



Consulate-General  
of Japan in Chicago

# Bento in Bloom

featuring the Garden of the Phoenix  
in Chicago's Jackson Park

## GO BENTO PROJECT

It's no secret that food can bring people together. "*Bento*" is a Japanese word meaning "a meal on the go". Through this **GO BENTO PROJECT**, diners can experience a part of Japanese food culture while exploring Chicago's own Japanese garden in Jackson Park and learning the history of friendship between our two countries that made this garden possible. By taking part in the project, you will be part of the story!



Scan the QR code and visit our slideshow  
for your virtual Hanami experience!  
[youtu.be/2uvGu0nkaNc](https://youtu.be/2uvGu0nkaNc)





Garden of the Phoenix, located in Wooded Island in Jackson Park Lagoon, south of Museum of Science & Industry, Chicago

## Garden of the Phoenix



We all know that Jackson Park, located on the South Side of Chicago, is beautiful all year round! But, did you know about the Garden of the Phoenix – located inside the park where you can view breathtaking *sakura* or cherry blossom trees every spring? The Garden of the Phoenix emanates from the site of the *Ho-o-den* (Phoenix Pavilion), which was dedicated on the Wooded Island by the Government of Japan for the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893, as a permanent place for visitors to learn about Japan and experience Japanese culture. Since then, with the good will and dedication of the American people, it has been maintained as a symbol of friendship between Japan and U.S.

[www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/japanese-garden](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/japanese-garden)

Please check out [umiimu.com](http://umiimu.com) maintained by the Garden's historian, Robert W. Karr, Jr, and [gardenofthephoenix.org](http://gardenofthephoenix.org) to see videos and learn more about the Garden.



In 2016, SKYLANDING, a 12-petal lotus sculpture by Yoko Ono was also added to the site

## Cherry Blossom Trees

The Japanese government and the city of Osaka, a sister city of Chicago since 1973, have supported the further development of The Garden of the Phoenix and have cooperated in its development.

In 2013, over 120 cherry blossom trees were planted to commemorate the Garden's 120-year anniversary of the site and to celebrate the peaceful relationship between the United States and Japan. Between 2013-2016, an additional 50 cherry blossom trees were planted with the support of JCCC (Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago). As they grow in size and number, the trees inspire new opportunities for cultural exchange and learning for generations to come.

*Hanami*, or flower-viewing, is a Japanese springtime tradition that occurs every year when the *sakura* bloom. During this time, friends and family gather under the trees to enjoy viewing the exquisite flowers and trees while enjoying seasonal *bento*, or meal-in-a-box, to celebrate the transient beauty of flowers, and the coming of the season after a long winter.

While this year's full bloom of *sakura* at the Garden of the Phoenix has already passed, there is always next year. To look forward to the season to come and to find joy in the different seasons at the Garden of the Phoenix, the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago would like to invite you to a virtual visit to the Garden of the Phoenix to learn about the Garden with educational resources like stories and images. Please take a virtual tour by scanning the QR code printed on the other side of this card.

## Bento in Bloom

To enrich the experience, we are delighted to offer a complimentary "Bento in Bloom", a seasonally appropriate meal-in-a-box prepared by Chicago's own Japanese restaurants.

### Participating Restaurants & Catering:

Naoki Sushi  
Ringo Japanese Restaurant  
Torino Ramen  
M Square Catering

For more information about project implementation, contact Mai Kato Riggins at M Square Global, Inc.: [mai@m2chicago.com](mailto:mai@m2chicago.com) or (312) 371-5896

For general information, contact Japan Information Center, the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago: [jic@cg.mofa.go.jp](mailto:jic@cg.mofa.go.jp)