History

Tama cemetery is a metropolitan cemetery located in the area that spans Fuchu, Tokyo, and Koganei. It is Japan’s first park cemetery, and has become a model of the future of Japanese cemeteries. The area is the largest 1,280,237 square meters for a metropolitan cemetery, and corresponds to 27 Tokyo Dome.

Opened in Tama Village, by the city of Tokyo in 1923 just before the Great Kanto Earthquake.

Originally, in Tokyo city around 1900 (Meiji 33), there were five public cemeteries, Aoyama cemetery, Yanaka cemetery, Somei cemetery, Zoshigaya cemetery, and Kameido cemetery. However, due to the urbanization and population increase of Tokyo City, the cemetery shortage occurred, and construction of a cemetery outside Tokyo City became necessary.

As a result of research on cemeteries in cities in western countries, Kiyoshi Inoshita, who was a Tokyo City Chief of the Park Section, made a plan to create a large park cemetery in the east, west and north of Tokyo in 1919.

Based on this plan, Tama village in the west of Tokyo was chosen in 1920 (Taisho 9), and construction of the Tama cemetery was started two years later. It is said that this place was chosen because the area was almost unspoiled and that the transportation network was in line with the Koshu Kaido Highway, Keio Electric Track, Tama Railway and Chuo Line. And it was opened in 1923 (Taisho 12).

The remaining north and east graveyards in the plan were completed as Kodaira cemetery and Yahashira cemetery, respectively.

Although the service was started, there were not many people who used it, because they were away from the city of Tokyo. However, the name of the Tama cemetery spreads by the fact that Togo Heihachiro, a navy general, was buried in the honorary relics area in 1934 (Showa 9), and the number of users increased significantly after this , became one of the most popular cemetery like today.

The latter part of the Pacific War was also used to conceal and repair Type III fighters, due to the nearby Chofu Airfield. Even now, some facilities have gunshot scars.

Since then the number of users has increased, and since 1963 (Showa 38), there has been no new space, and it is now an invitation for use only at places that have been vacant for reinterment. In addition, urban type that can effectively use land such as green lawn-type cemetery of 1962 (Showa 37), wall type cemetery of 1993 (Heisei 1993), Mitama Hall, a columbarium, has also been introduced.
Nature

<Green and Flower in Tama Cemetery>
The scenery and serenity of the Tama cemetery as a park-cemetery are created by plants. About 30,000 trees grow in the park, including cherry trees (about 1,200) and red pines (about 1,400), which can be called symbol trees, and weave beautiful scenery in each season. In spring, many flowers including cherry blossoms, in spring, many flowers including cherry blossoms, dogwood and rhododendron are blooming. In the summer, you can see hydrangea and salsberg flowers. Autumn is the season of colored leaves. Maple leaves and ginkgo leaves are stained red and yellow to create a large landscape.

<About cherry blossom trees in Tama Cemetery>
The cherry blossom trees in Tama cemetery were planted systematically with the creation of the cemetery. Most of the cherry blossom trees are planted along the walkways, so when spring comes, tunnels of cherry blossoms will be created in various places. The breeds of cherry blossom trees are Somei-yoshino, Yamazakura and Satozakura etc. The length of walkways with cherry blossom trees are about 5 km. The Satozakura cherry blossom trees in Tama cemetery should be said to be children of “five-color cherry blossoms of Arakawa bank”. The cherry blossom trees on the Arakawa bank were about 3,000 trees lined on the bank in 1869 (Meiji 2). The blossoms were white, crimson, yellow, and purple, and they were called five-color cherry blossoms because the clouds of five colors seemed to fly. And it was one of the famous cherry blossom sites in Tokyo. However, five-color cherry blossoms were gradually weakened due to the deterioration of the environment due to the repair work of the Arakawa bank and the surrounding development, and it finally became extinct.

<100 best trees in Fuchu>
In 1988 (Showa 63), seven trees and rows of trees of Tama cemetery.