

SETAGAYA

Baji Koen

Equestrian Park
Area Guide

ENGLISH

MAP
INSIDE



Foreword

Located in Setagaya, Tokyo, “Baji Koen,” meaning Equestrian Park, is the host venue of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games equestrian competitions. In light of the Games, this guidebook aims to rediscover the charms of the Park’s neighboring areas.

For the purpose of this guidebook, the Equestrian Park area refers to the neighborhoods surrounding the Park and its nearest five stations: Chitose-Funabashi, Kyodo, Kamimachi, Sakura-shimmachi, and Yōga Stations.

We hope that this guide will help you further enjoy the area’s streets, landscapes, and attractions, both past and present, while also sparking conversations with Setagaya locals.

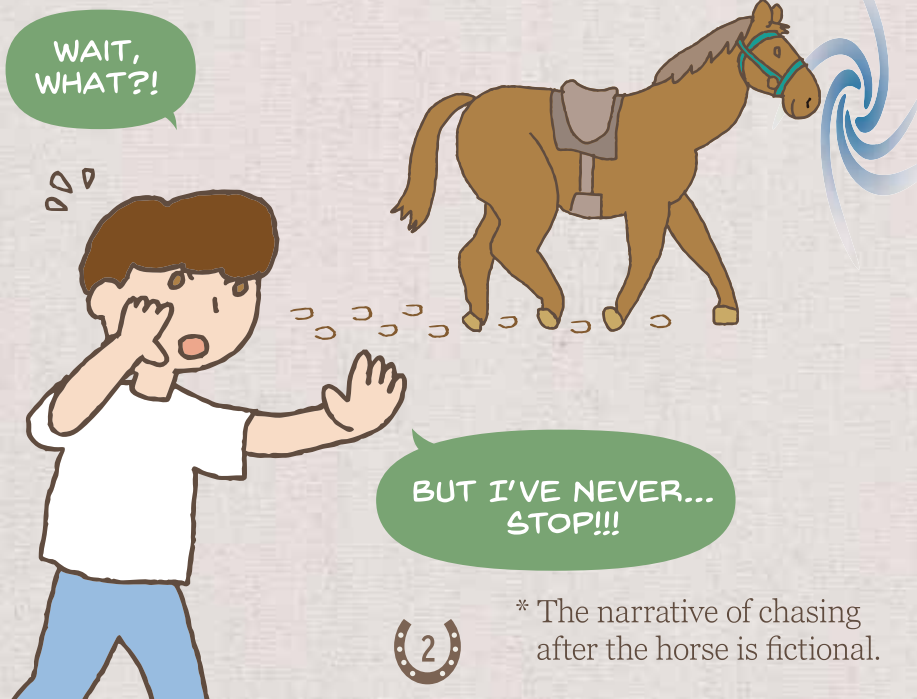


AS ALWAYS,
IT FEELS GOOD
TO BE WALKING
THROUGH KEYAKI
SQUARE!

Hey! Can you
catch that horse?!

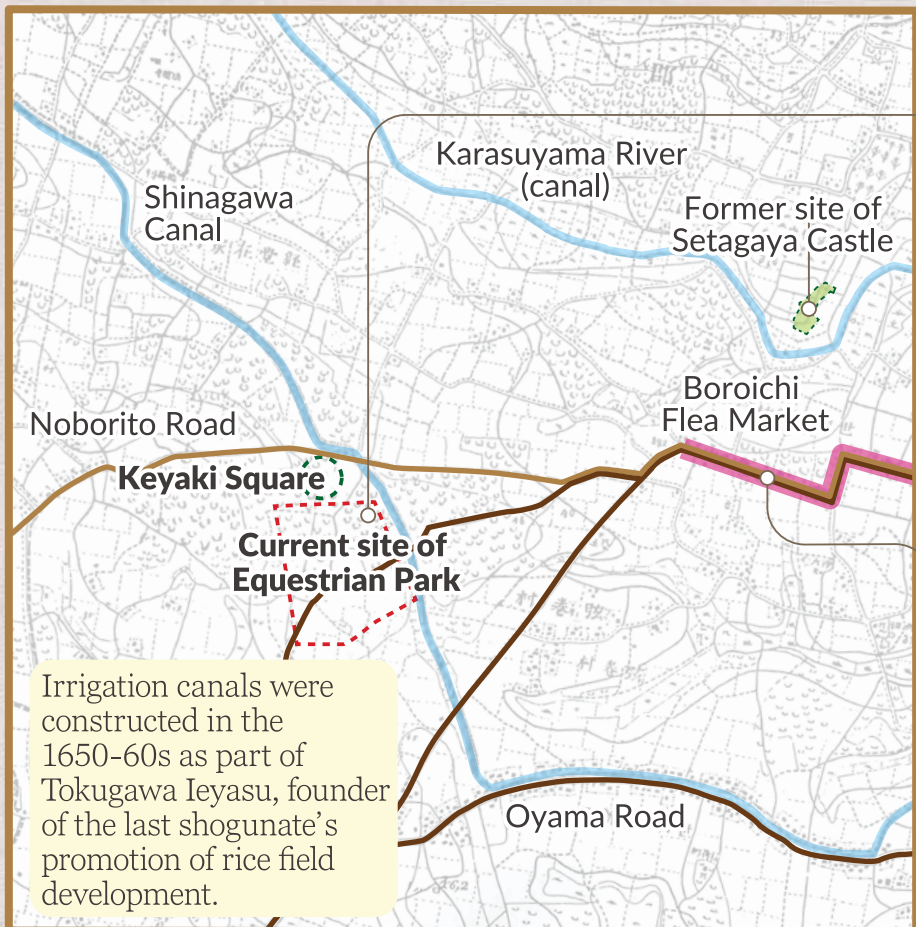
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History of Equestrian Park area

Before early Meiji era (-1880s)



1881 map of Equestrian Park area

WHERE AM I?

LOOKS LIKE I'VE COME TO A STRANGE PLACE...

WHAT A LUSH

WOW, THAT MUST BE FARMLAND BEYOND THE FOREST!

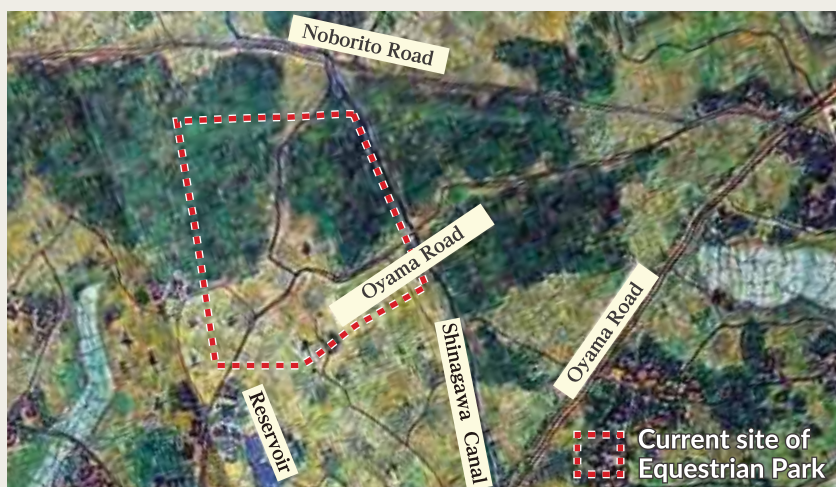
I DON'T RECALL IT BEING LIKE THIS...

HURRAY IT'S THE MARKET!

I WONDER IF IT'S THE SAME MARKET AS THE **BOROICHI**, HELD IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY. I SEE A FEW HORSES BUT NONE OF THEM SEEM TO BE THE ONE THAT RAN AWAY.



The Equestrian Park area was predominantly forest and farmland



Source: Setagaya Dorakukai. Setagaya Oyama Road Area from a Bird-eye's View.

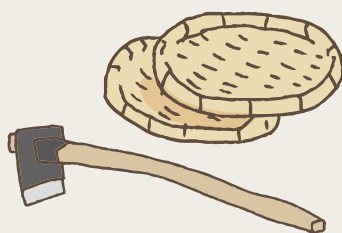
A bird's-eye view drawing of the Oyama Road dating back to the late Edo era shows that the current Park was forested in a primarily agricultural area.

The Equestrian Park area is located in the southern section of the Musashino Plateau and generally had poor water access in the early days. Therefore, rice fields were limited to areas near the canal, and most of the land was used as agricultural fields to supply fresh vegetables to Edo (current Tokyo).

Many farmers may have walked on the Noborito and Oyama Roads towards the city at dawn to deliver produce. Up until the late 1880s when Tokyo's population increased drastically, many people continued this rural lifestyle.

Boroichi, a flea market that started over 400 years ago

In 1578, the feudal lord Hojo Ujimasa founded the post-town of Setagaya Shinjuku. After the Hojo clan was destroyed, it became a market where agricultural tools and other goods were traded. The name Boroichi, meaning “rag market,” originates from when rags were sold for making patched clothes in the late 1890s after the Sino-Japanese War.



Traditional agricultural tools