

Overview

The Shiba Park area including Zojo-ji temple has been a popular spot--along with Kan'ei-ji temple of Ueno--since the Edo Period. In 1893, under the Daijokan Proclamation, which amongst other things delineated the establishment of parks, Shiba Park was named one of Japan's first parks, together with Asakusa Park (Kinryuzan Senso-ji temple), Ueno Park (Tōeizan Kan'ei-ji temple), Fukagawa Park (Tomioka Hachiman-gu shrine), and Asukayama Park. It incorporated the ground of Zojo-ji temple.

Japan's postwar constitution was instituted some time later. Stipulating the separation of church and state, it necessitated the omission of the Zojo-ji premises. The result is the current "loop" style park.

Typical of a historic park, the park features large camphor, zelkova, and ginkgo trees in various places. In addition, at present sports facilities include a baseball field and tennis courts. First equipped with sports facilities in 1935, the Shiba Park is known as the progenitor of sports facilities amongst Tokyo's parks.

This is our legacy!

Japan's first landscape designer: Yasuhei Nagaoka

It is inspiring to remember that the park's current facilities, which include a wading pond, tennis courts, stage, café, and more--all of which are obvious choices today--were first conceived more than 100 years ago by landscape designer Yasuhei Nagaoka. He built the park with the desire to serve area residents and their children. He went on to complete many projects in Tokyo Province (now Tokyo Prefecture), subsequently designing parks, gardens, and more in 26 prefectures. Nagaoka built the foundations of Japanese park designs, paving the way for park formats that remain even to this day: in fact, there can be no discussion of parks and gardens without mentioning his name and the scenes he created in Tokyo. Due to the ravages of the Great Kanto Earthquake and World War II, little remains of the original look of the park: in fact, the Shiba Park maple valley (no. 19) Momojidaki (changing autumn leaves waterfall) is the only such vestige. Keeping man-made alterations to a minimum in order to maintain the original topography, Nagaoka planted trees appropriate to the land to highlight the striking scenery as the seasons changed. His design policy touted "natural" as a key theme. Visit the park and take in the beauty!



Portrait of Yasuhei Nagaoka (Kanekichi Tsuchida)

Source:
Posthumous manuscripts
pertaining to Yasuhei Nagaoka

Park overview

Direct inquiries

Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association
Shiba Park Service Center

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(excludes the end-of-year/New Year holiday)

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Location Shiba Koen 1-chome, 2-chome, 3-chome, 4-chome, Minato-ku

Park open date October 19, 1873

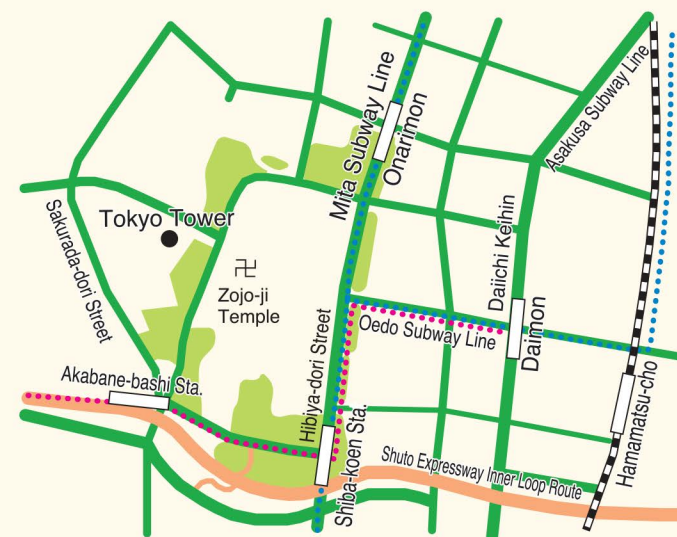
Park area 122,501.09 m²

Major facilities Ino Tadataka cenotaph, Shibamaruyama kofun tomb, Benten Pond, child's peace tower, the "growing child" statue, playground, statue of Commodore Perry, monument to the first Japanese delegation sent to the United States, monument to Ono Banboku, monument marking Chouhakuken, baseball / sports field, tennis courts, physical fitness testing walkway

URL <http://www.tokyo-park.or.jp/>



Access Map



Traffic

- 12 minute walk from JR Hamamatsu-cho Station
- 2 minute walk from Shiba-koen Station, Onari-mon Station, Mita Subway Line
- 5 minute walk from Daimon Station, Asakusa and Oedo Subway Line
- 2 minute walk from Akabanebashi Station, Oedo Subway Line

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