

Tamamo Pond is a small, often overlooked jewel within Shinjuku Gyoen. This area is a part of a much larger Japanese garden originally owned by Naito Kiyonari (1555–1608), an important vassal of the shogun. The garden is a microcosm of all the most typical features of a Japanese garden. The Okido Rest House offers a wonderful view over the gardens, and walking around the garden reveals new vistas to be enjoyed. The pond is surrounded by deep forest, which includes a very rare *sakura* cherry tree. The pond was originally created in the 1700s and used surplus water from the Tamagawa Aquaduct. Looking at the lake with its tiny island today, this historic garden reminds us of the love of nature and the peacefulness that was prized so highly centuries ago.