



Anderson Japanese Gardens Review  
September 8, 2023

Eight brave soles braved the drizzle and took a scenic drive through the countryside to the Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford. Fortuitously, the drizzle stopped by the time we reached Rockford. We are so fortunate to have one of North America's highest quality Japanese gardens so close by.

Terry, our docent, led us through the serene 12 acres of what once was a swampy, cattail filled backyard of John Anderson, a businessman in the Rockford area. Mr. Anderson was inspired to create the gardens after a visit to the Japanese Gardens in Portland, Oregon and hired the designer of that garden, Hoichi Kurisu, to design his backyard. The placement of every rock, alignment of every tree, and layout of all paths have been made with careful consideration by Mr. Kurisu. In 1998, the Anderson's donated the gardens to the Rockford Rotary Charitable Association.

Following our tour, we ate lunch in the Fresco Restaurant on the property. The restaurant had windows which overlooked the beautiful gardens and a fireplace created a cozy, pleasing environment in addition to delicious food.

We ended our day taking a drive to Prairie State Winery in Genoa, Illinois and enjoyed some wine tasting in the tasting room located there. Overall, it was a wonderful day!

I'm looking forward to going back to the gardens to see how they look in different seasons.