

Frequently Asked Questions about the Japanese Garden

What are your hours of operation?

The Japanese Garden is open every day from spring through fall from sunrise to sunset, including holidays. The Garden is closed during the winter season.

We ask that children under age 12 are accompanied by an adult.

Do I have to pay to visit?

No, visiting the Garden is free, though we encourage and appreciate your donations to help us keep it free for everyone.

Is there free parking?

Yes, there is free parking available in Parking Lot 3 next to the Partnership Center, which is located off of Collegeview Road. There are signs from there that lead to the Garden down a sidewalk.

Can I skate in the Garden?

No bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, or rollerblades are allowed in the Garden.

Are there any restrooms nearby?

When the College is open, the closest restrooms are in the Partnership Center building. When the College is closed, there are porta potties near the sidewalk that leads to the Garden.

Have the cherry trees blossomed? (2023)

Yes, the cherry trees blossomed at the end of April/beginning of May and the flower petals have since fallen.

Do you have koi fish?

Yes! As of May 23, 2023, we have restocked our pond with koi fish. You can feed the fish from May through October by purchasing koi food at the entrance of the Garden for 50 cents (quarters only).

What do you do with the koi fish in the winter?

Koi fish are cold-blooded and can stay alive in cold temperatures. Over the winter their metabolism slows down, and they spend their time treading water at the bottom of the pond. Once the water reaches a certain temperature, they stop eating and they live off the fat their bodies have put on in the late spring and summer.

Can I reserve the Garden for a wedding or private event?

Unfortunately, the Garden is not accepting reservations at this time, and it cannot be closed to the public. If you choose to have your wedding there despite this, please review our photo permit policy by visiting our website at www.normandale.edu/japanesegarden and scrolling down to the Photo Permit Information tab.

Are food and drinks acceptable in the Garden?

Food and drinks are not allowed in the Garden.

Do I need a photo permit to take pictures in the garden?

Only commercial photographers who are taking pictures they plan to sell, or that are part of paid photography sessions, are required to purchase photo permits. Visit our website at www.normandale.edu/japanesegarden and scroll down to the Photo Permit Information tab to access the photo permit application.

I am a commercial photographer. How do I purchase a photo permit?

Visit our website at www.normandale.edu/japanesegarden and scroll down to the Photo Permit Information tab to access the photo permit application. After you complete the application and submit your payment, you will receive a confirmation email that will serve as your photo permit.

Can I bring my dog to the Garden?

Unfortunately, dogs and other pets are not permitted in the Garden in order to keep it as clean as possible. Additionally, our facilities staff uses toxic weed killer pellets to maintain the plants.

How do I schedule a tour and how much does it cost?

Visit our website at www.normandale.edu/japanesegarden and scroll down to the Tour the Garden tab for further information and instructions regarding tours. Tours are free, but donations are encouraged.

Is the Garden wheelchair accessible?

Yes, however the pathway that leads into the Garden is quite steep. We are currently working on ways to make the Garden more accessible for all.