY ORCHARD (Sakura No Namiki) — Symbolic of loyalty to country, family and friends, it is said that an individual blossom is insignificant but the entire tree is complete and beautiful.

HEART, MIND AND SOUL LAKES (Shinji Ike) — The Garden lakes are symbolic of the human heart. You will see the red maple grove near the waterfall, that symbolizes the heart's blood, essential for health and vigor.

The design is patterned after the Japanese symbol for "kokoro" meaning heart, mind and soul.



San Jose Japanese Friendship Garden

is a beautiful, living symbol of the "Sister City" relationship between Okayama, Japan and San Jose, California. The "Sister City" relationship between the two cities was officially consummated in 1957 as a result of President Eisenhower's desire to create friendly "people to people" relationships with cities of the United States and those of foreign countries.

An organization to sponsor the union with Okayama was formed taking the name Pacific Neighbors. It was this organization who originally proposed the concept of the Japanese Friendship Garden as tangible evidence of the ties between the two cities. In May of 1960, groundbreaking began on a 6½-acre parcel in Kelley Park. The design of the Garden was patterned after Okayama's world famous Korakuen Park. Great detail was observed in the traditional and symbolic meaning attached to the placement of rocks, bridges and other features. As the Garden grew, so did the numerous contributions and gifts from organizations and individuals alike. On October 31, 1965, the 8th anniversary of the "Sister City" affiliation was celebrated by dedicating San Jose's Japanese Friendship Garden.

The Japanese Friendship Garden stands today as a beautiful example of friendship, cooperation and generosity.

Fish Facts:

The Koi are an ornamental variety of the common carp, *Cyprinus carpio*, bred especially to reveal their distinctive color characteristics. They belong to the family of fish known as the Cyprinidae, which includes the sucker, minnow and goldfish. Cyprinidae characteristically have a special auditory mechanism allowing them to "hear" with their whole body.

Originally bred as a food source, it was in Japan during the Heian period, 794-1184, that the first selective breeding for color occurred. The Koi have an emotional as well as cultural significance to the Japanese people. Sometimes referred to as "living jewels", they symbolize love. Also known as Samurai or warrior fish because of their reputation as strong, determined swimmers, the Koi epitomize strength and masculinity. Every May 5 in Japan, the "boys day" festival takes place during which households fly a colorful Koi kite for each son in the family.

Koi Facts:

The lifespan of Koi, which varies with environmental conditions, usually ranges between 35-40 years. Maximum length attained is generally around 30 inches.

Koi quality is determined by several factors. The number and clarity of colors, symmetry of color patterns, scale types, size and overall fitness all must be considered.

Spawning begins in the spring after the first period of warm weather. Female Koi, who reach reproduction maturity after three growing seasons, can lay eggs numbering in the thousands.

The eggs which are laid in masses are attached to submerged vegetation. When a gravid (egg laden) female deposits her eggs, the males release their sperm into the water nearby fertilizing them. The eggs can hatch anywhere from 6 to 15 days after fertilization, depending on water temperature. The Koi are fed a commercial fish chow. Vending machines are available for you to feed the Koi yourself. For their health, please do not feed the Koi anything but this special food. If the machine is empty, don't worry, they have probably had all they need to eat already!

Rules and Regulations:

1. You can protect the grass, trees & plants. Stay on paved paths.
2. Picnicking outside the Garden only.
3. Please do not put anything in the ponds or try to catch anything. Feed the Koi designated food only.
4. No bicycles, scooters, skates or skateboards, etc.
5. Animals are not allowed in the Garden.
6. 16 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult.
7. Smoking is not allowed in any San Jose City Park.
8. Park Rangers will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you have about the gardens (408) 277-5254.

The Tea House:

For private event reservations information, please contact our friendly reservation staff: (408) 794-PARK, www.sanjoseca.gov/pms and click on "reservations and permits" for more information.

Visit the Friends' Facebook page for Garden updates and events. <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofsanjosejfg>

Self-guided walking map 2nd ed., rev. May 14, 2020



Japanese Friendship Garden



San Jose, California

Kelley Park, 1300 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112