

●Shinagawa Historical Museum Explanatory Sheet

The Garden of the Shinagawa Historical Museum



▲ The Shinagawa Historical Museum Garden



▲ The Shotekian Teahouse

The garden of the Shinagawa Historical Museum is based upon the garden of Yasuda Zensuke's residence built in around 1926. The grassy lawn garden has several facilities, such as the Shotekian Teahouse*, a pond, and the remains of a pit-house. The garden also offers beauty throughout the year with trees and flowers, such as plum trees, Oshima-zakura cherry blossom trees, Sato-zakura cherry blossom trees, dogwoods, Japanese black pines, maple trees, *mokkoku* (*Ternstroemia japonica*), lily of the valley bush, and camellia. Strolling the garden allows you a peaceful moment to enjoy the bounty of the four season's right in the center of the city.

* A teahouse is a building dedicated to hosting tea ceremonies. The *sado* tea ceremony is an essential element of Japanese culture that began in around the Muromachi Period. The codified process of preparing, serving, and drinking the tea calms the spirit and offers a rigorous training in manners.



▲ Oshima-zakura Cherry Blossoms

The *Suikinkutsu* (Water-drop Sounder)

The *suikinkutsu* is a garden adornment that allows you to enjoy the pleasant reverberations of water dripping from a hole at the bottom the mouth of an overturned buried pot into a cavernous space. The cistern-like space beneath the opening to the *suikinkutsu* is specially arranged to accentuate the echoes of the water by using rocks and pebbles. The sounds of the water falling within the *suikinkutsu* reach the surface as faint vibrations in the air. A hand-washing bowl is placed near the *suikinkutsu* to allow just the right amount of water to fall into the cistern as people wash their hands, allowing them to enjoy a water-dropping sound akin to the koto instrument.

A *suikinkutsu* can be found within the Museum garden. If you pour water along the mouth of the cistern, you will hear its unique soft vibrations. Or place your ear on the bamboo pole to catch the delicate sounds. A model *suikinkutsu* is also located in the museum. Pushing a button allows you to enjoy the same pleasant sounds. Please don't miss the chance to enjoy the sounds of the *suikinkutsu*.



◀ The *suinkutsu*

▼ Diagram of the *suinkutsu*

