

Award #: 43 b

Award Name: Historic Preservation

Submitted by: Geneva Garden Club

Number of members in club: 66

Date: 10/31/2021

Please complete each topic, if applicable. Use numbering as below when completing form.

1. New project: Yes No Beginning date: Completion date: ongoing

2. Brief summary and objectives of project:

Geneva Garden Club (GGC) is preserving and maintaining a one-acre Japanese tea garden in conjunction with the Kane County Forest Preserve at Fabyan Woods and community volunteers. The garden was designed circa 1910 for George and Nelle Fabyan by Taro Otsuka, an emigrant Japanese landscape architect. The garden has gone through two restorations to date to preserve the beauty of the 100+ year garden. Due to budget constraints with the Forest Preserve district, the Geneva Garden Club has stepped in to insure the maintenance of this historic local gem. This garden is visited by the public and tours are given by volunteer docents. It is a favorite photographic site in the tri-cities area.

3. Involvement of club members, other organizations, etc.:

GGC worked in conjunction with the Kane County Forest Preserve District for the continued maintenance and restoration of the historic tea garden. During the summer months, seven club members worked 16 separate workdays, for about 115 hours in total to weed, plant and maintain the Fabyan Japanese Tea Garden Grounds to preserve the historic garden. Geneva Garden Club works with the Forest Preserve District to restore additional features when needed.

4. Project expenses and means of funding:

There were no major cash expenditures in the garden maintenance this year, other than the member's time and minor incidentals.

5. Continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance:

The GGC intends to remain active in the maintenance of this public garden, with planned workdays in the upcoming year. The club will continue to coordinate with the Forest Preserve District to insure the future of this garden.

6. Attach or insert photos, digital photos, and/or landscape plan (does not need to be professionally drawn).

