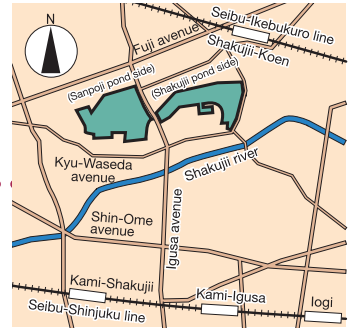


Abundant nature surrounding Sanpoji Pond

Shakujii Park



- Location** ● Shakujiidai 1/2-chome, Shakujii-machi 5-chome, Nerima Ward
Contact information ● Shakujii Park Administration Office tel: 03-3996-3950 (1-26-1 Shakujiidai, Nerima-ku 177-0045)
Transport ● 7-minute walk from Shakujii-Koen (Seibu-Ikebukuro line).
 Sanpoji-Ike bus stop for Nagakubo from Kami-Igusa (Seibu-Shinjuku line).
 Shakujii-Koen bus stop for Shakujii-Koen from Kami-Igusa (Seibu-Shinjuku line).
 Toll parking facilities available (24 hours).



Centered on Sanpoji and Shakujii Ponds, the park with its rolling landscape retains much of the nature of Musashino. Tranquil Sanpoji Pond is surrounded by trees, and Shakujii Pond is alive with rowboats. The park also houses the ruins of Shakujii Castle and related artifacts.

The park and surrounding area are designated scenic areas. That way, environment and scenery can be preserved.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Opened | March 11, 1959 |
| Area | 223,785.57 m ² |
| Trees | Tall trees: 7,500, shrubs: 32,200 m ² |
| Main plants | Acer palmatum, sawtooth oak, Japanese zelkova, cherry (someiyoshino, yama-zakura), Chinese evergreen oak, alder, metasequoia, bald cypress, Japanese water iris, cow lily, water lily, lizard's tail |
| Facilities: | Baseball field, outdoor stage, boat dock, shops, tennis court |

Sanpoji Pond ● This is one of the top three spring-fed ponds in the Musashino area. It is said to have never dried up in the Edo era, no matter how hot it got. Until around the 1950s, it was known to never freeze even in the coldest of winters. However, the once-abundant spring water can no longer be seen due to the change in environment with the urbanization of the surrounding area. So, today, well water is pumped into the pond.

The pond surrounded by trees remains as beautiful as ever in all the four seasons. And the boardwalk along the banks of the pond is great for nature viewing or just for a stroll.

Marsh plant colonies ● Marsh and stream vegetation growing on the floating island in Sanpoji Pond was designated a national natural treasure in December 1935. Those include plants that were here even in the ice age such as bogbean, Japanese water iris, and cow lily. While there was once about 50 species of plants, the types and numbers have decreased with the change in environment.

Today, work is ongoing to restore the vegetation to its original

state. Efforts include cutting large aquatic plants and promoting the growth of Japanese water iris. Those aquatic plants can be seen from the observation garden on the shore of the pond.



Sanpoji Pond and Itsukushima Shrine

Flowers and birds ● The park has approximately 170 someiyoshino and 70 yama-zakura cherry trees along with 140 kobushi magnolias that bloom with beautiful flowers according to the season. Japanese water iris and water lily flowers color the surface of the pond.

When winter comes, so do birds such as pintails, teals, mallards, and tufted ducks. Spotbills and little grebes, Spotbills, little grebes, and common moorhens can be observed year-round. In addition to waterfowl, a number of other birds can also be observed. Those include kingfishers, buntings, nightingales, and herons.



Sanpoji Park and middle island

Bird watching

Woods to entice birds built on the terrace to the west of Sanpoji Pond and on the pond itself are visited by a number of birds. Oriental turtle doves, brown-eared bulbuls, great tits, blackfaced buntings, nightingales, brown-headed thrushes, pale thrushes, white's thrushes, and other birds can be observed there.

Moorhens and little grebes breed around the pond. Pintails, teals, mallards, and tufted ducks visit in the winter.

Runis of Shakuji Castle ● The residential castle of Yasutsune Toshima who lorded over the Shakuji district at the end of the Kamakura era sits on the terrace south of Sanpoji Pond. It is a flatland castle that makes use of natural formations such as the pond and river. The castle fell when Yasutsune lost to Dokan Ota in battle in 1477. Today, only part of the moat and earthen walls remain; nothing like its original form. Access is normally restricted to preserve the cultural asset.

Lord and princess mounds ● Pursued by Dokan's army, Yasutsune drowned himself in Sanpoji Pond astride a white horse bearing the family treasure of a golden saddle. His grief-stricken daughter princess Teruhime followed after him. The mounds remain today to tell the legend of the end of the Toshima family.

Shakuji Pond ● A waterway once drew water from Sanpoji Pond to irrigate agricultural

fields. That was blocked in 1933, and a pond was formed. The pond has an open, lively atmosphere where one can row a boat while watching the seasonal flowers.



Sanpoji Pond and Japanese water iris

