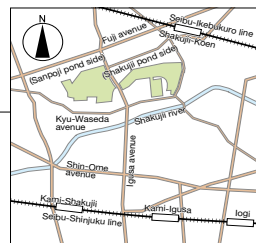


# Shakujii Park

Administrator ■ Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association

- Location Shakujiidai 1/ 2-chome, Shakujii-machi 5-chome, Nerima Ward
- Contact Information Shakujii Park Administration Office tel: 03-3996-3950 (1-26-1 Shakujiidai, Nerima-ku 177-0045)
- Transport 7-minute walk from Shakujii-Koen (Seibu-Ikebukuro line). Sanpoji-Ike bus stop for Nagakubo from Kami-Igusa (Seibu-Shinjuku line).  
Shakujii-Koen bus stop for Shakujii-Koen from Kami-Igusa (Seibu-Shinjuku line). Toll parking facilities available (24 hours).



Centered on Sanpoji and Shakujii Ponds, the park retains much of the nature of Musashino. There are waterside observation garden, bird attracting forest, and memorial garden centered on the Shakujii pond for boating and the tranquil Sanpoji pond surround by trees.

## Sanpoji Pond

Once this was one of the top three spring-fed ponds in the Musashino area. It is said to have never dried up in the Edo era, no matter how hot it got. Until around the 1950s, it was known to never freeze even in the coldest of winters. However, the once-abundant spring water can no longer be seen due to the change in environment with the urbanization of the surrounding area. So, today, well water is pumped into the pond.

The pond surrounded by trees remains as beautiful as ever in all the four seasons. And the boardwalk along the banks of the pond is great

for nature viewing or just for a stroll.

There are also wooden footpaths around the ponds for enjoying the nature and walking in the park.

## Marsh plant colonies

The communities of aquatic plants centered around the floating island, Nakano-shima, in Sanpoji pond are designated as a natural monument in December 1935. With about 50 types of plants at the time of designation, the pond experienced a decline in the types and the number of plants due to the changes in the water environment. However, even to this day, you can see plants such as bogbean that have existed since the ice age, the Japanese iris, East Asian yellow water-lily, and Asian lizard's tail.



Sanpoji Pond

Opened / March 11, 1959 Area / 225,650.03 m<sup>2</sup> Trees / Tall trees: 7,500, shrubs: 32,200 m<sup>2</sup>

Main plants / Acer palmatum, sawtooth oak, Japanese zelkova, cherry (someiyoshino, yama-zakura), alder, metasequoia, bald cypress, Japanese water iris, Menyanthes trifoliata, cow lily, water lily, lizard's tail

Facilities / Baseball field, outdoor stage, boat dock, shops, tennis court

## Flowers and birds

Centering on the North plateau of the Sanpoji pond are about 220 Yoshino Cherry trees, about 130 of other types of cherry blossom trees, and about 140 mokryeon trees. You can also enjoy the Japanese iris and water lily adding color to the surface of the pond.

During winter, birds such as the Northern pintail, Eurasian teal, wild duck, and Tufted duck visit the pond. In fact, Eastern spot-billed ducks, little grebes, common moorhens, and Eurasian kingfishers can be seen all year round.

Wild birds such as the black-faced bunting, Japanese bush warbler, and long-tailed tit can also appear.



Sanpoji Pond and Japanese water iris

## Runis of Shakujii Castle

Ruins of Shakujii Castle resides on the south cliff of Sanpoji pond. The Shakujii Castle was built by the Toshima clan which had power around the Shakujii river basin from the end of the Heian period to Muromachi period. The castle fell after being defeated by Ota Dokan in the 9th year of Bunmei (1477). The area is usually closed to protect the ruin. However, remnants of dry moat and earthworks of the central area of the quarter can be observed from outside the fence. The site was designated as a historic landmark in June 2011. There are himezuka (princess mound) and tonozuka (emperor mound) from the legend of the fall of the castle in the park.

## Shakujii Pond

A waterway once drew water from Sanpoji Pond to irrigate agricultural fields. That was blocked in 1933, and a pond was formed. The pond has an open, lively atmosphere where one can row a boat while watching the seasonal flowers.



Shakujii Pond

## Bird Watching

Woods to entice birds built on the terrace to the west of Sanpoji Pond and on the pond itself are visited by a number of birds. nightingales, long-tailed tits, Japanese pygmy woodpeckers, brownheaded thrushs, pale thrushs, white's thrushs, and other birds can be observed there.

Moorhens and little grebes breed around the pond. Pintails, teals, mallards, and tufted ducks visit in the winter.

