

## Symbolism of the Buddha Garden

The Buddha Garden represents the “Three Vehicles” of Buddhism

### 1. Root Vehicle (Fundamental Vehicle)

The first teachings Buddha Shakyamuni offered in this world over 2,500 years ago, these are practices that culminate liberation from the realms of cyclic existence and focus on accomplishing one’s own welfare.

- A. The Fundamental Vehicle is represented by five large stones in the northeast of the Garden, which represent the first teachings Shakyamuni gave in this world to a retinue of five disciples in modern day Sarnath, India. This is also known as the Deer Park (Skt. Rispatana).

### 2. The Great Vehicle (Mahayana)

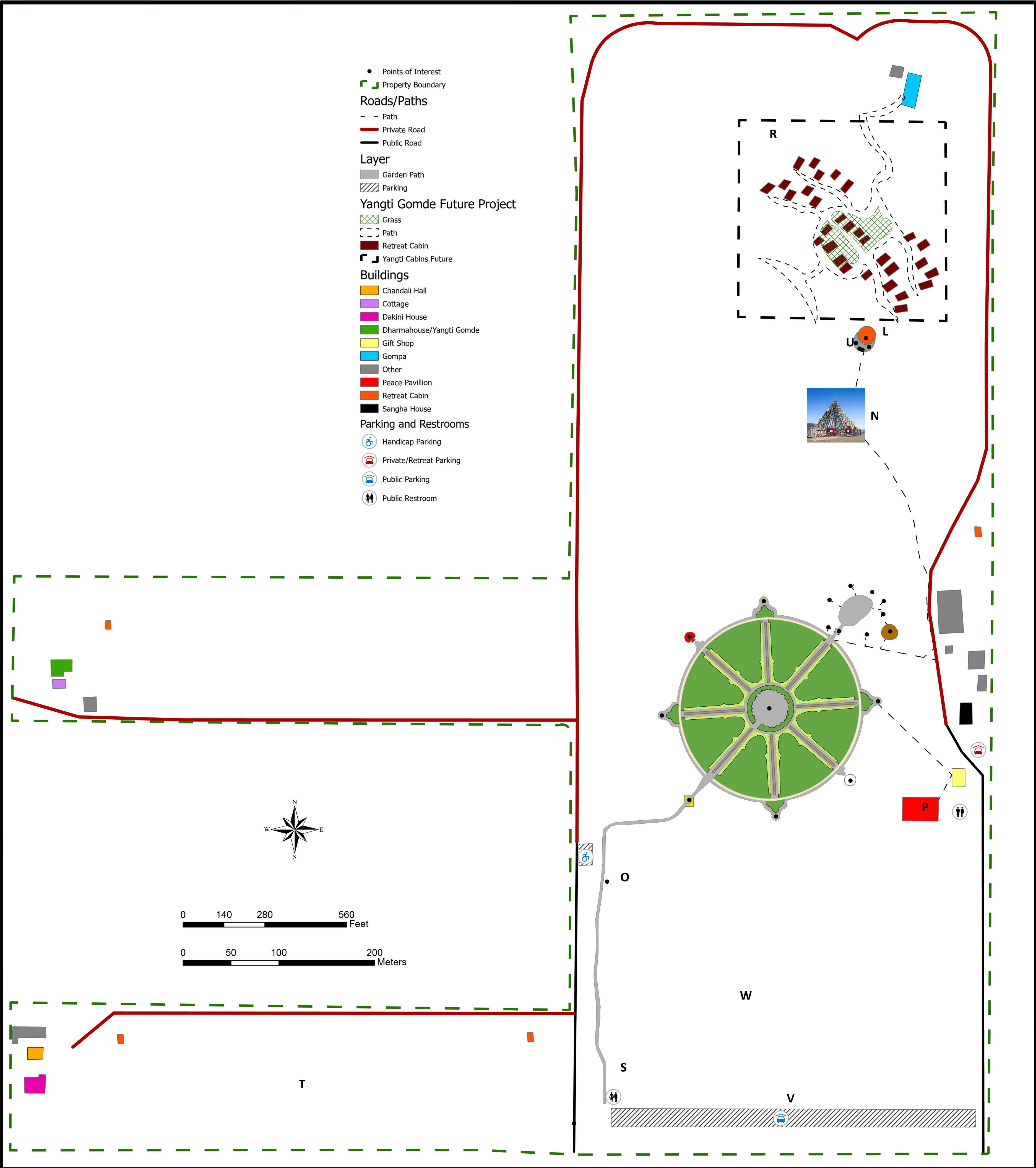
The Mahayana is a path of bodhisattvas who focus on altruistic endeavor, striving in everything they do for the sake of all beings.

- B. The 8-spoked Dharma Wheel of the Buddha garden represents the 8-fold path that leads to enlightenment.  
C. The 1,000 Buddhas atop these spokes represent each of the 1,000 Buddhas prophesized to appear in this Aeon and represents enlightened form.  
D. The heart sutra in eight languages represents enlightened speech and is a quintessential teaching on Transcendent Wisdom.  
E. The 1,000 Stupas atop the Dharma Wheel represent enlightened mind.  
F. The central figure of the Garden is Yum Chenmo (Great Mother) who represents the unity of great compassion and transcendent wisdom, which is enlightenment itself.  
G. The Buddhas of the four directions are statues of the Buddhas of the past, present, future, and final prophesied Buddha of this Aeon.  
H. Quan Yin is a bodhisattva who is the embodiment of compassion and primarily revered in China and by Mahayana adherents around the world.

### 3. The Diamond Vehicle (Vajrayana)

Vajrayana is a subdivision of the Mahayana; this path takes the result of enlightenment as the path with myriad esoteric techniques passed from teacher to student.

- I. Dhanakosha Lake of Oddiyana is the main representation of the Vajrayana teachings at the Buddha Garden. A powerful and near mythical figure, Guru Rinpoche established the Vajrayana teachings in Tibet. Facing Front: Mandavara (Left); Guru Rinpoche (Center) and Yeshe Tsoygal (Right).  
J. Through Vajrayana training , individuals engage in the four classes of enlightened activity: Pacifying, Enriching, Magnetizing, & Wrathful. These four classes of activity are presented by four features placed in the four intermediary directions.  
K. In each stupa is placed an image of Tara, a Buddha who vowed to always appear in female form in order to benefit beings to alleviate suffering and fear.



## Walk (Circumambulate) Clockwise

### 4. The Sun and Moon Garden of the Great Perfection (Dzogchen)

- L. Sun and Moon Garden represents the pinnacle of Buddha’s teachings. There are four statues situated on the moon: Tulku Orygen Chemchok, Longchenpa, Vimalamitra, and Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche. The sun represents Samantabhadra and Samantabhadri. The sun and moon represents the luminosity of day and night which is the practice of the Great Perfection.

### Additional Features:

- M. There are 1,000 plants and trees that adorn the Garden along with many flowers as an example of safeguarding and replenishing the environment of the world.  
N. The prayer flag mound is above the Garden and visitors are welcome to visit or hang their own prayer flags with the rest.  
O. A stupa generally symbolizes enlightened mind. The Eight Stupas represent specific events in Buddha Shakyamuni’s life. They are: 1. Lotus Blossom Stupa; 2. Enlightenment Stupa; 3. Stupa of Many Doors; 4. Stupa of Descent form the God Realm; 5. Stupa of Great Miracles; 6. Stupa of reconciliation; 7. Stupa of Complete Victory; 8. Stupa of Nirvana.  
P. Peace Pavilion is the assembly hall intended as a multi-use facility for both Ewam meditation retreats and teachings, as well as functions and retreats hosted by local organizations, weddings, spiritual gatherings, yoga retreats, etc.  
Q. Entrance Gate. This gate with Tibetan Architectural design accords with Vajrayana Buddhist tantras. It contains beautiful paintings of offering deities.

### Future Projects:

- R. The flat area on the hilltop above the Buddha Garden is the future site of Yangti Gomde retreat cabins for advanced mediation practices. These cabins will be used for both individual and group retreats. This area will be off limits to the public.  
S. The need for a larger gift shop and refreshment center grows along with number of visitors to the Buddha Garden.  
T. Future Plan of Children’s Park  
U. Pavilion (Sun and Moon Garden). This will be the center of the Sun and Moon Garden where the most exalted great perfection teachings will be bestowed.  
V. Trees planted along the parking lot  
W. Future plan of Dhanakosha Lake