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**Jason Wilson and Wife
Deborah Friend Wilson**

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SEATTLE AREA CONDOS

	Q2 2022	Q2 2021	CHANGE
TOTAL HOMES SOLD	1,011	997	+0.4%
MEDIAN SOLD PRICE	\$545K	\$494K	+10.3%
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	18	39	-53.8%
SOLD/LIST PRICE%	101%	99%	+2.0%

\$545K
MEDIAN SOLD PRICE
UP +10.3% from 2021

TOTAL SEATTLE AREA

	Q2 2022	Q2 2021	CHANGE
TOTAL HOMES SOLD	1,770	2,230	-23.5%
MEDIAN SOLD PRICE	\$1.0M	\$890K	+12.4%
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	9	15	-40.0%
SOLD/LIST PRICE%	107%	105%	+1.9%

\$1.00M
MEDIAN SOLD PRICE
UP +12.4% from 2021

SEATTLE Q2 REPORT

Although closed sales decreased during Q2 in the majority of regions, there is no cause for alarm as the market is still moving toward a more balanced state. A portion of the slowdown is really a seasonal cycle our region goes through once school is out and people start to travel. In fact, as the world continues to open up, travel is at an all-time high. As we observe a shift to investments in real estate as a safe haven, the luxury markets saw an increase in sales over the previous year. A market that is balanced typically has about 4-6 months' worth of inventory. In most locations, we have less than a month and a half's worth of inventory, so the market is still strongly in favor of sellers. Despite this year's slowing and leveling off, prices were under pressure to rise in almost every region. More properties are available for purchase thanks to the rising inventory and a slowdown in the rapid price growth, and now sellers are competing to have the most appealing listing in their market.

SEATTLE AREA LUXURY

	Q2 2022	Q2 2021	CHANGE
TOTAL HOMES SOLD	226	239	-5.4%
MEDIAN SOLD PRICE	\$2.525M	\$2.40M	+5.2%
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	28	29	-3.4%
SOLD/LIST PRICE%	105%	102%	+2.9%

\$2.52M

MEDIAN SOLD PRICE
UP +5.2% from 2021

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PUBLISHER'S *note*

Happy September, Madison Park! September is my favorite month as it brings a season of sun and good times on the water and in the mountains but with that nip of fall in the evening. It's time to get outdoors, light the barbecue, entertain, and say goodbye to summer.

We continue to thank our incredible advertising partners for making our neighborhood magazine free for all of us to enjoy! We genuinely appreciate you, the residents, for continuing to support these quality business partners that support our community and provide the best of what they do here in town.

Please keep sending in your story ideas. This is YOUR magazine. What you want to see in it, just let me know!

And now ... I'm off for some fun in the sun! See you in October!

With Gratitude,



Jacquelyn Paneque
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RESTAURATEURS SERVE MORE THAN JUST SUPERIOR CUISINE

Jason And Deborah Wilson Of The Lakehouse Are Pioneering Mental Health Awareness In The Restaurant Industry.



Jason and Deborah Wilson

By Kevin P. Henry
Photos by J Garner Photography

The weather outside The Lakehouse in downtown Bellevue one morning was cool and cloudy, but the mood inside was light and cheerful. Seated at a booth, restaurant owners Jason Wilson (James Beard Award winner and owner of the former iconic Madison Park restaurant Crush) and Deborah Friend Wilson were gregarious and ebullient. This scene sharply contrasted with earlier in 2021, when an emotional Deborah and Jason had to inform staff that the restaurant was closing as the Covid-19 pandemic tightened its grip on the nation.

"Covid really flattened the industry, more mentally than financially," Jason, 50, sighed. "I remember sitting in a booth and saying, 'Oh, my God, what's gonna happen?'"

By then, the pandemic had devastated the food service, hospitality, and restaurant industry, leaving in its wake closed businesses, widespread panic, and staggering unemployment due to mass layoffs and closures.

Fortunately, The Lakehouse, with its inviting, elegant "farmhouse concept," reopened in October 2021 with a scrumptious menu and a new emphasis on the mental health of its employees. Deborah, 50, who runs her own consulting



Food is an art, and Jason Wilson is one of the best



One of Jason's mouthwatering creations

practice, believes the industry should not be just about profits, food, and accolades but about people.

Today, the polished staff is all smiles, and the atmosphere is relaxed. Mellifluous music filters through the various rooms and the back kitchen. The decor is attractive, with attention to detail, and exudes warmth and comfort. The servers are professional, personable, and calm. The food is of the highest quality, with seasonal ingredients from Northwest and American farmers and fishermen. But then, none of this is surprising considering Jason's culinary track record.

"Everything in this restaurant reflects Jason," Deborah said with a smile. The Wilsons still consider themselves newlyweds, having gotten married last year. It is easy to recognize the strong connection they have as they exchanged adoring smiles and finished each other's sentences more than once. Deborah grew up on Mercer Island, and Jason is a transplant originally from the San Francisco area.



Jason and Deborah Wilson



A group of friends enjoys a meal at The Lakehouse



Meeting before a shift at The Lakehouse



Mental health is a priority at The Lakehouse

The Wilsons admitted they could talk about cuisine and their business for hours, but today the conversation centers on the strong mental health focus of their restaurant. According to the couple, mental health and wellness need to be a priority in the hospitality and restaurant industry. At The Lakehouse, special attention is given to the individual mental health and wellness of their staff.

Deborah Wilson, the restaurant's Wellness Director, has developed staff training that includes topics like communication skills and Unconscious Bias. In addition, employees are able to take part in meditation and relax in a well-furnished, comfortable employee lounge. Creating a bond between the employees is also vital. This philosophy overlaps with the expectations of quality customer service, where each diner is treated as an individual with unique needs.

The food service industry is known for being high-pressure, fast-paced, and stressful. Servers and staff have to deal with customers who can be demanding, irascible, and even volatile. And now, servers must enforce mask and vaccine mandates depending on the location in the region.

"I have had an upfront seat to the impact of the pandemic," Deborah said. "I have seen the restaurants, the trauma, the impact of traumatized guests coming in and traumatized workers serving them. There is a need for support in the mental health area. The time is now."

Burnout, anxiety, and even substance abuse can affect workers and owners in restaurants. "I saw an opportunity to come into the hospitality industry and build the systems so that the restaurants themselves are operating in a new mindset," Deborah said. "This is an industry in crisis."

"Mental health awareness is something that we walk with every second of every day, whether you're at work or home," she continued. "So to not put resources into mental health, training, and support is overlooking a huge part of the human and business experience."

"There is a dramatic need during a traumatic time," Jason added. "And geography, privilege, race, lots of different things play into who survived this crisis and who didn't. And it's not fair."

As an entrepreneur, Jason is meticulous and draws from his many years of experience running restaurants in America and abroad. "When I started, I was very young, and when I was 18 or 19, I realized I wanted to be a chef and eventually own my own place."

Mission accomplished. The Wilsons have found meaningful business success, are changing the industry, and even found love in the most trying times.

I'm All About the **BASS**



Hi! My name is Guinness McGovern, and I'm a 5-year-old Pembroke Welsh Corgi born on Whidbey Island and currently reside with my hoomans, Ann and Ed.

And yes, I was named after a beer; it's true! That's because Ed is Irish and wanted to give his son an Irish name, but Ann was not having it. So they started a tradition of giving their dogs Gaelic names instead. My predecessors were Seamus (pronounced SHAY Mus, not SEE Mus) and Finbar, so they figured Guinness was a good choice when they got me.

With all that beer (joking) and all the stay-at-home order (not joking), I packed on some extra Covid pounds. The vet read me the riot act on my annual exam a year ago. I vowed to shed

those extra pounds by cutting my food portions in half, avoiding excessive snacks, and exercising.

I don't mean to be boastful, but I'm somewhat of a local celebrity. I'm a head turner, and people often stop me when I'm out on walks. Sometimes, I log over 5 miles a day. Pounding the pavement is my forte. Humans think they have it hard with two legs. Try four legs, but I won't give up. Diet and exercise are what it is all about for me, with the occasional watermelon and porterhouse steak bone.

Since I'm a herder by nature, I'm often at Luther Burbank on Mercer Island in the off-leash area, where I can be heard barking excessively and running after bigger dogs to keep them in line. Given my short stature, I'm not keen to go swimming, but I do like to go into Lake Washington only far enough to cool off my undercarriage but no further. I haven't mastered the doggie paddle yet, but I heard that's a great way to crush calories.

My weight loss is going pretty well. Now that I'm down to a svelte 29 lbs. I'm hoping Gucci will come calling to help model their new "pet couture line." I saw another Corgi in one of their print ads wearing a Gucci parka, but personally, I think I'm much better looking.

It wouldn't be my first time on the big screen. Last year, I was featured on ESPN as a participant at Emerald Down Corgi Races. There are rumors that I finished last in my heat - NOT TRUE. I came in second to last. And that's when I was carrying the extra Covid 10.

I'm what you call a pet with a personality. Although I'm really friendly and can get along with other dogs, I'll admit I'm definitely the jealous type. I prefer to be the only dog in the house so I can be the center of all my parents' attention.

Personally, I think they like my backside. That is my prized feature! I keep it neatly trimmed with a high and tight haircut. If left unchecked, the hair on my backside will grow into a mullet and well, even Blake Shelton and Billy Ray Cyrus knew it was time to move on from the mullet.

If you see me out and about, you'll know it's all about the bass for me. Especially with my new trim figure! If you have it, flaunt it, right?

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NKBuild



For Noah Kriegsmann, a Madison Park resident, artist, and craftsman, a great day is one in which everything seems to magically come together. On the day we spoke, he and his design partner, Conan Storlie, had started the day with a vision for a new piece. In a single morning, they found the legs of the piece, huge steel I-beams, at a local steel yard and the base, a one-of-a-kind, massive slab of cypress, at a supplier's store. Fate smiled upon them, and by noon the perfect ingredients for the piece were sitting in their workshop, ready for work to begin.

This type of serendipity is commonplace at NKBuild, a local design and build firm. When the firm was established, Noah and Conan primarily undertook small remodels, but in 2008 they moved into creating custom furniture and design pieces. Today, they craft everything from tables and benches to wall installations using primarily reclaimed materials, such as wood and steel.

Noah and Conan's creative process is singular. In it, they act as artistic shepherds for their source material. Using their backgrounds in design, construction, and visual art, they strive to take each object from its raw form to the most elevated version of itself, ensuring the natural beauty of a tree, for example, is enhanced in the final piece rather than obscured.

This strategy may be most easily understood when appreciating NKBuild's live-edge woodwork, all built from locally sourced elm, maple, or walnut. In these pieces, a tree's cross-section is polished to create the gleaming, smooth base of a bench or table, while the artful edges retain the wild character of the original tree. Noah likened the process to gardening, "It might seem counterintuitive to prune away a major branch, but doing so may leave the whole tree more balanced, elegant, and composed. It's a process of trusting that the true grace of the piece will emerge."

Trust is critical in the world of NKBuild and guides every aspect of the business, from sourcing materials to working with clients. In describing his favorite projects, among them working on a live-edge table for the Bullitt Center or designing a mural of aged steel plates for an office wall, Noah emphasized it was the client relationships based on trust that facilitated the greatest results.

When the values and practices of NKBuild are understood, the team finding the exact steel legs and slab of cypress they needed, in a single morning, seems less random. Over time, Noah and Conan have strengthened bonds with a diverse array of clients, suppliers, and artists in the Seattle area. Using these ties and their well-honed eye for quality, they can select the materials, projects, or ideas they know will harmonize with their approach. It leads to many moments which appear like interventions of fate but are the result of two artists skillfully selecting work from their carefully curated world. Magic with a method and beautiful results that speak for themselves.

To explore more of NKBuild's work, find them on Instagram at @nkbuild or at their website at www.nkbuild.com.

giving back

By Barbara Gart

TEEN STARTS A CANCER CHARITY with a Unique Focus



A cancer diagnosis and hospital stay can be a scary and lonely experience, especially for a teenager. It would be easy to receive treatment and never want to think about it again. But Harry McGovern used his experience to not only give back to others going through treatment but took it a step further and started a charity that would ensure he could give back on a larger scale for years to come.

In April 2020, then 14-year-old Harry was diagnosed with stage 4 Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and underwent treatment at Seattle Children's Hospital for six months. During that time, Harry was contacted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation, but instead of using his wish for himself, Harry wanted to do something for other teens going through similar experiences. Harry said, "When I was in the cancer ward, especially that first night, I was scared, and I was incredibly uncomfortable and just wanted to go home." That thought stayed with Harry, so instead of asking for a trip or meeting a celebrity, Harry wanted to provide items that were specifically chosen for teenagers coming into the hospital that would make them feel more comfortable.

Harry said, "When I was at Children's Hospital, I realized a lot of things there are geared towards much younger kids. There's a demographic that's overlooked, especially in the cancer ward where you're in these high-stress situations for very long periods of time, and that is teenagers. When you're not left with devices to distract you, and you're more aware of the treatment you're undergoing, it's defeating and harder to cope with. More importantly, from the

time you're in your room, you're left with nothing, and you're stuck in a room for most of the day, especially with Covid, with a line through your chest and getting IVs filtered in and out of you. It's incredibly uncomfortable, and every day seemed to drag on longer and longer, and I found the hospital room more frustrating to be in."

"I wanted to remedy that in the ways that I could. During my introduction, I was told to bring my own pillow by a friend because hospital pillows are really uncomfortable. The body wash is in really small bottles, the streaming services are catered towards younger kids, and the food is not ideal. I saw these things, and I thought if there was a way that I could ensure that those who come after me have a more pleasant experience, I would make that change, and that's what my Make-A-Wish was about."

Harry's wish was picked up by Macy's Believe Campaign over the holidays, and with Macy's on board, his wish grew to be bigger and better than he originally envisioned. Macy's invited Harry to come in and personally shop for items for his Amenity Kits, along with a few special gifts for the oncology staff. Make-A-Wish and Macy's collaboration on Harry's wish resulted in 25 kits containing items specifically curated for teens to assist them during their inpatient stay. Inspired by his wish, Macy's also donated \$25,000 in Harry's name, which was presented to Children's Hospital in December 2020 when Harry and his Make-A-Wish volunteers delivered the bags and nurse gifts to the hospital. Harry then realized he wanted to continue this project well after his wish was granted.

That's how he got the inspiration for starting his own 501(c)(3), aptly named "The First Night Project." Harry said, "I created the charity as a continuation of my wish, so we could continue producing the care bags and make sure this wasn't a short-lived effort. With the generosity of Macy's picking it up, we were able to produce 25 bags. When we started thinking about it, we wanted to put it in motion to do more when the 25 ran out. We also realized there are kids going through this at other hospitals besides Children's, like Mary Bridge in the Tacoma area. Our main goal is to ensure going forward, we can impact as many people as possible."



Many patients are notified of their diagnosis and treatment plan without much notice to pack or prepare, and some may be too ill to pack thoroughly. Most don't know what comforts they'll be missing until they're admitted. Ann McGovern, Harry's mom, realized how lucky they were to live close to the hospital, where they could go home if they needed something or have a friend bring it to them. "After talking with the nurses and the staff at Children's Hospital, we learned a lot of kids are there for weeks at a time, and a lot are from out of town. They don't know the area and where to pick things up, they're just thrust quickly into an unfamiliar environment, and we wanted to help." The Amenity Kit includes a heartfelt letter from Harry explaining his inspiration for the bags and provides the recipient with Harry's contact info if they want to talk.

Harry said one of the major differences between his cancer charity is that with most other charities, the money raised goes to research. "No matter how impactful that is for the future, in no way does it lessen the suffering of these kids who are undergoing an extremely physically draining and demanding form of treatment. If people want to donate and actually put something tangible in the hands of someone who can benefit from it, this is how to do that."

Harry's own words are already helping other teens get through their first night a little easier. In his letter, he states, "I started The First Night Project because there is nothing in my mind that would make me happier than knowing I at least did something to a make change where change is so incredibly overdue. I have been in your shoes, and while I will never live the same life as you or



go through the same events in front or behind you, I will do everything in my power to empathize where I can. It's a long road ahead, and not every part is paved over smoothly. But I have seen the strength in the eyes of each kid who has walked the halls behind those glass doors. Each soul is thrust into a world of fear, pain, and above all, life-altering unfairness. You will get through this; it just takes a little hope, a lot of perseverance, and some time."

Since its inception as a 501(c)(3), The First Night Project has expanded its distribution of the Amenity Kits to five hospitals in Washington and Oregon. Harry is proud to now say that his kits are available to qualified teen recipients in every children's hospital in the Pacific Northwest. This is in great part to the incredible support of the Mercer Island community, who have not only given generously but have held various fundraisers ranging from a dog wash put on by local teens to the most recent event sponsored by Radiator Whiskey during the Mercer Island Country Club annual tennis tournament which raised \$3k. TNFP has also been awarded grants by the Mary E Groff Foundation and Glassybaby Baby Grants and how now raised \$70k to date. One hundred percent of the amounts raised go into the Amenity kits.

Harry is looking forward to making his dream a reality, and if anyone has information on grants to help raise funds, Harry can be reached directly at thefirstnightproject@gmail.com. To support The First Night Project and help provide comfort and security to teens going through cancer treatments on their first night in the hospital, please visit www.thefirstnightproject.org.

To learn more about this organization, please visit www.thefirstnightproject.org and follow "thefirstnightproject" on Instagram and Facebook.



REALTOR® *Lisa Turnure*

Is Ranked Number One In Seattle For Individual Agents for Coldwell Banker

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” – John Maxwell

Being a leader isn't for the faint of heart. It takes courage, confidence and conviction—a willingness to break out of the mold and venture into new opportunities. Lisa Turnure with Coldwell Banker Bain is a natural-born leader. She is proud to rank #1 City of Seattle Coldwell Banker Broker by RealTrends America's Best Real Estate Professionals, with almost \$75 million in sales last year and over \$500 million for her career.

“I have been a REALTOR® for almost 20 years,” said Lisa. Prior to her career in real estate, she was a CPA and CFO of an internationally acclaimed marketing, design and brand strategy firm in Seattle. Her background experience in finance, marketing, contract negotiations and strategic design was the ideal background for real estate and helped her to bring a new level of professionalism to the industry.

“I love homes, I love people, and I like the adrenaline and excitement of putting a transaction together for a client,” shared Lisa. “I am an entrepreneur and a producer by nature, and in my previous career, I always felt like I was sitting on the sidelines instead of participating in the game. I longed for a career where I had a more direct influence on the results of my work.”

While she loved her career, she knew she wasn't following her passion. In the early 2000s, she switched to real estate and never looked back.

During Lisa's first year with Coldwell Banker, she was Rookie of the Year, with the highest sales of any new Broker in the company. She quickly excelled to the top tier of real estate brokers in the country and has been named Society of Excellence, consisting of the top 1/2% of Coldwell Banker Real Estate Brokers worldwide for the past five years.

Overcoming Obstacles

The road to real estate wasn't easy. The first thing that Lisa had to overcome was the doubters. Because real estate was her second career, people questioned whether she was starting “too late” to be successful.

“Some commented that there were already too many successful REALTORS® in my community and that while I had a great background, I was simply too late to the game. But rather than let this discourage me, it motivated me. I often looked the doubters straight in the eye and said, ‘watch me.’”

The second thing she had to overcome was moving forward with a positive attitude in spite of the ups and downs of the industry. “You have to look forward and stay positive in light of any setbacks. This can be a tough learning curve even for those with the thickest skin, but you have to do it to be successful,” she said.

Real estate has opened doors for Lisa that she hadn't considered. A number of years ago, she was invited to be part of a national real estate group called the International Luxury

Alliance (ILA) as the Washington member. The ILA is an elite network of 80 real estate professionals from around the world, focused on the highest level of client service and business integrity. Lisa also represents the Coldwell Banker Brand internationally as one of 20 Global Luxury Ambassadors worldwide.

Best of all, Lisa genuinely loves what she does. She commented, “One of the highlights for me is the opportunity to work with so many amazing clients whom I may not have otherwise crossed paths with. Many of these people have become lifelong friends.” Helping them with the next chapter of their lives is what she does best.

“I love the joy of helping others to accomplish their real estate goals,” said Lisa.

Family Focused

When Lisa isn't working, she savors time with her family. She is married to her husband of 33 years, Steve, and they have two daughters, Alex (26) and Hailey (22).

Steve left his long-time career in health care in 2020 during the start of the pandemic. A person with an entrepreneurial nature, he is now pursuing other projects. He's passionate about skiing, boating, and remodeling the family's beach house. He was a ski instructor for Sun Valley resort in 2021-2022 and also volunteered for Higher Ground, teaching people with disabilities to ski.

Alex graduated from WSU in 2019 and spent a year living in Sun Valley, Idaho, teaching skiing in the winter and tennis in the summer, before heading to grad school in New York. She graduated from Columbia University in May 2022 with a Masters in Sports Management and is still living in New York City. Hailey is in nursing school pursuing a bachelor's in nursing. She also works as a CNA at Seattle Children's Hospital in the oncology and hematology department, which is the area of nursing that she is pursuing. She will move to Kentucky at the end of 2022 to complete her nursing degree at Galen University.

As a family, everyone enjoys skiing, boating and hiking. Spending time in Seattle, Sun Valley and Gig Harbor, where Lisa's family has owned a beach house for three generations, is nothing short of priceless.

Final Thoughts

Lisa found her purpose in real estate, both personally and professionally. She said, “I love to help others by being a good listener, advisor and friend. It fills me up to be around people and even more so when I can help others accomplish their goals.”

For more information, check out Lisa's website, www.lisaturnure.com.



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GARDEN GUIDE

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE SEATTLE JAPANESE GARDEN

By McClean Corry

The Seattle Japanese Garden is closed in early August, undergoing necessary repairs to ensure its tranquil aura isn't undermined by poor drainage. This 3.5-acre jewel of Madison Park is often cited as one of the premier Japanese-style gardens outside of Japan. It draws visitors from across the world, yet many residents haven't strolled its paths in years, if at all! We spoke with Bill McGee, a certified tour guide and member of Unit 86, the garden's dedicated group of caretakers, to get his top tips for touring this verdant wonderland when it reopens on August 8. Armed with Bill's knowledge, you'll be ready to enjoy the gardens using his bird guide's view.

Brush up on the basics:

Essential elements

- Every Japanese garden is composed of three basic elements: stones, plants, and water, and many view stones as the most important element of this trio. Rocks represent the bones of the garden, while the plants and water form the flesh and lifeblood of the garden's metaphorical body. Note the careful placement of each stone/bone to get a sense of the designer's vision for the skeleton of the space.



- Wabi-sabi is a concept derived from traditional Buddhist teachings which encourages one to appreciate the beauty of imperfection, transience, and asymmetry, all of which abound in the Seattle Japanese Garden. "In the garden, there are wonderful nods to imperfection," explained Bill, "to remove leaves from the path, you don't use a leaf blower to blast everything away, but carefully rake the path, leaving a few leaves untouched."

Reflections

- The pond offers a chance to practice appreciating wabi-sabi, as the reflections seen in its waters shift by the minute. If you happen to visit the garden on a cloudy day, you may be in luck. According to Bill, "The best reflections come on cloudy days, in the softer light the images are clearest and the gradations of green in the varied plant life become more pronounced."

Shakkei

- Shakkei roughly translates to the idea of 'borrowed scenery,' probing how a place's physical surroundings may influence the aesthetic of that location. The Seattle Japanese Garden is

surrounded by the dense forests of the Arboretum, but Bill often asks visitors, would it make a difference if it was next to a block of skyscrapers? Consider how the space beyond the garden affects your experience during a visit.

During your visit:

Engage all your senses

- Above all, a Japanese garden should engage all your senses. Note the size, shape, and coloring of each plant, animal, and boulder while sniffing the air for the scent of blooming foliage. Listen for rustling leaves and the splash of koi while stooping to pet a cushion of pruned moss.

Explore an exhibit

- Be sure to visit the Tateuchi community room to the left of the garden's entrance gate. The room regularly hosts new exhibits from Japanese garden-inspired artwork to displays on the garden's history.

Encourage the koi

- Despite its tranquil aura, an ongoing battle for survival exists in the garden's pond. In the months after their birth, baby koi fish must avoid predators such as raccoons, herons, and even their own parents! If you see a small koi, offer some words of encouragement to help them in their journey.

Watch for boulders

- Each boulder you see in the garden was transported there from the Cascade Mountains, after being hand selected by the garden's designer, Juki Iida. Although they may look enormous, Bill revealed the stone's true size is unknown to most visitors. "You may wonder, how'd they get that huge boulder here, but in actuality 2/3 of the boulder is underground!"

When the visit is over...

Visit again!

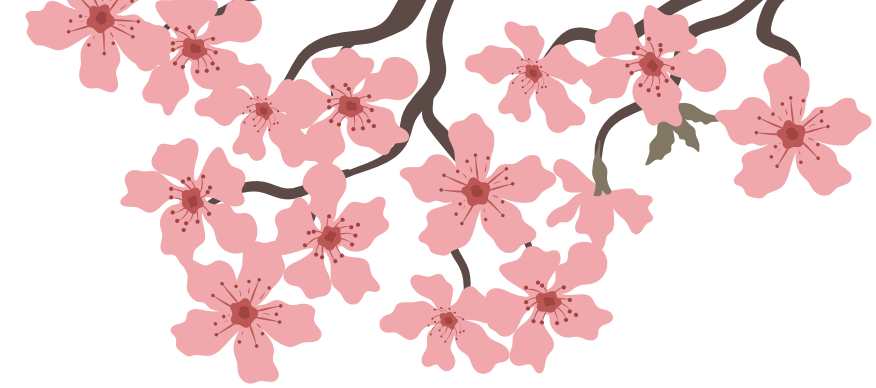
- The Seattle Japanese Garden is described as a "kaleidoscope of nature," changing by the day, hour, and even minute as the day progresses. Return multiple times to get a true sense of the garden's ever-shifting landscape, and be sure to note the changes you see throughout your visit. Try listening for the sound

of running water at various intervals. When is it strongest? Where is it coming from? At what point does the sound shift?

Get involved

- If you are wowed by the garden after your visit, consider deepening your involvement by joining Unit 86, a division of the Arboretum Foundation dedicated to the care and promotion of the Seattle Japanese Garden. These garden lovers run tours, plan events, and help maintain the garden, all while enjoying a close-knit community.

For more information on the Seattle Japanese Garden, including hours and current exhibits, please visit www.seattlejapanesegarden.org.us



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PLAYGROUND POLLING –

Live Updates From The Experts Of Madison Park

Any Madison Park resident could describe our park: the heat-soaked tennis courts, the stoic stone animal statues, and the endless rotation of birthday parties hosted by the three workhorse picnic benches. As the official sign denotes, this park has it all: a play area, tennis court, and bathing beach. But beyond its administrative classification, which elements of the park fuel the beating heart of play amongst residents today? For those answers and more, we took to the fresh chips of the playground to talk with the experts.

We caught up with our first interviewee amid a major project, organizing and dressing her fleet of rubber duckies for an excursion to the beach. Ana, 4.5 years old, whose father, Rodrigo, helped translate as Ana, in addition to speaking her native Portuguese, was still learning English. Ana comes to the park about once a week and has met a variety of new playmates here, including other Portuguese-speaking pals. Her park highlight was clear, emphasizing that the zipline was her favorite because “it’s fast.” When asked how she would improve the park, she quickly pointed out, “there is no sandbox,” and clarified that her love for these structures is, obviously, “because of the sand.”

Next, we spoke to a pair of brothers, Beau and Brooks. These two had a natural repartee, bouncing ideas around and freely supplying answers to each other’s questions. Beau told reporters he was 4 years old, while Brooks supplied a series of numbers in response to this question, leaving a bit of mystery for our readers as to whether he was 2, 5, or something in between. The brothers visit Madison Park regularly to meet new friends and enjoy the swings. When asked for their highlight, they expressed a great affinity for the zipline and slide but thought the top attraction was the ample supply of climbing trees. This passion for scaling local conifers transitioned directly into their suggestion for improving the park. Add more of the good stuff. “They should have more trees for climbing,” Beau said after thoughtful consideration.

Finally, we spoke to a best-friend pair with some big ideas for improving the cultural relevancy of Madison Park’s beloved animal statues. Ethan, 7, and his partner in crime Dean, 6.5, praised the zipline as the park’s current highlight and laid out an intricate plan for developing a new series of Sonic the Hedgehog and penguin statues



on the main field. Ethan’s vision included “A Sonic the Hedgehog statue and a Sonic the Hedgehog store with everything inside it. Sonic the Hedgehog food (*later clarified to be chili dogs), Legos, t-shirts, video games.” Dean, ever in sync, added that the obvious companion to such a development would be “a penguin statue with mini penguin statues inside of it.” Once this combination was conceived, the pair were up and running, refining the vision and debating how the statues might interact with one another in the space. Ethan suggested hugging statues, while Dean thought handholding might suffice. The two creators were still buzzing when the interview ended, debating the number and variety of statues needed to fulfill their vision.

Other interviewees praised the zipline, beach, and regular access to ice-cream trucks as highlights but decried the lack of a merry-go-round at Madison Park, even suggesting Queen Anne Park may be their preferred place to play in light of this absence.

The experts have spoken. To stay relevant, Madison Park should invest in the following: additional climbing trees, penguin/Sonic the Hedgehog statues, and the biggest merry-go-round we can find.

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