

# Nerima Gardens



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## **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.

## 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, water and plantings

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.

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.

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.



## **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 and 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.

# Nerima Gardens

Map your visit

GOLEBY AVENUE

QUEENS PARK NURSERY

P

GRIFFITH ROAD

CHERMESIDE ROAD

- P** Parking
- 1** Walled Entry Gates
- 2** Peace Bridge
- 3** Life Bridge
- 4** Boat
- 5** Raked Gardens
- 6** Path
- 7** Forest Walk
- 8** Fish Scaled Beach
- 9** Waterfalls
- 10** Yukimi Stone Lantern
- 11** Misaki Stone Lantern
- 12** Orb Stone Lantern
- 13** Tsukubai Stone Water Basin and Kekehi
- 14** Garden Entry Sign
- 15** Black Pine Tree
- 16** Secret Garden
- 17** Eucalypt Forest
- 18** Rest Garden
- 19** Flinders Peak Feature
- 20** Tea House

## Summer hours

Start of September school holidays  
until end of Easter school holidays  
Tuesday to Friday 9.00 am - 3.45 pm  
Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays 9.00 am - 5.45 pm

## Winter hours

End of Easter school holidays  
until start of September school holidays  
Tuesday to Friday 9.00 am - 3.45 pm  
Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays 9.00 am - 4.30 pm

Closed Christmas Day and Good Friday and Mondays except during School Holidays and Public Holidays

## Ipswich region



## History and culture

This park remains sacred to the Traditional Owners of Ipswich. Sacred sites are very important to the Traditional Owners, as they provide a link between Country and personal identity and allow the passing on of cultural knowledge. Some of the sacred sites within Ipswich include quarry sites, traditional food resources, story places, pre-contact and historical camp sites, fighting grounds, ceremonial sites, bora rings and women's business sites.



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