



ASIAN SUMMER GARDEN

at the Cornell Botanic Gardens

Cornell Botanic Gardens is developing a new Asian Summer Garden that will showcase tree and herbaceous peonies and other plants native to China, Japan, and Korea, highlighting the importance of these plants in East Asian cultures.

This Asian Summer Garden will be a unique feature of the Cornell Botanic Gardens, Cornell University campus, and the Ithaca/Tompkins County community. It will be both an important visitor attraction and will support the mission of the Cornell Botanic Gardens to inspire visitors to understand and appreciate plants and the cultures they sustain. It will foster stronger connections to Asian visitors and residents of our region, including the 35 percent of Cornell undergraduates who are Asian or of Asian heritage. The Asian Summer Garden will be designed to cultivate greater appreciation of Asian plants and understanding of Asian culture among visitors, a reciprocity we refer to as “horticultural diplomacy.”

The Asian Summer Garden will evolve through a phased approach with continued support.

Phase 1 is set to begin in the summer of 2026, and construction costs are \$2,675,000.

Phase 2 may commence in the summer of 2028, with construction costs of \$900,000.

The Asian Summer Garden will feature many plants central to Asian horticulture and gardens. The most popular such plant is the peony, both tree peonies (*Peonia suffruticosa*) and herbaceous peonies (*P. lactiflora*). In China, where they are sometimes called the “Queen (or King) of flowers,” peonies have been bred and cultivated for more than 2,000 years and in Japan, they feature prominently in art and ceramics. Featuring peonies will provide opportunities to interpret the links between horticulture and Asian culture and inspire visitors to leave with a greater appreciation of both the plants and greater cultural understanding.



Gifts to the Asian Summer Garden will support construction costs and the endowment needed to maintain the garden.



PHASE 1 - GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Entire Asian Summer Garden

\$2,000,000

A special opportunity to name this beautiful and unique garden.

Central Garden (1)

\$750,000

The Central Garden will be the centerpiece for peonies mixed with flowering perennials and ornamental grasses. Flowering shrubs and small flowering trees will frame the area so that the garden is slowly revealed as visitors walk through.

Pavilion (10)

\$500,000

Inspired by East Asian architectural design traditions, the pavilion is the focal point of the Event Space and serves as a covered space for small gatherings and a stage for ceremonies and music.

Nevin Welcome Center Entry Garden (4)

\$250,000



As visitors approach the welcome center, their walk is enhanced by this prominent entry planting of flowering trees, shrubs and groundcovers.

Maple Walk (3)

\$175,000

At the southern edge of the Peony and Perennial Garden, this intimate garden features Japanese Maples shading a meandering stepping stone path leading to a sitting area and a shallow ephemeral basin surrounded by boulders.



PHASE 2 - GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Event Space (8)

\$450,000

The Event Space is the heart of the gardens, adjacent to the beautiful Mullestein Winter Garden, and is sized to accommodate large event tents.

North Entrance Grove (6)

\$250,000

The North Entrance Grove hosts a grove of trees and shrubs and features unconventional plantings creating a sense of horticultural curiosity and garden whimsy.

Perimeter Tree Planting (7)

\$175,000

This area will include specimen flowering cherry trees and groundcover plantings to provide a memorable moment for springtime special events.

South Lawn (9)

\$50,000

The lawn south of the Event Space is a place for visitors to wander, take a moment away from events, and serves as a calm green barrier between the Asian Summer Garden and the parking lot.





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From gardens to gorges, everything that we offer at Cornell Botanic Gardens is made possible by friends who believe in our mission to connect plants and people.

Thank you for joining us!

CONTACT

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