

Establishment as National Garden and Foundation of Environment Agency

After World War II, the grounds of the Kyoto Imperial Palace came under the control of the national government. In December 1947, the Cabinet decided that the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare would manage the Kyoto Imperial Palace site, Shinjuku Gyoen, and Kokyo Gaien as National Gardens. The garden now appears less like an Imperial Palace garden and more like a public recreational facility, with amenities such as sports fields, children's play areas, drinking fountains and public restrooms.

Tennis courts, circa 1950

Nakadachiuri parking lot, May 1950

Children's park, circa 1953

Nature-watching gathering

Children playing in a Demizu stream

When the Environment Agency was created in 1971, it took over responsibility for the National Gardens from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. Nature-watching gatherings grew in popularity around this time, reflecting the increasing interest of the public in learning about the local flora and fauna.