

## **Towering Katsura trees**

Look out for Katsura trees while exploring the park. These are deciduous flowering trees native to Japan and China, and sometimes grow as tall as 60 feet.

Katsura stems grow as suckers around the base of an older trunk. As these stems develop into trunks themselves, they form a rough ring around the older tree. Therefore, even if the main trunk breaks, the tree as a whole continues to renew and grow. In spring, the tree's buds are a vivid magenta before turning into green leaves in the summer. The leaves transition to yellow in autumn, when they emit a sweet, distinctive fragrance after falling. The scent is sometimes compared to caramel, cotton candy, and even brown sugar.

Katsura trees are abundant on the Wakoto Peninsula. The trees, along with other interesting flora that grows along the shore of Lake Kussharo, can be seen on the Wakoto Nature Trail.