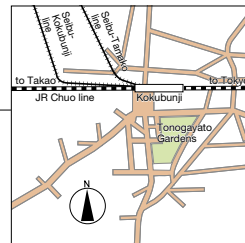


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Tonogayato Gardens



Administrator ■ Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association

- Location Minami-cho 2-chome, Kokubunji City
- Contact Information Tonogayato Gardens Administration Office tel: 042-324-7991 (2-16 Minami-cho, Kokubunji-shi 185-0021)
- Transport 2-minute walk from Kokubunji (JR Chuo line, Seibu-Kokubunji line, Seibu-Tamako line).
- Closed December 29 to January 1
- 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 gardens with paths around woods and a pond make artful use of the natural landform of Musashino-valleys made from stepped hills. Pass through the Japanese ternstroemias at the entrance, and you find yourself in an open space with a bright lawn dotted with Japanese red pines at the top of the cliff. That contrasts sharply with the forested pond and bamboo woods at the bottom.

The gardens were constructed from 1913 to 1915 as a villa for Teijo Eguchi who would become vice president of the South Manchuria Railway Company. They became a villa for Mitsubishi's Iwasaki family in 1929. In response to a plan to develop the area for other uses, local residents started a movement for the gardens' preservation. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government eventually purchased them in 1974, developing them to be opened up as fee-based gardens.

The gardens' get their name from the former name for the area, Tonogayato of Kokubunji village.

They were designated a cultural asset (scenic spot) by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in 1998 and by the Japanese Government in 2011.

Maples

There are about 200 maple trees planted in the park, and the view of Japanese maple trees and the pond from the Koyo-tei tea house is spectacular. The view is particularly exceptional when the new leaves bud in spring and when they turn color from late November to early December.

Musashino habitat

Located on the south edge of the Kokubunji cliff line, the gardens are formed on a landscape that includes typical stepped hill cliffs. Thus the natural habitat of the Musashino terrace and cliff line is well preserved.

Flowering trees

Flowering trees bloom beautifully, painting the gardens in natural colors. Those include winter sweet and Japanese apricot in early spring, ornamental peach trees in spring, wisteria in early summer, cotton rosemallow and ornamental cotton rosemallow in summer, and a tunnel of Japanese bush clover in autumn.



Changing leaves of autumn

Wild grasses

The rich natural form of Musashino can be seen in the gardens through the various wild flowers in the gardens. Those include shibateranthis pinnatifida that blooms in February, as well as dogtooth violet, soft windflower, chloranthus japonicus, and trillium that color spring, Chionographis japonica and campanula bellflower in early summer, fragrant goldbanded lily, trim false anemone, and orange spider lily in summer, and toad lilies in autumn.

Japanese ternstroemia

The most prevalent trees in the gardens are Japanese ternstroemias, which Koyata Iwasaki is said to be very fond of. About 300 of the trees can be found here.

A moso bamboo forest is also located at the base of the cliff. This provides the scenery with some variation.



Bamboo forest (moso bamboo)

Opened / April 1, 1979 Area / 21,123.59 m² Trees / Tall trees: 2,100, Shrubs: 1,900 m² / Grass: 4,000 m²

Main plants / Japanese red pine, acer palmatum, Japanese bush clover, Japanese ternstroemia, azalea, wisteria, moso bamboo, dogtooth violet, cypripedium japonicum, chloranthus japonicus, soft windflower, macrophylla

Facilities / Gathering hall (Koyo-tei)



View of the administration office from the large lawn



Koyotei viewed from Jiro-benten pond

Spring water and pond

The pond in the gardens is fed by spring water. This famous spring has been called Jiro Bente stream from ages past.

Shishi odoshi

A shishi odosi commonly found in Japanese gardens is located next to the Koyo-tei teahouse. It uses flowing well water to add sound to the atmosphere of the gardens.

