

## History

Tradition says that about 400-500 years ago, a powerful clan called "Shirokane Choja" built a mansion here, which was fortified by walls made of piled up earth. The earthworks found in the Institute are believed to be the remains of these old walls.

In the early Edo period (1664), it became one of the residences of the Matsudaira family, relative of the Tokugawa Shogunate. A pond now called "Hyotan-ike Pond" and a private garden was developed in this period. In the Meiji period (1868-1912), former army and navy forces used this area as a powder magazine.

This site was taken over by the Ministry of Education (former title) in 1949, after more than 30 years as an Imperial Estate. It was designated as a "natural monument and historic site", and opened to the public as a natural-education park.



Fabled Pine

Old, big pine tree thought to have been among the trees grew in Matsudaira's garden.

## Information

### ◆ Opening Hours

Sep. 1 to Apr. 30: 9:00AM to 4:30PM (last entry 4:00PM)

May 1 to Aug. 31: 9:00AM to 5:00PM (last entry 4:00PM)

### ◆ Days Closed

Every Monday (Tuesday when holiday falls on Monday)

The day after a national holiday  
(except Saturday and Sunday)

Year-end/New Year holidays (Dec. 28 to Jan. 4)

\*The Institute may be open on some of the days above on certain occasions.

### ◆ Admission

Adults and University students: 310 yen

High-school students and younger: Free

\*Seniors (65 and over) with ID are admitted free.

## Rules and Regulations

To ensure the appropriate environment in the Institute for Nature Study, the following acts are prohibited by Institute regulations:



Picking plants and catching insects or animals



Bringing in outside plants and animals including pets



Jogging and playing sports



Drinking alcohol



Singing and playing musical instruments



Smoking

### Aquatic Plant Garden



### Access

◆ 9 minutes walk from Meguro Station on JR line and Tokyu Meguro line

◆ 7 minutes walk from Shirokanedai Station on Tokyo Metro Namboku line and Toei Mita line

### Institute for Nature Study

5-21-5, Shirokanedai,  
Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0071  
Tel: +81-(0)3-3441-7176  
<http://www.ins.kahaku.go.jp/english/>



# INSTITUTE FOR NATURE STUDY

National Museum of Nature and Science

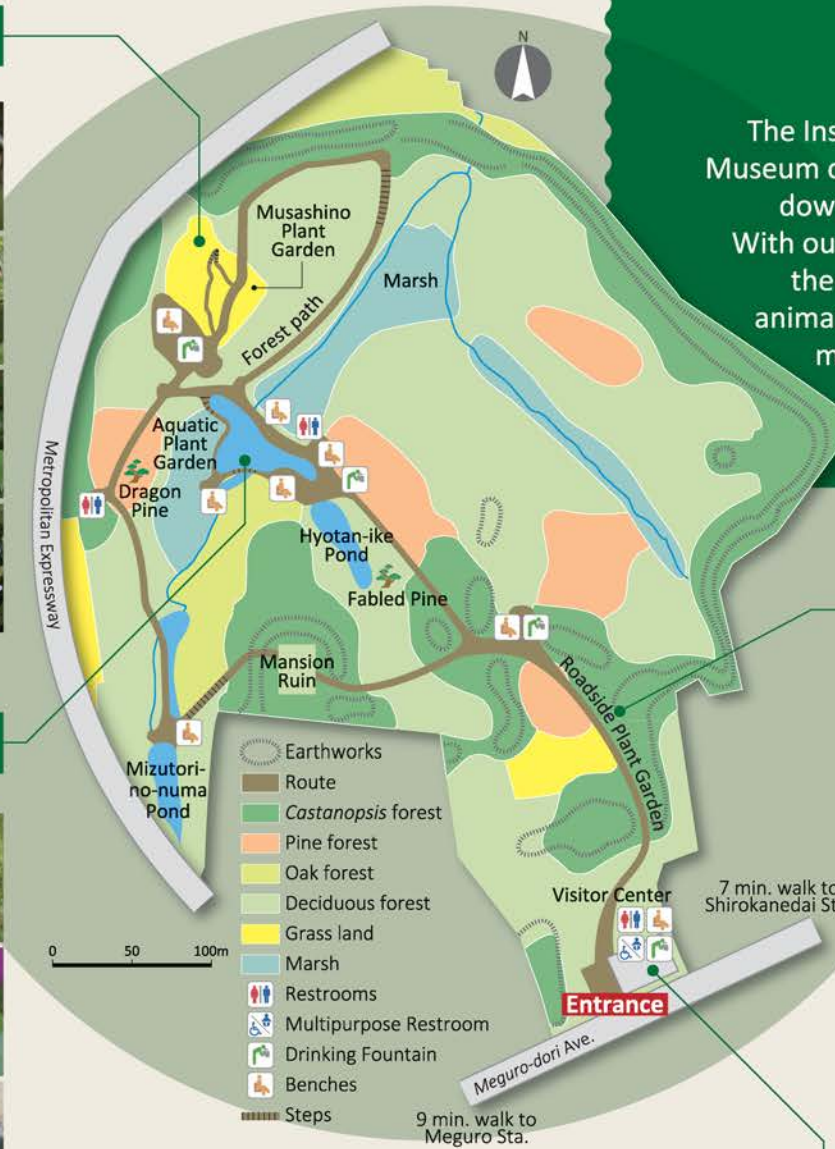


国立科学博物館  
National Museum of Nature and Science

## Musashino Plant Garden



## Aquatic Plant Garden



# Overview

The Institute for Nature Study is a branch of the National Museum of Nature and Science. It is located in the center of downtown Tokyo, and occupies an area of 200,000m<sup>2</sup>. With our persistent effort to protect their original habitat, the Institute has preserved a sanctuary for plants and animals which have rarely been observed in the heart of metropolitan Tokyo. We hope for the visitors to get close to nature and appreciate its diversity in our Institute for Nature Study.

## Roadside Plant Garden



Earthworks and Mansion Ruin



Hyotan-ike Pond



## Visitor Center

Exhibition provides visitors with general view of nature in the Institute for Nature Study. Museum shop, beverage vending machine, coin lockers and lecture rooms are also available.