



HAYWARD AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

JAPANESE GARDENS

22372 N. Third Street
Hayward, CA

BRIEF HISTORY

The site of the Japanese Gardens of the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District has a unique history. This 3.5-acre area was used to house the agricultural studies program studies program of the Hayward High School of the Hayward Union High School District from 1913 through June 1962. In addition to providing Future Farmer and 4-H educational programs, horticulture on a limited scale was also studied at this location. In September 1962, educational activities were removed completely from this area.

In 1962, recognizing the unique location and characteristics of the site known as the Botany Grounds, the Board of Directors of the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District officially designated the area as a future recreation and park site, and, in 1972, began activity involved in the acquisition of the Botany Grounds for park and recreation purposes. Over the next four years, additional land was acquired, thereby assuring that this unique and well-located area be retained in perpetuity for the leisure pursuits of present and future residents of the Hayward Area.



DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

The Japanese Gardens is the first garden of a Japanese design to be developed in California, and possibly in the entire Western United States, using the principles of traditional Japanese Garden art, combined with native stone and rock and California trees and plantings. The structures were built with careful precision. No stains were used. An immediate aging process of all wood surfaces was accelerated by a combination of burning the wood with a blowtorch and laborious task of many hours of brushing with wire brushes and wood preservatives. Additionally, care was taken to assure that all joints were notched before being assembled, and all nails and fasteners are recessed. The painstaking craftsmanship begins and ends with each piece of wood as it is carefully molded into what will become a true landmark, not only in the Bay Area, but in California and the Western United States as well.

