

### Origins of Onuma Pond

Onuma Pond, the gateway to Hachimantai, is at an elevation of 944 meters above sea level, and is nearly 200 meters in diameter. It is not clear how the pond originated.

Some believe that the nearly circular pond—like Hachimannuma Pond, Gama Pond, and many other lakes and ponds in the Hachimantai area—is the result of volcanic activity. Others, pointing out the pond’s proximity to a fault line, believe that it could be a tectonic fault lake created by water filling the depression around a fault. (Figure 1)

Over the years, Onuma Pond has gradually changed, shrinking due to increased sediment and expansion of the surrounding wetlands. (Figure 2)

Along the trail encircling the pond, tall reeds grow in thickets, and clusters of East Asian yellow waterlilies bloom in summer. A variety of vegetation, including forests of beech and Maries’ fir, as well as the insects, birds, and other wildlife that inhabit them, can be observed.

Be sure to take your time exploring the Onuma Pond area, which illustrates how a wetland ecosystem changes over time.