



**ANDERSON™
GARDENS**

FAST FACTS ABOUT ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

What are Anderson Japanese Gardens? Formal Japanese gardens in the style of the *Kamakura* period, 1185 to 1333 AD. The Gardens are designed to allow the guest to reflect upon the tranquil beauty of nature, to leave the stresses of everyday life, to commune with nature and thus with one's self. The three essential elements of Japanese gardening are: water for its soothing and reflective qualities; rock for its sense of permanence; plants for their textures and shades of green. The gardens include the following features:

- ~ Canyon Creek *Kei Ryu*
- ~ Pond-Strolling Garden *Chisen Kaiyu Shiki*
- ~ Turtle Island *Kame Shima*
- ~ Coin Water Basin *Kosen Mizubachi*
- ~ Stone Lantern *Oribe Doro*
- ~ Deer Chase *Shishi Odoshi*
- ~ Gazebo *Azumaya*
- ~ South Garden Gate *Minami Mon*
- ~ Granite Pagoda *Nanaju no To*
- ~ Snow Viewing Lantern *Yukimi Doro*
- ~ Zigzag Bridge *Yatsunashi*
- ~ North Garden Gate *Kita Mon*
- ~ Pond *Ike*
- ~ Crane Island *Tsuru Shima*
- ~ Inner Garden *Naka Niwa*
- ~ Guest House *Geihinkan*
- ~ Tea House *Sukiya*
- ~ West Waterfall *Nishi Taki*
- ~ Wood Bridge *Mokuzai Bashi*
- ~ Waterfall *O Taki*
- ~ Viewing House *Azumaya*
- ~ Event Pavilion *Moyoshi Ba*

When are the gardens open? Daily, May through October: Monday-Friday 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday 12 noon to 4 pm.

How much does it cost? \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for students ages 5-18 and college students with ID. Free for children under five, accompanied by a paid adult.

How big are the gardens? The 12-acre site includes a Visitor Center and several *Sukiya*-style buildings.

When were the gardens developed? Work began in 1978. Expansion and refinement is continuous. In 2000, a Japanese-inspired Garden of Reflection was added in honor of Anderson's Swedish heritage. Three bronze angels by Swedish sculptor Carl Milles soar over the reflecting pond, and an open-air pavilion hosts weddings, banquets, receptions and workshops.

Who owns the gardens? The people of Rockford, via the Rockford Rotary Charitable Foundation, which accepted the gardens in 1998 as a gift from John R. Anderson, a Rockford industrialist.

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Why were the gardens developed? As president of Anderson Industries, Inc., John Anderson often traveled to Asia on business. During a long layover in Portland, OR, he asked a taxi driver to suggest an interesting way to spend the time. The taxi driver took him to Washington Park Gardens, which contain a Japanese garden. From that moment on, Anderson was entranced, envisioning how he could transform his Rockford acreage into an enclave of serenity, Japanese style. (Ironically, the taxi driver had never toured the gardens. Anderson told him to keep the meter running, and paid his admission to the garden.)

How do these gardens compare with other Japanese gardens? In 2001, the Gardens were named one of the two finest Japanese gardens outside of Japan by the *Journal of Japanese Gardening*. The other one is in Portland. In 1988, the Gardens received the American Association of Nurserymen National Landscape Award and the Associated Landscape Contractors of America Environmental Improvement Grand Award. In 1992, the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs presented Anderson with a silver cup for his outstanding work in promoting international friendship between the US and Japan.

When did the gardens open to the public? Anderson decided to share his beautiful gardens with the public in 1984, and began offering guided tours for groups, by appointment. A few years later, guided tours for individuals were offered, by appointment, one day per week. In 1997, the Gardens began offering self-guided tours to walk-in visitors seven days per week. Guided tours for groups are still available by appointment.

How many people visit the gardens? In 1996, 10,000 visitors. In 1997, 15,300. Today, about 25,000 people visit the gardens each year.

Who designed the gardens? Hoichi Kurisu, a graduate of Tokyo's Waseda University and a pupil of Kenzo Ogata, one of Japan's most respected landscape designers. Kurisu originally moved to the US in 1968 to serve as Director of Landscaping for the Japanese section of Washington Park Gardens in Portland, OR. Today, he owns a Portland landscape and construction firm. Kurisu returns to Rockford each year to tend the gardens and teach new skills to staff gardeners.

What about the Japanese-style buildings? The 16th Century *Sukiya*-style guesthouse, teahouse and gazebo were built by master carpenter Masahiro Hamada of Tokyo.

What's the origin of some of the Japanese artifacts? The stone lantern is a gift from Hoichi Kurisu, the garden's designer; it was designed by Futura Oribe, a great tea master and feudal lord from 1542 to 1615. The deer chase is a gift of Morinaga Milk Industry Co. of Tokyo. The snow-viewing lantern is a gift of Isamu & Akira Ohno of Tokyo; Akira is president of Morinaga Milk Industry Co.

Is there any wildlife in the gardens? Yes...in addition to native species, there are Japanese *Koi* (colorful hybrid carp) and Chinese grass carp. Native fauna include occasional Canada geese, mallards, wood ducks, large-mouth bass, bluegills, freshwater clams, crayfish, turtles and snails.

Is there a story behind the West Waterfall? Yes...It took three years to build the five-story structure, plus 700 tons of boulders and 250 cubic yards of concrete. The base is a 20-ton steel wall, and 1,600 gallons of water circulate through the waterfall each minute. It was designed to magnify the sound of the falling water, and it looks as if it's always been there.

Why aren't there many flowers in this garden? There are a few; in the spring you'll see iris, cherry trees and rhododendrons. Japanese gardening emphasizes the various textures, shades and shapes of green plants and trees. Autumn is a particularly colorful time to visit the gardens; many of the trees and shrubs were selected for their brilliant fall shades.

What about special events? "Japan Day" is a twice-annual event on the second Saturdays in May and September, celebrated with tea ceremonies, traditional music, origami and flower arranging demonstrations and a bonsai display. Periodically throughout the year, a variety of workshops and demonstrations are held in the gardens. In the past, topics have included: tea ceremonies, flower arranging, bonsai, brush painting, origami, T'ai Chi, photography, pruning, kites, dolls, printmaking and more. There's been a summer school about Japanese culture for elementary school children, and a special course that provides business people with the information and background to do business effectively with Japanese people, either on their home turf or in Japan. The gardens are also available on a limited basis for corporate retreats and receptions, as well as weddings.

Special visitors? More than 50 high-level Japanese officials -- including corporate presidents, professors, abassadors and consul generals -- have visited the gardens. Many of them have spent the night in the guest house.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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**ANDERSONTM
GARDENS**

Visit North America's #1 Japanese Garden

ROCKFORD, IL -- If you've never been to Japan, Anderson Japanese Gardens will immerse you Japanese culture. If you're homesick for Japan, Anderson Gardens will soothe your soul. And if you've never seen the Gardens, it's high time you did!

The 12-acre Garden -- touted as the best Japanese garden in North America -- is located in the heart of Rockford, Illinois' third-largest city.

Anderson Gardens began as a passionate hobby for industrialist John R. Anderson, who began developing the Gardens in 1978 after a serendipitous visit to Washington Park Gardens in Portland, OR. In 1998, he gave the Gardens to the public, along with an endowment for maintenance and expansion.

The Gardens are open to the public for self-guided tours on a walk-in basis daily from May through October. Hours are 10 am to 5 pm Monday-Friday, 10 am 4 pm Saturday and noon to 4 pm Sunday, with special early-morning hours for people seeking a quiet time for prayer or meditation. Admission is a reasonable \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for students. (Admission is free to children under five accompanied by an adult.)

Simplicity is key to Japanese gardening, and there are three basic elements:

- 1) Water, for its soothing and reflective qualities;
- 2) Rock, for its sense of permanence;
- 3) Plants, for their textures and shades of green.

When you stroll over the *Kei Ryu* bridge into the Gardens, you leave the Midwest's mundaneness and Rockford's hustle and bustle far behind. The distant roar of traffic disappears behind the sounds of rushing water and calling birds.

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While it takes about an hour to tour Anderson Gardens, you might want to plan on spending several hours. Benches and quiet corners beckon you to sit and meditate or simply absorb the gardens' tranquil beauty.

Designed in the style of Japan's *Kamakura* period (1185-1333 AD), Anderson Gardens is a "pond strolling garden". In other words, it has ponds, waterfalls and winding paths designed to lead you from one section to another at a leisurely pace. In fact, some of the paths twist and turn and merge with stepping stones, forcing you to slow down and enjoy your surroundings.

You won't find big flower beds in the Gardens, but you will see an occasional flowering cherry tree, patches of Japanese iris and clumps of rhododendrons. The Gardens' carefully-selected and strategically-placed trees, shrubs, plants and rocks blend flawlessly with the mature trees original to the property.

In the center of the garden, a five-story waterfall plunges into a pond of brightly-colored *koi*. On the east end is a large pond with more *koi*, plus Chinese grass carp, bass, bluegills, turtles and occasional mallards, wood ducks and Canada geese. In 2000, Anderson added a Japanese-inspired Garden of Reflection in honor of his Swedish Heritage. Three bronze angels by Swedish sculptor Carl Milles soar over a reflecting pond, and an open-air pavilion hosts weddings, banquets, receptions and workshops.

Among the ponds and streams are three *Sukiya* style Japanese structures: a guest house, tea house and gazebo. They were built by master carpenter Masahiro Hamada of Tokyo. The gardens were designed by Hoichi Kurisu, a graduate of Tokyo's Waseda University and a pupil of Kenzo Ogata, one of Japan's most respected landscape designers. Kurisu now lives in Portland, but returns to Rockford each spring to inspect the Gardens and teach new skills to the resident gardeners.

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Exquisite surprises appear around every turn of the path in Anderson Gardens. Water from a bamboo pipe trickles into a coin-shaped stone basin. A bamboo "deer chase" fills with water and makes a clacking noise as it empties, scaring away deer. A stone lantern with a broad top waits to show off the first snowfall. Over by the big waterfall, you may see someone practicing *T'ai Chi* or meditating in a Lotus position.

Anderson Gardens is an enchanted place. Don't be surprised if you find yourself lingering longer than expected...or if you experience a little culture shock when you return to the world outside. You can always come back. The Gardens are beautiful and serene in every season.

Rockford is located in north-central Illinois, on I-90 and I-39, just a 60-minute drive west of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Anderson Gardens is located near the Rock River, at the northeast corner of the intersection of Spring Creek Road and Illinois Highway 251 (North Second Street).

For more information on the Gardens, phone 815.229.9390 or log on to www.andersongardens.org. For information on places to stay and more things to do in Rockford, phone the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800.521.0849 or log on to www.gorockford.com.

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