



Welcome to Mukai Farm & Garden!

Today Mukai Farm & Garden is a gathering place that celebrates the multi-cultural and agrarian heritage of Vashon Island. As one of the very few surviving Japanese farmsteads in the US, the Mukai property has significance extending beyond Vashon Island and the Pacific Northwest. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a designated King County Landmark. And it is the only free to the public garden on Vashon Island.

Mukai Farm & Garden embodies the stories of pre-war Japanese-American life: farming during the time of the Alien Land Laws; of immigrant entrepreneurialism, the development of the strawberry industry on Vashon, the role of Japanese women and more. Mukai continues to reveal how a complex chapter of our local and national history is alive with us today.



MUKAI
FARM & GARDEN

What Mukai Means



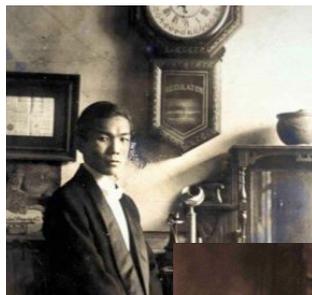
The 4.5 acres complex includes the home of the Mukai family, their strawberry fields, a Japanese garden and a strawberry packing plant. It tells the quintessentially American tale of Denishiro “B.D.” Mukai, his wife Kuni and son Masa-- an enterprising immigrant family that built a beautiful home and innovative business in the face of virulent discrimination. The disruption and displacement of west coast Japanese Americans during WWII exacerbated the decline of farms on Vashon, and the property fell into decline over the decades.



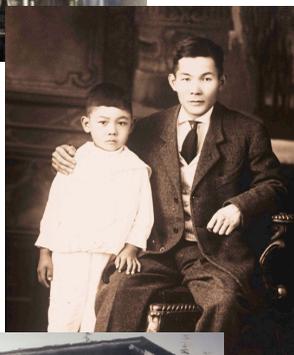
Flash-forward to today: a small, dedicated group of Vashon volunteers and generous funders has restored much of the Mukai home, Japanese garden and pathways to their original beauty. A place that once welcomed Islanders of all races before World War II is today, again, a place where history lives. We are just beginning now to restore the historic Fruit Barreling Plant, which was used to process the strawberries that made Mukai famous.



Mukai Farm & Garden Timeline



1903
Denichiro Mukai (now "BD"), age 15 emigrates from Osaka to U.S. Moves to Seattle after SF Earthquake; changes name



1910
Moves to Vashon and begins berry farming.

1886 - 1923
Series of Alien Land Laws and other discriminatory laws adopted in Washington.

1926
Purchases 60 acres in name of American-born son Masahiro, age 15.



1927-1930
Builds family home, authentic Japanese stroll garden and large 2-story barn.



1930's
Strawberry production business very successful with over 400 employees a year even during the Depression.

1934
Masa assumes control of the farm after Kuni and BD divorce. BD returns to Japan.

1942
Executive Order 9066 forces internment of all west coast Japanese Americans. Mukai family voluntarily self-exiles to avoid internment.

1945
Masa returns to Vashon and expands operation to include farms in Ferndale, WA and NE Oregon but farm momentum gone. Over the next 20 years, Masa slowly sells off property.

Kuni dies in 1957, Masa dies in 1999.

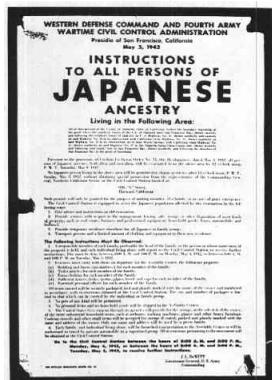
2000
House and grounds purchased by Island Landmarks; transferred to Friends of Mukai in 2016.

2017
House restoration begins. Fruit Barreling Plant purchased: the two parcels operated together by Friends of Mukai



2018-2019
Japan Festivals, the first in 2018 with 800 visitors; in 2019, over 1800 visitors.

2019
North Garden, house perimeter garden restored and house restoration completed. Fruit Barreling Plant restoration begins.





The Future

We've come a long way in a few short years. Mukai Farm & Garden is today a place for peaceful garden contemplation as well as a center for learning and building a multi-cultural community. It is a place for children to practice Japanese language, for Islanders to experience the boisterous and joyful sounds of Japanese taiko drumming, for gardeners to marvel at the design of stroll garden, for Asian Americans on Vashon to discuss their common experiences, for art, for music, for students of history and students of life.



Become a member!

Category	Amount
Youth for Mukai	\$10
Individual	\$30
Family/Friend	\$100
Supporter	\$350
Patron	\$750



Donate

The CARES Act, recently passed by Congress provide that any non-profit donations made in 2020 are completely tax deductible. We need financial help to sustain our investments in Mukai Farm & Gardens, but the COVID pandemic completely curtailed our plans to generate income from event rentals. We appreciate and acknowledge all financial assistance.



Build a Community

Volunteer: Friends of Mukai is almost completely staffed by volunteers. We would love your help—hosting open houses, helping with repairs, staffing events. If you have the time and energy, we can sure use your help.

Participate: We welcome your participation in all events sponsored by Mukai, with regular updates on our website.

The more you know and do, the more you will appreciate keeping the legacy of Mukai Farm & Garden alive. The Mukai vision continues to evolve, and we invite you to be part of building a place like no other.



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