



WHERE NATURE AND TRANQUILITY MEET

ELEMENT OF SEASONS

Each season holds a beauty that is celebrated within Japanese garden design. The cheerful blossoms of azaleas in spring, lush summer foliage, brilliant autumn colours and the beautiful leafless silhouettes of winter are all honoured within Nerima. It is well worth visiting in each season to observe the changes created by this natural cycle.

ROCKS

Stability, permanence, relationships and balance are all represented through the precise placement of rocks in a Japanese garden. The numbers three, five and seven are used to create groupings with each carrying specific meanings. Even a pathway tells a story, suggesting the journey through life.

WATER

As the giver of all life, water carries particular importance. Waterfalls bring movement and life, a lake represents the heart of the garden and the heart of all things, an island means longevity, good health and good fortune, a bridge denotes a journey and even raked gravel represents the movement and flow of water. The sight and sound of moving water reflects the relentless passage of time.

PLANTINGS

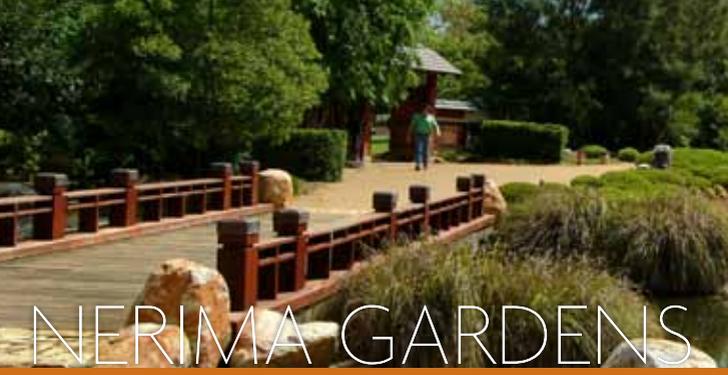
Trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses are carefully chosen to create specific effects within the garden and to denote the passing of each season. Forest and woodland areas establish a feeling of refuge. Asymmetrical plantings create striking focal points and a sensation of dynamism. The shaping of shrubs brings variety and perspective within varied contexts. Plants are also thoughtfully selected to provide seasonal change through foliage colour and flowering.



www.ipswich.qld.gov.au
council@ipswich.qld.gov.au
Phone 1300 IPSWICH or (07) 3810 6666
Fax (07) 3810 6731
PO Box 191
Ipswich QLD 4305

NERIMA GARDENS

Burley Griffin Drive, Ipswich
PARKS OF IPSWICH



NERIMA GARDENS

THE NERIMA GARDENS STORY

Nerima Gardens is a celebration of two cultures. A unique blend of Japanese and Australian flora and design elements create a place of tranquility and calm; a perfect escape from a busy world.

Opened in 2001, Nerima Gardens is inspired by a 'Sister City' link between Ipswich and Nerima City, Japan. This partnership is represented through a careful balance between local and Japanese characteristics and natural elements. Nerima's floral emblem, the Azalea, provides an interesting botanical contrast with Ipswich's own Eucalyptus Curtisi. These very different plants grow in harmony; as they thrive, so too does the bond between the Sister Cities.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE JAPANESE GARDEN

A Japanese garden seeks to create a place where nature and tranquility meet, a place of reflection and calm. The belief that one's life can be more fully realised by connecting to the universal rhythms of nature, is a compelling element within Japanese philosophy and is strongly reflected in garden design and symbolism.

A GARDEN SANCTUARY

When you pass through the entry gates, you enter a world without worry or concerns. It is a place of contemplation where the universal rhythms of nature can be experienced without distraction, balance is restored and time has no meaning. The walls and gates protect this place of sanctuary from the influences of daily life. It is a special place, to be explored at leisure.

THE ELEMENTS OF TIME AND SPACE

Japanese gardens are designed to invite discovery. Transitions between garden rooms are managed with space and subtle screening. Unexpected vistas, hidden pathways, dramatic design statements and tantalising suggestions of what might lie ahead, are all ways in which time and space are explored within the Nerima Gardens experience.

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NERIMA GARDENS

MAP OUT YOUR VISIT



LEGEND

- Road
- Grassed Area
- Parking

Design Elements and Points of Interest

- The traditional **Walled Entry Gates** symbolise protection from outside forces and passage to oneness with the earth, a connection to nature.
- The **Peace Bridge** links two bodies of water symbolising unity, the coming together of peoples divided by seas.
- The **Life Bridge** provides a moment to pause, to reflect on one's place in the world and the many changes that shape that journey.
- The **Boat** appears to set sail from the island in the lake and symbolises self discovery, venturing towards life's unknown horizons.
- The **Raked Garden's** carefully tended gravel mirrors the effect of water rippling around an island's shore.
- The **Path** represents a journey of discovery through changing landscapes and seasons, a philosophical distancing from the busy world behind.
- The **Forest Walk** inspires 'Seijaku': stillness and seclusion.
- Waterfalls** symbolise the journeys of the Bremer and Brisbane Rivers to the sea, and time itself as flowing and ephemeral.
- The **Yukimi Stone Lantern**, a gift from Nerima City, is designed to capture snow in its cap and so reflect the beauty of the simple lines created.
- The **Misaki Stone Lantern**, also a gift from Nerima City, is crafted with a simplicity of form so integral to Japanese gardens, to cast its light across the lake.
- The **Orb Stone Lantern**, an ancient style of Japanese garden lanterns first produced in the Momoyama period, is a gift from the Tokyo Nerima West Rotary Club.
- The **Garden Entry Sign** was graciously designed and gifted by Mayor Suburo Iwanami of Nerima.
- The **Black Pine Tree**, considered the epitome of bonsai, was planted by Mayor Saburo Iwanami.

HIGHLIGHTS



- The **Fish Scaled Beach** pebbles imitate the pattern of fish scales, linking land to water, the source of life.



- The **Tsukubai Stone Water Basin** and **Kekehi** (bamboo), also known as a 'crouching bowl', is designed to develop a humble state of mind in guests preparing to join the tea ceremony.



- The **Secret Garden** entices the visitor through a hedgerow-framed intricate gate structure and along a stone path to the hidden garden overlooking a fish pond.



- The **Tea House** is a special building designed for holding Japanese tea ceremonies. It is built using simple rustic materials and is usually surrounded by a small garden called a roji. The garden has an important function in preparing the guests for the Japanese tea ceremony.

- The **Eucalypt Forest** entwines Ipswich's floral emblem, Eucalyptus curtisii, and native groundcover species with the tranquility and structure of Japanese garden design.
- The **Rest Garden** is nestled between Camellia and Azalea plantings that frame a stepping stone path leading to a rest garden, elegantly framed with colourful shade trees and interesting plant species.
- The **Flinders Peak Feature** incorporates a carpet of groundcovers over rocky outcrops positioned to create a symbolic representation of Flinders Peak. **Azalea's** are found throughout the garden and celebrate the much prized floral emblem of Ipswich's sister city, Nerima. **Camellia's** a native of Japan and so loved around the world are found in the garden and add a spectacle of colour during the cooler months.

ORNAMENTS

The stone lantern is a well known element within a Japanese garden. However, design principles require that ornaments are subservient to the garden itself, with architectural accents used only when a point of visual interest is necessary to the overall effect.

BORROWED SCENERY

Although the garden is enclosed providing a tranquil sanctuary experience for the visitor, key outside elements are also incorporated as part of the design creating a 'borrowed scenery'. A distant mountain or tree outside the fence line extends the boundaries of the garden and are a reminder of the interconnectedness of all things.



THE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

In October 1988 a delegation led by the then Nerima Deputy Mayor Mitsuishi visited Australia and New Zealand seeking a Sister City. After visiting three Australian cities, Ipswich was selected as the most suitable owing to the similarities between the two cities. The sister city relationship was officially formed in 1994.

The Sister City relationship aims to forge goodwill between Cities of different countries, cultures and experiences. Nerima Gardens celebrates this relationship and helps to share cultural knowledge for the enrichment of all.