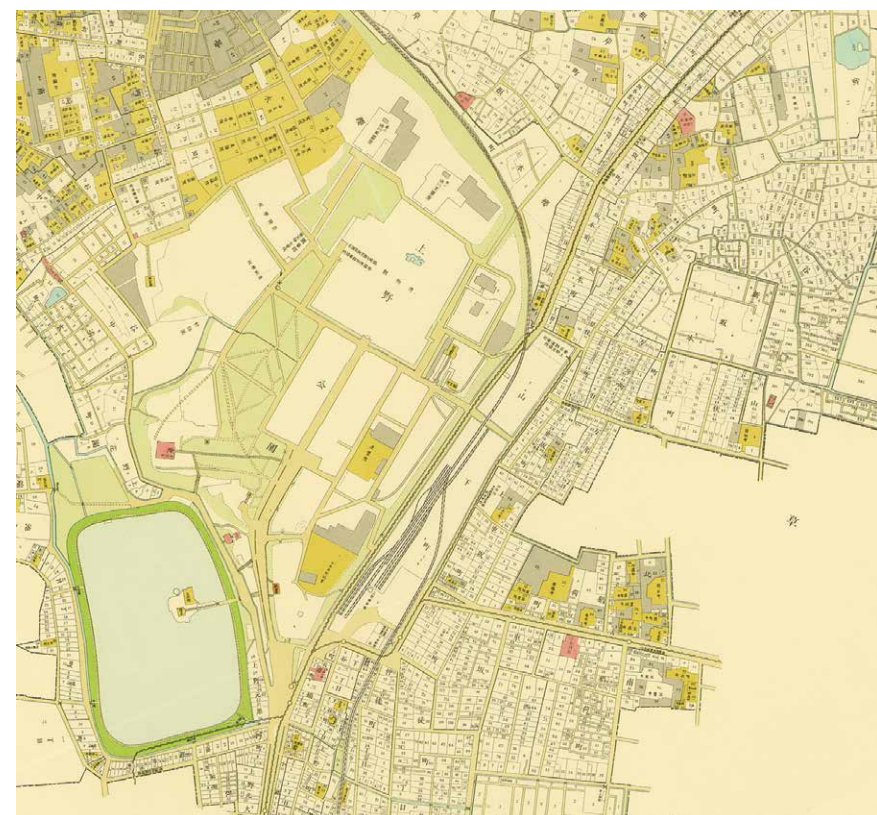


# 07 The birth of city parks

There were no parks in the Edo period, and in place of them, shrine and temple grounds and expansive pedestrian spaces served as places providing relaxation and enjoyment to the residents. Entering the Meiji era, the government conceived plans to introduce facilities called “parks” that cities in the West had. In 1873, the *Dajokan* (Grand Council of State) issued an administrative order for the grounds of former temples and shrines to be turned into parks. This led to the birth of parks in Asakusa, Ueno, Shiba, Fukagawa and Asukayama.

The use of former shrine and temple grounds was the premise for creation of parks under this order, and so this was not done in

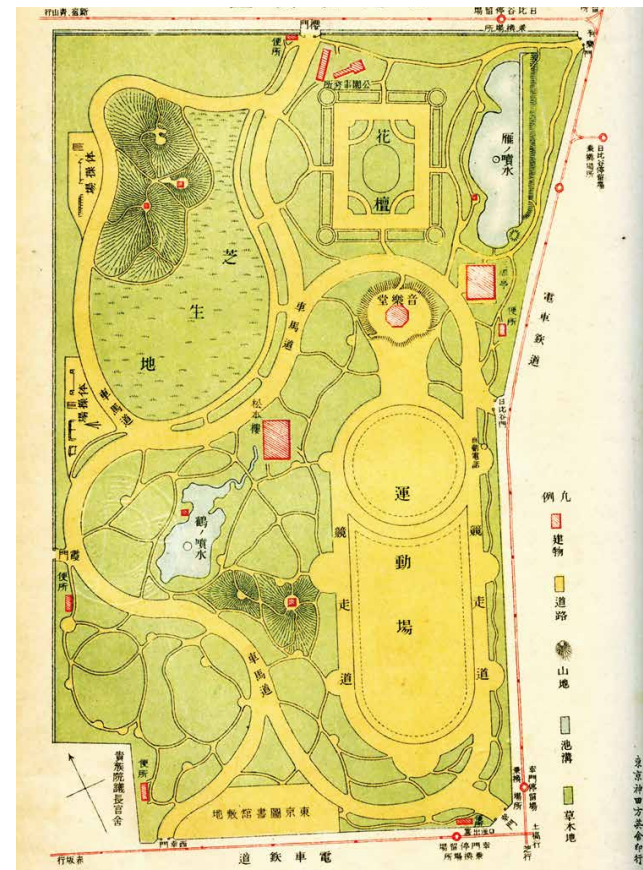
connection with urban redevelopment. The building of parks as a part of urban redevelopment was studied with the enactment of the Tokyo City Planning Ordinance in 1888, and although the building of parks in 49 locations was scheduled in the Tokyo City Plan of 1889, this was reduced to 22 locations in the Tokyo City Plan (new plan) of 1903. Amid such circumstances, Hibiya Park, which was scheduled in the Tokyo City Plan, was built with the aim to be a modern park that the citizens can stroll through. This symbol of Japan’s contemporary parks opened in 1903 as Japan’s first Western-style park.



**Ueno Park**  
Ueno Park was built on Ueno hill, which was the grounds of Kaneiji Temple in the Edo period. It was devastated as it served as the battlefield for the Boshin War from 1868 to 1869, but it soon became a lively place with nearly 150 tea houses. Later, in 1876, it opened as Ueno Park and became one of the sources for introduction of new Western culture, such as serving as the site for the National Industrial Exhibition in 1877. Source: “Tokyo 15 kubun, Shitaya-ku,” Kochizu Library.



**Ueno Seiyoken in the Meiji era**  
From “Album of Tokio by the Phototypie” from the collection of the National Diet Library. Encouraged by Tomomi Iwakura, who returned from an inspection tour of the West, with the opening of Ueno Park, Ueno Seiyoken opened in the park in 1876 as a place for dining and social interaction. Ueno Seiyoken flourished as a symbol of Westernization.

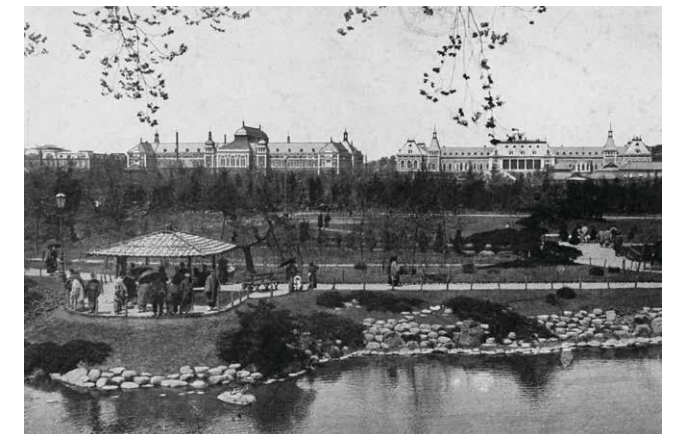


**Overall map of Hibiya Park**  
Source: *Tokyo Annai* (Tokyo Guide). From the collection of the National Diet Library.

**Hibiya Park**  
The design proposal for Hibiya Park was prepared by Seiroku Honda. Constructed on the former site of the parade ground that moved to Aoyama in 1888, the park opened in 1903 as the first modern park in Japan that was developed from scratch.



**Hibiya Park Music Pavilion**  
1909. From “The Century Album of Tokyo Views, Japan” from the collection of the National Diet Library.



**Hibiya Park**  
From “Scenes in the Eastern Capital of Japan” from the collection of the National Diet Library.



## Exhibition in Ueno

● From August 21 to November 30, 1877, the first National Industrial Exhibition was held in Ueno Park. Under the government’s policy to encourage new industry, the Ministry of Home Affairs was the central player in this exhibition, which aimed to encourage agriculture, commerce and industry, and promote local products from all corners of Japan. Products from around Japan were classified into the six groups of

mining and metallurgy, manufactured goods, fine art, machinery, agriculture, and horticulture, and exhibited at a different exhibition hall for each group. The National Industrial Exhibition was held for the first three times in Ueno Park (the second and third times were held in 1881 and 1890, respectively), the fourth time in Okazaki, Kyoto City in 1895, and the fifth time in Tennoji, Osaka in 1903.



**National Industrial Exhibition in Ueno Park**  
*Ueno Koenchi Naikoku Kangyo Hakurankai kaijo no zu* (Map of National Industrial Exhibition in Ueno Park.) From the collection of the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library.