



Liu Ming Yuan | 柳明園 | LUB VAJ PHOOJ YWG

**Key Highlights - The Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society (MCFGS)  
St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willows and Flowing Waters**

- 1988 ~ Under Mayor George Latimer, City of St. Paul establishes Sister-city relationship with Changsha, based on recommendation from St. Paul Sister-City Committee (Weiming Lu, Richard Bohr, JC Wang, etc).
- 2004 ~ US-China Peoples Friendship Association-MN Chapter under President Mary Warpeha establishes China Garden Committee to study sister-city China Garden creation.
- 2005 ~ The MN China Friendship Garden Society established as a 501(c)3 non-profit.
- 2006 ~ Changsha Sculptor Master Lei Yixin creates “Meditation” for Minnesota Rocks! and identifies site at Phalen Park for sculpture.
- 2008 ~ Mayor Coleman and Bill Pesek travel to Changsha for 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary signing event and to discuss idea of sister-city China Garden in St. Paul.
- 2009-2011 Community Engagement Meetings held re Phalen-Keller Regional Park Master Plan and proposed location for a China Garden.
- 2011 ~ China Garden approved in Phalen-Keller Regional Park Master Plan.
- The St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden at Phalen Park ~ first Changsha-style garden in the United States and the first sister-city China Garden in Minnesota.
- November 2014 ~ District 5 Planning Council held community input meeting arranged by Bill Zajicek [Linda Mealey-Lohmann presenter].
- Spring 2015 ~ MN Legislature grants \$50,000 Legacy Funds for the creation of conceptual designs.
- October 2015 ~ Mayor Chris Coleman and members of MCFGS travel to Changsha for signing of sister-park agreement between Yanghu Wetlands Park and Phalen Regional Park.
- November 2015 ~ Changsha landscape architects, Jennifer Junfang Fan and Jon Youhua Wen, travel to Phalen Park and unveil China Garden conceptual designs in early 2016.
- July 2016 ~ Site Dedication for St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden at Dragon Festival.
- 2016-2017 ~ Numerous community input meetings held by St. Paul Parks & Recreation Department to gather feedback from community; Meetings held with MCFGS Hmong Advisory Group and MCFGS Chinese Advisory Group to refine design.
- July 19, 2017 ~ City of St. Paul passes resolution approving exchange of sister-city gifts.

- 2018 ~ Sister-city gift exchange announced to celebrate 30-year anniversary.
- February 25, 2018 ~ Mayoral Proclamation by Mayor Melvin Carter declares sister-city day.
- March 20, 2018 ~ MCFGs event recognizing donors and supporters; bon voyage to Peanuts characters for installation at Changsha Yanghu Wetlands Park.
- May 2018 ~ MCFGs sends 5 Peanuts statues to Changsha, on behalf of St. Paul.
- May 2018 ~ Changsha sends Xiang Jiang Pavilion, a replica of Changsha's famous Qing dynasty pavilion, to St. Paul for installation at Phalen Regional Park.
- May 29, 2018 ~ Feng Shui ceremony by Feng Shui Expert Carole Hyder.
- May 30, 2018 Hmong Blessing ceremony at site by XF. Txawj Miav Vaj.
- May 31, 2018 ~ Site Preparation officially begins.
- July 2018 ~ Peanuts sculptures arrive in Changsha – Yanghu Wetlands Park Science Museum.
- July 10, 2018 ~ Twelve artisans arrive from Changsha to supervise installation of Xiang Jiang Pavilion.
- July 14, 2018 ~ Groundbreaking event: Mayor Carter Keynote speaker
- August 3, 2018 ~ the last of 5 shipping containers, containing Xiang Jiang Pavilion, Hmong Heritage Wall, and West Entrance Arch, arrive at Phalen Park, St. Paul.
- August 6, 2018 ~ Construction on Xiang Jiang Pavilion begins.
- August 2018 ~ Installation of Hmong Heritage Wall is completed.
- August 30, 2018 ~ Changsha artisans return to China | MN Team continues construction.
- November 3, 2018 ~ Open House Celebration of completion of Xiang Jiang Pavilion and plaza, Hmong Heritage Wall, landscaping, and temporary Donor Wall in the China Friendship Garden.
- May 2019 ~ Construction on West Entrance Archway began.
- July 13, 2019 ~ Grand Opening of Liu Ming Yuan China Friendship Garden.