



Cranbrook
Center for
Collections
and Research

CRANBROOK JAPANESE GARDEN: NEW ENTRANCE GARDEN PROJECT

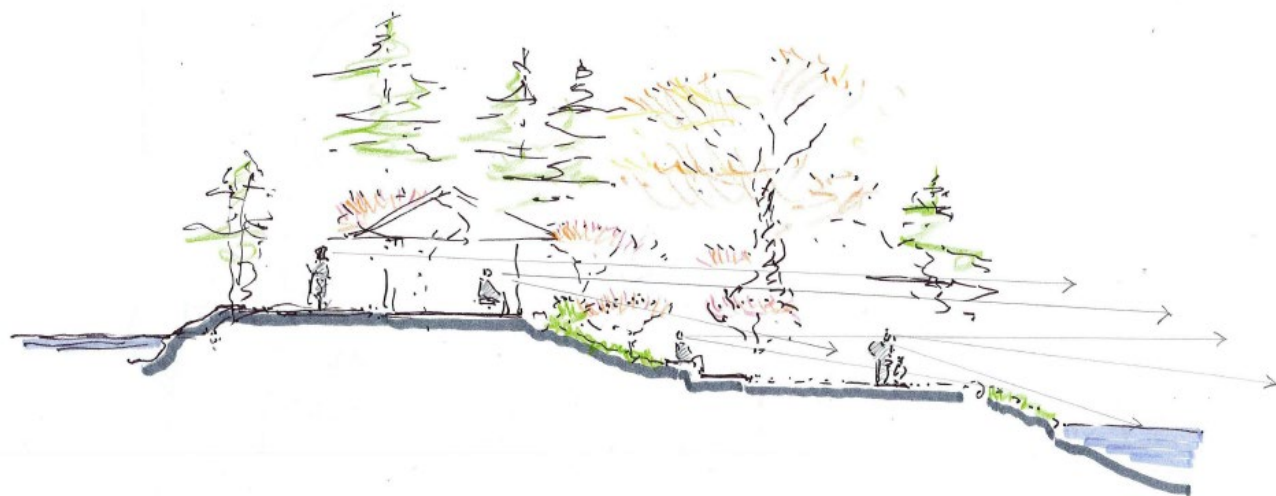
PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Cranbrook Japanese Garden is among the oldest Japanese-style gardens in North America. Created in 1915 as a part of the country estate of Cranbrook's founders George and Ellen Booth, this one-acre, pond-style strolling garden is located at the eastern edge of Kingswood Lake, midway between Cranbrook House and Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School. The garden, centered on the Lily Pond and its two small islands, features an iconic vermillion Japanese-style bridge, the original 1915 Kasuga Lantern, and the recently rehabilitated Lily Pond Cascade with a new Mountain Lantern (yamadoro). Open all year, daily from dawn to dusk, the Cranbrook Japanese Garden is a popular destination for Cranbrook visitors, who come to explore the idealized representation of nature.

Although the garden is a place of beauty, solace, and inspiration, further rehabilitation will ensure future generations can enjoy the space for years to come. Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research commissioned Sadafumi Uchiyama, Curator Emeritus and former Director of the International Garden Training Center at the Portland Japanese Garden in Oregon, to design the master plan for the rejuvenation of the Cranbrook Japanese Garden.

Completed in 2019 and updated in 2022, the plan respects the integrity and historic features of the Booth-era landscape while also enhancing its significance as a Japanese-style garden. Uchiyama's master plan for the Cranbrook Japanese Garden also moves forward the Center's commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and access by increasingly making the garden accessible to all, no matter their physical abilities.

The creation of the New Entrance Garden is the second phase of the multi-phase master plan. The first phase was completed with the rejuvenation of the Lily Pond Cascade in 2018. The New Entrance Garden will feature an Azumaya pavilion, a new pathway with stone steps leading down into the garden where the original Kasuga Lantern is located, and a long wooden bench inspired by the Ryōanji stone garden in Kyoto.



KEY PROJECT UPDATES

As of June 2025

1. Mark Baker, a local designer and graduate of Cranbrook Academy of Art, has begun construction of the Azumaya and benches at his studio in Ann Arbor.
2. Emily Fronckowiak of Emaline Design has been selected as the project's landscape contractor. For many years now, Emily has been our licensed aesthetic pruner, maintaining the Japanese Garden and working alongside our 25 volunteers.
3. All three necessary permits to move forward with the project have been received, including both EGLE (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) and the City of Bloomfield Hills.
4. Construction to begin in July 2025 with expected completion in the fall.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

NEW ENTRANCE GARDEN PROJECT TOTAL: \$1,000,000

Capital Project Support	\$750,000
Endowment	\$250,000
Project Total	\$1,000,000

Funding Needed \$72,000 (Capital and Endowment)

To complete all phases of the Cranbrook Japanese Garden rejuvenation as laid out in the full master plan, including Phase Two, an estimated \$2,250,000 in capital project funds and \$750,000 in endowment funds will be required.

For the New Entrance Garden Project, a total of \$1,000,000 is needed, with \$750,000 supporting capital project costs and \$250,000 establishing a dedicated endowment. These funds are critical to the long-term sustainability of the project.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES & RECOGNITION

1. AZUMAYA PAVILION SPONSOR: \$250,000

Capital Project Support	\$175,000
Endowment	\$75,000
Total	\$250,000

Recognition:

- Exclusive recognition for the support given to the New Entrance Garden project reflected near or in the Azumaya pavilion, a new addition to the garden during this phase of the Cranbrook Japanese Garden rejuvenation
- Primary recognition on temporary signage during the construction and unveiling periods of the New Entrance Garden project
- Recognition on the group Cranbrook Japanese Garden outdoor donor plaque
- Recognition on the Cranbrook Japanese Garden [website](#) and in Cranbrook Japanese Garden related publications
- Recognition on the Cranbrook Japanese Garden Virtual Donor Wall

For the New Entrance Garden phase of the Cranbrook Japanese Garden rejuvenation, only one Azumaya Pavilion Sponsorship is available.

2. BENCHMARK SPONSOR: \$100,000

Capital Project Support	\$75,000
Endowment	\$25,000
Total	\$100,000

Recognition:

- A dedicated bench placed in the Cranbrook Japanese Garden recognizing the donor for their contribution to the space
- Recognition on temporary signage during the construction and unveiling periods of the New Entrance Garden project
- Recognition on the group Cranbrook Japanese Garden outdoor donor plaque
- Recognition on the Cranbrook Japanese Garden Virtual Donor Wall

For the New Entrance Garden phase of the Cranbrook Japanese Garden rejuvenation, only two remaining Benchmark Sponsor packages are available.

3. ROUND ISLAND SPONSOR: \$50,000

Capital Project Support	\$37,500
Endowment	\$12,500
Total	\$50,000

Recognition:

- Round Island Sponsors (formerly Wooden Bridge Sponsors) will be recognized collectively near the Round Island
- Recognition on temporary signage during the construction and unveiling periods of the New Entrance Garden project
- Recognition on the group Cranbrook Japanese Garden outdoor donor plaque
- Recognition on the Cranbrook Japanese Garden Virtual Donor Wall

4. PATHWAY SPONSOR: \$25,000

Capital Project Support	\$18,750
Endowment	\$6,250
Total	\$25,000

Recognition:

- Recognition on temporary signage during the construction and unveiling periods of the New Entrance Garden project
- Recognition on the group Cranbrook Japanese Garden outdoor donor plaque
- Recognition on the Cranbrook Japanese Garden Virtual Donor Wall

5. STONE STEP SPONSOR: \$10,000

Capital Project Support	\$7,500
Endowment	\$2,500
Total	\$10,000

Recognition:

- Recognition on temporary signage during the construction and unveiling periods of the New Entrance Garden project
- Recognition on the Cranbrook Japanese Garden Virtual Donor Wall

6. REJUVENATION PATRON: \$5,000

Capital Project Support	\$3,750
Endowment	\$1,250
Total	\$5,000

Recognition:

- Recognition on the Cranbrook Japanese Garden Virtual Donor Wall

The Cranbrook Educational Community (CEC) Board of Trustees, Trustee Committee on Advancement, and Trustee Properties Committee will use the CEC donor and gift recognition policies and the CEC signage policies to determine the parameters of all recognition. Placement of recognition will be determined by the Cranbrook Japanese Garden Master Plan designer, Sadafumi Uchiyama, in collaboration with CEC leadership. In keeping with the aesthetic of the Cranbrook Japanese Garden recognition on all signage will be text only.