



2021 Pond Renovation Project Description

Completed:

The Koi Pond and surrounding landscaping and paths are a central feature of historic Hakone Gardens. The Hakone Master Plan, approved by the City of Saratoga and Hakone Foundation Board in 2016, strongly suggested that this feature should be renovated first, if possible. The Master Plan can be viewed upon request.

The pond's pump filtration system and its building have been renovated in 2018 at a cost of \$600,000. With the financial help of the City of Saratoga and the Santa Clara County grants, the pump filtration system and pumphouse have been completed and are now connected to the old pond system. The pump filtration system is now capable of accommodating the required needs of a future new pond renovation.

A specific design for the pond renovation has been completed at a cost of \$100,000. It can be viewed upon request.

Present To Do:

Now the \$4 million dollar fundraising for the renovation of the pond itself is under way. \$1 million has been raised so far.

The five major issues to be addressed in the renovation of the pond itself are:

1. Increasing the depth of the pond while maintaining the present diameter and shape of the pond. This increase in amount and depth of the water will allow the water temperature to be stabilized for the health of the koi, i.e. cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. In addition, the depth will provide safety for the koi from critters and birds who, at the present, stand in the pond as they prey on the fish.
2. Designing the pond for better total aeration circulation to get rid of oxygen "dead" zones and move debris from the surface and bottom of the pond to the filtration system. Having all areas of the pond aerated allows the koi to swim in all parts of the pond and remain healthy. Using the filtration system to collect debris in the pond will allow our maintenance staff to focus more energy on the wider garden.
3. Completely sealing the bottom of both the pond and waterfall will prevent loss of precious water by leakage into the ground. The water loss prevention will allow a significant cost reduction in the maintenance budget.

Hakone Foundation

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Hakone Estate and Gardens is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

4. Completely remodeling the surrounding walking paths is a necessary improvement in this project list. We must meet the State of California standards for ADA, Americans with Disabilities Act. Compliance with these rules will allow more people to visit these beautiful gardens.
5. Renovating the surrounding landscape and slope above the pond will help to capture runoff and prevent contamination of the koi pond. Presently, during the rainy season, rainwater (with particulate) and garden dirt are washed into the pond. Diverting this drainage will improve the health of the koi.

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