***Discover, Reflect, Imagine-- in Bloomington's Two-Acres of Japan!***

*Guided Tours and Programs are available by reservation.* **Call 952-358-8145 to reserve.** [njg.committee@gmail.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cfe9104jj%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CRQHA26A4%5Cnjg.committee%40gmail.com)

**Japanese Garden Field Trip and Program for grades 1- 6!! Schools, Home schools, Scouts, Extended-Day, Release Days!!**

Discover the traditions and culture of Japan through a visit to our two-acre authentic Japanese Garden designed by Takao Watanabe. Built on land reclaimed from a twenty-acre pond, the garden authentic Japanese features include a garden wall and entry gate, a waterfall, two shelters, three islands, three lanterns, four bridges, and a Bentendo--a hexagonal structure common throughout Japan and named for Benten, a goddess of wealth, happiness, wisdom, and music. Field trips feature both a tour and a garden-designing program. The program includes the Japanese words and Kanji for the numbers 1-12, for Normandale Japanese Garden, for Koi and the word for dry garden. We can include more Japanese words and Kanji if you like. Children are introduced to Japanese gardens through hands-on garden designing activities. Each child designs a sandwich box sized sand garden using a mini rake and rocks. There is an option for child to make and take home a mini Japanese garden using soil, rocks, gravel and plants. Origami Happi coats can be included as well. These programs are standards based and they emphasize how Japan's geography and cultural values of respect and love for nature shape gardens designed to engage the imagination. Optional field trip gift items are available to prepare children and expand the learning.

**Guided Tours for Adults**

Guided Tours of the Japanese Garden are available by request at no cost. Donations are welcome!

Led by members of the Japanese Garden Committee, the tours can highlight any of the following:

* The elements of an authentic Japanese garden, which combines stone, water, plants and architecture to symbolize mountains, oceans, islands, forests, valleys--even clouds through its interaction with each visitor. Learn about the unique features of the Garden: the Bentendo, shelters and lanterns; the waterfall, bridges and islands; and artfully pruned trees and shrubs.
* The wonderful story of how the Normandale Japanese Garden was built, beginning in 1965 with a $500 prize from Sears Roebuck, begun under the direction of Takao Watanabe drawing its support from hundreds of citizens and local businesses. Many of them continue to support the Garden. Copies of Dave Kenney's ***Normandale Japanese Garden—Celebrating a Dream*** are available for a $15 donation. Let us know when you reserve if you want copies of the book and tour gift options to be available for sale for your group.
* The many plants that have been selected to create an authentic Japanese Garden in Minnesota’s climate. More than 300 plants, shrubs, and trees have been placed in the Normandale Community College Japanese Garden. Because of climate differences, they are not plants that would be used in gardens in Japan. The architect and gardeners chose similar Minnesota-hardy plants that can survive extremely cold winters.
* Around 20 colorful koi swim lazily from lagoon to pool, under bridges and around rocks, offering a retreat from life's frantic pace. Learn the ages, the significance of their colors and how we keep them healthy.
* Hands-on activities may be included upon request.