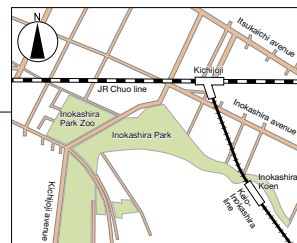


04

Inokashira Park

- **Location** Gotenyama 1-chome, Kichijoji-Minami-cho 1-chome, Musashino City; Inokashira 3/ 4/ 5-chome, Shimo-Renjaku 1-chome, Mure 4-chome, Mitaka City
- **Contact Information** Inokashira Park Administration Office tel: 0422-47-6900 (1-18-31 Gotenyama, Musashino-shi 180-0005)
- **Transport** 5-minute walk from Kichijoji (JR Chuo line, Keio-Inokashira line).
1-minute walk from Inokashira-Koen (Keio-Inokashira line).
Toll parking facilities available (24 hours, Parking lot No.2 available 8 a.m. to 7 p.m./ exit by 9 p.m.)



Inokashira Park, established in 1917, will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2017. Originally considered a park in the suburbs, Inokashira Park now serves as a precious green oasis for the surrounding residential area.

The third Tokugawa shogun, Iemitsu, is said to have given Inokashira Pond its name. The name is said to mean either "source of the water supply" or "well that supplies the most delicious water."

The Inokashira Pond there was the source of the first water service for Tokyo (then called Edo), the Kanda water supply, providing a vital roll until an improved water supply was completed in 1898.

The park is divided into four sections, Inokashira Pond and its surroundings, Gotenyama with its wooded area and Shizen Bunka-en Gardens, recreation facilities in the west end of the park, and the No. 2 park to the southeast.

The landscape is full of variety with Inokashira Pond in the lowland, and Gotenyama on the highland.



Full view of Inokashira Pond

Inokashira Pond

This large pond stretches across the park from east to west. It boasts a large volume of water, comparable with that of Zenpukuji and Sanpo-ji Ponds, and excellent water quality. Inokashira Pond was once known as Nanai (seven well) Pond for its seven springheads; thus the bridge that spans the center of the pond is called Nanaibashi Bridge. The bridge provides an excellent view of Inokashira Pond and its aspects that change season-by-season.

Ume garden

A small Japanese plum garden is situated on the southeast slope of Gotenyama. With an ample supply of sunshine available there, the trees blossom sooner than in other areas, attracting many visitors who just can't wait for spring to come. Due to its popularity, a additional 30 plum trees were planted here in 1984 and a further 50 in 1985.

Wooded area

The wooded area on the Gotenyama Terrace is made up mainly of hornbeams and oaks. The air under the branches reaching to the sky is filled with the aroma of trees and soil, making this great place for a stroll, picnic, or just a rest, depending on the season.

The name "Gotenyama" comes from the rest house built by the shogun Iemitsu that he used when hunting with hawks. At the center of the terrace lies what is known as the "Inokashira Pond ruins," cultural assets still underground that date back mainly to the prehistoric Jomon period.

Ochanomizu (tea water)

This spring located at the western edge of Inokashira Pond, surrounded by a dense thicket of trees, was once the source of a crystal-clear stream. According to the "Illustration of Famous Places in Edo," the first Tokugawa shogun Ieyasu used the water from the spring for the tea ceremony when he visited, thus giving it its name. Once, underground water from Gotenyama terrace seeped naturally from the ground here, but today is pumped out from a well about 150 meters deep.



Ochanomizu

Opened / May 1, 1917 Area / 428,389.99 m² (Some areas are state-owned property provided under gratuitous loan)

Trees / Tall trees : 10,700, shrubs : 16,200 m², Grass : 18,600 m²

Main plants / Carpinus tschonoskii, acer palmatum, cherry (someiyoshino), sawara cypress, hinoki cypress, camellia

Facilities / Boat dock, athletic field, tennis courts, baseball field, Outdoor stage



Cherry trees lining the pond

Pondside cherry trees

Around 200 cherry trees line the banks of the pond, spreading their branches over the water. They provide a stunning view when their blossoms are reflected on the water and eventually fall softly to the pond. When the cherry blossoms have completed their short performance, the trees are cloaked in green. A stroll or run around the deeply shaded pond is refreshing. Then autumn provides another stunning display as the leaves turn to dazzling shades of red and gold.

Bird Watching

Inokashira Park, with its broad pond and lush greenery, is home to nonmigratory birds and a destination for migratory birds. The number and variety of water fowl species, in particular, is large. Spotbill ducks, little grebes, and mandarin ducks can be seen year-round. From autumn through winter pintail ducks, mallard ducks, and tufted ducks will migrate to the park.



Note: Details on the Inokashira Park Zoo can be seen on page 141 in the zoos and botanical gardens section.