About North Shore Land Alliance

North Shore Land Alliance is a nationally accredited not-for-profit land trust. Our mission is to protect and preserve, in perpetuity, the green spaces, farmlands, wetlands, groundwater and historical sites on Long Island’s north shore for the enhancement of quality of life and benefit of future generations.

Since 2003, with the help of government and the generosity of individual donors, the Land Alliance has protected nearly 1,200 acres of the North Shore’s most cherished open spaces.

For more information about the North Shore Land Alliance, please visit our website at www.northshorelandalliance.org.

The John P. Humes JAPANESE STROLL GARDEN

North American and Asian Plants

1. Japanese cedar (Cryptomeria japonica ‘Yoshino’)
2. Chinese bamboo (Phyllostachys nuda)
3. Native dogwood (Cornus florida)
4. American beech (Fagus grandifolia)
5. Japanese maple (Acer palmatum)
6. Dwarf Japanese skinma (Skinma japonica ‘Nana’)
7. Paperbark maple (Acer griseum)
8. Red oak (Quercus rubra)
9. Japanese Stewartia (Stewartia pseudocamellia)
10. Japanese buckwheat (Ilex crenata ‘Convexa’)
11. Hinoki false cypress (Chamaecyparis obtusa ‘Gracilis’)
12. Weeping Higan cherry (Prunus subhirtella ‘Pendula’)
13. Kurume azalea (Rhododendron obtusum)
14. Japanese snowbell (Styrax japonica)
15. Katsura tree (Cercidiphyllum japonicum)
16. Tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipifera)
17. Bald cypress (Taxodium distichum)
18. Yellow groove bamboo (Phyllostachys aureosulcata)
19. Black walnut (Juglans nigra)
20. Weeping katsura tree (Cercidiphyllum japonicum ‘Pendula’)
21. Green threadleaf Japanese maple (Acer palmatum dissectum ‘Viridis’)
22. Sargent’s weeping hemlock (Tsuga canadensis ‘Pendula’)
23. Red maple (Acer rubrum)
24. Weeping willow (Salix babylonica)
25. Harry Lauder’s walking stick (Corylus avellana ‘Contorta’)
26. Yakushima rhododendron (Rhododendron yakushimanum)
27. Maidenhair tree (Ginkgo biloba)
28. Fragrant snowbell (Styrax obassia)
29. Kousa dogwood (Cornus kousa var. chinensis)
30. Japanese white pine (Pinus parviflora)
31. Dawn redwood (Metasequoia glyptostroboides)
32. Japanese longstalk holly (Ilex pedunculosa)
33. Japanese black pine (Pinus thunbergiana)
34. Rosebay rhododendron (Rhododendron maximum)
35. Yakushima rhododendron (Rhododendron yakushimanum)
36. Maidenhair tree (Ginkgo biloba)
37. Fragrant snowbell (Styrax obassia)
38. Kousa dogwood (Cornus kousa var. chinensis)
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About the John P. Humes
Japanese Stroll Garden

The Humes Japanese Stroll Garden, a seven-acre gem of landscape design and woodland, provides a retreat for passive recreation and contemplation. This special garden was created by Ambassador and Mrs. John P. Humes following a visit to Japan in 1960. Inspired by their visit, Ambassador Humes purchased the Tea House that still stands in the garden and hired Japanese-American landscape designer Douglas DeFay and his wife, Joan, to design the garden on their estate in Mill Neck. Over the next four years, the DeFayas transformed two acres of rolling woodland on Long Island’s North Shore into a world-class Japanese stroll garden.

In 1981, Mr. Humes hired Stephen Morrell to rehabilitate the garden with the idea of opening it to the public. Mr. Morrell added a new entrance path featuring a collection of Japanese maples and Asian and native woodland wildflowers, increasing the size of the garden area to four acres. A wisteria arbor, bamboo groves and rocky shoreline were also added.

In 1986, the garden opened to the public, but after several years of operation it became clear that more resources were needed to secure its future. The Garden Conservancy assumed management of the garden in 1993. Through a challenge grant awarded in 1997 from the Japan World Exposition Commemorative Fund the garden’s ponds and waterfall were restored and a new masonry wall to buffer road sounds was constructed.

In 2017, North Shore Land Alliance purchased the garden from the Humes family for preservation purposes. The acquisition of this parcel completes a conservation corridor that stretches over 150 acres in the middle of the Beaver Brook watershed and effectively links the Stroll Garden and Humes property to Shu Swamp Preserve, Upper Francis Pond Preserve and the two Francis Ponds.

Features of the Garden

Views, textures and compositional elements in the garden have been balanced according to Japanese aesthetic principles, immersing visitors in an idealized landscape inspired by a mountain setting by the sea. The defining feature of the garden is its stepping stone path, inspired by the intimacy of a mountain trail. A walk through the garden takes visitors through various twists and turns, including a “mountain peak,” before ending at the pondside teahouse. This unique and historic garden also boasts an impressive collection of North American and Asian plants that constitute a beautiful Japanese landscape and impart a meditative experience.

- Traditional Tea House and Garden - The Tea House (Cha-shitsu) was built for traditional tea ceremonies, is intentionally devoid of ornamentation and reflects harmony, respect, purity and tranquility. The design of the tea garden (roji) is restricted mostly to evergreen plants, creating a subdued, tranquil atmosphere.

- Stone Water Basins (Tsukubai), have traditionally provided a place for guests to rinse their mouths and wash their hands in an act of purifying body and mind before entering the tea house.

- The Koi-filled Pond is a central element and often represents real or mythical lakes or seas.

- Stone Lanterns have been used as architectural ornaments contrasting agreeably with natural features and providing soft illumination in the evening. Usually, they are placed near water or along a curve in a path and represent love, brightness and protection from evil.

- Stepping Stones (Tobi ishi) are symbolic of a path across a body of water and are used to control the rate at which one moves through the garden encouraging moment-to-moment reflection.

Become a Friend of the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden

This entitles you to unlimited entry and invitations to special events. Your financial support will help with maintenance and operation of the Garden.

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<tr>
<th>Membership Options *</th>
<th>Join</th>
<th>Renew</th>
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<td>✓ $100 - Individual Member</td>
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☐ Check payable to North Shore Land Alliance
☐ Charge my credit card: _Visa _MC _Amex
☐ Repeat this gift _ Monthly _ Annually

* Stroll Garden members will automatically become members of the North Shore Land Alliance.

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