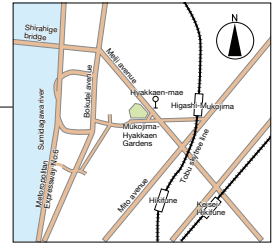


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Mukojima-Hyakkaen Gardens



Designated Manager ■ Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association

- Location Higashi-Mukojima 3-chome, Sumida Ward
- Contact Information Mukojima-Hyakkaen Gardens Administration Office tel: 03-3611-8705 (3-18-3 Higashi-Mukojima, Sumida-ku 131-0032)
- Transport 8-minute walk from Higashi-Mukojima (Tobu-Skytree line). 13-minute walk from Keisei-Hikifune(Keisei-Oshiage line).
2 or 3-minute walk from Hyakkaen-mae bus stop on Toei bus (route 22 Kameido to Nippori).
- Closed December 29 to January 3
- Open 9 am to 4:30 pm (gates close at 5 pm)
- Admission General: 150 yen, Seniors 65 and older: 70 yen (Primary school and younger children / Jr. high school students living or studying in Tokyo: Free)
- Free days Greenery Day (May 4), Tokyo Citizens Day (October 1)



These flower gardens were built in the early 19th century, when Edo's urban culture was at its peak. They were created by Kikuu Sahara, who had formerly been a dealer in antiques. With the help friends in literary circles, he was able to develop a privately operated flower garden at Mukojima on the site of mansion of a retainer of the shogun. There, people were able to observe a variety of flowering plants and trees.

At first, the gardens consisted mainly of 360 Japanese apricot trees, gaining it the name Shin Ume-yashiki (literally, "new house of plum") as it was compared to Ume-yashiki in Kameido. Later, plants made famous by Japanese and Chinese classics were added. Those included thunberg's lespedeza, Japanese silver grass, and Chinese bellflower, allowing the gardens to be in bloom in all the seasons. The name Hyakkaen (literally, "hundred-flower garden") was given to the gardens in respect to them blooming radiantly with a hundred flowers in the four seasons.

Hyakkaen was built with a commoner's touch. Constructed by literary persons, it strongly reflected their tastes with a beauty that differs from that of feudal lords' gardens such as Koishikawa Korakuen and Rikugien.

The history of Hyakkaen as a privately operated garden lasted until 1938. It was donated to Tokyo City by the widow of its final owner, Tsunekichi Ogura, in October of that year. The city opened the gardens on a limited basis as fee-based gardens in July 1939. They were designated a special historical site and special scenic spot in October 1978 under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.

Gardens guide

Volunteers will guide you on the history and highlights of the gardens. Available every Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (free).

* Guide may be canceled due to weather conditions. Contact the service center for the availability of guides on the day of your visit.

Japanese Bush clover tunnel

Japanese Bush clovers tied to the tunnel made of bamboos are one of the highlights of the gardens. In late September, a tunnel of flowers 30 meters long is formed.



Tunnel at about the time of the moon viewing

Flower trellises

The wisteria trellises are covered with sweet smelling red and violet flowers in early May. Other trellises in the park include kudzu, three-leaf akebia, and pumpkin, not seen anywhere else. Three-leaf akebias bloom with black and violet flowers in the beginning of April. They bear orchid fruits in the early October.

Kudzus start to bloom with violet and crimson flowers in early August, and give off a sweet fragrance when they reach full bloom in late August.



View of the wisteria trellis

Opened / July 8, 1939 Area / 10,885.88 m² (some areas are state-owned property provided under gratuitous loan)

Trees / Tall trees: 870, shrubs: 570

Main plants / Japanese apricot, cherry, Japanese bush clover, deutzia, sasanqua, camellia, seven herbs of spring and autumn, various wild grasses

Events / Baskets of the seven herbs of spring (January), visits to shrines of the seven gods of good fortune (January), insect singing (late August), moon viewing (three days around full moon in mid autumn)

Facilities / Gathering hall (Onari-zashiki), children's Playground

Gourds

The annual vines such as gourd, sponge gourd, snake gourd cultivated on trellises bloom in about July. From August through September, their fruit can be seen hanging from the trellises.

Seven-herb offering baskets displayed at New Year's



Nanakusa exhibit

This exhibit displays the seven flowers of each season, starting with the seven flowers of spring (basket), of summer, and of autumn, one of which is the Japanese bush clover.

Footprints of writers

The gardens are full of traces of the literary persons who contributed to their development. For example, a framed verse from "Hanayashiki" by Nampo Ota (Shokusanjin) is hung on the gate near the gardens' entrance. On both sides of that are wooden plaques written by Shibutsu Okubo that say, "Spring, summer, autumn, and winter; always filled with flowers," and "From the east, west, south, and north come many guests." Including a monument to Basho Matsuo, there are 29 poem and stone monuments across the park.



Garden gate that symbolizes Hyakkaen

Wild birds

The grasses and trees are planted in a manner close to their natural form. So birds such as great tits and Japanese white-eyes often visit.

Seven gods of good fortune

In the Edo era, the Sumidagawa River seven gods of good fortune at Mukojima were well known along with those of Yanaka. Visiting shrines of those gods is an annual event at the beginning of the year. Hyakkaen holds the one dedicated to Fukurokuju.

Mukojima-Hyakkaen Gardens Flower Calendar

Januar -March	Japanese narcissus, camellia, Japanese apricot, Far East Amur adonis, shibateranthis pinnatifida, flowering quince, winter sweet, butterbur sprout, horsetail, Japanese cornel, oriental paperbush, rich & noble orchid
April -June	Dogtooth violet, iris japonica, barrenwort, soft windflower, stachyurus praecox, Genpei peach, Japanese bush cherry, Nanking cherry, forsythia, rhododendron, peony, Chinese peony, cypripedium japonicum, calanthe, bletilla, konjac, cherry, wisteria, hydrangea, Japanese iris, iris ensata var. spontanea, passion flower, campanula bellflower
July -September	Dianthus superbus, Chinese bellflower, valerian, kudzu, trumpetweed, Japanese bush clover, Japanese silver grass, Chinese trumpet vine, gold-banded lily, blackberry lily, aibika, midday flower, moonflower, four o'clock flower, Asiatic dayflower, Lysimachia, balsam pear, gourd, snake gourd, hydrangea involucrata, Asiatic jasmine, aeginetia indica, cotton rosemallow
October -December	persicaria conspicua, toad lily, Japanese anemone, sasanqua, Kobuku-zakura cherry, leopard plant

