

9 South of the Roji the path approaches the waterfall with its imposing 8-ton boulder. Delicate maidenhair ferns grow in the cool moist shadows. In the forest above the waterfall stands an 11-tiered pagoda, representing ancient seminaries in the mountains of Japan.

10 The path continues across a gently arching stone bridge and then divides. The path to the left returns to the Gate House Entry; to the right, a loop trail takes you over the mountainside and back to the Roji.

11 Exit to Gate House courtyard and restroom facilities.

This ends your tour. We invite you to return to the Garden during the different seasons as each one brings forth its own colors, shapes and fragrances that make every visit a new and refreshing experience.

The Japanese Garden represents a compressed world of mountains, forests, lakes, rivers, tablelands and a village, with each feature conveying a quiet message of its own. You don't need to be an expert to enjoy the beauty and peace of the Japanese Garden, but some understanding of its color, symbolism and tradition may add to your appreciation and make your visit more meaningful. The Gatehouse Village was built in 2009 with generous financial support from private and public funds. The structure was designed by architect Bob Hoshide, and Nakano and Associates designed the entry way landscape. The bronze gate was created by a Seattle sculptor, Gerard Tsutukawa.



BEGIN YOUR TOUR HERE

1 Upon entering the Garden you will almost immediately see a large and very old Japanese lace leaf maple (*Acer palmatum* 'Dissectum') growing to the left of the path. Across from the maple and above the dry stream is a flat-topped snow lantern (Yukimidoro) and a little further on, a beautiful paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*) standing beside the bench in the Mondo grass lawn. On the left, conifers, maples, mosses and rhododendrons cover the mountainside. The two streams you see emerging from the mountain come together to form the lake.

8 The Tea Garden, "Roji", meaning "dew covered ground," is a tranquil retreat of moss and subtle plantings inspired by a mountain landscape. It is separated from the rest of the Garden by a hedge of boxwood, cedar and osmanthus. The Roji is divided by a bamboo fence into two distinct parts: the outer section features the waiting arbor for guests attending a tea gathering, while the inner section contains the stone basin where guests pause to purify hands and mouth before entering the teahouse. "Shoseian," the "Arbor of the Murmuring Pines," features post and lintel construction using mainly cryptomeria and Western red cedar to frame the plastered walls. The copper-shingled roof shelters a six-tatami mat room in which tea ceremonies are performed, a one-mat preparation room, a two-mat anteroom and a stone-floored entry.

6 Above the western shore of the lake is the cherry orchard with its traditional Azumaya, a shelter from which to further enjoy the Garden and the borrowed scenery (shakkei) of the Arboretum beyond. The orchard is symbolic of human agriculture within the Garden.

7 The Moon-viewing Platform is used in late summer for ceremonies that celebrate the rising of the moon and for music and dance performances at other Japanese festivals celebrated in the Garden. It is also a great spot from which to observe the colorful Japanese carp (koi) in the lake. Frogs can often be seen among the water lilies, and the Great Blue Heron is a regular visitor to the Garden. Beds of Japanese iris (*Iris ensata*) line the shores of the lake.

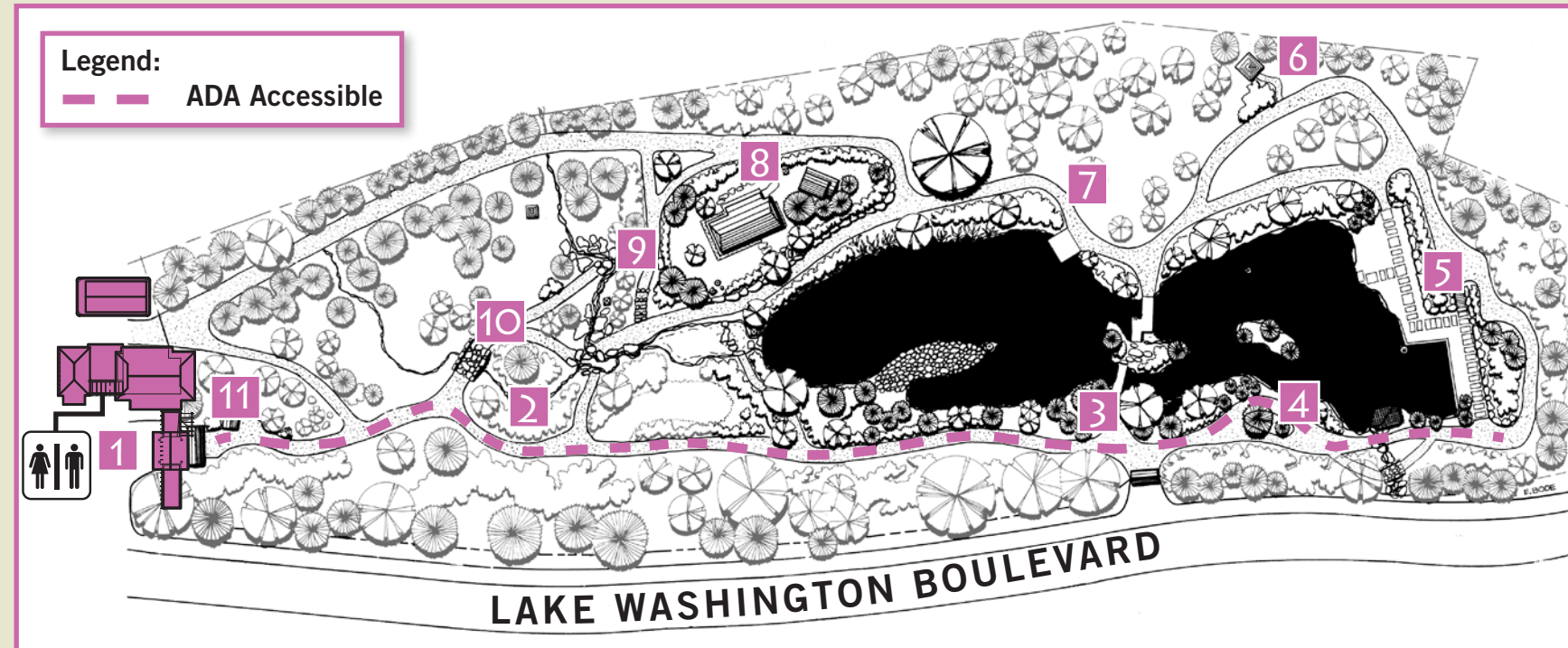
5 High on the pine-covered knoll behind the benches is the Kobe lantern. This 3 ½-ton, hand-carved granite lantern is almost 200 years old. It was a gift from the citizens of Kobe, Japan, a Sister City of Seattle since 1957.

BOTANICAL INFORMATION

The map on the reverse side contains limited botanical information about the Garden. If you are interested in more information about the plants in the Japanese Garden, "Plants of the Japanese Garden — An Alphabetical List" is available for purchase at the Cashier's Booth, or you're welcome to borrow a copy to use during your tour today.

ACCESSIBILITY

Seattle Parks and Recreation makes every effort to accommodate people with physical limitations. Pathways in the Garden are surfaced with gravel, which may result in some inconvenience for wheelchair users. The stone bridges, stepping stones, and rough terrain necessary to preserve the authenticity of the Japanese landscaping render some areas inaccessible. However, you can observe the beauty of the Garden from several vantage points. Please inquire at the Cashier's Booth for accessible routes. ADA accessible paths are noted on the map.



2 As you continue along the path through the mixed forest to the east, you will discover two smaller paths, each leading to stepping stones that ford the stream. The first leads to the base of the waterfall, the second to the Tea Garden. The three trees growing along the west side of the main path are Ginkgo bilobas or Maidenhair trees. Ginkgos are indigenous to China, Japan and Korea and are often described as "living fossils"- ancient relics from the age of the dinosaurs.

3 With the lake now in view, to the right is the Original "East" Gate. The five vertical pines opposite represent the emperor's strength. The two bridges that span the lake, Dobashi (earthen bridge) and Yatsunashi (plank bridge) are both traditional elements in Japanese gardens. Turtles can frequently be seen sunning themselves on Turtle Island, which rises from the center of the lake. The pines on the island represent Japanese cranes – they and the turtles are important symbols of longevity.

4 To the north, a beautiful blue wisteria trellis, usually in full bloom during May, covers the outlet from the lake and serves as an entrance to the village. Here the paths and steps are more formal and the work of gardeners is apparent. Above the village wall, benches invite visitors to rest, reflect and enjoy the view of the entire lake – much as the shogun, builder of the garden, would have from the window in his study.

Cover photo by Margret Maria Cordts

HISTORY

The Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition of 1909 brought to Seattle a lasting interest in Pacific Rim cultures and a desire to create an authentic Japanese Garden. The story of the Garden is linked to the history of the Washington Park Arboretum.

Most of Washington Park had been designated as parkland in 1904. In 1942, the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners voted to create a botanical garden and arboretum in accord with the University of Washington. The two agencies signed a formal agreement in 1934. The Seattle Garden Club raised funds to hire the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts, the nation's foremost landscape architecture firm at the time, to design the Arboretum.

As early as 1937, the nonprofit Arboretum Foundation supported creation of a Japanese Garden as part of the park. In 1959, plans for a Garden were set in motion by a sizable gift from an anonymous Foundation member. The Foundation chose Juki Iida, the eminently qualified designer and builder of more than 1,000 Japanese gardens worldwide, to design the Garden. Working with six other well-known designers, including K. Inoshita, Iida produced 34 pages of blueprints outlining his plans for the 3 ½-acre garden.

In March of 1960, Mr. Iida came from Japan to supervise construction of the Garden. He personally selected more than 500 huge granite boulders from the Cascade Mountains near Snoqualmie Pass, wrapping them in bamboo matting to avoid scratches during transport. Iida had the rocks, ranging in weight from 1,000 pounds to more than 11 tons, placed in their designated locations. He arranged thousands of plants, including azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and other evergreens, flowering fruit trees, mosses and ferns, selected to represent diverse scenes found in Japan.

The original teahouse, a gift from the people of Tokyo, was exquisitely hand-constructed in Japan by the Shimizu Company and reassembled on site. Fire destroyed the teahouse in 1973 and it was rebuilt in 1981 with the help of the Arboretum Foundation and the Urasenke Foundation of Kyoto, Japan. During a ceremony in March, 1981, Dr. Soshitsu Sen, a 15th generation Grand Master of Urasenke, bestowed upon the teahouse the name "Shoseian" (Arbor of the Murmuring Pines).

For many years, the University of Washington managed the Japanese Garden; in 1981, management transferred to Seattle Parks and Recreation, which owns the property.

In 2007, the voter approved Pro Parks Levy provided funding to initiate planning and funding of a new entry structure. The Japanese Garden Advisory Council worked in partnership with Parks, the Associated Recreation Council and the Arboretum Foundation to raise the funds to make up the difference. The successful fundraising resulted in the completion of construction of the Gate House Village in May, 2009, in time for the 2010 celebrations of the Garden's 50th anniversary.

PARTNERSHIPS BENEFIT THE GARDEN

The non-profit Japanese Garden Advisory Council consists of 15 citizens appointed by the Parks and Recreation Superintendent. The Council advises Parks on policies and supports the Garden's programs and continuing development. Arboretum Foundation Unit 86, Japanese Garden-Prentice Bloedel, has taken a special interest in the Japanese Garden by initiating fundraising and providing the Guide Training Program. Volunteers help staff events and assist with Garden maintenance. Urasenke partners with Parks to provide regular public Tea Ceremonies. Please ask at the ticket booth for more information.

CHADO – THE WAY OF TEA

Chado – The Way of Tea – is an artistic discipline which has been nurtured and refined over 500 years in Japan and other countries. It is a catalyst for a wide range of art that includes architecture, landscape design, calligraphy and painting, plus the applied arts of ceramics, bamboo, metalwork, lacquer, and textiles. The simple everyday acts of building a fire, boiling water, serving tea, and receiving it with gratitude form the basis of this discipline.

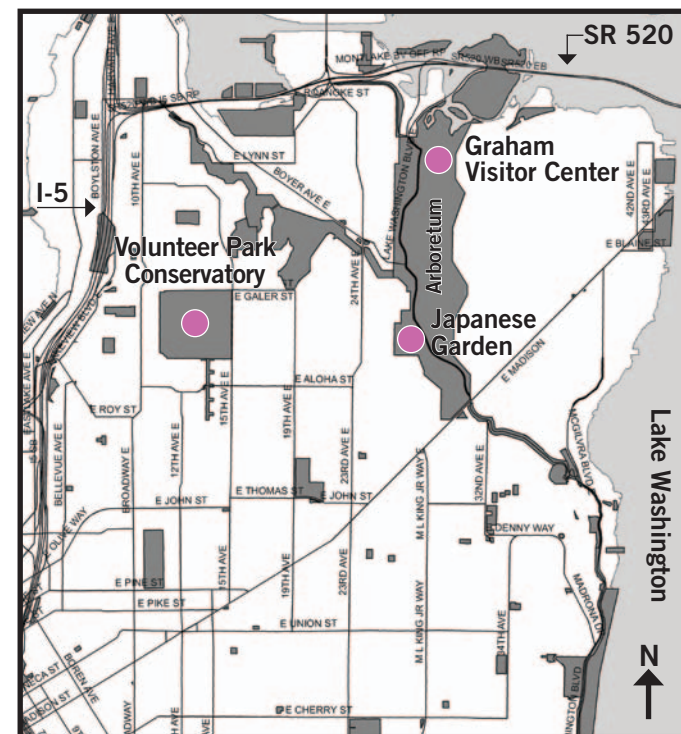
The history of tea underwent many changes until the 16th Century tea-master Sen Rikyu defined its principles of harmony, respect, purity, and tranquility. His tea, known as "wabicha," is the essence of detachment and simplicity, expressed through a humble and egalitarian communion of the human spirit.

SCHOOL GROUP RATES

Adult supervision of school groups is important and we ask that one adult accompany every five children in 3rd grade or younger, and every 10 children in 4th through 8th grades. We offer a group rate to schools for groups of 24 or fewer.

GUIDED TOUR

A private guided tour can be arranged for your club, organization or school. Each tour includes information on the culture, philosophy and horticulture of the Japanese Garden – targeted where possible to the interests of the particular group. Please call 206-684-4725 at least two weeks ahead of the desired tour date to make arrangements.



SEATTLE JAPANESE GARDEN

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR



Washington Park Arboretum
Lake Washington Boulevard East
North of East Madison Street
206-684-4725
www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/gardens.htm

