

Japanese Garden Maintenance

Tasks requiring regular or at least weekly work:

- *Watering and weeding as needed
- *Feeding fish
- *Cleaning koi ponds
- *General upkeep (sweeping, trash pickup, etc..)

Monthly to yearly tasks:

*Pruning- this is an essential part of a Japanese garden. In our garden, sound horticulture is practiced; the trees and shrubs are carefully pruned so every part of the plant is exposed to fresh air and sunlight. Unlike many public gardens, our Japanese garden does not feature wiring or bondage of woody plants; instead, natural crutches are used where necessary and can be seen on the redbuds near the tea house. Our gardeners emphasize pruning to accentuate the gnarly quality of the tree and believe in the philosophy that allows each branch take the scenic route. Visitors will notice the lack of straight lines in the trees. Similarly, our evergreens are pruned to look old and weathered and are rounded on top to evoke a hilly landscape. The natural growth habit is preserved, embracing the tree's nature and spirit.

*Placing gravel over tree roots and rocks to keep people from tripping in the garden

Tasks Rarely Needed:

*Tree removal- occasionally a plant dies of natural causes or overgrows its surroundings and needs to be removed and replaced by a new tree. Our original garden featured a path bordered by Douglas Fir trees that soon needed to be removed as they matured and blocked the path through the garden.

*Design changes- Our Japanese garden featured a near complete makeover when design consultant David Slawson was hired 14 years ago. The original design featured a blacktop path, which was removed to plant groundcover plants and replaced with the current gravel path that you see today. These design changes were required and executed as our gardeners viewed how our visitors use the garden. Through years of horticultural experience in Japanese gardens, our gardeners are making positive changes piece by piece so as to not interrupt the peace and tranquility that is a hallmark of our Japanese garden.