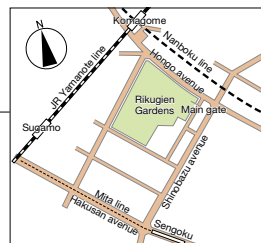


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Rikugien Gardens

Designated Manager ■ Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association

- Location Honkomagome 6-chome, Bunkyo Ward
- Contact Information Rikugien Gardens Administration Office tel: 03-3941-2222 (6-16-3 Honkomagome, Bunkyo-ku 113-0021)
- Transport 7-minute walk from Komagome (JR Yamanote line, Nanboku line). 10-minute walk from Sengoku (Mita line).
- Closed December 29 to January 1
- Open 9 am to 4:30 pm (gates close at 5 pm)
- Admission General: 300 yen, Seniors 65 and older: 150 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)



Rikugien was constructed by Yoshiyasu Yanagisawa on this land given to him by the fifth shogun Tsunayoshi Tokugawa. Yoshiyasu spent seven years from the time he was granted the land in 1695 constructing a garden with paths around artificial hills and a pond. As it was a flat part of Musashino, he had to dig a pond, build up hills, and bring in water from the Senkawa water supply to fill the pond.

Rikugien reflects the depth of Yoshiyasu's literary knowledge to form a detailed, tranquil Japanese garden themed based on his interest in poetry.

The name Rikugien comes from shi no rikugi (six tenets of poetry) – airs, straightforward narrative, explicit comparisons, implied comparisons, odes, and hymns – in “Mao Shi,” a collection of Chinese poetry which Ki no Tsurayuki and many others used as rokutai (six tenets of poetry) of Japanese poetry in “Kokin Wakashu.”

Woods encircle the pond with an island in the middle. Scenery in the garden employs scenery such as Wakanoura in Kishiu (present-day Wakayama) and areas nearby and from ancient Chinese stories. Scenes in the park are given names from those texts.

After the Meiji Restoration, the gardens became the property of the Iwasaki family, founders of Mitsubishi. They were donated to Tokyo City in 1938 and opened to the public. And in March 31, 1953 they became a nationally designated scenic spot.

Deshio no Minato harbor

A beautifully curved shoreline of the large pond named after a ancient Japanese poem “A crane cry sadly as the moon tide washes the shores of Wakanoura.”

Nakanoshima

There are two hills built on the central island. The two hills represent men and women and wishes of good relationship and prosperity of the descendents. The only bridge to the island is Tadunohashi Bridge.

* Nakanoshima is off limits.



Nakanoshima/Fukiage Teahouse

Waterfall-view teahouse

There are around the teahouse is called Kinokawakami, which is upper stream of Kinokawa river. A stream flows through rocks and is the only place where sound of water can be enjoyed. The waterfall used to be fed by the Sengawa water supply.

Fukiage Pine

Japanese red pine which was planted from the building stages of the park.

Fujishiro pass

This is about 35 meters high and the highest artificial hill in the park. It is an imitation of Fujishiroto (Fujishiro no Misaka) in present day Kainan City. The view of the garden is a



Fukiage Teahouse is visible on the far left of the Nakanoshima.

Opened / October 16, 1938 Area / 87,809.41 m² Trees / Tall trees: 5,600, shrubs: 30,400 m²

Main plants / Camphor, Japanese zelkova, cherry (weeping cherry, someiyoshino), castanopsis, southern magnolia, pine, hydrangea, maple, satsuki azalea, azalea

Facilities / Gathering hall (Shinsen-tei), tea room (Gishun-tei)

sight to see. Colorful azalea will color the scenery during end of April to early May.

Sasagani no michi path

A path named after a poem "My beloved is to come tonight. The spider's sure movement seems to foretell it" by Sotoori hime, known as the three masters of Japanese poetry. A wish of eternity, to last for a long time even it may be thin like a spider's web, is expressed.

Weeping cherry

You can see this cherry after passing through the gate in the gardens after entering from the main gate. It was planted in 1955 but grew large as other older trees. The best time to watch is slightly early than the someiyoshino. The garden is opened night during the season and the cherry is lighted up.



Weeping cherry tree

Azalea

In the Edo period, there was Somei Gardener, which sold someiyoshino, right next to the Rikugien. In the Ganroku period, azalea sold by them also created a gardening boom in Edo.

You can see rare old species of azalea in Rikugien Garden. Iwasaki family which owned Rikugien during the Meiji period also had close ties with azalea. Azalea with history and various species will start to bloom from middle of April.

The Tsutsuji teahouse is a thatched teahouse built during the Iwasaki family period and is a rare building which azalea is used for pillars and joist.

Changing leaves of autumn

Beginning with the Japanese wax tree in October, the changing of leaves begin. Every year from mid-November to early December, many of its Japanese Maple trees reach its peak in changing colors, creating a beautiful landscape. The autumn leaves will be light up to create translunar night for watching the leaves.

Rikugien Gardens Flower Calendar

Many of the plants and trees in the gardens have flowers. The following are some of the typical flowers by season.

| | |
|-----------|--|
| February | Japanese cornel, Japanese apricot, camellia |
| March | Kobushi magnolia, weeping cherry |
| April | Azalea, Japanese kerria, someiyoshino cherry |
| May | Cornel, storax |
| June | Hydrangea, satsuki azalea |
| July | Crape myrtle |
| September | Japanese bush clover |
| November | Sasanqua, tea plant, maple |
| December | Japanese bush clover |

* The readings of place names and the Japanese poem are based on the Yoshiyasu's journal "Rakushido Nenroku."

