• 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 20th 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.

The MN China Friendship Garden Society | mn.china.garden@comcast.net | www.MNChinaGarden.org
• 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.