



A Brief Timeline of The Japanese Garden in Jackson Park

- **1869:** Chicago's South Park Commission created Jackson Park with a plan by Frederick Law Olmsted, a famous designer.
- **1893:** The park becomes the home of the World's Columbian Exposition, and Olmsted helps design it, including an island in a lake. A Japanese building called the Ho-o-den is placed on the island as a gift, along with pretty gardens, attracting visitors. Over 27 million people visited the fair from around the world.
- **1933:** Around the time of Chicago's next major exhibition, called the Century of Progress, the island was given 500 cherry trees as a gift. This event brought the deteriorating conditions of the Ho-o-den to light and the impact of years of neglect and vandalism there, which spurred efforts start to restore the Ho-o-den and create a Japanese Garden nearby with federal relief funds including WPA funds.
- **1934:** Shoji Osato, a Japanese immigrant, opens a Japanese Tea House in Jackson Park with the help of his family after showcasing one at the Century of Progress World's Fair.
- **1940s:** Anti-Japanese sentiments arose following the attack on Pearl Harbor, and the Tea House was boarded up. Shoji Osato, was also detained by the US government and the Ho-o-den began to fall into disrepair, and eventually burned down in 1946 likely due to arson and prejudice.
- **1960s:** Hyde Park residents push for the garden's restoration, but only minor improvements are made.
- **1980:** Major restoration of the Japanese Garden is completed with government funds.
- **1993:** Osaka, Japan helped restore the garden further and it was renamed, the "Osaka Japanese Garden."
- **Early 2000s:** Landscape architect Sadafumi Uchiyama leads a substantial renovation of the garden.
- **2012:** The Non-profit organization, Project 120, sponsored efforts like planting cherry trees and installing sculptures on the garden site. At this time, the name was updated again and became known as the "Garden of the Phoenix."
- **2016:** Artist, musician, and peace activist Yoko Ono, gifted *Sky Landing*, a 12-foot tall lotus flower sculpture that sits outside the gates of the garden as a symbol of peace.



Today, the Japanese Garden is a place where you can step into history and enjoy the beauty of nature. For over 100 years, people have been visiting this site. When you visit, try to take a moment to pause and reflect on what life was like for visitors at the different time periods listed above. Try to image how did their identity and position in society impact their experience of this unique place.