



UC Master Gardener
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Landscape Proposal for Weaverville Joss House State Historical Park Visitor Center



University of California Master Gardeners of Trinity County

November 20, 2025

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Introduction

PROJECT PURPOSE

The project purpose is to provide landscape advice and education on how to replant identified areas on the Weaverville Joss House State Historical Park Visitor Center grounds.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Weaverville Joss House State Historical Park and Weaverville Joss House Association identified nine areas on the Visitor Center grounds for replanting. The plants and trees in most of the areas must be removed to fulfill new 2025 California Fire Ignition Prevention Program (FIPP) requirements. Along with reducing fire risk, the State Park and Association found this as an opportunity to refresh the scenery and to increase the cultural aspects of the grounds.

The State Park and Association requested landscape advice from the University of California (UC) Master Gardeners of Trinity County, and the project began in April 2025. This proposal is being submitted to the State Park, Association, and general public by the UC Master Gardeners of Trinity County on November 20, 2025.

A budget was not specified by the State Park or Association for the project.

RESEARCH

The UC Master Gardeners of Trinity County project team conducted research on plants with Chinese cultural significance and selected those plants suited for Weaverville's hardiness zone.

The project team also conducted research on classical Chinese garden design and viewed many reference videos on classical Chinese gardens in China. Two team members visited the Oroville Chinese Temple and the Bok Kai Temple in Marysville to view their grounds.

The project team is fortunate to have a member who has completed post-graduate studies and a Master's degree in classical Chinese philosophy, art and design.

Some key concepts of classical Chinese garden design are:

- Design for all seasons and weather; never a bad time to visit the garden
- Involve the five senses (sight, hearing, smell, touch, taste)
- Use all five elements (earth, metal, water, wood, fire) for a balanced, holistic experience
- Invite visitors to slow down, meander, discover
- Look at the whole view, not just what is inside a boundary or property line



EXISTING CONDITION

Throughout the course of the project (April to November 2025), the UC Master Gardeners of Trinity County project team spent time surveying the Visitor Center grounds, and interviewing State Park staff and Association members. Some of the findings on the existing condition of the Visitor Center grounds are:

- Many junipers, ivy and plants are located within 5 feet of the Visitor Center building and wooden fencing. These locations do not meet the new California FIPP requirements.
- Many invasive plants, such as ivy, sweet pea and Himalayan blackberry, are in and around the nine identified replanting areas.
- Much of the existing irrigation system is nonfunctional, and other features on the Visitor Center grounds have deteriorated, such as the foundation of the koi pond and perimeter fencing.
- Foot traffic by the general public often cuts across the Visitor Center grounds in unsuitable areas resulting in damage to the area.

PROPOSAL

The UC Master Gardeners of Trinity County project team looked at the Visitor Center grounds with an overarching view along with a detailed view of the nine areas identified by the State Park and Association. The project team developed a proposal for each of the nine areas that:

- Meets California Fire Ignition Prevention Program requirements
- Minimizes maintenance requirements
- Minimizes new irrigation systems
- Improves safety by increasing visibility of the grounds from within the Visitor Center and courtyard
- Keeps an open aesthetic
- Uses plants and designs that are appropriate and significant in Chinese culture
- Incorporates features of classical Chinese gardens, such as rocks, water, curves, contemplation, and a slower pace
- Enhances visitor experience at the State Park by adding seating areas and engaging multiple senses
- Incorporates plants with different colors, textures, fragrances and foliage
- Includes plants of different bloom times from February to November
- Uses plants that are deer-resistant and ground cover that is fire-resistant
- Provides areas of interest even in winter or rainy weather



PROJECT TEAM

The UC Master Gardeners of Trinity County project team includes five UC Master Gardener volunteers and one UC Cooperative Extension staff member. Over the course of the project, the team collectively contributed approximately 700 hours, including 100 hours on research, 460 hours on proposal development, ground plan drawings and renderings, and 120 hours on the preparation of two presentations.

The project team members are:

Caligney Hoffman
Grace Hung
Barbara Michel
Linda Morecraft
Christina O'Brien
Scott White

The project team would like to thank California State Parks and the Weaverville Joss House Association for this opportunity to provide landscape advice and education on this local project that will enhance the community and general public.



Existing Landscape Ground Plan



Figure 1. Existing landscape ground plan, Weaverville Joss House State Historical Park Visitor Center, September 2025.

Area 1 Rendering

EXISTING



Figure 2. Existing condition, Area 1, unmodified photograph, September 2025.

PROPOSED



Figure 3. Proposed condition, Area 1, modified image. Not shown due to design application limitation: concrete benches should be grey with smooth, undecorated sides.



Area 1 Proposed Ground Plan

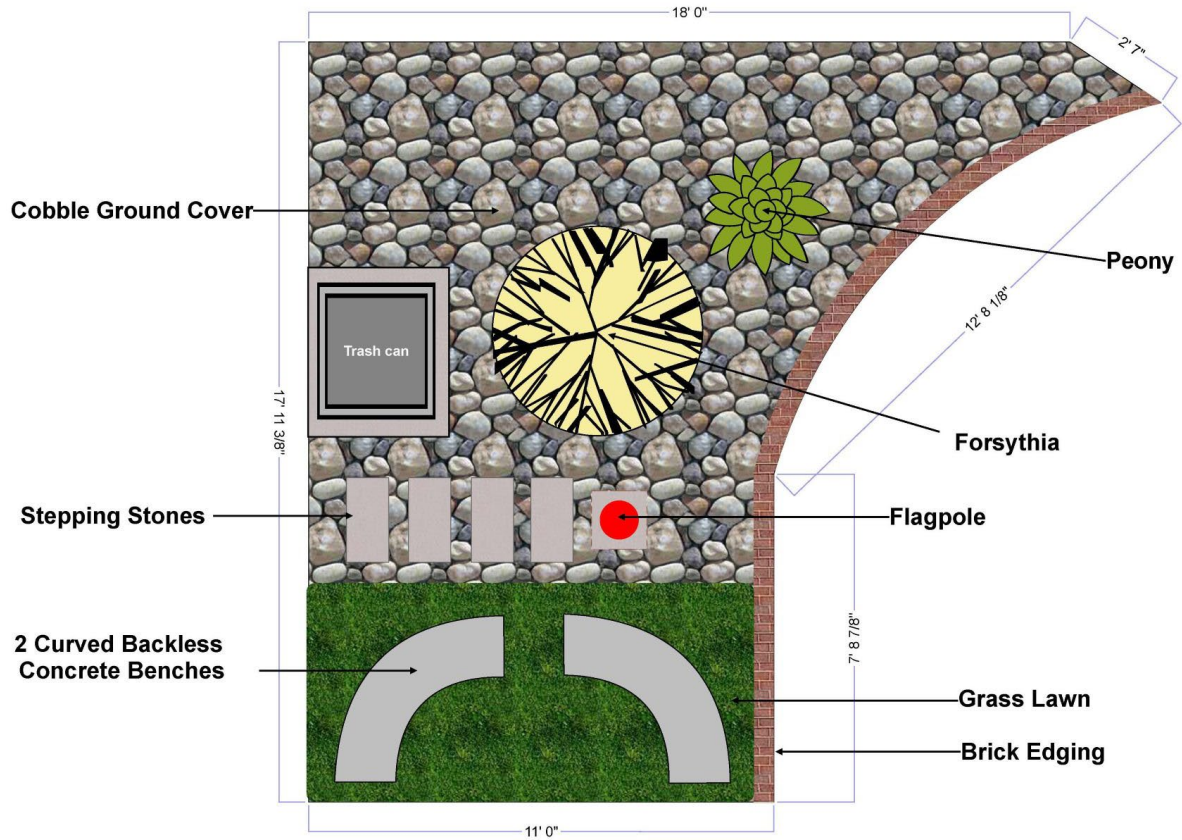


Figure 4. Proposed ground plan, Area 1.



Area 1 Overview

EXISTING CONDITION

Area 1 is located next to the Visitor Center front door and is in a central location for visitors as they arrive to the Visitor Center. The area contains junipers, ivy, a flagpole, stepping stones to the flagpole, a brown trash/recycling bin, and some patches of small red lava rocks. The junipers and ivy must be removed to meet the new California Fire Ignition Prevention Program requirements.

PROPOSAL

Remove the junipers, ivy and red lava rock. Use appropriate herbicide treatment to prevent the ivy from returning.

Replant the grass lawn in front of the flagpole.

Place two curved, backless concrete benches on the grass lawn.

Plant one forsythia shrub behind the flagpole and one peony plant in the back right area.

Add an irrigation line from the main water supply near the staff parking area, through Areas 9 and 8. Use drip emitters for each plant.

Add cobbles as ground cover in the area not covered by grass lawn.

Paint the trash/recycling bin dark grey, the same color as the Visitor Center.

Paint the flagpole red, the same color as the temple fencing.

The cobbles used for ground cover should be 5 to 10 inches in diameter. They are an optimal material to use on the Visitor Center grounds for several reasons:

- noncombustible
- discourages foot traffic over the area
- less easily moved around by people or leaf blowers (State Park maintenance staff noted this can be a problem)
- grey-colored rocks are commonly used in classical Chinese gardens
- reminder of Chinese mining history in Trinity County

Curved, backless concrete benches are recommended for this area so visitors have a place to sit and wait for other members in their group. From this location, visitors can see the koi pond, Visitor Center entrance and exit, and public parking area. There are no existing



seating options in the front area of the Visitor Center. State Park staff noted that seating opportunities are needed and visitors often congregate in this area.

Benches with a curved shape are proposed in accordance with classical Chinese garden design, where round shapes are favored over linear shapes.

It is recommended to paint the trash/recycling bin the same color as the Visitor Center. After the junipers are removed, the brown bin will be conspicuous from all angles of view. Painting the bin dark grey would help it blend in visually with the building.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Forsythia: prosperity, good fortune, new beginnings

Peony: wealth, prosperity, honor

PEAK SEASON OF BLOOM

Forsythia: bright yellow flowers March to early April; green foliage through spring, summer and autumn

Peony: blooms May to June; green compound leaves through spring and summer; leaves turn golden or bronze in autumn



Area 2 Rendering

EXISTING



Figure 5. Existing condition, Area 2, unmodified photograph, September 2025.

PROPOSED



Figure 6. Proposed condition, Area 2, modified image. Not shown due to design application limitation: existing white and grey fence panels continue from middle post to right post.

Area 2 Proposed Ground Plan

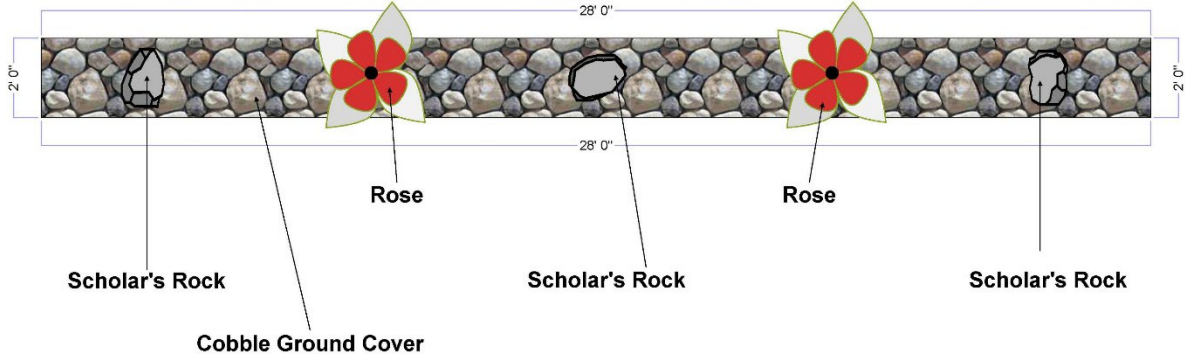


Figure 7. Proposed ground plan, Area 2.



Area 2 Overview

EXISTING CONDITION

Area 2 is located near the Visitor Center front door and exit gate. It contains junipers, a few bulbs, and some patches of small red lava rocks. The junipers must be removed to meet the new California Fire Ignition Prevention Program requirements.

PROPOSAL

Remove the junipers, bulbs and red lava rock.

Place three scholar's rocks evenly spaced through the length of the area.

Plant two shrub roses between the scholar's rocks for color. The roses' heights and diameters can be maintained by sourcing an appropriately-sized variety and by annual pruning.

Add an irrigation line from the existing water source near the koi pond. Use drip emitters for each shrub rose.

Add cobbles as ground cover (see "Area 1 Overview", page 7, for description and explanation).

Include information on scholar's rocks (gōngshí) in the visitor's garden brochure.

The use of scholar's rocks, shrub roses and cobbles in this area is a low maintenance solution that provides a permanent, open sight line from the State Park staff station to the public parking area. This open sight line increases security and fire prevention, two of the primary goals for this project.

(See "Appendix B: Hardscape Overview", page 43, for further discussion of Area 2.)

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Scholar's rocks (gōngshí) are naturally sculpted rocks that resemble the shape of mountains or caves. They are an essential and prominent feature in classical Chinese gardens. The rocks were used by scholars and philosophers as aides in meditation and contemplation. (See "Appendix A: Scholar's Rocks", page 40, for examples and additional description.)

Rose: love, romance



PEAK SEASON OF BLOOM

Rose: blooms April to September; many colors are available



Area 3 Rendering

EXISTING



Figure 8. Existing condition, Area 3, unmodified photograph, September 2025.

PROPOSED



Figure 9. Proposed condition, Area 3, modified image. Sample image of Guānyīn in seated position from Honolulu Museum of Art collection.¹



Area 3 Proposed Ground Plan

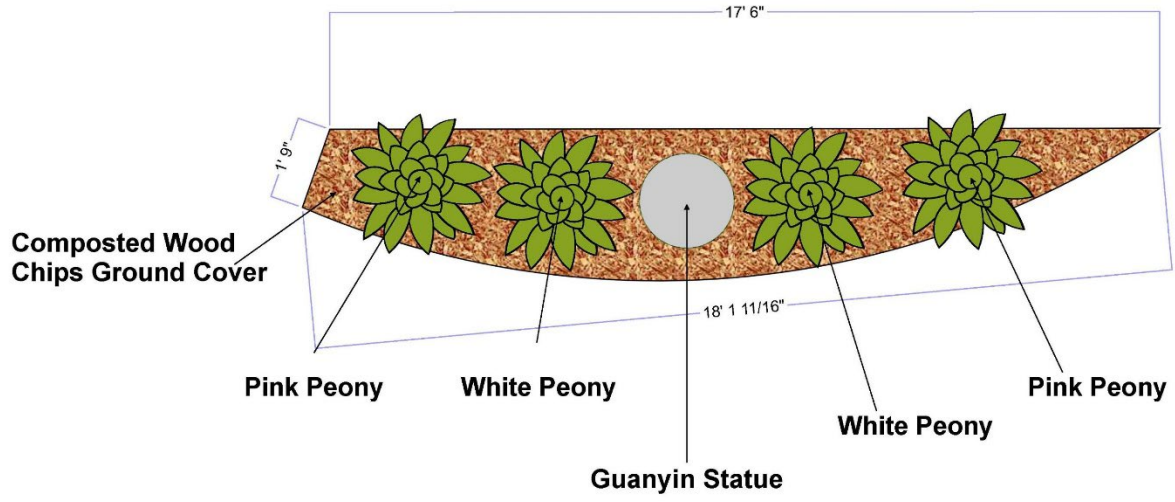


Figure 10. Proposed ground plan, Area 3.



Area 3 Overview

EXISTING CONDITION

Area 3 is located in the courtyard, next to the bank of the creek and is readily seen before walking over the foot bridge to the temple. The area contains a few small clumps of annuals and is mostly unplanted.

PROPOSAL

Remove the existing plants.

Install a statue of Guānyīn in a seated position.

Plant one white peony plant on each side of Guānyīn and one pink peony plant on each end of the area.

Add an irrigation line from the existing water source near the koi pond. Use drip emitters for each peony plant.

Add composted wood chips as ground cover for water retention and weed prevention.

Include information on Guānyīn in the visitor's garden brochure.

One of the fundamental design concepts in classical Chinese gardens is to look at an area as a whole. In accordance with this concept, Area 3 is designed for and around Guānyīn. Area 3 is Guānyīn's oasis.

Guānyīn has a long history in Asia covering thousands of years, and her form and usage have varied over time and geography. In her most basic, original form in Chinese Buddhism and Daoism, she is a deity of compassion. Based on this root form of Guānyīn in China, the features and location of Area 3 are an ideal environment for her.

Guānyīn is often found next to water, such as a constructed fountain, a natural lake, river, or ocean, as water relates to the healing aspect of compassion. Placing her next to the bank of the creek and being readily seen before walking over the foot bridge to the temple enhances her presence on the grounds and gives a potential moment of compassion and inspiration to visitors.

The statue of Guānyīn for Area 3 shows her in a seated position which demonstrates her in a relaxed, "royal ease" state. It is in contrast to other images of her in standing positions.



While Guānyīn is usually associated with lotuses, the lush blossoms of peonies are a fitting complement to her as they are known as the “Queen of Flowers.”

White peonies are chosen for this area since white is the color associated with Guānyīn and is the color of her robes. White is also related to the metal element, and all five elements are present in a balanced and full experience of nature. Use of the five elements (earth, metal, water, wood, fire) is a fundamental design concept in classical Chinese gardens. White flowers are also included in the classical gardens of Sūzhōu, China.

Another fundamental design concept in classical Chinese gardens is creating multi-sensorial experiences within the garden. Placing Guānyīn in this area, surrounded by the sounds of the creek and the scent of the peonies, provides a rich multi-sensorial experience for all visitors, including those with disabilities.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Guānyīn: deity of compassion

Peony: Peonies represent wealth, prosperity and honor in Chinese culture. They were associated with emperors and royalty for thousands of years, and are a classic subject depicted in historical art, embroidery and poetry.

PEAK SEASON OF BLOOM

Peony: blooms May to June; green compound leaves through spring and summer; leaves turn golden or bronze in autumn



Area 4 Rendering

EXISTING



Figure 11. Existing condition, Area 4, unmodified photograph, September 2025.

PROPOSED



Figure 12. Proposed condition, Area 4, modified image.

Area 4 Proposed Ground Plan

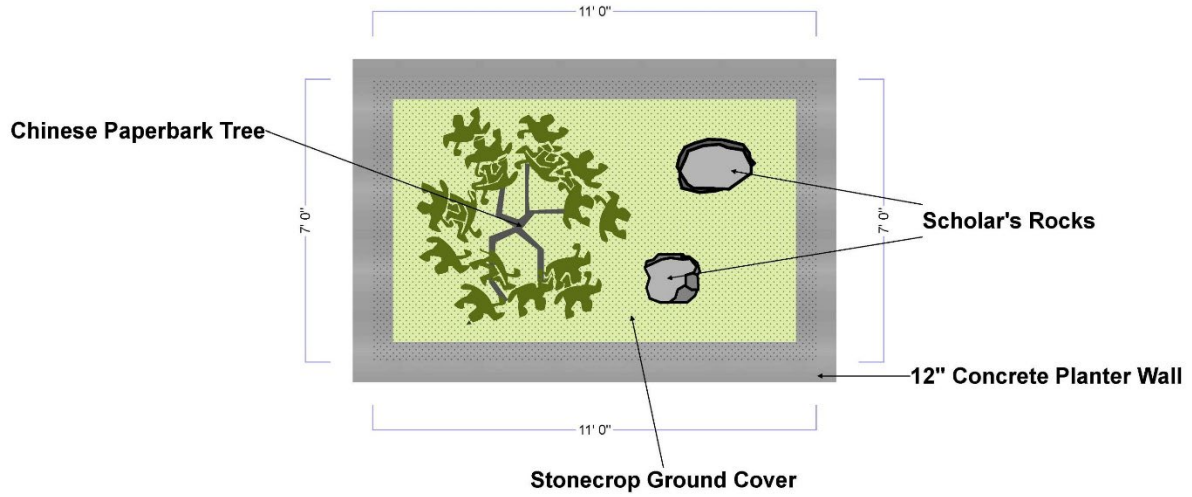


Figure 13. Proposed ground plan, Area 4.



Area 4 Overview

EXISTING CONDITION

Area 4 is located in the courtyard. It is a rectangular, raised concrete bed containing a Chinese paperbark tree, stonecrop groundcover and four stones.

PROPOSAL

Keep the existing Chinese paperbark tree and stonecrop as is for simplicity and cost consideration.

Remove the four stones. Place two scholar's rocks in the middle and right areas of the bed to enhance visual interest and increase classical Chinese garden features.

Power wash the outer walls of the concrete bed so that the fan-shaped patterns stamped on the walls are more visible.

Include information on scholar's rocks (gōngshí) in the visitor's garden brochure.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Scholar's rocks (gōngshí) are naturally sculpted rocks that resemble the shape of mountains or caves. They are an essential and prominent feature in classical Chinese gardens. The rocks were used by scholars and philosophers as aides in meditation and contemplation. (See "Appendix A: Scholar's Rocks", page 40, for examples and additional description.)

PEAK SEASON OF BLOOM

Chinese paperbark tree leaves turn orange-red in autumn.



Area 5 Rendering

EXISTING



Figure 14. Existing condition, Area 5, unmodified photograph, September 2025.

PROPOSED, SPRING



Figure 15. Proposed condition in spring, Area 5, modified image.



Area 5 Rendering (continued)

PROPOSED, SUMMER



Figure 16. Proposed condition in summer, Area 5, modified image.

PROPOSED, AUTUMN



Figure 17. Proposed condition in autumn, Area 5, modified image.



Area 5 Proposed Ground Plan

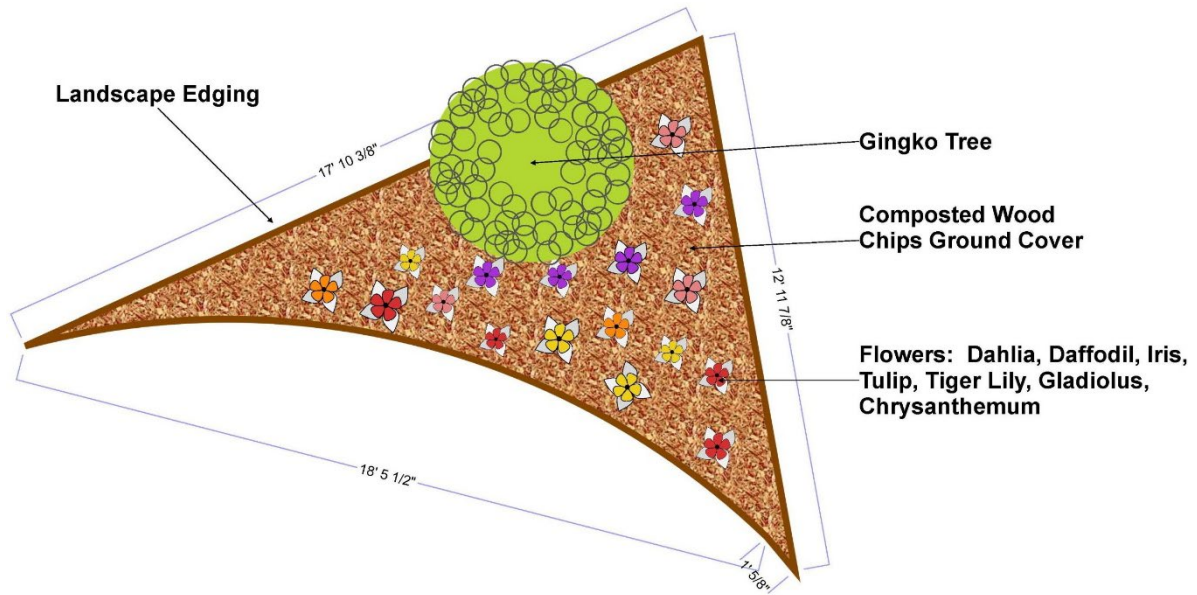


Figure 18. Proposed ground plan, Area 5.



Area 5 Overview

EXISTING CONDITION

Area 5 is located in the courtyard. It contains a ginkgo tree, a large mound of iris, and some large cobbles. The area is covered by grass lawn, and the roots of the ginkgo tree are close to the surface.

PROPOSAL

Keep the ginkgo tree as is. It is tall enough that low-growing plants can be planted around it, and it is a culturally significant tree.

Remove the mound of iris. Replant a few iris rhizomes along the back of the area.

Remove the grass lawn in the area.

Add landscape edging around all sides of the area. The edging allows topsoil and mulch to be added above the tree's surface roots and acts as a barrier to grass lawn growing into the area. The layer of topsoil and mulch is needed for the flowering plants to be planted at the correct depth.

Plant groups of chrysanthemums, daffodils, dahlias, gladiolus, tiger lilies and tulips. It is best to source a perennial chrysanthemum for its hardiness and bloom timing.

Add an irrigation line from the existing water source near the koi pond. Use spray emitters for the plants and tree.

Add composted wood chips as ground cover for water retention and weed prevention.

The flowering plants chosen for this area have different bloom periods which allow for progressive blooming. This provides changing colors, textures, fragrances and interest through spring, summer and autumn. The seasonal blooms are:

- Spring: daffodil, iris, tulip
- Summer: dahlia, gladiolus, tiger lily
- Autumn: chrysanthemum, dahlia

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Chrysanthemum: longevity, rejuvenation. It is considered one of the four noble plants.

Daffodil: new beginnings, good fortune



Dahlia: wealth, success

Ginkgo: longevity, resilience

Gladiolus: strength, integrity

Iris: wisdom, faith, hope

Tiger Lily: purity, innocence

Tulip: declaration of love

PEAK SEASON OF BLOOM

Chrysanthemum: blooms in autumn when many other plants no longer flower; leafy stems during spring and summer; some varieties are lightly scented; many colors are available

Daffodil: yellow flowers in February or March; some varieties are scented

Dahlia: blooms mid-summer to first frost; many colors are available

Ginkgo: bright green fan-shaped leaves turn vibrant yellow in autumn

Gladiolus: tall stalks of flowers bloom April to May; many colors are available

Iris: tall stalks of purple flowers bloom March to April

Tiger Lily: tall stalks of orange flowers with black spots bloom July to August

Tulip: blooms March to April; many colors are available



Area 6 Rendering

EXISTING



Figure 19. Existing condition, Area 6, unmodified photograph, September 2025.

PROPOSED

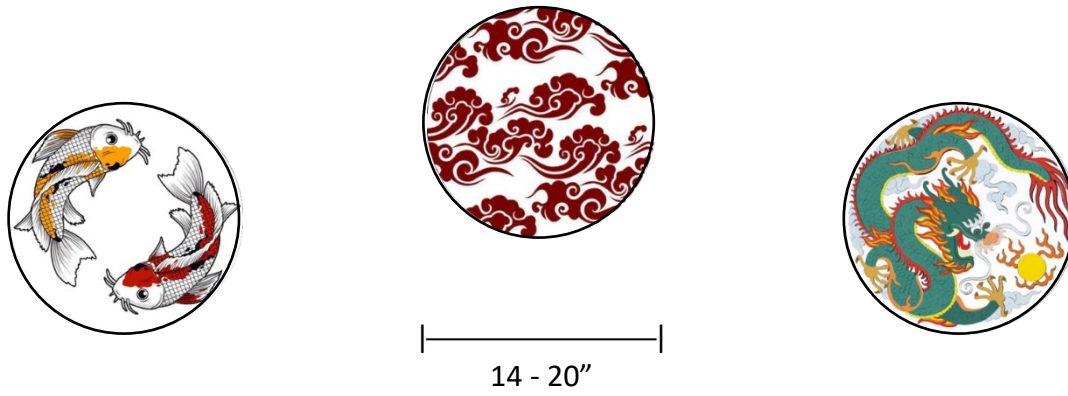


Figure 20. Proposed condition, Area 6, modified image. Sample images of Chinese fish, clouds and dragon icons from various online designers.²



Area 6 Proposed Ground Plan

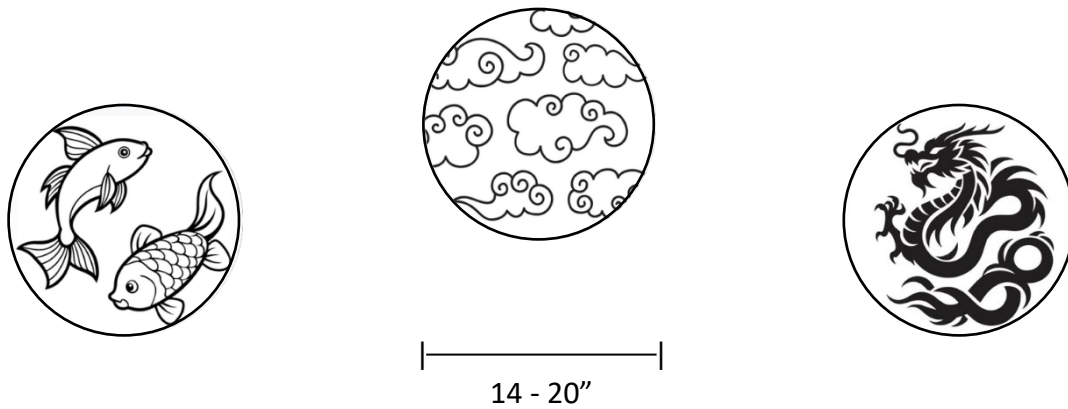
VARIATION 1



Concrete Discs with Image of Fish, Clouds, Dragon

Figure 21. Proposed ground plan, Area 6, Variation 1, complex images with color. Sample images of Chinese fish, clouds and dragon icons from various online designers.³

VARIATION 2



Concrete Discs with Image of Fish, Clouds, Dragon

Figure 22. Proposed ground plan, Area 6, Variation 2, simple images with one color or no color. Sample images of Chinese fish, clouds and dragon icons from various online designers.⁴

Area 6 Overview

EXISTING CONDITION

Area 6 is located in the courtyard near the drinking fountain and restrooms. It consists of three round cutouts in the courtyard pavement. One round contains bamboo, and the other two rounds are empty.

PROPOSAL

Remove the bamboo.

Insert a concrete disc depicting a Chinese icon image into each round. The Chinese icon image for each of the three discs from left to right is: two fish, a billow of clouds, a dragon.

Fill the gap between the concrete disc and the courtyard pavement with concrete to secure the disc in place.

Include information on Chinese fish, clouds, and dragon icons in the visitor's garden brochure.

The image on the concrete disc should be in low relief so that it only protrudes a small amount from the background (1/4 to 3/8 inch). This will minimize trip hazards. An example of a low relief image is the depiction of George Washington on a U.S. quarter dollar.

During installation, enough dirt should be dug out from the round before inserting the concrete disc so that the top surface of the disc is flush with the courtyard pavement. Having the disc and courtyard pavement flush will minimize trip hazards.

Two variations of Chinese icon images are shown in the proposed ground plan (figures 21 and 22). Variation 1 uses more complex images and color. Acrylic paint can be used to color parts of the low relief image. Variation 2 uses simple images and one color or no color.

Options for how to produce the concrete discs depicting a Chinese icon image:

- A. Mold using wax: Carve a negative, low relief image of the Chinese icon in wax within a circular mold (diameter can be 14 to 20 inches); pour wet concrete into the mold; remove the cured concrete disc displaying the positive, low relief image.
- B. Mold using 3D printer: Convert an image of the Chinese icon into a negative, low relief model using CAD software; print the model on a 3D printer; place the model within a circular mold (diameter can be 14 to 20 inches); pour wet concrete into the mold; remove the cured concrete disc displaying the positive, low relief image.



- C. Tile mosaic: Prepare a blank concrete disc (diameter can be 14 to 20 inches); apply mortar to the disc; press tile pieces arranged in an image of the Chinese icon into the mortar; apply grout over the tile pieces; remove the cured concrete disc displaying the tile mosaic image.

By turning the rounds into three concrete low relief Chinese icon images, visual interest and Chinese designs are added to the area.

Children will likely discover the images as they walk through the area since they often notice things on the ground. The low relief images can also be used for a children's activity to make crayon rubbings of the Chinese icon images, which they can take home with them.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Circle: The circle shape is a quintessential design component in classical Chinese garden and building design. Circles express the ideas of wholeness and the constant cycles of nature.

The specific icons chosen for each of the discs are familiar images in Chinese culture and are often seen during holidays and special occasions:

Fish: Fish are a symbol of wealth and abundance. When two fish are shown head to tail, it also illustrates the idea of continuity. The image also acknowledges the importance of fish in Trinity County ecosystems, history, and native groups.

Clouds: Clouds are a symbol of good fortune and immortality. They relate to rain for crops which was vital to agriculture in historical China. The image also connects to the Weaverville temple, named the Temple of the Forest Beneath the Clouds (Yún Lín Miào).

Dragon: Dragons are a symbol of prosperity and harmony. They are also a symbol of power, and the image was historically associated with emperors and nobility. They are one of the most recognized and well-used images through thousands of years in Chinese history and art.



Area 7 Rendering

EXISTING



Figure 23. Existing condition, Area 7, unmodified photograph, September 2025.

PROPOSED



Figure 24. Proposed condition, Area 7, modified image. Not shown due to design application limitation: existing white and grey fence panels continue from middle area to left post.



Area 7 Proposed Ground Plan

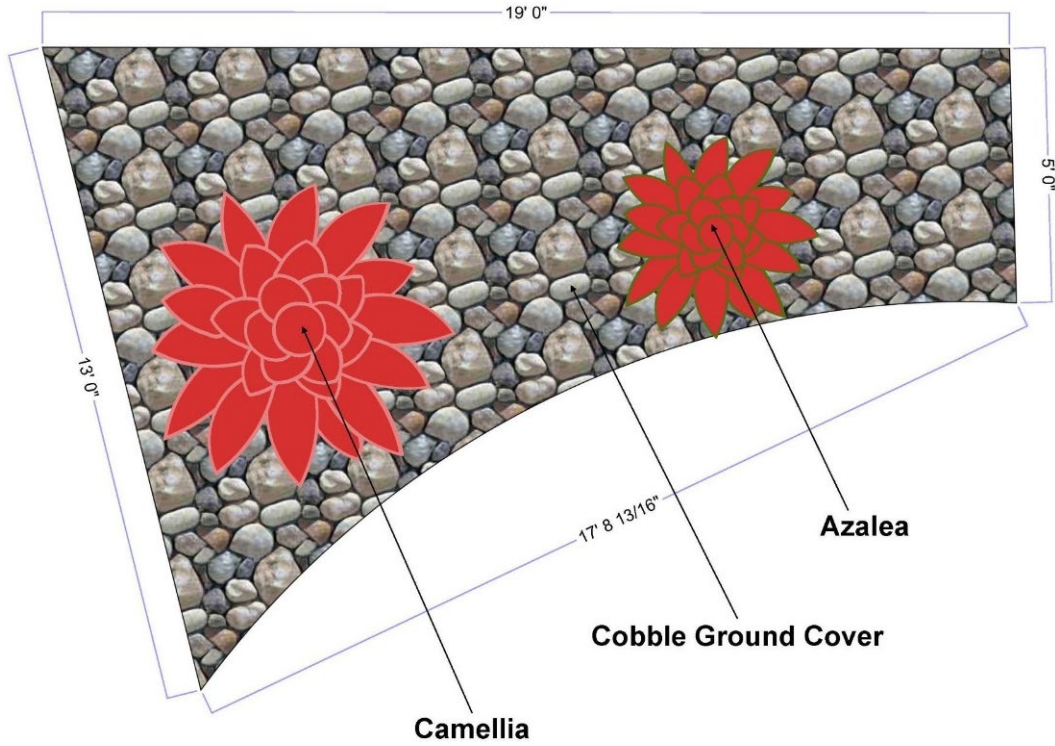


Figure 25. Proposed ground plan, Area 7.



Area 7 Overview

EXISTING CONDITION

Area 7 is located in the courtyard near the drinking fountain and restrooms. It contains several large junipers which screen the walkway to the restrooms. The junipers must be removed to meet the new California Fire Ignition Prevention Program requirements.

PROPOSAL

Remove the junipers.

Amend the soil. Plant one camellia shrub in the front left area and one azalea shrub in the front middle area.

Add an irrigation line from the nearby hose bib using a tee fitting. Use drip emitters for each shrub. Watering may also be done by hand from the nearby hose bib.

Add cobbles as ground cover (see “Area 1 Overview”, page 7, for description and explanation).

The camellia and azalea shrubs provide a partial visual screen to the restrooms while allowing visibility to the walkway for increased security. Both shrubs can be sourced as evergreens which retain their leaves year-round for visual appeal and have the same soil requirements. The shrubs’ heights and diameters can be maintained by sourcing an appropriately-sized variety and by annual pruning. The planting area is sufficiently large so that the shrubs can be planted away from the fence and roof overhang to reduce fire hazard.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Camellia: admiration, perfection

Azalea: passion, womanhood. It is also known as the “thinking-of-home bush” and is often given as a gift when someone is homesick.

PEAK SEASON OF BLOOM

Camellia: rose-like flowers bloom late autumn; evergreen varieties have shiny green leaves year-round; many colors are available

Azalea: small dense flower clusters bloom late spring to early summer; evergreen varieties have leaves year-round; many colors are available



Area 8 Rendering

EXISTING



Figure 26. Existing condition, Area 8, unmodified photograph, September 2025.

PROPOSED



Figure 27. Proposed condition, Area 8, modified image.



Area 8 Proposed Ground Plan

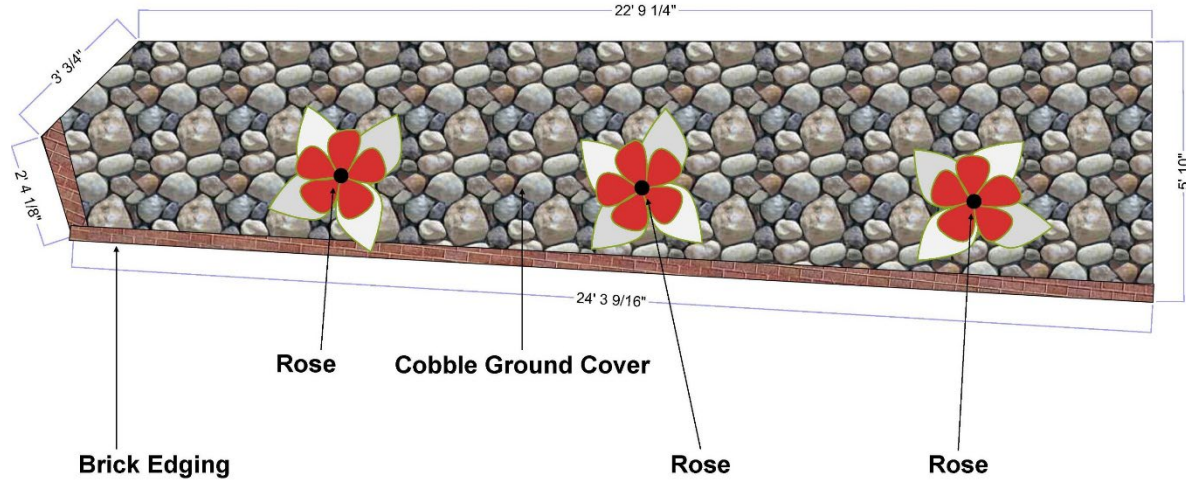


Figure 28. Proposed ground plan, Area 8.



Area 8 Overview

EXISTING CONDITION

Area 8 is located on the side of the Visitor Center building facing State Route (SR) 299 and is highly visible to the public travelling along SR 299. It contains dogwoods and ivy which must be removed to meet the new California Fire Ignition Prevention Program requirements.

PROPOSAL

Remove the dogwoods and ivy. Use appropriate herbicide treatment to prevent ivy from returning.

Amend the soil. Plant three shrub roses evenly spaced through the length of the area to add color and interest. The roses' heights and diameters can be maintained by sourcing an appropriately-sized variety and by annual pruning. The roses can be caged to protect against deer.

Add an irrigation line from the main water supply near the staff parking area, through Area 9 and onto Area 1. Use drip emitters for each shrub rose.

Add cobbles as ground cover (see "Area 1 Overview", page 7, for description and explanation).

Keep the existing red brick edging as is.

This proposed landscaping allows space for the State Park to install a sign on the building wall at a later time.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Rose: love, romance

PEAK SEASON OF BLOOM

Rose: blooms April to September; many colors are available



Area 9 Rendering

EXISTING



Figure 29. Existing condition, Area 9, unmodified photograph, September 2025.

PROPOSED



Figure 30. Proposed condition, Area 9, modified image.



Area 9 Proposed Ground Plan

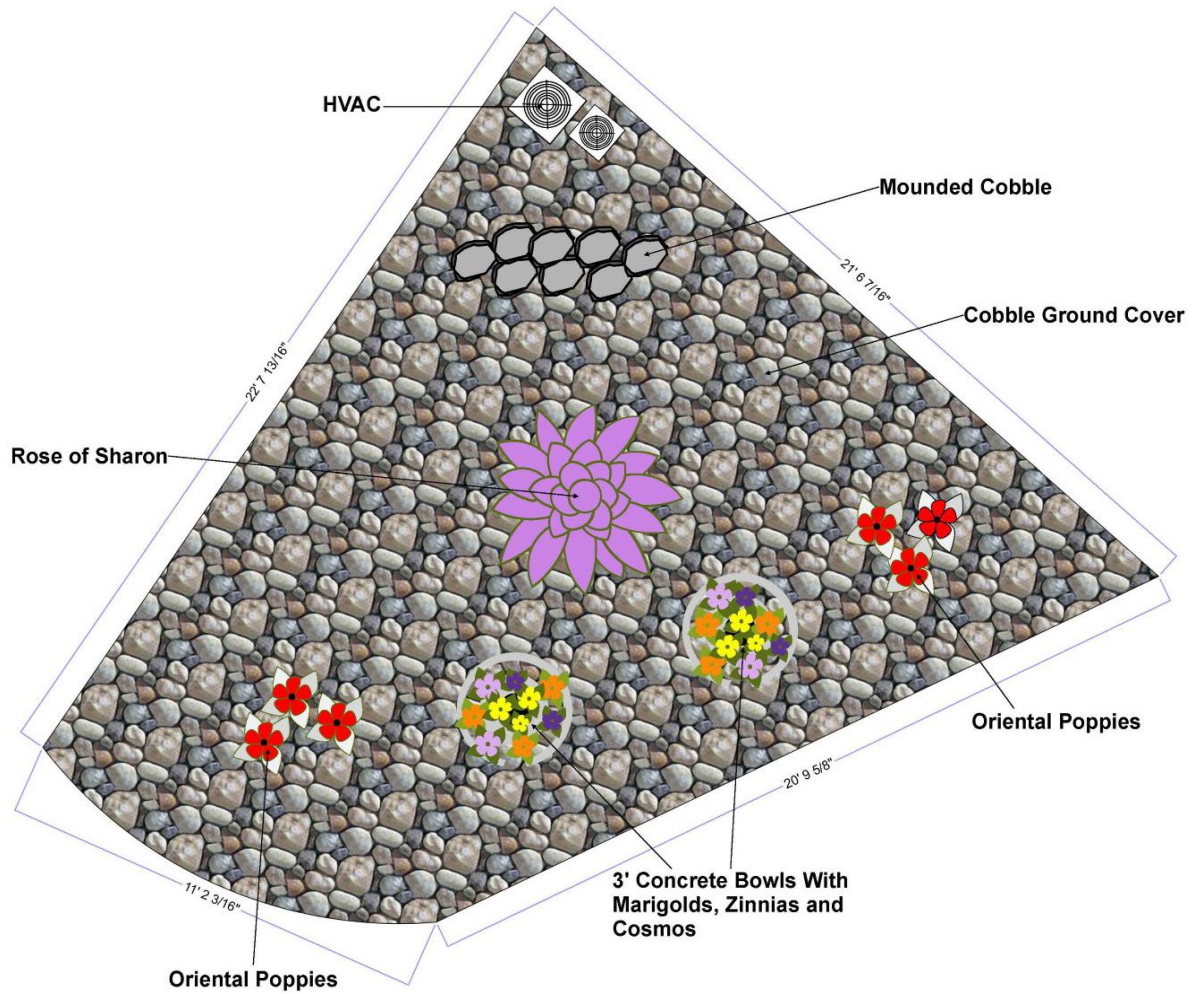


Figure 31. Proposed ground plan, Area 9.

Area 9 Overview

EXISTING CONDITION

Area 9 is located on the side of the Visitor Center building facing the corner of Oregon Street and State Route (SR) 299. The area is highly visible to the public travelling along SR 299. It contains junipers, ivy, an evergreen tree, and two heating/air conditioning units on the ground. The junipers, ivy and evergreen tree must be removed to meet the new California Fire Ignition Prevention Program requirements.

PROPOSAL

Remove the junipers, ivy and evergreen tree. Use appropriate herbicide treatment to prevent ivy from returning.

Plant one rose of Sharon shrub in the middle of the area. The shrub's height and diameter can be maintained by sourcing an appropriately-sized variety and by annual pruning.

Place two heavy concrete planter bowls in the front center area. The bowls can be planted each year with annual seeds, such as cosmos, marigolds and zinnias.

Plant one group of Oriental poppy plants near the two front corner areas. The Oriental poppy plants were offered by the Highland Art Center nearby.

Add an irrigation line from the main water supply near the staff parking area (through this area and on to Areas 8 and 1). Use drip and/or spray emitters for the area.

Add cobbles as ground cover (see "Area 1 Overview", page 7, for description and explanation).

Add a mound of small boulders (20 to 30 inches in diameter) in an arc in front of the two heating/air conditioning units. This screens the units from view (the rose of Sharon also provides screening). Leave space between the mound and the units for maintenance and leaf-blowing access.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Rose of Sharon: beauty, wealth, fame

Cosmos: order, harmony

Marigold: wealth, success



Zinnia: friendship, endurance

Oriental poppy: rest, beauty, success

PEAK SEASON OF BLOOM

Rose of Sharon: blooms June to September; woody shrub can grow in a column or spreading shape; many colors are available

Cosmos: delicate flower blooms June to September; green lace-like foliage; many colors are available

Marigold: bright yellow to orange flower blooms May to October; dark green fern-like leaves

Zinnia: blooms June to first frost; long green stems; many colors are available

Oriental poppy: stems with large blooms and hairy green leaves for 10 to 14 days in May or June



Appendix A: Scholar's Rocks

The purpose of scholar's rocks (gōngshí) is summarized by the Norton Museum of Art:

In China, the literati have appreciated scholars' rocks (gongshi) for almost 2,000 years. Often installed in studios or gardens, scholars used these objects to draw inspiration from the natural world as they were understood to be miniature representations of mountains.⁵



Figure 32. Lion Grove Garden (Shīzǐ Lín Yuán), built 1342, Yuán Dynasty, located in Sūzhōu city, Jiāngsū province, China; UNESCO World Heritage Site.⁶

The characteristics of rocks chosen for display in classical Chinese gardens is described by The Metropolitan Museum of Art:

Rocks have long been admired in China as an essential feature in gardens. ... Especially prized are stones that have been sculpted naturally by processes of erosion or that appear to have been shaped by nature even if they have been artfully enhanced by man. Pitted, hollowed out, and perforated, such rocks, which are often displayed on end, are seen as embodiments of the dynamic transformational processes of nature. By the Tang dynasty (618–907), four principal aesthetic criteria—thinness (shou), openness (tou), perforations (lou), and

wrinkling (zhou)—had been identified for judging scholars' rocks as well as the larger examples featured in gardens. Besides these formal qualities, rocks were also admired for their resemblance to mountains or caves, particularly the magical peaks and subterranean paradises (grotto-heavens) believed to be inhabited by immortal beings.⁷



Figure 33. Garden of Cultivation (Yì Pǔ), built 1541, Míng Dynasty, located in Sūzhōu city, Jiāngsū province, China; UNESCO World Heritage Site.⁸

The reverence for scholar's rocks (gōngshí) is detailed by The National Museum of Asian Art, Smithsonian:

Scholars' rocks fit into a rich web of Chinese philosophic and literary musings extending back to the time of Confucius [551-479 BCE] that focuses on mountains and stones. Gazing upon a rock can evoke thoughts of a noble spirit, as Confucius allegedly said that those who are benevolent delight in mountains, while Daoists lodged reverence for nature and beliefs in attaining immortality in the power of mountains. A single, well-chosen rock embodies the mountain's power on a microcosmic scale.⁹



Figure 34. Linger Garden (Liú Yuán), built 1593, Míng Dynasty, located in Sūzhōu city, Jiāngsū province, China; UNESCO World Heritage Site.¹⁰



Appendix B: Hardscape Overview

This hardscape proposal includes recommendations for fencing, the koi pond, irrigation, lighting, and seating for the Visitor Center grounds.

While the near-term focus of this project is in areas in close proximity to the Weaverville Joss House State Historic Park Visitor Center, the UC Master Gardeners of Trinity County project team recognize that it is important to also take a larger perspective for several reasons. First, to make sure the recommendations for the nine landscape areas make sense within the State Park grounds as a whole. Second, to make sure the proposed landscape improvements would not conflict with longer-term improvement needs. Third, to avoid investment of limited resources in areas that might be impacted by future improvements (avoid “throw-away” work). Fourth, to help identify and prioritize additional improvements necessary to preserve current investments.

The following sections address priority investments needed in the near future to preserve the integrity and value of the State Park grounds, as well as those needed to support near-term improvements.

FENCING

The replacement and expansion of fencing around the Visitor Center and adjacent grounds should be an immediate priority. Over time, sections of picket-type fencing along State Route (SR) 299 and at the SR 299/Oregon Street intersection have been removed as they deteriorated, without replacement. The remaining section of picket-type fencing along Oregon Street and the staff parking area (enclosing the courtyard) has been repaired in the past but has deteriorated significantly. In addition, the wood is old, highly flammable, and extends under the eaves of the Visitor Center building.

Beyond repair and fire issues, additional and improved fencing is needed to protect the Visitor Center as well as the Joss House temple itself. The following were observed and/or commented on by State Park staff during this project:

- Intruders have climbed over the fence/railing into the courtyard. In one instance, a fire was started close to the Visitor Center building.
- Objects can easily be thrown into the adjacent creek.
- The Joss House temple was broken into, and items were removed (although they were left on the State Park grounds).
- Public pedestrians cut across the State Park grounds at the SR 299/Oregon Street intersection, resulting in State Park maintenance staff finding a broken sprinkler head.



- The view of traffic on Oregon Street to the west is blocked by the current solid fence. This is a dangerous condition for pedestrians, staff attempting to exit the staff parking area, and eastbound drivers on Oregon Street approaching SR 299.

Given the condition of the existing fencing, impacts from trespass on the park, and potential liability to the State Park, the project team recommends installation of fencing as shown on the “Proposed Hardscape Ground Plan” (figure 38).

A summary of the proposed fencing follows:

Oregon Street to West

- One 8-foot tall wrought iron/black square steel gate at the staff parking area to the courtyard
- 8-foot tall wrought iron/black square steel fencing from the corner of the covered courtyard to Oregon Street
- 8-foot tall wrought iron/black square steel fencing from the staff parking area along Oregon Street (back of sidewalk) to the property corner
- Vehicle and pedestrian gates as needed

Oregon Street to Intersection of SR 299

- 5-foot tall wrought iron/black square steel fencing from the corner of the Visitor Center building to Oregon Street
- 5-foot tall wrought iron/black square steel fencing around the irrigation controllers at the Visitor Center building (add one or two gates)
- 5-foot tall wrought iron/black square steel fencing along Oregon Street (back of sidewalk) to SR 299

Visitor Center Entrance/Exit

- One 8-foot tall wrought iron/black square steel exit gate across the courtyard/sidewalk along the Visitor Center building
- 8-foot tall wrought iron/black square steel fencing along the Visitor Center building/courtyard walkway
- One 8-foot tall wrought iron/black square steel maintenance and fire gate between the back corner of the Visitor Center building/courtyard and the corner of Area 3 (red fence)
- 8-foot tall wrought iron/black square steel fencing from Area 3 to the top edge of the creek channel
- 4-foot tall wrought iron/black square steel fencing with one maintenance gate around the relocated koi pond (see “Koi Pond” below)

The benefits of fencing as proposed include:

- Extreme durability
- Limited ability to breach (virtually unbreakable and unclimbable)



- Closes off the most direct travel path to the Joss House temple while preserving visibility
- Does not require removal of existing fencing on the temple-side of the creek
- Gates can be placed at all necessary locations
- View from and into the staff parking area is opened up
- Ability to cut across the corner of the property is restricted
- Closes off current easy access from the front of the Visitor Center building into the courtyard
- Keeps view from inside the Visitor Center building to the public parking area and koi pond open
- Allows direct access for fire and maintenance equipment into the courtyard
- Wrought iron/black square steel is not flammable
- Reduces the chance of injury and/or fall into the water of the relocated koi pond

Black square steel is used to fence other State Parks, including the Oroville Chinese Temple and the Bok Kai Temple in Marysville (figure 35).



Figure 35. Black steel fence and red steel gate, Oroville Chinese Temple, June 2025.¹¹

KOI POND

The existing koi pond (*Kuan Yin* pool) was developed by the Weaverville Joss House Association in consultation with Moon Lim Lee in 1985. It included a fountain and a bench for seating (figure 36).





Figure 36. *Kuan Yin* statue and koi pond with bench, Weaverville Joss House State Historical Park, 1986.¹²

Currently, the pool has deteriorated significantly since it was constructed. The fountain no longer functions, seating has been removed, cement has crumbled, and rebar is exposed (figure 37).



Figure 37. *Kuan Yin* statue and koi pond, Weaverville Joss House State Historical Park, October 2025.¹³

Options for the koi pond can be to restore the fountain where it is or to construct a new one. Keeping the fountain where it is maintains the historic linkage to Moon Lim Lee. However, the cost to restore the fountain and pool to its original condition is likely prohibitive, especially considering the intrusion of rust within the structural rebar. Moving



the pond to a new location would allow for more cost-effective construction, the addition of safety fencing, and open the area where it now is for direct access for State Park staff and equipment into the courtyard. The orientation, size, shape and depth of the existing pool can be duplicated in the new location if so desired.

The project team recommends relocating the koi pond closer to the Visitor Center entrance as shown on the “Proposed Hardscape Ground Plan” (figure 38). The cost efficiency of new construction and safety benefits of the new location are substantial. The new pond could be constructed with no sections above ground (whereas the existing pond shows deterioration from winter freeze-thaw) using current pre-formed or liner-based pond technology (cheaper and easier to repair/replace). The new pond could then be surrounded by rock-stamped concrete (eliminating the problem of differential weathering as the existing pond shows). Both the addition of fencing around the new pond and provision of direct access for personnel and fire equipment into the courtyard better meet the stated safety goals of the project.

Access for Maintenance and Fire

As described in the previous sections, the fencing and koi pond relocation proposals allow for better access to the courtyard for maintenance and fire safety activities. Given the costs to maintain and/or replace the Visitor Center building, the irreplaceable value of the Joss House temple itself, and the impacts of deferred facility maintenance on safety and fire protection, funding for these needed improvements should be prioritized immediately.

IRRIGATION

The existing irrigation system for the lawns is kept in place in this proposal.

The first proposed new irrigation line (minimum 1-inch Schedule 40 PVC pipe) runs from the existing water supply/controllers adjacent to the staff parking area through Areas 9 and 8 to end in Area 1. Emitters should be drip and/or small area spray.

The second proposed new irrigation line (1-inch Schedule 40 PVC pipe) runs from the control box near the current koi pond into Area 2. Emitters should be drip.

The third proposed new irrigation line (1-inch Schedule 40 PVC pipe) runs from the control box near the current koi pond, behind the wooden fence along the creek, to Areas 3 and 5. Emitters should be drip for Area 3 and small area spray for Area 5.

For Area 7, the existing adjacent hose bib can be used with a tee fitting, or the set up for Area 2 can be duplicated.

All new irrigation lines should have a second (side) valve after the primary on/off valve to allow draining of lines when not in use in the winter.



This proposal minimizes the cost of new irrigation. Existing irrigation is used when possible. PVC pipe with drip irrigation is less expensive than full in-ground systems. Drip and small area spray provides specific amounts of water directly to the new plants and reduces work hours to water manually. The addition of timer controllers could automate further.

LANDSCAPE/SECURITY LIGHTING

Directional lighting is recommended for Areas 1, 2, 8 and 9. This has two primary benefits. First, all landscaped areas would be visible to passing vehicles and pedestrians at night. This creates an opportunity to display the State Park grounds outside of what is currently done, enhancing opportunities for additional patronage. Second, lighting the areas at night makes undetected trespass more difficult. This lighting, combined with recommended fencing, will make uninvited, after-hour access to the Visitors Center grounds and courtyard extremely difficult.

Either overhead or ground-based lighting can be used. Overhead lighting has the advantage that it can be installed at any time, but a disadvantage that it is more difficult to limit light to only the desired landscape areas. With ground-based lighting, it is much easier to limit illumination to the desired areas, but it must be installed at the time of new landscaping to avoid disturbing plantings.

SEATING

On-site State Park staff noted the lack of seating outside the Visitor Center building detracts from visitors' usage and experience. Curved, backless benches are proposed for Area 1 where visitors often congregate to wait for others. A curved, backless bench is also proposed for visitors in front of the relocated koi pond and Area 2. Curved benches reiterate the circular theme in classical Chinese gardens, and the shape also discourages use for sleeping.

A bench is proposed under the covered courtyard area near Areas 6 and 7. This bench has a backrest for users that benefit from such.

CONCLUSION

These proposed hardscape improvements are necessary to address facility deterioration, improve safety, improve maintenance and emergency access, reduce future maintenance costs (both labor and repair), and to protect the investments made in landscape Areas 1 through 9.



Proposed Hardscape Ground Plan



Figure 38. Proposed hardscape ground plan, Weaverville Joss House State Historical Park Visitor Center.

Appendix C: Plant Care

PLANT CARE GUIDE FOR PROPOSED AREAS 1 THROUGH 9

Plant	Types	Exposure	Planting	Watering	Fertilizing	Deadheading	Pruning
Azalea	Evergreen and deciduous shrubs	Filtered sunlight	In early spring or fall	Regular to ample	In spring before new growth with acid-loving fertilizer	Not required	Pinch back young tips for bushier plants; after bloom for size
Camelia	Evergreen shrubs or trees	Best out of strong sun	In spring	Moderate to regular	After bloom with acid-loving fertilizer	Not required	After bloom
Chrysanthemum	Annuals and perennials	Full sun	In spring or fall	Regular	In spring with balanced fertilizer	Spent blooms	Top plant once; pinch back young tips for bushier plants; cut dead foliage to the ground in spring
Cosmos	Annuals and perennials	Full sun	Seeds in spring	Moderate	In summer	Spent blooms	Pinch back young tips for bushier plants
Daffodil	Perennials from bulbs	Full sun	In fall	Regular	After bloom with bulb food	Not required	Cut dead foliage to the ground after plant yellows and dies back

Plant	Types	Exposure	Planting	Watering	Fertilizing	Deadheading	Pruning
Dahlia	Perennial from tubers	Partial to full sun	In spring	Regular	After first flower buds with tuber/bulb food	Spent blooms	Top plant once; pinch back young tips for bushier plants; cut dead foliage to the ground after first frost
Forsythia	Deciduous shrubs	Full sun	Late fall or early spring	Moderate to regular	In spring with balanced fertilizer	Not required	After bloom
Gladiolus	Perennials from corms	Full sun	In early spring or fall	Regular	When first spikes and buds appear with bulb food	Not required	Cut dead foliage to the ground after plant yellows and dies back
Iris	Perennials from bulbs and rhizomes	Full sun	In late summer or fall	Regular	In early spring or fall with bulb food	Not required	Cut dead foliage to the ground after plant yellows and dies back
Marigold	Annuals and perennials	Full sun	Seeds in late spring	Regular	In summer	Spent blooms	Pinch back young tips for bushier plants



Plant	Types	Exposure	Planting	Watering	Fertilizing	Deadheading	Pruning
Oriental Poppy	Perennials	Full sun	Seeds in fall	Moderate to regular	In summer	Spent blooms	Pinch back young tips for bushier plants; cut dead foliage to the ground after plant yellows and dies back
Peony	Perennials and deciduous shrubs	Full sun with afternoon shade	In fall	Regular	When first shoots appear and after flowering with balanced fertilizer	Spent blooms	Cut foliage 3 inches from the ground after first frost
Rose	Deciduous and evergreen shrubs and vines	Full sun or light shade	Bare roots in late February; containers in spring, fall or late winter	Regular	In spring after first bloom cycle with balanced fertilizer	Spent blooms	Late winter or early spring
Rose of Sharon	Deciduous shrubs	Full sun	In spring or fall	Regular	In early spring or fall with balanced fertilizer	Not required	Late winter or early spring
Tiger Lily	Perennials	Full sun	In early spring or fall	Regular	In spring with bulb food	Not required	Cut dead foliage to the ground after plant yellows



Plant	Types	Exposure	Planting	Watering	Fertilizing	Deadheading	Pruning
Tulip	Perennials from bulbs	Full sun	In fall	Regular	In early spring or fall with bulb food	Not required	Cut dead foliage to the ground after plant yellows and dies back
Zinnia	Annuals and perennials	Full sun	Seeds in late spring	Regular	In summer	Spent blooms	Pinch back young tips for bushier plants

Figure 39. Plant care guide for proposed Areas 1 through 9.

USDA plant hardiness zone for Weaverville, California: 8b

Refer to specific plant variety instructions for detailed planting and growing requirements.

Watering

In general, plants should be watered in the early morning at the base of the plant. New plants (under 3 years) require more water to establish strong root systems. The recommended plants require approximately 1 inch of water per week. A good rule of thumb is that the top 1 inch surface of the soil should be dry prior to watering. Container plants typically require more frequent watering. Monitor plants for over or under watering. Watering cycles may need to be adjusted seasonally.

Refer to the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources landscape water requirements calculator for additional guidance: https://my.ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/Water_Use_of_Turfgrass_and_Landscape_Plant_Materials/Water_Demand_Calculators/Water_Demand_Calculators/index.cfm

Pest Management

Refer to the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources integrated pest management website for help with pest identification and plant problem diagnostic tool: <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/menu/homegarden.html>

Appendix D: Materials Lists

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR PROPOSED AREAS 1 THROUGH 9

Item	Suggested Type	Quantity	Unit
Azalea	<i>Rhododendron spp.</i> Evergreen shrub	1	each
Camellia	<i>Camellia sasanqua</i> or <i>C. hiemalis</i> Evergreen shrub	1	each
Chrysanthemum	<i>Chrysanthemum x morifolium</i> Perennial	1	each
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i> Annual seed	1	package
Daffodil	<i>Narcissus jonquilla</i> Perennial bulb	5	each
Dahlia	<i>Dahlia spp.</i> Perennial tuber	5	each
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i> Deciduous shrub	1	each
Gladiolus	<i>Gladiolus nanus</i> Perennial corm	5	each
Marigold	<i>Tagetes patula</i> Annual seed	1	package
Oriental Poppy	<i>Papaver orientale</i> Perennial	20	each
Peony	<i>Paeonia lactiflora</i> Perennial shrub	5	each
Rose	<i>Rosa floribunda</i> or <i>R. chinensis</i> Deciduous shrub	5	each
Rose of Sharon	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i> Deciduous shrub	1	each
Tiger Lily	<i>Lilium lancifolium</i> Perennial bulb	5	each
Tulip	<i>Tulipa spp.</i> Perennial bulb	5	each
Zinnia	<i>Zinnia elegans</i> Annual seed	1	package
Cobble Ground Cover	5 to 10-inch diameter rock	42	ton

Item	Suggested Type	Quantity	Unit
Wood Chip Ground Cover	Composted	1	cubic yard
Grass Ground Cover	Seed	1	pound
Scholar's Rock	2 to 4-foot tall	5	each
Guānyīn Statue	Seated position	1	each
Molded Concrete Disc with Chinese Icon Image	14 to 20-inch diameter	3	each
Concrete Planter Bowl	3-foot diameter bowl	2	each
Small Boulder Mound	20 to 30-inch diameter rock	3	ton
Landscape Edging	Stone, wood, or recycled plastic	50	feet
Irrigation Main Line	1-inch Schedule 40 PVC pipe	150	feet
Irrigation Emitters (plus extra tubing)	Drip and spray	22	each

Figure 40. Materials needed for proposed Areas 1 through 9.



SQUARE FEET OF MATERIALS NEEDED FOR PROPOSED AREAS 1 THROUGH 9

Location	Cobble (5 to 10-inch diameter) Square Feet	Wood Chip Square Feet	Grass Square Feet	Small Boulder (20 to 30-inch diameter) Square Feet
Area 1	180	0	54	0
Area 2	63	0	0	0
Area 3	0	42	0	0
Area 4	0	0	0	0
Area 5	0	76	0	0
Area 6	0	0	0	0
Area 7	133	0	0	0
Area 8	123	0	0	0
Area 9	341	0	0	12
Total Square Feet	840	118	54	12

Figure 41. Square feet of materials needed for proposed Areas 1 through 9.

Refer to the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Fire Network website for information on mulch types and combustibility: <https://ucanr.edu/program/uc-anr-fire-network/mulch>

Lawn and landscaping calculators for estimating the amount of materials needed for a project: <https://www.inchcalculator.com/lawn-landscaping-calculators>



Appendix E: Visitor's Garden Brochure

BROCHURE TOPICS FOR PROPOSED AREAS 1 THROUGH 9

- Cultural significance of plants in garden
 - Azalea (Area 7)
 - Camellia (Area 7)
 - Chrysanthemum (Area 5)
 - Cosmos (Area 9)
 - Daffodil (Area 5)
 - Dahlia (Area 5)
 - Forsythia (Area 1)
 - Ginkgo (Area 5)
 - Gladiolus (Area 5)
 - Iris (Area 5)
 - Marigold (Area 9)
 - Oriental Poppy (Area 9)
 - Peony (Areas 1 and 3)
 - Rose (Areas 2 and 8)
 - Rose of Sharon (Area 9)
 - Tiger Lily (Area 5)
 - Tulip (Area 5)
 - Zinnia (Area 9)
- Guānyīn (and original *Kuan Yin*) (Area 3 and koi pond)
- Scholar's rocks (Gōngshí) (Areas 2 and 4)
- Significance of Chinese iconography (Area 6)
 - Fish
 - Clouds
 - Dragon



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Statements

Photograph on title page, *Weaverville Joss House State Historical Park Visitor Center*, taken by UC Master Gardeners of Trinity County project team, September 2025.

All unmodified photographs on “Area Rendering” pages taken by UC Master Gardeners of Trinity County project team, September 2025.

All modified images on “Area Rendering” pages produced by UC Master Gardeners of Trinity County project team using smartphone landscape design application iScape.

All ground plans in this proposal produced by UC Master Gardeners of Trinity County project team using computer landscape design application Smartdraw.

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Weaverville Joss House, *The Temple of the Forest Beneath the Clouds (Yún Lín Miào)*, photograph, UC Master Gardeners of Trinity County project team, September 2025.

