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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Dallas Celebrates the Grand Reopening of Restored Japanese Garden

DALLAS, Oregon (November 6th, 2024)

Community members, officials, and honored guests gathered to celebrate the reopening of the beautifully restored Japanese Garden on Saturday, November 2nd, 2024. The beloved Japanese Garden, originally designed in the 1960s by Japanese-American businessman Art Higashi, has been revitalized to honor its legacy and deepen its connection to nature, peace, and resilience.

The City of Dallas was privileged to work with internationally renowned designer and landscape architect Hoichi Kurisu of Kurisu International for the restoration. Kurisu, whose own life was shaped by witnessing the aftermath of the Hiroshima bombing, was inspired to create landscapes that foster hope and healing. His vision brought new life to the garden, honoring the legacy of Art Higashi and highlighting the values of nature and peace.

City of Dallas Administrative Services Manager Jennifer Ward, expressed her pride in overseeing this significant project saying, "It touches me deeply that our little garden, here in Dallas, is a tangible tribute to the perseverance and talents of both these men, proof that beauty and peace can be more enduring than war, racism and politics".

The City of Dallas extends its deepest gratitude to the many community organizations, funders, and individuals who contributed to the project. Special thanks to:

- **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**, which awarded over \$160,000 in grants for the bridge and garden restoration.
- **Oregon Community Foundation and Dallas Community Foundation** for their support in funding the bridge replacement.
- **Dallas Rotary Club**, which sponsored new benches to enhance visitor comfort.
- **Dallas Garden Club**, which commissioned handcrafted Torii gates from British Columbia, to welcome visitors at the garden's entrance.

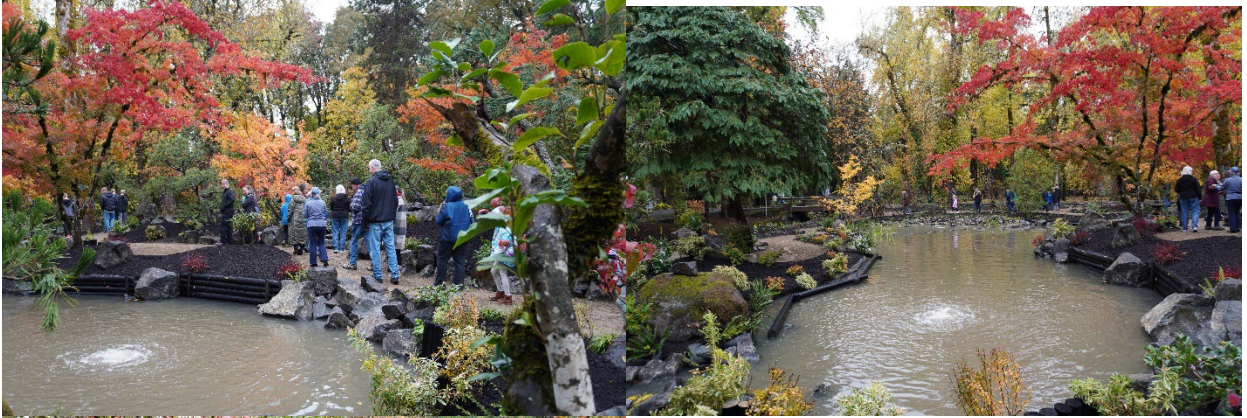
- **Dallas Heart and Sole Walking Club**, which assisted with garden demolition and funded two bronze plaques: one acknowledging all contributors and the other commemorating Art Higashi.
- **Steven Pedersen and JP Morgan Concrete**, who generously donated labor and equipment for bridge installation, with engineering expertise provided by Locke Engineering.

The City also extends thanks to the Oregon Lottery, whose funds supported several of the grants that made this restoration possible, as well as to the City Parks crew, Support Services staff, City Parks and Tree Advisory Board, and the City Council. Their dedication and collaboration helped make this project a reality.

The public is encouraged to visit the restored garden often, as additional features like new paths, benches, and Torii gates will be added in the coming weeks. This space, designed to inspire peace and reflection, stands as a lasting tribute to resilience, community spirit, and the beauty of nature.

The grand reopening concluded with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, inviting the community to enjoy the restored garden and continue the legacy of peace and reflection that it embodies.





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