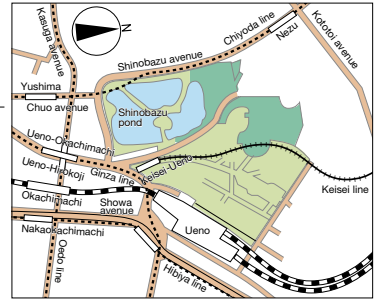


## 05

## Ueno Park

- Location Ueno-Koen, Ikenohata 3-chome, Taito Ward
- Contact Information Ueno Park Administration Office tel: 03-3828-5644 (5-20 Ueno-Koen, Taito-ku 110-0007)
- Transport 2-minute walk from Ueno (JR Yamanote line, Ginza line, Hibiya line).  
5-minute walk from Ueno-Okachimachi (Oedo line). 1-minute walk from Keisei-Ueno (Keisei line).  
Toll parking facilities available.



Ueno Park is one of Japan's first parks. It was established by Cabinet decree in 1873 along with Shiba, Asakusa, Fukagawa, and Asukayama Parks.

This area was once the grounds of Toezan Kaneiji Temple during the Edo era. After the Meiji Restoration, the land became government property. It was eventually donated to Tokyo City by imperial grant after a period under administration by the Imperial Household Ministry.

At first, the park consisted of the Kaneiji Temple mausoleum, Toshogu Shrine, and the cherry trees within the temple ground. The museums and zoo built later transformed it into a park with a more cultural feel.

## Cherry trees

There is a famous haiku poem by Basho Matsuo, "Cloud of blossoms. Is that the bell from Ueno, or Asakusa?" The "cloud of blossoms" is without a doubt the cherry blossoms in full bloom. Ueno's hills became famous for their cherry blossoms in the Kanei era of 1624 to 1644. This was thanks to the priest Tenkai of Kaneiji Temple planting cherry trees at various places around the hills.

Today, there are about 800 cherry trees in the park itself. That figure goes up to around 1,200 trees when including the zoo, Kiyomizu Kanon-do Temple, Toshogu Shrine, and other areas.



Sakura street with cherry blossoms in full bloom

## Suribachiyama

The small hill known as Suribachiyama stands at almost the center of the park, next to the administration office. This is an ancient burial mound from the Yayoi period of early Japan. Many ginkgo, Japanese

zelnkova, and other large trees dot the area around the hill today.

## Lotus

Shinobazu Pond is covered with lotus plants. This is the largest concentration of lotus in all of Tokyo. In July through August, they sprout their great, elegant flowers.



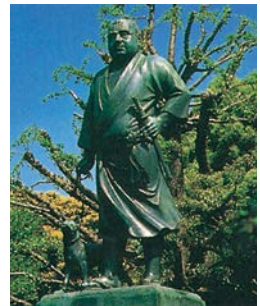
Lotus plants at Shinobazu Pond

## Fountain

Ueno Park's fountain surpasses even the large fountain in Hibiya Park, making it one of the main attractions of the park. Lit up at night, it provides an aspect different from its daytime face.

## Statue of Takamori Saigo

The statue of Takamori Saigo is almost inseparable from the image of the hills of Ueno – so much that it has become a symbol for the park. It is a common destination for sightseers in Tokyo as well as a meeting place in the park.



## Wall fountain

This wall fountain presents the appearance of the Black Gate that was once in this area. The Black Gate was the main gate of Kan'ei-ji Temple. In fact, the fiercest battle in the Battle of Ueno during the Bakumatsu (the end of Tokugawa shogunate) took place near the Black Gate.

## Shiki Masaoka Memorial Baseball Field

The park's baseball field has undergone a major renovation. On August 1, 2006 it was reopened as Shiki Masaoka Memorial Baseball Field, named after the famous haiku poet.

Opened / October 19, 1873 Area / 538,506.96 m<sup>2</sup>

Trees / Tall trees: 8,800, shubs: 24,800m<sup>2</sup>

Main plants / Ginkgo, camphor, Japanese zelkova, cherry (bell-flowered cherry, someiyoshino, yama-zakura, sato-zakura), lotus

Facilities / baseball field / athletic field, boat dock, outdoor stage, children's playground



Note: Details on Ueno Zoological Gardens can be seen on page 145 in the zoos and botanical gardens section.