



Karasakinomatsu Pine

This majestic pine tree is one of the best-known trees in the garden. The 13th lord Nariyasu obtained the seed from Karasaki, near Lake Biwa, and it has grown from that seed to its present size. On November 1st, gardeners begin setting up yukizuri to protect the branches from heavy snow. The ropes on the trees are a winter sight that is characteristic of Kanazawa.



Kenrokuen-kikuzakura Cherry Tree (Kenrokuen Chrysanthemum Cherry Tree)

Each blossom has more than 300 petals, just like a chrysanthemum.



Winding Streams(Kyokusui)

The abundant water running through the garden is taken in from the Tatsumi Water System, which the 3rd lord Toshitsune ordered Hyoshiro Itaya to make for extinguishing fires after the big fire in 1631. There are cherry trees on both sides of the streams, and visitors can enjoy their full blossoms in April, along with the fresh green of irises.



Ishikawamon Gate (Back gate to Kanazawa Castel)

Built in 1788, this gate, along with the Sanjikken Nagaya storehouse, is one of the few remaining original structures. It has been designated as a National Important Cultural Property. The shiny white roof is covered with lead tiles.



Yugaotei

The oldest building in the garden, built in 1774 for performing the tea ceremony. The name comes from Yugao(Archaic word of gourd) openwork on the wing wall between the tea room and the waiting room.

Shiguretei Tea House

The house was originally constructed as a rest house called Renchiochin when the 5th lord Tsunanori started construction of the garden. It was relocated by the 6th lord Yoshinori in front of the present fountain and named Shiguretei. The house was reconstructed at its present location in 2000 as a tea house.



Hanamibashi (Flower-viewing)Bridge

Beautiful flowers, especially cherry blossoms, Japanese azaleas and irises can be seen from this bridge.

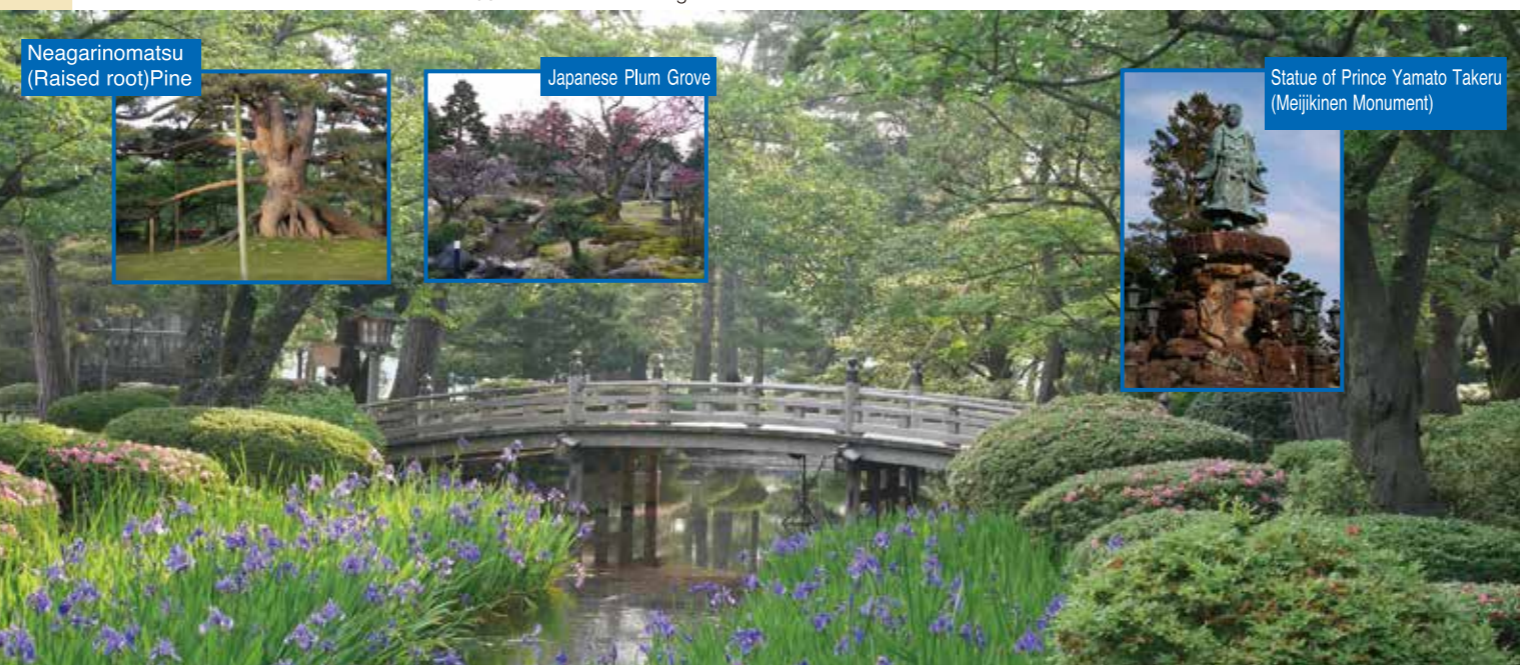
Fountain(Funsui)

This is the oldest fountain in Japan. Its water comes from Kasumigaiké Pond, and it works by natural pressure caused by the difference in the levels of the two ponds. Normally the fountain is 3.5m high, but its height changes depending on the surface level of Kasumigaiké Pond. The fountain is said to have been developed as a model for the construction of a fountain that was in the castle in 1861.



Gankobashi(Flying Wild Geese)Bridge

This bridge is made of eleven red tomuro stones (andesite)laid out to look like wild geese flying in formation. It is also called "Kikkobashi(Tortoiseshell) Bridge" because of the shape of each stepping-stone.



Neagarinomatsu (Raised root)Pine



Japanese Plum Grove



Statue of Prince Yamato Takeru (Meijikinen Monument)



Garden Designated as a Cultural Property and National Site of Special Scenic Beauty



Kenrokuen Garden



Kotojitoro lantern in autumn colors

Kanazawa Castle Park & Kenrokuen Garden Management Office

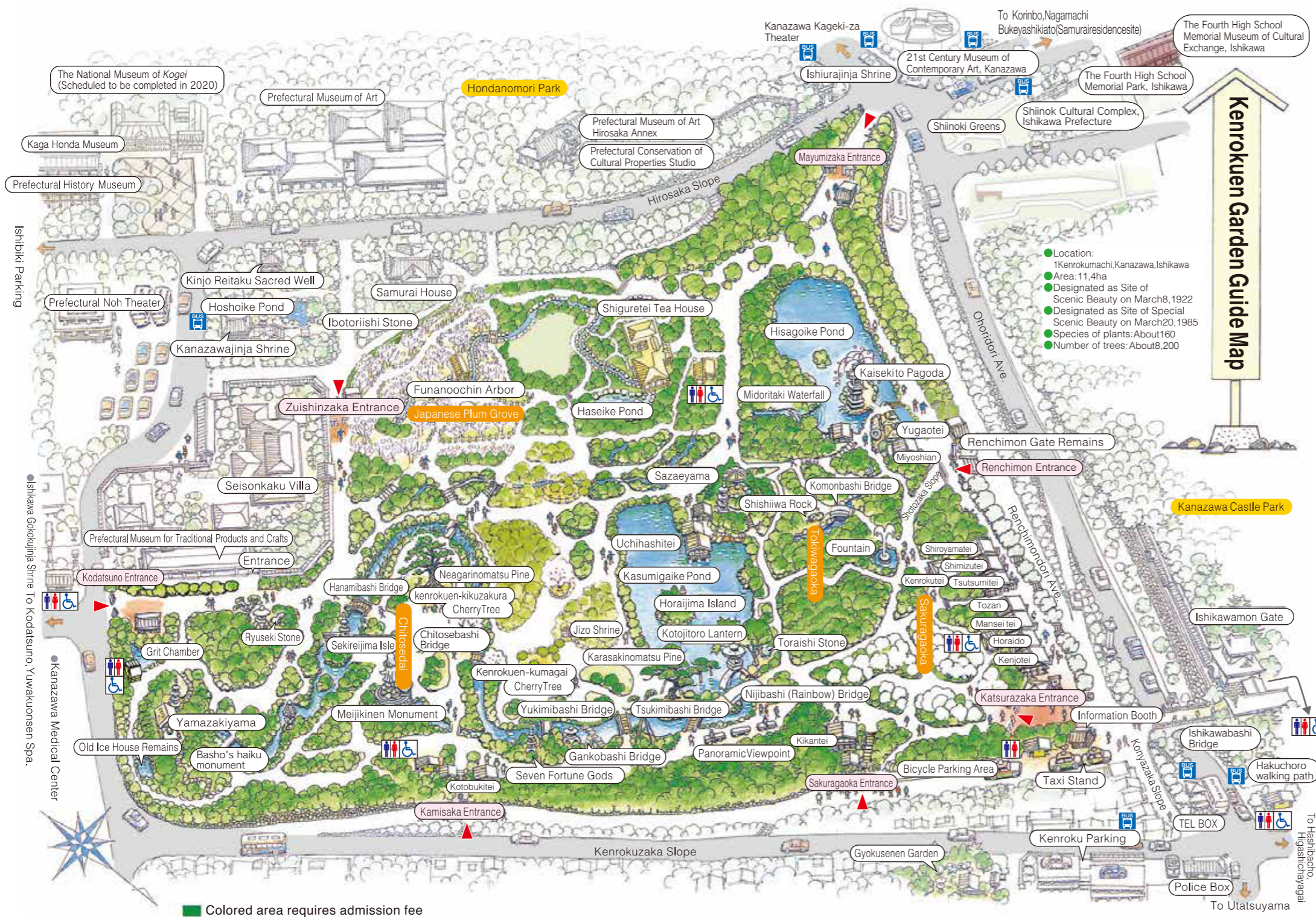
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History

Kenrokuen is a strolling-style landscape garden with the characteristics of a typical landscape garden of the Edo period (1603~1868). Originally the outer garden of Kanazawa Castle, it was located on the slope facing the castle. In 1676, the fifth lord Maeda Tsunanori moved the garden house to the castle. He built a rest house called "Renchi-ochin" and started to landscape a garden called "Renchi-tei" in the surrounding area.

However, the rest house and garden burned down in 1759. The 11th lord Harunaga restored the garden with the creation of Midori-taki Waterfall and the construction of Yugaotei Tea House in 1774. In 1822, the 12th lord Narinaga constructed the gorgeous Takezawa Villa on Chitosedai Plateau to the southeast of the castle, even though seven retainers' houses and the clan school were located there. He developed the garden by creating winding streams with water from Tatsumi Waterway, and building stone bridges over them. In the year of the completion of Takezawa Villa, the garden was named after a garden combining the six attributes of a perfect landscape garden: spaciousness, seclusion, artifice, antiquity, watercourses and panoramas. The name derives from a gardening book written by Li Gefe, a famous Chinese poet. Lord Narinaga died two years after the completion of Takezawa Villa. On the site where the villa was subsequently destroyed, the 13th lord Nariyasu expanded Kasumiga-ike Pond and added some winding streams that harmonized with Renchi-tei Garden. The basic structure of the present spacious strolling-style landscape garden was thus completed. On May 7, 1874, when the domain system was abolished, Kenrokuen Garden was opened to the public. The garden was designated as a National Site of Scenic Beauty on March 8, 1922 and as a National Site of Special Scenic Beauty on March 20, 1985.



Opening Hours (year-round):
 7:00 a.m.~ 6:00 p.m. (Mar. 1 ~ Oct. 15)
 8:00 a.m.~ 5:00 p.m. (Oct. 16 ~ end of Feb.)
 Admission Fee : Adult ¥320, Child ¥100 (6 ~ 17 years old)
 Group of 30 or more people: Adult ¥250, Child ¥80

Colored area requires admission fee