

# Stories behind Equestrian Park



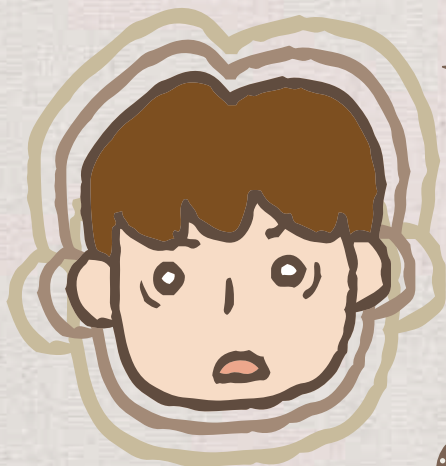
## The Olympics that never took place and the opening of the Equestrian Park

The 12th Olympic Games, which was originally planned to be held in Tokyo in 1940, was rescheduled due to the impacts of the war. In September of the same year, the Equestrian Park was established to commemorate the birth of Crown Prince Akihito (currently Emperor Emeritus) and opened as Japan's first comprehensive equestrian facility.



Practice scene

Have I...



*travelled to  
the PAST!?*

## Uranus was called to eternal rest at Equestrian Park

Equestrian Park is also where a Los Angeles 1932 Olympic Games gold-medal winning horse, Uranus, spent its last moments.

Uranus' rider Colonel Baron Takeichi Nishi, an Imperial Japanese Army officer, was born to a wealthy family and had a hearty, ingenuous character. Baron Nishi fell in love with the tall, wildly galloping Uranus, so much that it is said that he kept Uranus' mane, even until his death in the Battle of Iwo Jima as the captain of the 26th Tank Regiment.



The only Japanese equestrian gold medalist, Takeichi Nishi with his favorite steed, Uranus

Photo: Hokkaido Honbetsu Town History and Folklore Museum

HEY YOU! ARE YOU LOOKING FOR URANUS?

WHOA!  
HOW IS THIS  
BRONZE STATUE  
SPEAKING!?

DON'T YOU KNOW  
URANUS? IT'S THE  
FAMOUS HORSE THAT  
WON THE OLYMPICS.

URANUS...?

I'LL TAKE YOU TO  
URANUS' FAVORITE  
PLACES.

I WONDER IF HE'LL HELP  
ME SEARCH FOR THAT  
HORSE... HERE WE GO!

\* Smoking on, Setagaya's streets and parks is prohibited.

# Life and culture along **streets**

## **Oyama-michi** (Oyama Road)

**1st Local Scenic Treasure**

Oyama-michi was a popular route for people visiting the shrine on Oyama during the Edo era. The route connecting Akasaka to Oyama was also known as Yagurazawa Okan. Oyama, meaning “big mountain,” was also called Afuri-yama (or rainfall mountain) and people prayed for good harvest and prosperous business.

### **Look for items related to Oyama-michi!**



Signpost for  
Oyama-michi junction

Signposts are put in place at junctions of the road, showing the direction, destination, and distance of each road.

In addition to Oyama-michi, there are various historic roads and trails that run through the Equestrian Park area, such as the Noborito and Takisaka Roads. Try looking for the signposts as you stroll through the city!

PEOPLE CALL ME  
UNCLE KISERU!



Statue of a traveler  
to Oyama, taking a  
break with a kiseru,  
a Japanese  
smoking pipe



## **Setagaya Local Scenic Treasures**

Local scenic treasures represent the local life and culture of Setagaya through its landscapes. Based on the Setagaya City Landscape Ordinance, the treasures are selected through a citizen-led process for the purpose of protecting, nurturing, and developing landscapes that are shared and treasured locally.

# Yoga promenade (Iraka-michi)

Yōga Promenade is a 1km path that connects Yōga Station and the Setagaya Art Museum. It was built in 1986 as a people-centric street, designed for safe and fun walking.

The name iraka, meaning “kawara tiled roof,” derives from the traditional Japanese tile-paved promenade, streams, bridges, and unique monuments. Some kawara tiles are engraved with classical Japanese poems. Feel the tradition and history using all five senses!



Yōga Promenade

1st Local Scenic Treasure



Waka poems engraved on iraka-michi

URANUS LOVES STREETS FILLED WITH GREENERY. THIS AREA IS PARTICULARLY WALKABLE AND STYLISH.



# Cobblestone walls and row of cherry trees on Chitose Street

Chitose Street was initially the passage for the Shinagawa irrigation canal from 1667 for over 200 years. Once fields became residential land and irrigation was no longer unnecessary, the canal was filled up and was later converted into a street in 1964 for the Tokyo Olympics held that year.

The street is cherished for its combination of cobblestoned walls and cherry trees, creating a historically and topographically unique landscape.



Chitose Street in spring



Chitose Street in summer

1st Local Scenic Treasure

I KNOW THIS STREET!





Uranus' favorites!  
Highlights of the Equestrian Park area

# Traditional customs passed down to the present



Setagaya Boroichi Flea Market

## Boroichi Flea Market

2nd Local Scenic Treasure

The Boroichi Flea Market is held every December and January. The Boroichi shopping street becomes very lively from Setagaya and Kamimachi Stations on the Setagaya Line. With a history of over 400 years, a variety of items are sold at the several hundred shops of Boroichi, varying from antique pottery and clothing to Shinto altars and large rice-pounding mortars. The paintings of people visiting Oyama during the Edo era on the shops' shutters are also a fun view. During the market, you can get information about the city's history at Setaichi House (1-48-18 Setagaya) .

**Dates** Dec. 15-16 & Jan. 15-16 every year



URANUS LOVES  
FESTIVALS AND GAMES.  
HE AND TAKEICHI NISHI  
JOCKEY WERE SIMILAR  
IN THAT WAY!

Boroichi  
at night

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## Large drum of the Tokamori Inari Shrine



Drum at annual festival of Tokamori Inari Shrine

The Tokamori Inari Shrine, dedicated to the god of rich harvest before the Edo era, owns a large Japanese taiko drum called the “A-n Daiko.” The 2 meter-diameter drum with a weight of 6 tons is the largest in Tokyo’s 23 wards and was donated by local shrine parishioners.

**Dates** Annual festival in October

## Sakurashinmachi Nebuta Festival

The Sakurashinmachi Nebuta Festival fills Sakurashinmachi’s main streets with Aomori Nebuta, haneto dancers, drums, as well as thousands of spectators. Now one of major annual events in Sakurashinmachi, the Nebuta tradition from northern Japan was first brought to the town to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sakurashinmachi Shotengai shopping street.



Nebuta

**Dates** September



Dedication ceremony

## Sumo at Setagaya Hachimangu Shrine

The dedication sumo wrestling at Setagaya Hachimangu Shrine was famous as one of three major sumo events during the Edo era. It is said that the sacred object enshrined at Hachimangu Shrine is an item won at a dedication sumo of Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine in Kamakura.

**Dates** September