

9.National Gardens etc.

The Outer Garden of the Imperial Palace, Shinjuku Gyoen and Kyoto Gyoen were opened to the public as national gardens in 1949. Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery tomb of unknown war dead was established in 1959.

National Gardens and National Cemetery

Outer Garden of the Imperial Palace



This Garden covers 115.1 ha, including the Palace Plaza, Kitanomaru Area, and 12 moats surrounding the Imperial Palace. The Palace Plaza maintains a beauty and tranquility befitting the fore garden of the Palace with 2,000 pine trees, lawn and moats. Some 450,000 tons of water in the moats are purified through a filtration system. Wadakura Fountain Park combines fountains and waterfalls of various size for an arranged water display. Kitanomaru Area has been managed as a forest park with some 130,000 trees of 175 species.

Shinjuku Gyoen

This is a representative garden of the Meiji era, and is a fine example of western-style gardens in Japan. The 58.3 ha site contains 20,000 trees, including 1,300 cherry trees, for people to enjoy varied scenery through the four seasons. A greenhouse in the garden exhibits tropical plants. Chrysanthemums grown following the Imperial Family tradition are exhibited every November. The information center, which explains the Garden and its natural environment, offers the public conservation education and facilitates for contact with nature.



Kyoto Gyoen



This Imperial Garden (63.3 ha) is located in the center of Kyoto city, surrounding the Kyoto Imperial Palace and Sento Imperial Palace, where more than 200 houses of princes and nobles once stood. Historic remnants of old buildings, such as Hamaguri Gomon and "Shusuitei", a Kujo Family second home remains in the Garden. A "Forest for Mothers and Children" and a "Dragonfly Pond" have been created; these are frequently used for nature observation and other events.

Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery

This cemetery houses the tomb of the unknown war dead from the Second World War. As of May 2005, 352,926 people had been laid to rest in Rokkakudo House. Memorial services are held by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare every spring, and other memorial services are held under the sponsorship of various groups throughout the year. Trees are densely leafed in this 1.6 ha cemetery, creating a calm and solemn atmosphere befitting its role.

