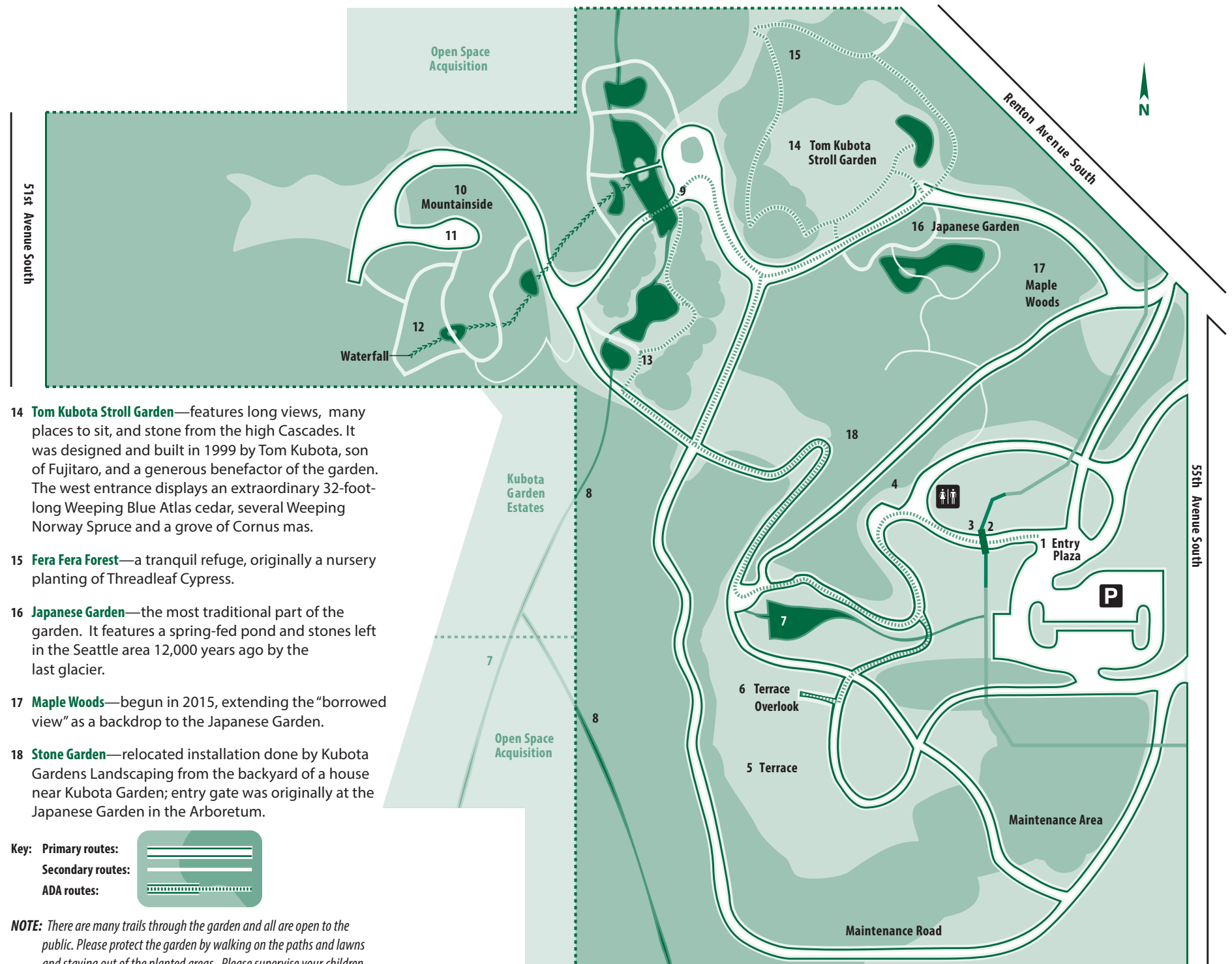




The Kubota Garden

- 1 **Entry Plaza**—ProParks Levy funded project completed in 2004.
- 2 **Entry Gate**—a bronze sliding gate designed and installed by Gerard Tsutakawa, 2004.
- 3 **Ornamental Wall**—designed and funded by the Kubota Garden Foundation.
- 4 **Overlook**—gives a first look into the area designated “a historical landmark of the city of Seattle.”
- 5 **Terrace**—has open lawns and late summer blooming plants which welcome weddings and other gatherings.
- 6 **Terrace Overlook**—garden overlook atop ishigaki (stone wall) built by the famed Japanese masons from Anoh-shu, 2014.
- 7 **Spring Pond**—fed by several local springs. The Kubota family used it to water six acres of nursery stock once planted to the south.
- 8 **Mapes Creek**—an all-season creek that runs through the Kubota Garden Natural Area and feeds the Necklace of Ponds.
- 9 **Heart Bridge**—crosses Mapes Creek and is like a traditional red bridge on Mr. Kubota’s home island.
- 10 **Mountainside**—built by the Kubota family to celebrate the 1962 World’s Fair in Seattle, offers the visitor a miniature walk into the mountains. The waterfalls are formed by stone from North Bend and fed by water pumped up from the lowest pond.
- 11 **Memorial Stone**—placed in 1962 when Mr. Kubota was 83 years old. The back of the stone has a brief history of the garden in Japanese.
- 12 **Lookout**—offers a wooden umbrella and a grand view of the garden 65 feet below.
- 13 **Moon Bridge**—symbolizes the difficulty of living a good life: “Hard to walk up and hard to walk down.”



- 14 **Tom Kubota Stroll Garden**—features long views, many places to sit, and stone from the high Cascades. It was designed and built in 1999 by Tom Kubota, son of Fujitaro, and a generous benefactor of the garden. The west entrance displays an extraordinary 32-foot-long Weeping Blue Atlas cedar, several Weeping Norway Spruce and a grove of Cornus mas.
- 15 **Fera Fera Forest**—a tranquil refuge, originally a nursery planting of Threadleaf Cypress.
- 16 **Japanese Garden**—the most traditional part of the garden. It features a spring-fed pond and stones left in the Seattle area 12,000 years ago by the last glacier.
- 17 **Maple Woods**—begun in 2015, extending the “borrowed view” as a backdrop to the Japanese Garden.
- 18 **Stone Garden**—relocated installation done by Kubota Gardens Landscaping from the backyard of a house near Kubota Garden; entry gate was originally at the Japanese Garden in the Arboretum.

Key: Primary routes: Secondary routes: ADA routes:

NOTE: There are many trails through the garden and all are open to the public. Please protect the garden by walking on the paths and lawns and staying out of the planted areas. Please supervise your children. Dogs must be on leash.

Kubota Garden Foundation

The Kubota Garden Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 friends organization established to support, enhance and perpetuate Kubota Garden within the spirit and vision of Fujitaro Kubota, in cooperation with the City of Seattle. A financial donation entitles the donor to foundation membership for that year. Membership benefits include the seasonal newsletter, special events, volunteer opportunities, and the pleasure of providing additional care for our unique American-Japanese garden.

Donations may be sent to:

Kubota Garden Foundation
10915 51st Ave S
Seattle, WA 98178-2160

Checks should be made out to the Kubota Garden Foundation. Please include your name, mailing address, and telephone number.

Volunteer “Tuesdays in the Garden”; meet at the Crew Quarters for free coffee at 9:30 am. Work together with garden staff 10 am to noon. For more information call 206.684.4584.

Free guided tours of the garden are offered for groups of eight or more. Tours may be arranged at any time by calling 206.725.5060 at least three weeks before the desired date. Drop-in tours are offered on the fourth Saturday at 10 a.m. Tours take about 90 minutes and provide historical and horticultural information.

Weddings or other events at the garden can be scheduled by calling the Department of Parks and Recreation at 206 684.4081. Commercial photography and film-ing require permits which can be obtained by calling 206.684.4080.

Additional information is available at the foundation’s web site: www.kubotagarden.org. Messages and questions may be left via voicemail at 206.725.5060.

Kubota Garden Self-Guided Tour



Detail of bronze Entry Gate installed in 2004



The Story of Seattle’s American-Japanese Garden

- 1879

Fujitaro Kubota is born in Kochi Prefecture, Shikoku Island, Japan
- 1907

Mr. Kubota emigrates to the United States of America
- 1923

The Kubota Gardening Company is established
- 1927

Mr. Kubota acquires five acres of logged-off swampland in the Rainier Beach neighborhood of Seattle, Washington
- 1930s

The Japanese Garden is completed
The Heart Bridge is built
- 1942-45

Kubota family is held at Camp Minidoka in Idaho as part of the mass incarceration of people of Japanese descent during World War II. Tom Kubota is drafted into the US military and serves in the Pacific; Tak Kubota works as a civilian instructor in Army Intelligence language schools.
- 1962

The Mountainside is completed
- 1970s

The Moon Bridge is built
- 1972

The Japanese Government awards the Fifth Class Order of the Sacred Treasure to Mr. Kubota
- 1973

Fujitaro Kubota dies at the age of 94 years
- 1981

The Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board designates the four-and-a-half acre core Garden as an Historical Landmark
- 1987

The City of Seattle acquires the Garden from the Kubota family
- 1989

The Kubota Garden Foundation is incorporated as a non-profit organization
- 1999

The Tom Kubota Stroll Garden is built
- 2004

The Entry Gate at Kubota Garden is designed and installed by Gerard Tsutakawa
Tom Kubota dies at the age of 87 years
The ProParks 2000 project is completed, providing enhanced ADA access and the new entry court
Construction begins on entry wall

Memorial Stone Inscription (north side of stone):

“Fujitaro Kubota was born in 1879, in Kochi Prefecture on the island of Shikoku, Japan. He immigrated to America in 1907 and established his home. In 1927 he acquired this land in order to make a large garden. With his own hands he cleared the land, dug several ponds and cut the trees to build the garden. Mr. Kubota studied landscaping, suffered hard work and put great effort into this project. The garden was finally completed in 1962 and in that year this memorial stone was erected. It was the eighty-third year of Fujitaro Kubota”.

Text written by Rev. Fumio Matsui • Stone carved by Mr. Okada of Japan