

Park memorial to earthquake and war disasters

# Yokoamicho Park



**Location** ● Yokoami 2-chome, Sumida Ward  
**Contact Information** ● Yokoamicho Park Administration Office tel: 03-3622-1208 (2-3-25 Yokoami, Sumida-ku 130-0015)  
**Transport** ● 10-minute walk from Ryogoku (JR Sobu line). 10-minute walk from Kuramae (Asakusa line). 7-minute walk from Ryogoku (Oedo line).



This park houses the Tokyo Metropolitan Memorial Hall and Tokyo Metropolitan Great Kanto Earthquake Memorial Museum. Both of those tell of the history of this park.

Tokyo City purchased the site of a military clothing depot in 1922 after its functions were moved to a different location and proceeded with development of a park. The Great Kanto Earthquake struck on September 1 of the following year during that development. When nearby residents evacuated to this site, fire spread through the possessions they brought with them, resulting in many being burned to death.

In memory of those who lost their lives and to commemorate the great work to reconstruct Tokyo, the city built the Tokyo Metropolitan Memorial Hall and Tokyo Metropolitan Great Kanto Earthquake Memorial Museum.

<b>Opened</b>	September 1, 1930
<b>Area</b>	19,579.53 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Trees</b>	Tall trees: 970, Shrubs: 880 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Main plants</b>	Ginkgo, cherry (someiyoshino), castanopsis, sweet-scented oleander, camellia
<b>Events</b>	Memorial service (Every March 10 and September 1), Chrysanthemum show

**Tokyo Metropolitan Memorial Hall** ● In 1930, the Earthquake Disaster Memorial Hall was built to house the ashes of 58,000 people who died in the Great Kanto Earthquake. It later provided the final resting place for those who died in the Tokyo air raids (March 10, 1945) and could not be identified. The name was thus changed in 1951 to the present Tokyo Memorial Hall. Today, the ashes of approximately 162,600 people rest here.

**Tokyo Metropolitan Great Kanto Earthquake Memorial Museum** ● This museum was built in 1931 to show a record of the earthquake to future generations and to commemorate the tremendous reconstruction efforts. Inside are artifacts from the earthquake and pictures, photographs, diagrams, and other materials that present the situation at the time. Outside, steel goods warped from the heat of the fires and other items are on display.



Front of the Tokyo Memorial Hall

**Memorial Japanese Garden** ● The reason for so many deaths at the clothing depot site was that the park was still being developed, and there was not much greenery yet. On the other hand, Japanese gardens in Tokyo with paths around woods and springs were highly effective for disaster prevention and evacuation. Lessons learned from that provided motivation for projects for the greening of Tokyo. So those lessons are not forgotten, a Japanese garden was constructed in the park. A memorial to Koreans who were killed in the chaos of the earthquake also stands in a corner of the garden.

