Welcome to Cultural Heritage Gardens

Every Tokyo Metropolitan garden is designated either as cultural heritage of the state or Tokyo, combining history/culture/nature that has continued from the Edo, Meiji and Taisho eras. They are valuable properties that have survived disasters including the Great Kanto Earthquake, war damage, as well as progressing urbanization, and your kind understanding and cooperation is much appreciated in order to allow such important properties to be left to prosper in better conditions.

Request from the garden

- Please refrain from entering with pets, collecting plants and animals from the garden, use of mats and bringing of alcoholic beverages.
- Smoking is allowed only in designated places.
- There are certain places where the taking of photos and sketches are not allowed. This is for the protection of the buildings and the landscapes, and your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
- You may not appreciate some places as cultural heritages may require regular repair works for preservation.

9 Metropolitan Cultural Heritage Gardens

Hama-rikyu Gardens
Kyu Shiba-rikyu Gardens
Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens
Rikugien Gardens
Kyu Iwasaki-ke Gardens
Mokujin-Kyukakuen Gardens
Kiyosumi Gardens
Kyu Furukawa Gardens
Tonogayato Gardens

Retained ravine and valleys in O-edo (Tokyo)

This garden was originally built by the founder of the Mito branch of Tokugawa clan, Yoshiwara as his secondary residence (later upgraded as the main residence) in early stage of the Edo period, in 1629. It was completed as a garden during the reign of the second domain lord, Mitsukuni. Its style is kanuyu-style (circuit style) with ponds and manmade hills centering on the pond. In developing the garden, Mitsukuni invited advisors from Zhu Zhiyu, serving retainer of the Min dynasty. Typical sights in China were reflected as seen by Engetsu-kyo and Seikoro-tsutsumi, and even the garden name was given by Zhu Zhiyu, resulting in a garden full of Chinese tastes and flavor.

The name “Korakuen” was derived from a Chinese text “Gakuyo-ki” by Fan-Zhongyan, meaning “Worry before all worries in the world,” and “enjoy after all enjoyments in the world”.

Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens is designated as the Special Place of Scenic Beauty and Special Historic Site of the country by the Cultural Assets Preservation Act. This double designation is quite rare in the country, limited to Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens, Hama-rikyu Gardens, Kinkakuji Temple, and a few others.

Engetsu-kyo (Full Moon Bridge)
The name was given in light of the reflected shape of the bridge on water surface that appeared like a full moon. It is attributed to designing of Chinese Confucian Zhu Zhiyu, and it is a valuable structure that preserves condition of those days, along with Tokujin-do.

Irises
More or less 600 stocks of Japanese irises fully bloom and extend all around, distinguishing the field view.

Inada (Paddy field)
A field made by Mitsukuni with a motive for teaching hardship of farmers to the wife of his heir, Tsunaeda. At present, primary school children in the local Bunkyo-ward participate in rice planting in May and harvesting in autumn, trying to preserve and succeed the traditional events.

Tokujin-do
When Mitsukuni was 18 years old, he was deeply moved by reading Shiki (Record of Great Historians) “Biographies of Boys and Shuqi”. Wooden figures of Boyi and Shuqi were used to be of Boyi and Shuqi”. The autumnal tints in mid-November distinguish this vermilion-colored bridge.

Seikoro-tsutsumi
This bank was made in resemblance to the bank of Lake Seiko (Xi Hu) in Hangzhou (present Zhejiang province), China. It is believed to have left significant influences to daimyo gardens throughout the country that followed.

Shidare-zakura
This weeping cherry tree of approximately 60 years old produces gorgeous flowers toward the end of March.