POSITION SPECIFICATION

THE JAPANESE GARDEN SOCIETY OF OREGON

POSITION TITLE: SENIOR Gardener

REPORTS TO: Director of Garden Maintenance and Director of Ground Maintenance

SALARY: $13.50 - $17.50 an hour / 40 hours per week

GARDEN STAFF: 6 full-time, 1 part-time

WORKWEEK: 5 days a week
Winter: 6:30 – 3:00, Summer: 6:00 – 2:30

BENEFITS: Medical, Dental, Vacation, Sick Time, 401(K) as well as a modest relocation package.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Japanese Garden Society of Oregon is to create, maintain, improve and administer an authentic, world-class Japanese garden in the city of Portland; and, to offer compatible educational, cultural, artistic, horticultural and charitable activities.

THE ORGANIZATION

The Japanese Garden is tucked into Portland’s West Hills, situated at about five hundred feet above sea level. It is a haven of tranquil beauty that has been proclaimed one of the most authentic Japanese gardens outside of Japan.

At just forty years old, the garden represents a Japanese traditional garden. When compared to its inspirational precursors in Japan, many of which are hundreds of years old, the Portland garden has matured with blinding swiftness. Hundreds of dedicated persons, most of whom are volunteers, have given years of time, care and foresight to match the vision that a group of Portland civic and political leaders had in the late 1950s.

The Japanese Garden was founded as a nonprofit organization in 1962 and is maintained through admissions, memberships, special gifts and donations. Designed in 1963 by Professor Takuma Tono, an internationally renowned authority on Japanese garden landscaping, the garden opened to the public in 1967 as a place of serene, quiet beauty. Currently the Japanese Garden has over 4,000 members.

There are five traditional garden styles: the Strolling Pond, the Natural Garden, the Sand and Stone Garden, the Flat Garden and the Tea Garden. A ceremonial tea house and
Japanese pavilion combine to recapture the mood of traditional Japan. The garden covers 5.5 acres and affords a panoramic view across the city of Portland toward the Cascade Mountains and Mount Hood. The concept of “hide and reveal” is used throughout the garden. Plantings, placement of stones, and the route of pathways all give the garden visitor constantly changing views creating reflection and calm. The garden is open year round, its design reflecting each season. The Japanese Garden hosts numerous educational and cultural events throughout the year including Second Sunday, an educational series on Japan – its culture, people and art; Ikebana Exhibits and Workshops; Bonsai Show and Demonstrations; Japanese Festivals; Tea Ceremonies and Art Festivals.

THE COMMUNITY

The Japanese Garden is located in Portland, Oregon, in close proximity to other well known area attractions such as the International Rose Test Garden, the Oregon Zoo, Forest Discovery Center Museum, the Portland Children’s Museum, Hoyt Arboretum and the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial.

Portland, the City of Roses, is located at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers and is nestled between the Cascade Mountains to the east and the Coast Range to the west. It is a city populated by friendly people and surrounded by breathtaking beauty and is frequently mentioned as one of the best places to live in the United States. Its citizens enjoy clean air and streets and are recognized for a long-standing commitment to the environment and protecting “quality of life.”

Arts thrive in Portland’s culturally rich community. Cultural attractions include theater, opera, ballet, symphony and many galleries and museums.

The Portland area is a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts. Mt. Hood, with its expansive ski areas, is just 50 miles to the east. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is a short drive away. Nearby recreation areas offer unparalleled views, hiking and backpacking opportunities. Additionally, the Pacific Ocean is less than a two-hour drive from Portland.

THE POSITION

All gardeners report to the Director of Garden Maintenance and/or to the Director of Ground Maintenance. This position requires intense physical labor all year around. He/She will be responsible for all phases of maintenance, participant in workshops or any training provided. Willing to work weekends when needed

Key responsibilities include the following (not in priority order):

- Perform all levels of pruning such as:
  - Needling and candeling
  - Shearing and hedging
- Root pruning
- Masonry work/stone work
- Bamboo construction/fence building and repair
- Limited woodworking
- Building and/or maintaining retaining walls throughout the garden
- Deal with drainage issues
- Pond and pump maintenance/repair
- Seasonal pond cleaning
- Maintain equipment, garden house tools and garden vehicles
- Ivy, weed and debris removal
- Plant material removal and replacement
- Maintain and replenish all gravel pathways
- Water as needed
- Leaf blowing as needed
- Other duties as they arise

QUALIFICATIONS

- Three years experience in pruning
- Knowledgeable of Japanese gardens and techniques
- Experience in all phases of landscape construction
- Background in plant care and plant identification
- Demonstrate knowledge of using small equipment (blower, mower, chainsaw)
- Detail oriented and self-motivator
- Pesticide license a plus
- Current driver’s license

TO APPLY:

- **Resume must be received by March 6th, 4:00 pm** Interviews will take place the week of March 13th.

- **Send a cover letter along with your resume** to: Attn: Human Resource, P.O. Box 3847, Portland, OR 97208 (must be received by March 6th at 4:00 pm) or email it to humanresoure@japanesegarden.com