Heritage Alert

Jingu Gaien—Cultural Heritage as the core of Garden City Park System in Tokyo, which is facing immediate threat by urban redevelopment

September 5, 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tokyo is a "garden city" with the Royal Forest at its center, adorned by countless gardens and parks, which have been nurtured by fountains of small valleys and Tamagawa Josui waterway. This urban structure was formed through layers of history as the base of the Tokugawa Shoguns from the early 17th century. Since then, Tokyo was destroyed by a series of earthquakes and World War II, but these forests and gardens have been passed down from generation to generation (Fig.1,2).

In 1868, the Meiji Restoration put an end to the feudal system of Japan, and Japan started to step forward to become a modern state. The improvement of urban infrastructure in Tokyo was carried out for water supply, sewage, roads, ports, harbors, and government office district. However, it was no easy job to procure public parks: Space was limited in the densely built urban area that was an immediate successor to the feudal city of Edo (present-day Tokyo). As a result, many Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines and Japanese gardens which had long been revered by people, were converted to public parks and places of scenic beauty (Fig.3).

Fig.4 shows the current status of gardens, parks focused on the central area of Tokyo, which has been carefully protected and improved over 400 years, from Imperial Palace, through the inner and outer moats, to Akasaka Palace, Jingu Gaien, Naien, and Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden. It is regarded as the core of Garden City Park System, which is the fundamental asset of Tokyo, leading the way to a World Heritage Site. However, Jingu Gaien, indicated in red in the figure, is the only exception, currently under threat of destruction due to an urban redevelopment project, despite its glorious history of being created with the public's donations, tree dedication and labor service by 102,792 people.

Jingu Gaien was created as a counterpart to Jingu Naien, and has a unique structure unparalleled in the history of parks around the world. Jingu Naien as the inner garden intended to be an "eternal forest" and over the past 100 years, it has steadily transitioned to an evergreen broad-leaved forest. It was a pioneering attempt in light of the fact that ecology was not yet established as an academic discipline. In contrast, the Gaien as the outer garden was designed to create recreational forests for people (Fig.5). These two gardens were connected by the parkway, and crowned with the designation of Japan’s first Scenic District in 1926 (Fig. 6).
Fig. 3 Map of the central area of Edo (present-day Tokyo) in 1843 and the transformation to Parks and Places of Scenic Beauty after Meiji Revolution.

Fig. 4 Jingu Gaien, the core of Garden City Park System, facing immediate threat by urban redevelopment.

From Imperial Palace ~National Diet Park ~National Diet ~Hie Shrine ~Shimizutani Park ~Outer Moat ~Akasaka Palace ~Jingu Gaien ~Aoyama Park Cemetery ~Jingu Naien ~Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden. All gardens and parks have been well preserved. Jingu Gaien is the only exception, which is currently under immediate threat due to urban redevelopment project.
The first event that eventually led to threatening the cultural heritage of Jingu Gaien was the construction of the National Stadium of Japan in preparation of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. To allow for construction of the high building as a national project, the building height limit was eased, and as many as 1,750 trees were cut down. Although the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games finished, further development continued. Mitsui Fudosan Co. Ltd., Itochu Co. Ltd., Meiji Jingu Shrine, and Japan Sports Council, proposed an urban re-development project, which was approved in March 2022 by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) in accordance with the city planning procedure. The project plans to build two skyscrapers and one high-rise building and replace the existing rugby and baseball stadiums alternately, which involves the cutting-down of more than 1,000 trees (Fig.7).

Fig. 5 Map of Jingu Gaien

Fig. 6 Parkway between Jingu Naien and Jingu Gaien in 1926

Fig. 7 Plan of urban redevelopment in Jingu Gaien by Mitsui Fudosan Co. Ltd., Itochu Co. Ltd., Meiji Jingu Shrine, and Japan Sports Council (2023)
ICOMOS Japan has been striving to protect the cultural heritage of Jingu Gaien, having issued recommendations and requests as many as 15 times since December 2021 (Appendix 1), and proposed a specific alternative plan, but all to no avail so far. ICOMOS Japan also pointed out falsities and problems about the scientific reliability of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report submitted by the project proponents, and requested for re-examination, which was only rejected by the TMG in May 2023.

In the meantime, a signature-collecting campaign by a third party collected some 218,000 signatures against the redevelopment project in question (Appendix 2). A wide range of people, including members of Japan’s national parliament (Appendix 3), the Japan Branch of the International Association for Impact Assessment (Appendix 4), volunteers in architecture, landscaping, and urban planning experts hoping to rethink Meiji Jingu Gaien redevelopment (Appendix 5, 6), Tokyo Division Executive board of the New Union of Architects and Engineers (Appendix 7), volunteer Association to Preserve Meiji Jingu Gaien for Our Children (Appendix 8) and Letter from musician, Ryuichi Sakamoto (Appendix 9). It has become a huge social movement.

In light of the above, ICOMOS Japan has no other options but to request the issuing of Heritage Alert to ICOMOS members around the world, people who support heritage conservation, and responsible investors against the project proponents led by Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd., which is planning further redevelopment projects at other historic modern public parks in Tokyo, such as Hibiya Park and Shiba Park, as well as the TMG, which is responsible for its city planning and heritage conservation, including but not limited to its World Heritage properties, i.e., National Museum of Western Art (a component of the Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement) and the Ogasawara Islands.

ICOMOS, together with ICOMOS Japan, issues a Heritage Alert calling for withdrawal of the Jingu Gaien redevelopment project for the preservation and succession of the core of the Tokyo Garden City Park System, which has been inherited since the 17th century,
1-0  Identity of Place

1-1  Name: Jingu Gaien

1-2  Location Town, Country, Street
     Kasumiga-oka, Shinjuku-Ku, Aoyama, Minato-Ku, Tokyo, Japan

1-3  Classification/ Type of place/Area/Landowners
     Historic Garden and Park, the core of Garden City Park System in
     Tokyo. Total area is approximately 64.6 ha. The land owners are Meiji
     Jingu Shrine, National Government, and TMG.

1-4  Current Heritage Protection Status
     The entire Jingu Gaien has been designated as an urban planning park,
     and protected as Scenic District (Fig.8), that limits the height of
     buildings to 15 m or less and restricts the cutting of trees (Photo 1~4).
     However, the area was deregulated to host the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.
     Even after the Olympics, this deregulation has been further accelerated.
     TMG authorized the construction of three high-rise buildings with
     heights of 190 m, 185 m, and 80 m, respectively. Cutting trees were also
     deregulated by the introduction of the redevelopment promotion zone.
     Regarding architecture, the Seitoku Memorial Picture Gallery, completed
     in 1926 as a symbol of Jingu Gaien, was designated an Important
     Cultural Property in 2011. In addition, the Sojyoden-ato (the platform for
     the funeral hall), Kaku-ike (square pond), and Maru-ike (round pond) are
     designated as important cultural properties. The Constitution Memorial
     Hall built in 1881 was relocated to Jingu Gaien in 1921 to commemorate
     the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Meiji Constitution, and
     is designated as a tangible cultural property by the TMG.

Fig. 8  Scenic District (The area in the red circle has been deregulated to
        allow the construction of high-rise buildings)

Photo 1  Cherry Tree in Scenic District

Photo 2  Gingko promenade
2-0 Statement of Significance and History

2-1 Statement of Significance:
Jingu Gaien is an important park that constitutes the core of Garden City Park System in the central area of Tokyo. The site was the Daimyo (feudal lords) Estate until the mid-19th century and turned into parade ground in Meiji era. Entering the 20th century, when Tokyo was transforming into a modern city, Jingu Gaien (outer garden) was created as a pair with Jingu Naien (inner garden). The inner garden is a forest with a solemn and dignified theme, while the outer garden was planned as a forest for people's relaxation, with a large lawn and sparse forest. In Japan, where the concept of parks did not exist, this park is unique in the history of parks in the world, because it combines the ancient concept of sacred forest with modern park planning (Fig. 9, Photo 5).

2-2 History of place: 400 years’ Garden City Tokyo
Tokyo used to be called Garden City. There were numerous gardens, nurtured by Tamagawa Josui waterway from the Tama River, which was constructed in 1653 to provide drinking water and promote agriculture. The total length is 42.7 km, and many Daimyo gardens were built along this waterway. The Jingu Naien and Gaien, as well as the adjacent Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden and Akasaka Palace, were also Daimyo Estate with traditional Japanese gardens.
After Meiji Restoration, the plateau areas turned into the royal places and military training camps. However, the Japanese gardens in the lowland areas had protected and still maintained today, making it a rare area where traditional Japanese gardens coexist in a modern city (Photos 6 ~10). In particular, Royal Park System from the Imperial Palace to the outer moat, Akasaka Palace, Jingu Gaien, Jingu Naien, and Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden forms the fundamental structure of 400 years' garden city Tokyo, covering approximately 700 ha (Figure 11).
Fig. 11  The core of Gardens had strictly preserved (1915)

Fig. 12  Gardens survived from the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923
The gardens and parks, indicated by red circle, had scarcely survived from the destruction. Land Adjustment Project had carried out the burned area in downtown Tokyo.

The location of the core area of Garden City Park System Tokyo in 2023. Over all park system in 23 Wards Tokyo. Basic park system has been developed along the Tamagawa Josui waterway, the Sumida River, the Tama River and the Nihonbashi River. Jingu Gaien is located in the heart of Tokyo.
### 2-3 Date of project/ Date of construction/ Finishing of work: Jingu Gaien

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Projects / Events</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17th ~ mid.19th century</td>
<td>Daimyo Estate with Japanese garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880’s</td>
<td>Daimyo Estate turned into Aoyama military parade ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1907</td>
<td>The military parade ground was proposed as the site of the Japan Grand Exposition. However, due to the lack of financial resources, it was not implemented.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1912</td>
<td>Emperor Meiji passed away.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1913</td>
<td>The proposal was submitted to the Imperial Diet for the construction of Meiji Jingu Naien and Gaien, and approved. The Construction started, firstly from Jingu Naien.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1918</td>
<td>The Construction of Jingu Gaien started. It was carried out by volunteers from all over Japan as many as 100,000 people, with donations of funds, trees, and labor services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1923</td>
<td>The Great Kanto Earthquake occurred. Jingu Gaien became the evacuation site. The four row of Gingko promenade was completed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 1926</td>
<td>The area along the connecting road between Jingu Naien and Jingu Gaien was designated as Japan’s first scenic district.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1926</td>
<td>The construction of Jingu Gaien was completed (picture gallery, baseball stadium, sumo stadium, children’s playground).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1945</td>
<td>Jingu Gaien was confiscated by GHQ after the defeat of the World War Second.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1952</td>
<td>The confiscation is lifted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1956</td>
<td>The athletic stadium was transferred to the national government (Ministry of Education) and becomes the National Stadium.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1964</td>
<td>Tokyo Olympic 1964 was held at National Stadium.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1997</td>
<td>The first Gaien Gingko Festival was held (held annually thereafter).</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2011</td>
<td>“Tokyo 2020” plan is formulated (development of a sports cluster).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>Designation of the Jingu Gaien Area District Plan (relaxation of height restrictions).</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2016</td>
<td>The construction of the New National Stadium started, for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The height of the building was limited to 15m by Scenic District ordinance, but was deregulated and the height of National Stadium became to 47.3m. 1,750 trees were cut down.</td>
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<td>November 2019</td>
<td>The completion of the New National Stadium.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2021</td>
<td>Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games held (postponed one year due to Corona).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2022</td>
<td>The district plan for Jingu Gaien area was changed and a redevelopment promotion zone was introduced. A portion of the urban planned Meiji Park was deleted and turned into the site of urban redevelopment area. Based on this decision, it becomes possible to construct two skyscrapers, and one high-rise building. The Jingu Stadium will be demolished, and built as a stadium with a hotel, in the immediate vicinity of the rows of Gingko trees. The Chichibunomiya Rugby Stadium will also be demolished and construct different site where valuable forest exists. More than 1,000 trees that have been inherited over the past 100 years will be cut down (Fig.7).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2021~May 2023</td>
<td>ICOMOS Japan has made 15 recommendations and requested to review the district plan and the environmental impact assessment. However, the Tokyo Metropolitan Environmental Impact Assessment Council decided, not to hear any opinions from the experts of ICOMOS Japan, and the TMG authorized the permission that developers could cut down approximately 3,000 trees, including those less than 3 meters high. This implementation was scheduled to begin in June, but owing to widespread opposition, it has been postponed to September at this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2023</td>
<td>The Tokyo Metropolitan Environmental Impact Assessment Council decided, not to hear any opinions from the experts of ICOMOS Japan, and the TMG authorized the permission that developers could cut down approximately 3,000 trees, including those less than 3 meters high. This implementation was scheduled to begin in June, but owing to widespread opposition, it has been postponed to September at this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2023</td>
<td>The Japan Branch of the International Association for Impact Assessment issued Emergency Recommendation to the TMG (Appendix 4).</td>
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</table>

2-4 Landscape Architect

Landscape Architect was Yoshinobu Orishimo

The committee for the Planning & Design of Jingu Gaien consisted of Kimitake Furuichi, Chuta Ito, Toshiki Sano (architecture and civil engineering), Zentaro Kawase, Seiroku Honda, and Aki Hara (landscape architecture).

Yoshinobu Orishimo was the leading landscape architect in early days of modern Japanese landscape planning and design. He had carried out the trilogy of modern landscape gardens: Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, Jingu Naien and Jingu Gaien. When the Great Kanto Earthquake occurred in 1923, Orishimo introduced the methodology of park system which had implemented in Jingu Gaien, to the reconstruction project for preventing the spread of fire.

This methodology became a model for establishing urban infrastructure, since most of the Japanese cities were made of wood, preventing fires in urban areas was a serious problems. After the end of World War II, reconstruction projects for war damage were carried out in 115 cities throughout Japan. Major cities in Japan, such as Nagoya, Hiroshima, Sendai introduced the park system, and it became the foundation of modern Japanese cities.
2-5 Original use of place

Figure 16 is a map of Jingu Gaien when it was completed in 1926. The style of the garden is a modern landscape garden (the detail will be described in Chapter 3), with four rows of Gingko promenade running 300 meters from the main gate, Aoyama-guchi (Photo 10) and the Seitoku Memorial Picture Gallery built facing a spacious lawn area (Photo 11). The background of the Picture Gallery is a deep forest, but the entire area is a mixed forest of evergreen and deciduous trees, which provides a relaxing environment for people. In order not to spoil the scenery, Jingu baseball stadium, a sumo stadium, and an athletic field were carefully built, and the area became the cradle of modern sports in Japan. The Constitution Memorial Hall had moved along the Musashino cliff and Japanese garden was created. Tree nursery was created for the planting, now, it was served as children’s park.
Fig.16 Map of Jingu Gaien in 1926 with facility names

Photo 10  Gingko promenade at Aoyama-guchi, from 1926 to 2022

Photo 11  Lawn & Forest from 1926 to 2022
2-6 Changes, additions
The athletic stadium was transferred to the Ministry of Education in 1956 and became the National Stadium. The 1964 Tokyo Olympics were held at this stadium. In 2016, the decision was made to build a new national stadium, for inviting the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As a result, Scenic District ordinance was relaxed, and the height limit for buildings, which had been 15 m or less, was eased. The height of the new National Stadium became 47.5 m, and 1,750 trees were cut down. Further deregulation followed, and in March 2022, the urban planning decision was made to designate the area as an Urban Redevelopment Promotion District, where two skyscrapers (190 m and 185 m) and a high-rise building (80 m) would be constructed (Fig. 7).
Fig. 17 shows the locations of trees to be cut down as a result of the redevelopment, surveyed by ICMOS Japan. Fig. 18 superimposes the redevelopment plan and the location of existing trees, showing that the redevelopment plan does not pay any respect to the cultural heritage of Jingu Gaien.

2-7 Current condition
On February 17, 2023, the TMG approved the implementation of the urban redevelopment project, allowing trees to be cut down in Scenic District. Photo 12 shows the 100-year-old forest of the Kenkoku Kinen Bunko. This forest is to be cut down to make way for a new rugby stadium. In May 2023, the steel wall was erected to hide the forest (Photo 13~15). Over 3,000 trees (including trees less than 3 meters in height) is about to cutting down, including many historical trees.
The original design intent of Jingu Gaien was to create a place of relaxation and enjoyment for people, while the forest in Jingu Naien was a sacred forest. Based on this principle, firstly, forests and ponds were created for fostering the natural beauty, and a vast lawn area was created at the centre for freeing minds and enjoying the beautiful scenery.

The following photos are the comparison between the existing condition and the proposal of developers. It is clear that the cultural landscape in
Jingu Gaien would be completely destroyed by this urban redevelopment.

(1) Main scenery of Jingu Gaien from the Aoyama gate

<Existing Condition>
Four rows of beautiful Gingko trees are the entrance to Jingu Gaien. The outfield stands of Jingu Stadium will be constructed just 6 m from the Gingko tree, a baseball stadium with a hotel, and skyscrapers of 190 m and 185 m will be built. The environment in which the Gingko tree grows will change drastically in water circulation, sunlight, etc., causing the difficulties in sustainable growth.

<Future>

The drastic change of historical scenery.
Credit: Berman Design, www.BERMANARCHITECTURE.com
(2) Wide lawn in front of the Seitoku Memorial Picture Gallery

<Existing Condition>

![Photo 20](image)

Existing scenery from the lawn area to the Gingko

<Future>

![Fig.22](image)

CG from the same angle CG of photo 20. The right side is Rugby stadium and tennis court for members’ only.

![Fig.23](image)

Urban complex of skyscraper will deprive the large sky from people.
3-0 Description (history and technology)

3-1 Physical description

The landscape design of Jingu Gaien (the outer garden) is a "modern landscape garden", created as a pair with Jingu Naien (the inner garden), and is unprecedented in the history of gardens worldwide.

Jingu Naien was created based on the tradition of the ancient Japanese Shinto shrine garden. It is called Rinsen, which means a sacred forest with a solemn and majestic appearance. By contrast, Jingu Gaien was created as a garden where visitors could enjoy a stroll in a clear, relaxed, and beautiful environment.

Fig. 24 shows the style of Jingu Gaien, with four rows of Gingko promenade as the axis to the Seitoku Memorial Picture Gallery. The vast lawn was created, and the forest edge is shifting from sparse forest to evergreen broad-leaved forest as it goes on. The sports facilities for physical and mental training were built behind tall trees to minimize their height so as not to spoil the overall landscape. On the contrary, Fig. 25 shows the forest of Jingu Naien, which has passed 100 years since its foundation, and became a sacred forest.

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Fig. 24: The Structure of the landscape design in Jingu Gaien
(This photograph was taken, when the lawn area had used as a sub-track of Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2021.)
3-2 Construction system used

(1) Soil Survey and Improvement
The first step in the construction process of Jingu Gaien was soil improvement based on a detailed soil survey. The entire area was divided into a grid of 18m-dissected 18m, and trial digging was carried out to investigate soil depth and soil properties (Fig. 26).

The foundation supporting the forest is the soil. Based on this survey, it is recorded that the soil dug up was mixed with muddy soil from Tokyo sewage, dredged soil from the outer moat, and compost from the army stables, and that the soil storage area was established and the soil was improved sequentially.

When Jingu Naien was developed, the top-soil of the existing forest was ploughed and restored carefully (Photo 23). It can be understood that the process of soil improvement was extremely important, when there were no chemical fertilizers existed.
(2) Planting design based on predictions of forest community succession

Characteristics of the landscape design in Jingu Gaien is that scientific planting design had introduced based on the succession of forest communities. Figure 27 is a projected forest succession map, depicting the composition of the forest community from the time of creation in 1920 to 50 years after in 1970, 100 years after in 2020 and 200 years after in 2120. It is worth while noting that urban forests were created based on the projection at a time when the discipline of ecology did not exist. Since Jingu Gaien had created for the relaxing place for people, it is now 100 years old and has formed the mixed evergreen and deciduous forest seen in

Fig.27  Projected Forest succession map (proposed in 1920)

Photo 24. Mixed evergreen and deciduous forest in Jingu Gaien
Fig. 28 shows the existing vegetation map of the forest community conducted by ICOMOS JAPAN in May 2023, which shows a rich biodiversity forest with 20 ecological communities.
(3) Forest facing immediate threat of destruction

The Kenkoku Memorial Bunko Forest, a precious 100-year-old forest in Jingu Gaien is about to be destroyed by the construction of new rugby stadium (Fig. 30).

This forest had been planned as a mixed evergreen deciduous forest that supported the bright landscape of the lawn area and the sparse forest in the background.

In 1969, the Kenkoku Memorial Bunko was built in a tranquil forest and has been carried on to this day (Photo 25).

The forest is composed of 149 trees over 3 meters in height, and is a mixed evergreen deciduous forest with Castanopsis cuspidate var. sieboldii and Zelkova serrata as the main trees.

There are 65 trees over 100 years old, however, only 11 will be preserved. About 80% will be cut down (Photo 26). For this reason, a widespread opposition movement is underway. Currently, the forest is surrounded by a steel plate retaining wall and cannot be seen (Photo 27).
3-3 Physical context/setting

The topography of Tokyo is characterized by countless small rivers that drain the Musashino Plateau and flow into Tokyo Bay. Edo Castle is located on the eastern edge of the Musashino Plateau. The core area of Garden City Park System is not flat, but has a topographical feature of a complex combination of plateaus and small valleys. Daimyo’s gardens in Edo had created in the bottom of small valleys with spring water, and even today, these Japanese gardens have been inherited in Imperial Palace, Akasaka, Jingu Naien, and Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden. These gardens are linked by the Tamagawa Josui waterway and their revitalization

3-4 Social and cultural context and value

The most important cultural significance of Jingu Gaien is that it has been an important asset of Tokyo since the Edo period. The most important cultural significance of Jingu Gaien lies in the fact that it is a large-scale park that constitutes Garden City Park System, which has been an important asset of Tokyo since the Edo period and could become a world heritage in the future. The core area of Garden City Park System has been preserved and inherited for 400 years, but currently only Jingu Gaien is under threat of development (Fig.30).

3-5 Materials

A distinctive feature of Jingu Gaien is the creation of "gates" that follow the structure of castles. Eight gates were built (Fig.31). However, these gates have no doorways and are open at all times, indicating a spiritual "boundary," which allows us to understand that an attempt was made to fuse tradition and modernity. Photo 28 shows the main gate, Aoyama-guchi. A plaza is placed at the entrance lined with Gingko promenade, and monumental stone gate was built. The conflicting design concept of massive and open is created by using old stones from the outer moat of Edo Castle and
inheriting the masonry. All of the "gates" are still in existence, but only one, Kasumigaoka Gate, was lost during the construction of the National Stadium for the Olympic Games. The remaining one is planned to be torn down due to the construction of the Rugby Stadium, and we are requesting its preservation (Photo 29,30).

3-6 Aesthetic value

The four rows of Gingko promenade is the aesthetic symbol of Jingu Gaien. It is stated that the Gingko was sown by Orishimo around 1910 in a nursery of Jingu Naien, transplanted to a nursery of Jingu Gaien in 1917, and planted in its present location in 1923 (photo 31). Therefore, the tree is 113 years old. They are called "sibling Gingkoes" because they were sown at the same time and have grown up together. 146 trees, not a single one of them has withered (photo 32).

This Gingko promenade was specifically noted as a representative promenade in Japan in the "Research Report on Gardens and Parks in Modern Times" compiled by the Agency for Cultural Affairs in 2012, and is listed as an important example that should be designated as a Place of Scenic Beauty under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.
The preservation of Gingko promenade is a major premise of this redevelopment project, and developers have promised to comply with this principle. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government has also repeatedly requested that Gingko promenade should be preserved.

However, as shown in Fig. 32, a new Jingu Stadium is currently planned to be constructed only 6m from the trunk of the Gingko tree, and piles reaching 40m in depth will be driven into the ground. The groundwater supply will be cut off, and the construction of the stadium will change the environment, such as sunlight and wind, making it difficult for the Gingko trees to grow permanently.

ICOMOS Japan conducted a tree-by-tree survey of 146 Gingko trees in November 2022 and made the data available to the public. In the environmental impact assessment report which was approved in Jan. 2023, developers concluded that all Gingko trees were healthy. However, from the results of our survey, Gingko trees have significant problems, and the construction of new stadium will cause the serious impacts for the sustainability of Gingko promenade (Fig. 33, Photo 33).

Gingko promenade are an important cultural landscape that will form a future World Heritage site, visited by many people not only from Japan but also from around the world (photo 34). For this reason, ICOMOS Japan strongly urges that the redevelopment project of Jingu Gaien be fundamentally reviewed and duly revised.
Fig. 34  Location of Gingko tree and planned Jingu Stadium
Only 6m from the centre of the tree trunk

Fig. 35  Gingko Tree Survey Map (ICOMOS Japan, Nov. 2022)

Photo 33  Gingko tree in declining health

Photo 34  Gingko Promenade, Nov. 2022
4-0 Source of Alert

4-1 Proposer(s) of Heritage Alert, contact details

Yasuyoshi OKADA, President of ICOMOS JAPAN
c/o Japan Cultural Heritage Consultancy
Hitotsubashi 2-5-5-13F, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0003, JAPAN
Tel & Fax. 03-3261-5303
E-mail japicomos@japan-icomos.org

4-2 Groups supporting Heritage Alert and/or nomination, with contact details

Statement on behalf of the Change.org petition “Protect Jingu Gaien's trees! Rethink the development plan!” (Currently over 218,865 signatures)
https://www.change.org/Safe_jingugaien_ (Appendix 2)

Diet Members Caucus for the Protection of Nature, History, and Culture of Jingu Gaien (Appendix 3)

The Japan Branch of the International Association for Impact Assessment (Appendix 4)

Volunteers in architecture, landscaping, and urban planning experts hoping to rethink Meiji Jingu Gaien redevelopment (Appendix 5)

Tokyo Division Executive board of the New Union of Architects and Engineers (Appendix 7)

Volunteer Association to Preserve Meiji Jingu Gaien for Our Children (Appendix 8)

4-3 Local, Regional, International significance citations about the place

- Tokyo Metropolitan Government(2017)), Ground Design for Tokyo, the role of Parks and Openspaces.
- Shinjuku Ward(2018), Green Structure plan of Shinjuku Ward.
  https://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/seikatsu/file14_04_00001.html
- Minato Ward (2021): Landscape plan of Minato Ward
  https://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/sougoukeikaku/kankyo-machi/tosihkekaku/kekaku/kekana/

4-4 Letters of support for Heritage Alert action, newspaper articles, etc.

1. Letters: Appendix 1~9
2. Newspapers, Magazines, Articles, TV, : Appendix 10
3. Foreign Media: Appendix 11
   - the japan times, A controversy forces Tokyo to define “public park” Dec.22, 2022
   - AP NEWS, Tokyo plan likened to putting “skyscrapers” in Central Park, April 29,2023
(4) Statement of opposition to the relocation of the rugby stadium:
Appendix 12
- Save Tokyo’s historic Chichibunomiya Rugby Stadium!
  Jan.11, 2023

- Save Jingu Stadium! Protect this Historical Cultural Asset and Sacred Baseball Site, Jan.16,2023

4-5 Publications that describe the work/place, bibliography, etc.

Ministry of Home Affairs, Shinto Shrines Bureau (1930),
Meiji Jingu Naien-shi, Tokyo.
Meiji Jingu Shrine Devotional Association (1937),
Meiji Jingu Gaien-shi, Tokyo.
City of Tokyo (1923), City of Tokyo City Historic Sites and Natural Monuments Photo Vol. 2, Tokyo
Houshin, Kuroda (1928), The Beauty of City, Tokyo.
Tananori, Hongo (1929), The Forest of Shrine, Tokyo
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4-6 Time constraints for advocacy (immediate action/delayed action)

The Jingu Gaien redevelopment project was decided on March 10, 2022.
The environmental impact assessment was submitted to the Governor of Tokyo on August 17, 2022. But, ICOMOS Japan pointed out errors caused from unscientific analysis in the assessment report, and the matter was continued for further discussion. However, on May 17, 2023, the Council concluded its deliberations without hearing any opinion from ICOMOS Japan. As a result, the cutting down of 3,000 trees will begin in this coming September, and Heritage Alert must be issued immediately.
5-0  **Recommended action (Letters)**

The Honorable Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan  
Cabinet Public Relations Office, Cabinet Secretariat,  
1-6-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8968, Japan

The Honorable Tetsuo Saito, Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport  
Cabinet Public Relations Office, Cabinet Secretariat,  
1-6-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8968, Japan

The Honorable Akihiro Nishimura, Minister of Environment  
Cabinet Public Relations Office, Cabinet Secretariat,  
1-6-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8968, Japan

The Honorable Keiko Nagaoka, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology  
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology,  
3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8959, Japan

Mr Shun’ichi Tokura, Commissioner for Cultural Affairs  
Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan,  
85-4 Shimochojamachido-ri Shinmachi Nishiiruyabunouchicho, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto-city,  
Kyoto 602-8959, Japan

Ms Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo Metropolitan Government  
2-8-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-8001, Japan

Mr Shigeki Miyake, Chairman of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly  
2-8-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-8001, Japan

Ms Kayoko Hama, Chairman of Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Educational,  
Tokyo Metropolitan Government,  
2-8-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-8001, Japan

Mr Masaaki Takei, Mayor of Minato Ward  
1-5-25, Shiba-Koen, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8511, Japan

Mr Takaya Suzuki, Chairman of Minato Ward Assembly  
1-5-25, Shiba-Koen, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8511, Japan

Mr Ken-ichi Yoshizumi, Mayor of Shinjuku Ward  
1-4-1, Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-8484, Japan

Mr Shin-ichi Hiyama, Chairman of Shinjuku Ward Assembly  
1-4-1, Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-8484, Japan

Mr Ken Hasebe, Mayor of Shibuya Ward  
1-1, Udagawa-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8010, Japan

Mr Takashi Maruyama, Chairman of Shibuya Ward Assembly  
1-1, Udagawa-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8010, Japan

Mr Takashi Ueda, President and Chief Executive Officer of Mitsui Fudosan Co.Ltd.  
2-1-1 Nihonbashi Muromachi, Cyuo-Ku, Tokyo 103-0022, Japan

Mr Michinari Kujyo, Chief priest of Meiji Jingu Shrine  
1-1 Kamizono-cho, Yoyogi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0052, Japan

Mr Keita Ishii, President of ITOCYU corporation  
2-5-1 Kita- aoyama Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8077, Japan

Mr Satoshi Ashidate, President of Japan Sports Council  
4-1 Kasumigaoka-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0013, Japan
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“Request to Reconsider the Large-Scale Redevelopment Project for Meiji Jingu Gaien” |
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Appendix 12  Statement of opposition to the relocation of the rugby stadium:  
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Appendix 13  Statement on the Preservation of the Historic Monuments of Jingu Stadium  
・ Save Jingu Stadium! Protect this Historical Cultural Asset and Sacred Baseball Site, Jan.16, 2023

Reference

Fig.1 Bird’s-eye view of Edo in 1843, opened to free use by internet.  
Fig.2 Tokyo Municipal Historic Manuscripts (1923), Waterways Part II, Tamagawa Josui Waterway, Tokyo.  
Fig.3 Created by the National Committee of Cultural Landscape in ICOMOS Japan.  
The gardens shown in Great Map of Edo (1843) were converted to parks after the Meiji Restoration, and the diagram shows this historical background.  
Fig.4 Created by Laboratory of Green Infrastructure in Research and Development Initiative, Chuo University. Graphics was made by graphic designer Noriko & Isao Tsunoi.  
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Fig.7 Tokyo Metropolitan Government (2021), Parks-Urban Development Program, Tokyo.  
Fig.8 (Left) Tokyo Metropolitan Government (2022), Designated Areas of Scenic District in Jingu Gaien Area based on the City Planning in Tokyo, Tokyo.  
Fig.8 (Right) Shinjyuku Ward (2018), Designated Areas of Scenic District in Jingu Gaien Area in Shinjyuku Ward based on the City Planning, Tokyo.  
Fig.9 Ministry of Home Affairs, Shinto Shrines Bureau (1930), Meiji Jingu Naien-shi, Tokyo.  
Fig.10 Geological Survey Bureau of Meiji Government (1883), Suvey map of Tokyo-fu Akasaka Ward Aoyama Kitamachi Area, Tokyo  
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Fig.12 Cabinet administration Office (1923), Report of the Great Kanto Earthquake Part I, attached map, Tokyo.  
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Fig.14 Tokyo Metropolitan Government (1946), Reconstruction Plan for the destroyed area by the World War II, Tokyo.  
Fig.15 Mikiko Ishikawa (2001), City and Green Space, Iwanami Syoten, Tokyo.  
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Fig.19, 20 Mitsui Fudosan Ltd., Meiji Shrine, Japan Sports Council, Itocyu Syoji Ltd. (2023), Jingu Gaien District Urban redevelopment Project, Tokyo.  
https://www.jingugaienmachidukuri.jp/ (last browsing Sep. 4, 2023)  
Fig.21, 22, 23 Credit: Credit: Berman Design, www.BERMANARCHITECTURE.com
Fig. 24 Created by Laboratory of Green Infrastructure in Research and Development Initiative, Chuo University, based on the aerial photograph, opened to use.
Fig. 25 Ministry of Home Affairs, Shinto Shrines Bureau (1930), Meiji Jingu Naien-shi, Tokyo.
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Fig. 28 Created by Mikiko Ishikawa, Director of ICOMOS Japan. Graphics was made by graphic designer Noriko & Isao Tsunoi.
Fig. 29 Mitsui Fudosan Ltd., Meiji Shrine, Japan Sports Council, Itocyu Syoji Ltd. (2023), Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Jingu Gaien District Urban redevelopment Project, Tokyo.
Fig. 30 Created by Laboratory of Green Infrastructure in Research and Development Initiative, Chuo University based on the aerial photograph, opened to use.
Fig. 31 Created by Laboratory of Green Infrastructure in Research and Development Initiative, Chuo University based on the map from Meiji Jingu Gaien-shi.
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Photo 5 (upper part) Meiji Jingu Shrine Devotional Association (1937), Meiji Jingu Gaien-shi.
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Photo 21 Ministry of Home Affairs, Shinto Shrines Bureau (1930), Meiji Jingu Naien-shi.
Photo 22 The aerial photograph of the central area of Tokyo, opened to use.
Photo 23 Ministry of Home Affairs, Shinto Shrines Bureau (1930), Meiji Jingu Naien-shi.
Photo 31 Meiji Jingu Shrine Devotional Association (1937), Meiji Jingu Gaien-shi.
Statement calling for a withdrawal of Jingu Gaien Redevelopment Plan

Jingu Gaien created and nurtured by the people of Japan, is a public space that represents the modern era of Japan, and its beautiful park landscape is a cultural heritage that we are proud to share with the world. The redevelopment plan for Jingu Gaien has been approved by Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) in March 2022 and the project is currently underway by a corporate group.

Since last year, as the details of this plan were becoming clear, ICOMOS Japan conducted on-site investigations and have come to the conclusion that this redevelopment project, under the guise of good urban development, will greatly damage Jingu Gaien where the Ginkgo promenade and historic trees have been preserved very well through the efforts of many people.

This is not compatible with the report of the project promoter who conducted the environmental impact assessment. Nevertheless, TMG has accepted the report and is proceeding with procedures that ignore the wishes of the people, such as making decisions that reduce the park area and approving projects without responding to errors and unscientific methodologies in the environmental impact assessment report.

ICOMOS Japan cannot afford to overlook this redevelopment. Since Dec. 2021, when we submitted our opinions on the "City Planning Jingu Gaien Area District Plan" to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, we have visited the Bureau of Urban Development and the Bureau of Environment of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and offered many proposals and requests both to the developers and TMG, as shown in the attached
sheet. During this period, the Environment Bureau of TMG encouraged dialogue between the developers and ICOMOS Japan, but unfortunately, the developers did not respond to our requests, and TMG never took the opportunity to respond in any way. The redevelopment project of Jingu Gaien began without any changes to the original plan.

It is clear that Jingu Gaien is now in a critical condition. This redevelopment project will eventually destroy this precious cultural heritage in Tokyo. ICOMOS Japan urges TMG and the developers, to take heed of the voices of the people who cherish Jingu Gaien, as well as the voices of the residents and people from all over the world, and to change this redevelopment plan as quickly and as profoundly as possible.
List of documents issued by ICOMOS Japan regarding the Jingu Gaien Redevelopment Project
Website: [ICOMOS Japan](https://www.icomosjapan.org)

**March 7, 2023:** Request for verification of pedestrian traffic safety caused by the relocation of Chichibunomiya Rugby Stadium and pending tree cutting.

**March 7, 2023:** Request for the preservation of "Jingu Gaien Kasumigaoka Gate" to be destroyed by the relocation of Chichibunomiya Rugby Stadium.

**February 20, 2023:** Request for the answer from the developers about the "false report" identified by ICOMOS Japan regarding the environment assessment report.

**January 29, 2023:** Urgent Request - Request pursuant to Article 91, Paragraph 1, Item 5 of the Tokyo Metropolitan Ordinance on Environmental Impact Assessment.

**January 23, 2023:** Request for Retrial of Environmental Impact Assessment Report, concerning destruction of ecosystems caused from unscientific methodologies on surveys, forecasts, and assessments; Unsustainable forest mitigation due to massive tree cutting and inappropriate transplanting plans; Destruction of the cultural heritage created by the power of citizens.

**December 25, 2022:** Urgent Request: Do not "lift the restriction on implementation" (Article 61 of the ordinance) by "public notice" (Article 59, Paragraph 1 of the TMG Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance).

**December 24, 2022:** Urgent Request for a "review of fine root cutting and ring peeling treatment" and for the introduction of the comprehensive study of ginkgo trees toward permanent conservation.

**December 16, 2022:** Urgent Survey Report, "Ginko Promenade of Jingu Gaien"
October 3, 2022: Proposal for conservation and succession of Jingu Gaien, a cultural heritage representing public space in modern Japan - Toward Conservation of "Urban Green Space, as Common Social Capital".
April 26, 2022: Proposal to avoid cutting down trees and restore Jingu Gaien, a masterpiece of modern Japan.

February 7, 2022: Proposal for the succession to the future of Jingu Gaien, an outstanding cultural heritage created by the public's donation, dedication and service.

February 1, 2022: Trees planned to be cut down or transplanted according to the Jingu Gaien Area District Plan.

December 28, 2021: Opinion on the "City Planning Jingu Gaien Area District Plan"
Appendix 2

June 10, 2023

Statement on behalf of the Change.org petition “Protect Jingu Gaien's trees! Rethink the development plan!” (currently over 197,000 signatures)
https://www.change.org/Save_jingugaien_en

The historic Jingu Gaien park area was created 100 years ago through donations from the public to provide a much-needed oasis of greenery in the city center. The park is famed for its iconic avenue of four rows of magnificent gingko trees, as well as thousands of other trees. This area also houses two much-loved stadiums of historic importance to baseball and rugby fans, and some low-cost and free-of-charge sports facilities for the general public.

A large-scale redevelopment project has been planned for the area, through a public-private collaboration between real estate developer Mitsui Fudosan, partial landowner Meiji Jingu Shrine, partial landowner Japan Sports Council (part of the national government), and Itochu, a company which has its headquarters adjacent to the park.

The redevelopment plans involve removing some of the park facilities entirely and shuffling others around to make room for two new high rises to rent as offices and serviced apartments. These will tower over the area.

Itochu will rebuild its headquarters, which is adjacent to the park, at nearly twice the current height (made possible by its purchase of air rights through the project).

The two stadiums and an expensive members-only tennis club will be rebuilt in new locations, resulting in the cutting down of thousands of trees as well as the wasteful scrapping of structures that could be renovated and continue to be used. The iconic rows of gingko trees will also be endangered by placement of the new baseball stadium just 6 meters from their trunks.

In addition to the loss of greenery, there is also a fairness issue at play here. All of the other public sports facilities currently in the park will be eliminated under this plan, with only the one that caters to the elite remaining.

Experts, including the Japan Committee of the UNESCO-affiliated International Council on Monuments and Sites, have raised concerns about the overall plan and in particular the slipshod way in which the environmental assessment was conducted.

Citizens have raised their voices to demand that the project be canceled or at least reconsidered. More than 285,000 signatures have been collected on four petitions protesting the plan (ours and three others). Local residents have even filed a lawsuit. There has been significant media coverage both inside and outside Japan (including in the New York Times), and three Japanese newspapers (the Asahi Shimbun, the Mainichi Shimbun, and the Tokyo Shimbun) have published editorials calling for the development plan to be revised.

A local group centered on parents of children who attend a school adjacent to the park (Volunteer Association to Preserve Meiji Jingu Gaien for Our Children) has also spoken out, with concern of the effect on their children’s rights to a healthy environment, and their rights to a
quality education (as learning in a natural environment is a precious experience for children living in an urban area).

A group of university students (Amamo) has also been active in calling for the redevelopment plans to be revised. As members of the young generation, they are especially concerned about how the country is to be developed, because they are the ones who will live in the future of the country. Their voices are often difficult to reach effectively to the politicians who are elected in Japan’s highly-aging society.

The members of the development consortium, as well as the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, have ignored these public voices. They seem intent on foisting the project onto the public no matter what concerns are raised. The absence of stakeholder dialogue is striking.

As procedural aspects of a right to clean and healthy environment, the local community surrounding the project site has a right to access to information as well as a right to public participation. However, those rights have been violated due to the fact that the project was developed behind closed doors through non-public discussions between the developers and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government with no opportunity for public participation. Even when the project details were announced, the developers did not reveal how many trees would be cut down under the plan. It took Professor Ishikawa of ICOMOS conducting an on-the-ground study comparing the plans to the trees in the park to bring to light the extensive tree felling that would be required. These issues would have been prevented if the central government of Japan had performed its duty to protect those human rights by, for example, a national-level policy to regulate how local governments and businesses conduct real estate development projects.

The project has been rushed through the approval process. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government’s Planning Commission quickly approved the project after it was submitted, claiming that there had been “sufficient discussion”, when in actuality there had been no public discussion whatsoever, and most members of the public only learned about the project after the Commission approved it. Serious concerns repeatedly raised by members of the environmental assessment committee and by ICOMOS have been brushed aside by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government employees who manage the environmental assessment committee. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government approved the plan even though the head of the environmental assessment committee clearly stated that the committee was “unable to give the plan a go-ahead sign.” This cutting of corners on an already weak approval process is another aspect of how the procedural aspects of a right to clean and healthy environment are being infringed. Again, these issues could be prevented by stronger national laws governing how local governments and businesses conduct real estate development projects.

Both Mitsui Fudosan and Itochu make claims about their ESG credentials and commitment to human rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, but their behavior on this project tells a different story. The planning for the project was conducted with no chance for the public to participate or express their views, and the companies still have not held sufficient explanatory meetings with local residents, despite many such requests.

This pattern of large-scale developments on public lands leading to large numbers of trees being cut down, favoritism toward profit-making entities over the interests and rights of the public, and lack of opportunity for meaningful public participation in the planning and approval process, is a pattern currently being repeated throughout the country. Jingu Gaien is the most prominent example, but the same issues play out over and over across Japan due to structural tendencies in how government operates here.
The Jingu Gaien redevelopment project has strong links with the Tokyo Olympics held in 2021. Some say that bringing the Olympics to Tokyo was an excuse to redevelop Jingu Gaien. When the new National Stadium was built for the Olympics, that became the pretext for removing the height restrictions in the landscape preservation zoning overlay over the entire park area, paving the way for the current redevelopment plan. One of the motivations behind the design of the new rugby stadium is to make money to offset the ongoing losses from new National Stadium, which was costly to build and maintain and is seldom used.

To say that this is a reckless plan riddled with problems is an understatement. It is incredible that such an outrageous plan has been approved. But there is still the possibility to get it changed if we as citizens speak up loudly enough. We need to raise our voices and not give up!

This petition asks the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to rescind its approval of the Jingu Gaien redevelopment plan. We believe there needs to be a rethink from scratch about what is the future shape of Jingu Gaien, that involves the public and experts, and that considers environmental and historical preservation aspects.
Appendix 3

Resolution to Protect the Natural, Historical and Cultural Value of Jingu Gaien

Jingu Gaien (Meiji Jingu Outer Gardens) was originally created in the Taisho period (1912-1926) as an integral part of the sacred forest of the Meiji Jingu Shrine, which was built in dedication to the deceased Emperor Meiji. In honor of the legacy of Emperor Meiji, many people from all over Japan participated as volunteers in its creation. The trees planted by them at that time are now over 100 years old, providing precious open space for people’s recreation rich in natural features and exhibiting historical and cultural value that is appreciated not only by Japanese people but also internationally. It can be considered to be an early example that is compatible with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals that we advocate today. It also serves as an evacuation site for local residents of the broad surrounding area in the event of a disaster.

However, the Jingu Gaien redevelopment project recently permitted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government has a number of issues of grave concern, including the cutting of thousands of trees, the re-construction of a baseball stadium threatening to kill some of the beautiful gingko trees, and eventually to destroy the gingko promenade, negative visual impacts to be caused by new skyscrapers, and the possibility of people suffering from stronger “building winds”.

To protect the present wonderful scenic beauty and rich natural features of Jingu Gaien, together with its economic value benefitting the surrounding area, too, as well as its venerable historical value, we strongly request that the ginkgo promenades of Jingu Gaien be designated and protected by the national government of Japan as a Place of Scenic Beauty under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties and that the redevelopment project of Jingu Gaien be fundamentally reviewed and duly revised.

December 2022

Diet Members Caucus for the Protection of Nature, History, and Culture of Jingu Gaien

Hajime Funada, Member, House of Representatives of Japan
Leader of the Diet Members Caucus
### Diet Members Caucus for the Protection of Nature, History, and Culture of Jingu Gaien

神宮外苑の自然と歴史・文化を守る国会議員連盟

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**会派 Party**

自由民主党（LDP）Liberal Democratic Party  
立憲民主党（CDP）Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan  
国民民主党（DPP）Democratic Party for the People  
日本共産党（JCP）Japanese Communist Party  
社会民主党（SDP）Social Democratic Party  
日本維新の会（JRP）Japan Restoration Party
Appendix 4

RECOMMENDATIONS

To: Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike regarding
the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the Jingu Gaien Redevelopment Plan

From: The Japan Branch of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)

Emergency Recommendations

1. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government should invite ICOMOS Japan specialists to the deliberation council and hold a public discussion in order to clarify, from a scientific standpoint, whether there is any false or erroneous data in the EIA.

2. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government should withhold its approval and order the developers to stop any work until the points in questions are cleared up as the advisory body of UNESCO, ICOMOS Japan, has expressed serious concerns about the EIA.

IAIA is the world’s leading academic society in the field of EIA, consisting of experts from over 120 nations and regions, which is designated as the representative organization in the field of EIA from the United Nations.

IAIA The leading global network on impact assessment

Its Japan Branch has serious concerns about the EIA of the Jingu Gaien Redevelopment Plan promoted by the Mitsui Fudosan and other three companies, and makes recommendations to take appropriate measures to secure sustainability, which is the primary objective of EIA.

Concerns on the EIA

- Flaws in the EIA Framework: Jingu Gaien is a rare urban park in the world, established in 1926 by the public donating money, trees, and voluntary labor. Ever since, this public space has served as a valuable oasis in central Tokyo, serving not only the citizens of Tokyo but also visitors from both Japan and abroad. The EIA of this redevelopment plan, however, has not assessed the true value of Jingu Gaien. Deliberations at the Chosa Keikakusyo (survey planning) stage of the EIA, equivalent to scoping stage, were inadequate. Important items such as its historical value, which is said to be of UNESCO World Heritage level, the value of the urban green space to be
preserved, biological diversity, etc., were not appropriately assessed. The framework makes it all but impossible to assess the negative impact to sustainability.

· Lack of Scientific Analysis: In the deliberation of the Draft EIA Report stage, flaws in the data were pointed out repeatedly with regard to the ecosystems and the avenue of gingko trees in the area, but the EIA Report was approved in January 2023 without the developers providing adequate information. Just before that, however, ICOMOS Japan (the Japan committee of ICOMOS, the advisory body of UNESCO), based on detailed on-site investigation, pointed out that the EIA Report contains many false data. Ken'ichiro Yanagi, Chairperson of the Deliberation Council, saying the Council could not give the go-ahead as is, asked the developers to produce counterevidence. The counterevidence by the developers was produced at the general meeting of the Deliberation Council held in April and May, but, without the presence of the ICOMOS Japan experts who pointed out the flaw, the meeting ended up being just a one-sided explanation by the developers, with only perfunctory scientific discussion.

· EIA Process Management Issues: ICOMOS Japan, based on the decision of the board of its directors, has provided concrete data for 58 items (according to the answers from the developer) to point out that the EIA Report contains many false data and the developers have the responsibility to produce concrete data as counterevidence. For this to happen, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government office should have withheld the approval of the EIA Report and invite both the ICOMOS Japan experts along with the developers to hold public discussions, but this has not taken place yet.

It is for these reasons that the IAIA Japan Branch has made the Emergency Recommendations above.

IAIA Japan Branch
Representative Harashina, Sachihiko, Ph.D.
President, Chiba University of Commerce
Past President of IAIA
Sub-Representative Tanaka, Akira, Ph.D.
Professor, Tokyo City University
Secretariat General Murayama, Takehiko, Ph.D.
Professor, Tokyo Institute of Technology
Appendix 5

To: Tokyo Governor, Yuriko Koike and others

Request for withdrawal of authorization for Meiji Jingu Gaien redevelopment project and continued deliberations on environmental impact assessment

From: Volunteers in architecture, landscaping, and urban planning experts hoping to rethink Meiji Jingu Gaien redevelopment
Koji Itonaga (Volunteer representative, Former Nihon University Professor)

summary

As experts, we request that the authorization for the Meiji Jingu Gaien redevelopment project be withdrawn and that the environmental impact assessment be continued. This redevelopment project is not proceeding through administrative procedures that ensure the full participation of many Tokyo residents and experts. Large-scale remodeling of cities should be carried out with respect to the will of the city residents who live there. Over time, Jingu Gaien has become a place of natural, cultural and scenic value at the heart of Tokyo. It has become a place of relaxation, a place of exchange, and a place to feel history for Tokyo residents and visitors from Japan and abroad. A large-scale alteration of Tokyo's precious treasure space should not be realized without the understanding and support of many citizens.

We request that the administrative approval of this project be withdrawn from the following professional viewpoints.

1. The green spaces that form the core of central Tokyo should be preserved.
2. The historical value of Japan's first legal scenic district, which has been maintained for a century, should be respected.
3. Buildings with historical value should be restored and preserved, not demolished.
4. The valuable base space for urban disaster prevention in Tokyo cannot be reduced.
5. The decision-making process for redevelopment projects through the use of the Park-Urban Development Program, which is the outline of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and the application of redevelopment promotion districts is undemocratic. Public spaces such as a park designated by the City Planning Law must not be destroyed by the forced decision process.
6. Redevelopment of skyscraper construction by volume transfer in urban park area is a problem.
7. Demand disclosure of environmental impact assessment information and a proper and fair process.
8. The Tokyo Metropolitan Environmental Impact Assessment System should be reviewed.
9. These urban redevelopment projects generate a huge amount of CO2 emissions during construction, which goes against decarbonization.
## Professional Volunteer Member

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Specialized field</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Koji Itonaga</td>
<td>Former Nihon University Professor NPO-EcologyArchscape, Representative</td>
<td>Architecture City and Rural Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mikiko Ishikawa</td>
<td>Prof. Research &amp; Development Initiative, Chuo University, Prof. Emeritus, The university Tokyo Director of ICOMOS JAPAN</td>
<td>Landscape Architecture City and Regional Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryotaro Iwami</td>
<td>Prof. Emeritus, Saitama University</td>
<td>City Planning</td>
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<td>Junichiro Ookata</td>
<td>Prof. Emeritus, The university Tokyo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sachihiko Harashina</td>
<td>President, Chiba University of Commerce Professor emeritus, Tokyo Institute of Technology Representative, IAIA Japan Branch</td>
<td>Environmental Planning and Policy Making Impact Assessment</td>
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<td>Masaya Fujimoto</td>
<td>Honorary Chairman of Japan Federation of Architects &amp; Building Engineers Associations</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
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<td>Toru Wakayama</td>
<td>New Union of Architects and Engineers</td>
<td>City and Regional Planning</td>
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★As of May 2023, 728 experts and citizens have agreed.

July 30, 2023

[Koji Itonaga]
Appendix 6

The Meiji Jingu Gaien Redevelopment Project Neglects the Proper Use and Procedures of Planning Measures

The Meiji Jingu Gaien Redevelopment Project is being carried out by using three planning measures in an integrated manner. The way these measures are used, however, places the highest priority on the interests of the developers, is undemocratic, and is suspected of being illegal.

The Park-Urban Development Program to Create Land for Skyscrapers

The Park-Urban Development Program removes an unused park area from a park designated by the City Planning Law, and allows a developer to develop the removed area on the condition that the development creates a green space meeting specific criteria. It intends to promote urban development while creating a park. The Park-Urban Development Program used for this redevelopment project, however, gives the highest priority to urban development while sacrificing the creation of a park. The plan proposed by the developers regards the site of the rugby stadium, which is not unused, as an unused park area without any reason, and removes a park area of 3.4 ha to build two skyscrapers, 185 m and 80 m tall, there. Undermining the park function, it does not give serious attention to creating a green space.

The program is not based on the law; it is nothing but an administrative rule. It was, however, used to justify modifying the park designated by the law, which means that the program is placed in a superior position in city planning.

The District Plan to Establish a Redevelopment Promotion District to Remove Strict Planning Regulations in the Park

This district plan intends to significantly relax planning regulations in order to promote the intensive use of unused land. This district plan was decided for the entire redevelopment area including the removed park area to abolish strict planning regulations, obstacles to the redevelopment project, in Jingu Gaien.

For example, the plan abolished the height limit of 15 m based on the scenic district designated for Jingu Gaien, enabling the construction of a baseball stadium with a hotel of 60 m in height, as well as a domed rugby stadium of 55 m in height. In addition, the plan drastically increased a floor-area ratio outside the designated park area by relaxing and transferring floor-area ratios, enabling the construction of two skyscrapers, 185 m and 190 m tall.

This district plan, which was based on a proposal made by the developers, was decided without sufficient
An Unprecedented Redevelopment Project for a Park Designated by the City Planning Law

An urban redevelopment project is based on the Urban Redevelopment Law. It is usually implemented as a city planning project, but the Jingu Gaien Redevelopment Project is implemented without being decided as a city planning project. This redevelopment project is not only huge but also for the Jingu Gaien, the precious common property of the citizens of Tokyo. Not implementing it as a city planning project is contempt of city planning with the aim of promoting the public welfare.

Because the project did not follow the procedure for a city planning project, citizens were deprived of the opportunity to participate while the city planning council was not able to discuss the appropriateness of the project.

Since the project has not been decided as a city planning project, the environmental impact assessment was conducted for facilities and buildings that were not specifically decided by law. This is a serious flaw in this environmental assessment.

In the first place, an urban redevelopment project is not intended for a park designated by the City Planning Law. The project plan, therefore, would not meet requirements to be accepted, strongly suspected of being illegal.

As discussed so far, serious flaws are found in planning for the Jingu Gaien Redevelopment Project. It is unacceptable that such unjustified planning destroys Jingu Gaien, precious cultural property and public space for the citizens of Tokyo.
March 3, 2022

Request to Reconsider the Large-Scale Redevelopment Project for Meiji Jingu Gaien

Tokyo Division Executive Board of the New Union of Architects and Engineers
executive director Kazuo Chiyozaiku

We are a group of architects and engineers engaged in architecture and community design that respects the unique and varied history of Tokyo. Meiji Jingu Gaien, since its completion in 1926 with the help of citizens' money and labor, has been popular among the citizens of Tokyo as a precious inner-city open space representative of Tokyo. However, a large-scale redevelopment project now threatens to completely transform the park. The change to the district plan adopted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Planning Council in February 2022, deregulation using the Park-Urban Development Program, development plans such as the redevelopment project—these result in various problems that we, as a group specializing in architecture and community design, simply cannot overlook. Here, we express our view on the large-scale redevelopment project for Jingu Gaien, and demand that the concerned governmental departments and developers reconsider the project.

1. Reducing the park area in order to build skyscrapers is a serious problem
Using the Park-Urban Development Program, the redevelopment plan regards the site of the Prince Chichibu Memorial Rugby Stadium, about 4.7 ha in area, which is now a part of the park designated by the City Planning Law, as an unused park area. The plan removes an area of about 3.4 ha of the site from the designated park area to build two skyscrapers, 185 m and 80 m tall. This is a fundamental problem with the program and the plan, and this must be reconsidered.

2. Conserve historic existing trees and cut down as few trees as possible
ICOMOS Japan has already submitted an opinion about greener to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, demanding that the redevelopment plan be modified. We support the opinion. In our view, it is possible to minimize the number of trees to be cut down by repairing existing facilities at the current locations.

3. Preserve the historic, invaluable landscape instead of destroying it, and save open space
The rows of ginkgo trees, which extend to the north from Aoyama Street, have grown large since the park was established. A view toward the Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery in front contained only the sky, except for trees behind the museum—an invaluable landscape for the inner city. The redevelopment plan would clearly reduce precious open space to a great extent, destroying the historic landscape. We strongly demand the reconsideration of this plan.

4. Restore and repair in an environment-friendly manner instead of relying on large-scale redevelopment
Redevelopment involving large-scale buildings is not necessary to renew sports facilities. Today's top priority is to reduce CO₂ emissions; it is required to use existing buildings and facilities for as long a period as possible. It The renewal of the Jingu Baseball Stadium and the rugby stadium are possible by repairing and renewing facilities in accordance with the times while respecting their history. Such renewal should be pursued; that is the way of building in this area.

5. Planning that leads to empathy and understanding among the citizens of Tokyo
It is a serious problem that a large-scale redevelopment project that transforms Jingu Gaien, a historic large open space in the inner city popular among many citizens of Tokyo, proceeds without communicating sufficient information to the citizens. We consider that Jingu Gaien should be improved for the benefit of the citizens. For this purpose, we as architects and engineers would like to work with the citizens to create an alternative plan reflecting their wishes.
Appendix 8

Redevelopment of Meiji Jingu Gaien and Children's Well-Being: Deprivation of Access to Green Spaces

We are a group opposing urban development and raising concerns about plans to redevelop the Meiji Jingu Gaien area which poses a threat to children’s green space access. Due to lack of adequate response from organizations involved in the redevelopment project, we are campaigning to protect 10 child rights and preserve the Gaien gardens.

- Main Point:
  Our volunteer group consists of local residents who consider the Meiji Jingu Gaien an integral part of daily life and raise children in green environments. We are delivering the voices for governments and developers as this essential public space is being targeted for redevelopment because of the obsession with the so-called “economic growth supremacy,” which, as a result, puts local children and families at risk of losing their rights to a certain standard of living guaranteed to them by the Constitution of Japan.

The Jingu Gaien area is a public space established 100 years ago with private donations, built with collective efforts of more than 7 million citizens and 110,000 volunteers. For the past century it has served as a rest spot for local residents, an oasis of greenery in the city center and a space available to everyone. However, rules and regulations to protect the park have been amended to allow developers to turn the area into a commercial hub dominated with two 185-meter-tall skyscrapers.

We have carried out a wide range of activities so far, including demanding explanations to relevant companies, holding symposiums, organizing petition drives, and submitting public comments. Still, we have not received a satisfying response from the corporate side. Despite our protest, construction work has begun in February this year, with developers planning to cut down 3,000 trees in September.

- The 10 rights of a child threatened by the redevelopment plan are as follows:

1. The right to use green space as a source of healing
2. The freedom to look up at the vast, blue sky
3. The right to breathe fresh air
4. The right to walk outside on hot summer days
5. The right to preserve spaces for future generations
6. The right to learn in a calm environment
7. The right to comfortably enjoy sporting events
8. The right to live a safe and secure life
9. The right to receive sufficient explanation about development projects and express opinions
10. The right to receive education that nurtures the heart

The most sinful aspect of this development is that while teaching the SDGs, it is also giving <the reverse teaching that cuts off the heart> that it is okay to throw away the thoughts and history of our predecessors.
We must do all we can to fulfill the rights of every child. We are filing a complaint about specific violations to their rights caused by the Jingu Gaien Redevelopment Project, and we are asking the UN Working Group to acknowledge the need to reconsider the redevelopment and respect the voices of Japanese citizens.

**Activity Report**

- Organize a symposium
- Public briefing and designation of Chinjo
- windup
- Shinto Shrine Scenic Area
- Submission of petitions to Minato Ward
- Mayor/Chairman/Supervisor of Education
- At a joint press conference with the Japanese
- parliamentary group and ICW:OS Japan
- Ask for a briefing session
- To the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, to the
- Environmental Construction Committee
- Businesses and ICW:OS Japan invite Winnicotts
- send a request letter
- From a business operator involved in the
- redevelopment of Meiji Jingu Gaien
- "Promoting community development in the Jingu
- Gaien district Significance, etc."
- Request for meeting with Minister of Education, Culture,
- Sport, Science and Technology, Nagato and one of developers
- Request for business operators to hold information sessions for residents
- Meeting with Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly
- members
- Visit to Gaien by members of the
- Environment Committee of the House of
- Representatives
- Handing over of request
- Asking UN support for human rights abuses
- suffered by children

July 2023

Volunteer Association to Preserve Meiji Jingu Gaien for Our Children

Leader Nagisa Kato

Nagisa Kato
Appendix 9

Dear Ms Yoriko Koike,

Governor of Tokyo Metropolitan Government,

(Translated from Japanese)

Please excuse my abrupt letter.

I am Ryuichi Sakamoto, a musician.

I would like to tell my thoughts on the redevelopment of Jingu Gaien.

Please read on.

Frankly speaking, we should not sacrifice the precious Jingu trees that our predecessors have spent a century protecting and nurturing for immediate economic gain.

These trees can benefit everybody, but from the development, only a handful of wealthy people will benefit. These trees are nature itself, and once lost, they can never be regained.

In New York City, where I live, in 2007, Mayor at that time, Bloomberg launched a project to plant one million trees in the city. It is based on environmental and mental health considerations, social justice, and above all, goals for the future. It is a profound thought for the next generation.

Following the lead of NY City, afforestation campaigns are underway in Boston, LA, and other cities in USA.

Now, people all around the world are working toward the realization of SDGs. However, the development of Jingu Gaien is far from sustainability.

If you are going to achieve sustainability, you should suspend Jingu Gaien redevelopment project that is currently underway, and review the plan totally so that we can hand these trees to our future children.

You should clearly identify that Tokyo is a "sanctuary of the city and nature" and take the political initiative to achieve this goal. I believe that you will win the admiration from the world.

For protecting Jingu Gaien forever, I respectfully request that you will take this opportunity to designate Jingu Gaien as a Place of Scenic Beauty.

I am looking forward to your leadership.

Ryuichi Sakamoto

https://www.tokyo-np.co.jp/article/243643
Appendix 10

List of newspapers, magazines, articles and TV

From March, 2014 to June, 2023
神宮外苑再開発で本来建てられないはずの高層ビルが建つ理由…可能
神宮外苑、危うし=山田孝男
スマートフラッシュ/SMART FLASH
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
本音のコラム 神宮の森の大伐採 鎌田慧
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
https://www.nikkan-gendai.com/articles/view/life/301246
神宮外苑 再開発を承認 100年の森900本近く伐採
石原都政では美観保護
都政新報/The TOSEIi SHIMPO
http://www.tokyominpo.com/2022/02/19/%E7%A5%9E%
神宮外苑再開発 移植樹「リハビリ」は難題 建物優先・・生育環境
スポーツ報知/SPORTS HOCHI /
https://www.tokyominpo.com/2022/03/18/%E7%A5%9E%
外苑伐採「待った」都へ5.1万筆
東京の森(2)神宮の森は献木でできている
東洋経済オンライン/Toyo Keizai
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
本音のコラム 千の木になって 三木義一
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
風 2度目の五輪、理念は
100年の森は全国の献木「1本ずつ歴史代え利かぬ」外苑900本伐採問
神宮100年の森忍び寄る開発
神宮外苑再開発で樹木伐採・事業者側「図示は難しい」
神宮外苑 樹木1000本を伐採・移植 「珠玉の景観 存亡の危機」
https://www.huffingtonpost.jp/entry/5130154
日刊ゲンダイ/NIKKAN GENDAI
北海道新聞/HOKKAIDO Shimbun
https://www.decn.co.jp/?p=123453
神宮外苑の樹齢100年に及ぶ木が1000本伐採へ…小池都知事の「再開
神宮外苑の再開発 イコモスが見直し提言「文化的空間守るべきだ」
「日本の近代を象徴する空間を理解していない、法律も守らない都市
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
集いの杜・人の行き交い見つめて100年
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
神宮外苑「伐採見直しを」5万人超の署名、都に提出 再開発計画
https://mainichi.jp/articles/20220207/k00/00m/040/2650
NHK/Japan Broadcasting
ハフポスト /HUFFPOST JAPAN
毎日エコノミスト/ Weekly
100年守った樹々犠牲にしないで 坂本龍一さん
リテラ /LITERA
表題、見出し
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
サンデー毎日/The Sunday Mainichi
高校生3人が、神宮外苑の樹木伐採に反対の声をあげ続ける理由「私た
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
建設工業新聞/The Daily Engineering
ハフポスト /HUFFPOST JAPAN
newspaper
資料の形態
東京五輪3兆円超えの戦犯・森喜朗のもうひとつの疑惑!
日刊ゲンダイ/NIKKAN GENDAI
神宮外苑再開発に透ける明治神宮と三井不の「金儲け主義」
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
東京都が神宮再開発で由緒ある樹木892本伐採 小池知事は「保守」を
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
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東京都が神宮再開発で由緒ある樹木892本伐採 小池知事は「保守」を
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
きょうの潮流

明治神宮外苑伐採問題めぐり、陳情者の代表が会見「何本植えても代

集いの杜・木々を渡る夜風に吹かれ

❓

余る「容積」を譲渡し建築費負担を圧縮

神宮外苑再開発「都民参加を」、小池知事が要請…樹木1000本伐
税金で美しい景観壊すな 山添議員ら現地調査

「監査請求中伐採は違法」イチョウ並木住民が千代田区提訴
神宮外苑伐採「一本ごとに物語が」

外苑再開発2本のみ提言・日本イコモス委が試案

外苑伐採2本のみ提言・日本イコモス委が試案

外苑再開発「情報公開足りない」原科・千葉商科大学長に聞く

神宮外苑再開発が暗礁に乗り上げた裏事情、森元首相に長生きを誓わ

神宮外苑再開発問題・70年前、緑守った都「今は真逆」

「監査請求中伐採は違法」イチョウ並木住民が千代田区提訴
神宮外苑伐採「一本ごとに物語が」

「都民参加を」、小池知事が要請…樹木1000本伐
税金で美しい景観壊すな 山添議員ら現地調査

「監査請求中伐採は違法」イチョウ並木住民が千代田区提訴
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「監査請求中伐採は違法」イチョウ並木住民が千代田区提訴
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神宮外苑伐採「一本ごとに物語が」
神宮外苑いちょう並木は「確実に維持できない」専門家が計画を厳し

神宮外苑再開発、球場建設でイチョウ保全は本当に大丈夫？ 基本方

毎日新聞/Mainichi shimbun
NHK/Japan Broadcasting
NHK/Japan Broadcasting

神宮外苑の樹木はヒートアイランド抑制に効果 国際環境NGOが保存

ハフポスト/HUFFPOST JAPAN
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun

「環境保全担保されていない」外苑再開発 審議終了 事業者案了承

https://mainichi.jp/articles/20220820/ddl/k13/040/00700

五輪疑惑・神宮外苑再開発・不動産廉売
アエラ/AERA.dot/Asahi Shimbun
神宮外苑再開発 「伐採さらに減」 都審議会答申 情報の積極開示も

「都民ファーストなら樹木を残して」始球式をした小池知事に、市民

朝日新聞/ASAHI Shimbun

神宮外苑再開発 「経緯や将来像、知って」 都がHPで公開 /東京
ハフポスト/HUFFPOST JAPAN
アエラ/AERA.dot/Asahi Shimbun
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun

神宮外苑のいちょう並木「後世に残す努力を」開発計画に専門家指

週刊ダイヤモンド/Weekly DIAMOND
都民から献木 事業者が検討

東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun

読売新聞/YOMIURI Shimbun

港区が伐採見合わせ 神宮の街路樹アオギリ
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun

神宮外苑再開発 着工前にも調査・説明要求 都環境審、異例の答申
伐採本数4割削減 イコモスが異議 外苑再開発「根拠確認できず」

https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOCC23A220T20C22A

新球場が近すぎる…神宮外苑のイチョウ並木「絶体絶命の危機」 新

神宮外苑 樹木の伐採 1000本から550本に削減 都審議会部会が再開

「外苑イチョウ 生育に懸念 至近に巨大建造物 警者警鐘

東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun

明治神宮と三井不動産の深い関係
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
weekly magazine

環境保全徹底求める答申 神宮外苑再開発で都審議会
毎日新聞/Mainichi shimbun
日本経済新聞/NIHON KEIZAI

計画見直し高まる声

神宮外苑の「伐採4割削減」は全体数ではなかった。「非常に問題があ
https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOCC066OO0W2A001C

計画見直し高まる声

神宮外苑の「伐採4割削減」は全体数ではなかった。「非常に問題があ

神宮外苑再開発見直しを 建築士ら都に要請
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun

伐採4割減 実現不透明 外苑再開発 移植困難な樹木も
https://www.sankei.com/article/20220818-

東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun
産経新聞/Sankei shimbun
計画見直し高まる声

神宮外苑の「伐採4割削減」は全体数ではなかった。「非常に問題があ

https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOCC066OO0W2A001

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神宮外苑再開発見直しを 建築士ら都に要請
東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun

伐採4割減 実現不透明 外苑再開発 移植困難な樹木も
世界/SEKAI/Iwanami Shoten

外苑イチョウの根の調査「負荷が大きい」 日日本イコモスが見直し要

https://www.huffingtonpost.jp/entry/save-meiji-jingu-

ハフポスト /HUFFPOST JAPAN

神宮球場やラグビー場、外苑再開発着工へ 自然や景観への影響懸念

市民団体「周知せず開会は無効に」環境アセス審 外苑再開発を突然

Thousands sign petition to save
newspaper

神宮球場の建て替えは「金儲け」の道具だ。斎藤幸平さんら訴える

長期視点で景観保護を 宇都宮大学准教授三田妃路佳

神宮外苑の再開発、実質的「スタートOK」状態に。樹木伐採の危機に

朝日新聞/ASAHI Shimbun

どうなる神宮外苑のイチョウ並木 小池都知事はどう判断する?再開

日本経済新聞/NIHON KEIZAI

「論拠ない非科学的な調査書」神宮外苑再開発、イコモス日本が都の

外苑イチョウ一部生育不良  外苑再開発イチョウへの悪影響 有識者 以

the japan times

朝日新聞/ASAHI Shimbun

外苑再開発 事業者が昨年末に施行認可申請 アセスの議論が収束し

東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun

ハフポスト /HUFFPOST JAPAN

日刊スポーツ/NIKKAN SPORTS

神宮外苑再開発の環境アセス手続きが事実上終了 反対意見表明の委

東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun

神宮外苑 イチョウ並木守ろう 有志ネットと超党派議員集会 笠井

FOCUS: Activists fight city hall

神宮外苑再開発計画の大幅見直し求める国会議員の議連発足 有名な

日刊スポーツ/NIKKAN SPORTS

下野新聞/ SIMOTSUKE Shimbun

新聞赤旗/ AKAHATA Shimbun

神宮外苑のイチョウ並木回復のための調査「負荷が大きい」 日日本イコモスが見直し要

https://www.huffingtonpost.jp/entry/save-meiji-jingu-

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神宮外苑再開発計画の大幅見直し求める国会議員の議連発足 有名な

日刊スポーツ/NIKKAN SPORTS

下野新聞/ SIMOTSUKE Shimbun

新聞赤旗/ AKAHATA Shimbun

外苑再開発計画見直し、議連が文科相に求める 都は環境アセ

日本経済新聞/NIHON KEIZAI

外苑アセス誤りだらけ 神宮と秩父宮「改修で対応を」

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神宮外苑の再開発計画見直し、議連が文科相に求める 都は環境アセ

日本経済新聞/NIHON KEIZAI

外苑再開発の環境アセスは「非科学的」 専門家ら、都に再審議を要

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22-Jan-23

東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun

再開発抜本見直しを

新聞赤旗/ AKAHATA Shimbun

外苑再開発の環境アセス手続きが事実上終了 反対意見表明の委

東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun

外苑再開発の環境アセス手続きが事実上終了 反対意見表明の委

東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun

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外苑再開発の環境アセス手続きが事実上終了 反対意見表明の委

東京新聞/TOKYO shimbun

外苑再開発の環境アセス手続きが事実上終了 反対意見表明の委

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| 291 | 21-May-23 | newspaper | The ENERGY MIX | Tokyo Residents Rally to Protect Trees, Stop Skyscrapers in Iconic Urban Park |
| 292 | 23-May-23 | web news site | ハフポスト/HUFFPOST JAPAN | 「あまりにも非科学的」神宮外苑再開発、アセス審議会に指摘、何が問題だったのか |
| 293 | 25-May-23 | weekly magazine | Josei Jishin/Kobunsha Publishing | 秋篠宮さまが急浮上 樹木伐採注視の救世主 |
| 294 | 26-May-23 | weekly magazine | Weekly ASAHI | 下重暁子氏「不動産業だけ一人勝ち?」 |
| 295 | 27-May-23 | newspaper | AKAHATA Shimbun | 新聞赤旗「国民の声を聞いて」 |
| 296 | 30-May-23 | newspaper | 毎日新聞/TOKYO SHIMBUN | 発言 ファン不在の神宮球場建て替え |
| 297 | 30-May-23 | magazine | SEKAI/Iwanami Shoten Publishers | 神宮外苑を未来永劫守るために 坂本龍一さんが最後に伝えたこと |
| 298 | 30-May-23 | magazine | NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN | 神宮外苑の問題解消 神宮外苑 森山高至 |
| 299 | 1-Jun-23 | newspaper | 神田新聞/Haruo SHIMBUN | 神宮外苑の問題解消 神宮外苑 森山高至 |
Appendix 11

Foreign Media

• the japan times, A controversy forces Tokyo to define “public park”, Dec.22, 2022

• AP NEWS, Tokyo plan likened to putting “skyscrapers” in Central Park, April 29, 2023
A controversy forces Tokyo to define 'public park'

One of the big draws of Tokyo’s Meiji Jingu Gaien park is its avenue of gingko trees, which attract visitors in autumn. | KYODO

BY TIM HORNAYAK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
It was an unusually warm November morning at Meiji Jingu Gaien in Tokyo’s Aoyama neighborhood as crowds began to gather. The row of meticulously manicured gingko trees was resplendent with golden leaves, drawing Tokyoites and foreign tourists in search of some seasonal snapshots.

However, the Instagrammable spot has become the symbol of a growing dispute over if and how the park should be redeveloped. Activists, bureaucrats and businesspeople have been drawn into a wider battle about how public parks should be managed and for whose benefit.

A pair of environmental activists were at Jingu Gaien on that morning in November, raising awareness about the large-scale redevelopment plan, which involves the removal of nearly 1,000 trees, and gathering signatures against it. They were targeting foreign visitors, now returning to Japan thanks to the lifting of pandemic restrictions.

“Japan is high on the list of major emitters, and I think it needs to wake up and look at projects like this and ask whether this is something we should be doing,” says Marian Hara, a long-term resident petitioning passersby.

In February, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government approved plans to redevelop a large part of Jingu Gaien to clear the way for high-rise buildings and the construction of a new Meiji Jingu Stadium and
Chichibunomiya Rugby Stadium, which backers say are aging and in need of replacement.

The news sent shock waves through the local community, however, because of the inclusion of a plan to cut down hundreds of trees, an oasis of green in Tokyo’s enormous expanse of concrete. While the redevelopment area includes the famous line of gingko trees stretching from Aoyama-dori avenue toward the Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery and the National Stadium, the entities behind the project — real estate developer Mitsui Fudosan, trading house Itochu, Meiji Jingu shrine and the Japan Sport Council — promised to preserve the famous leafy corridor.

“The Jingu Gaien area is faced with urban development issues such as aging sports facilities and other facilities, obsolete athletic and spectator environments, lack of space for people to casually enjoy sports and other activities and to enjoy greenery, congestion due to lack of pedestrian space and lack of continuous barrier-free routes,” a spokesperson for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government says.

In spring, campaigns to preserve the park gained visibility. Activists appealed to the public, emphasizing the fact that Jingu Gaien has a history of nearly 100 years. Opponents included the Japan ICOMOS National Committee, an advisory entity to UNESCO, which called for the project to be urgently overhauled. The developers backpedaled, lowering the number of trees to by felled by 40% from 971.

“In a word, their reaction to public opposition is arrogant,” says Tenco Tsunoi, a local resident who has mounted a campaign against the
redevelopment, in reference to Mitsui Fudosan. “Although the company has been publicizing that it has ‘reduced the number of trees to be cut,’ as if it has taken public voices into consideration, it has no intention of making any changes in the essential aspects of the project. It is nothing but deception for such a company to talk about sustainable development goals and climate change.”

Mitsui Fudosan says the park needs to be redeveloped for the next 100 years in line with guidelines adopted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in November 2018.
“In the urban development of the Jingu Gaien area, we intend to further develop the area as a bustling, lush and green sports center,” a Mitsui Fudosan spokesperson says, declining to be named due to company policy. “We will create an environment and plaza space where anyone can enjoy sports. We will preserve and transplant existing trees as much as possible and create new greenery, making the area more attractive and valuable than before. In the process, existing trees will be preserved and transplanted as much as possible.”

Hajime Funada, a Diet member for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, recently announced a coalition of lawmakers calling for the redevelopment plan to be revised.

However, the dispute shows no sign of going away, and it may affect how similar public-private projects are carried out in future.

**Hallowed ground**

Before it became a shrine to sports, Jingu Gaien was intended to be another memorial to Emperor Meiji, the great modernizer of Japan. It was completed in 1926, six years after and about 1.7 kilometers to the east of Meiji Shrine, his principal monument. Today Jingu Gaien is dominated not only by the imposing Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery, a granite and marble monolith from 1918, but three sports stadiums — the latest built for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

While most of the land at Jingu Gaien is owned by Meiji Shrine, it is also designated as a Landscape Protection Area.
However, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government revised its parks and green spaces policy in 2011 to harness the power of the private sector to develop “unused areas” in parks that had been established 50 or more years ago.

Under this *kōen machizukuri* (park town development) system, parks or green spaces can be abolished or changed based on proposals from the private sector.

Tom Havens, an emeritus professor of Japanese history at the University of California at Berkeley and Northwestern University, notes the long history of private involvement in park development, including 1992 amendments to municipal planning laws.

“These changes allowed, indeed counted on, private investment in park management to reduce how much public money had to be allocated,” Havens says. “The City Parks Law was further amended in 2003, privatizing many aspects of park management through detailed contracts with nonprofits or with private vendors.”

Mixing green space with commercial, sports and cultural facilities is nothing new in Japan. Opened by Emperor Meiji himself in 1876, Tokyo’s Ueno Park is one of the oldest public parks in the country and was built on the remains of the enormous Kan’ei-ji temple, destroyed in the 1868 Battle of Ueno between pro-imperial troops and shogunal loyalists.

Ironically, the cash-strapped government of the time had planned to uproot and sell all the trees on the land to the public to raise funds, but
Prince Yamagata Aritomo, a prominent garden designer, purchased them, preserving the woods for posterity. That didn’t stop the construction over the next 150 years of five museums, a university, a concert hall, a zoo and other facilities on the grounds, not to mention a Starbucks. These attractions, along with the park’s roughly 800 cherry trees, draw countless visitors every year.

Urban development

What’s new in park development now is the spread of public-private partnerships, including private finance initiatives (PFIs). These are deregulatory measures through which governments outsource the development or management of public facilities such as parks, ports and airports to private-sector entities.
To coincide with the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Shibuya Ward and Mitsui Fudosan transformed Miyashita Park near Shibuya Station from a green space with tall trees into a shopping mall with a few shrubs on its roof. | TIM HORNYYAK

For instance, to coincide with the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Shibuya Ward and Mitsui Fudosan transformed Miyashita Park near Shibuya Station from a green space with tall trees into a shopping mall with a few shrubs on its roof. It has the usual outlets of global brands like Adidas, Louis Vuitton and Gucci as well as a leisure area for skateboarding, wall climbing and other sports; Mitsui also erected a high-rise hotel on the site. The Miyashita Park name remains, albeit with the brand “Rayard” tacked onto it, but along with the trees, the homeless people who once sheltered there were uprooted years ago.
Mitsui Fudosan then took its Rayard brand to another public park, the street-length Hisaya Odori in Nagoya. Now a “Mitsui Shopping Park,” it is lined with shops and amusement facilities and has the appearance of an open-air shopping mall. Before and after photos of the park taken from Nagoya TV Tower show a significant loss of trees in the area.

Another member of the Mitsui Group, trading house Mitsui & Co., is part of a consortium planning the first park-PFI to be implemented by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

Meiji Metropolitan Park, set to open in October 2023, will be situated on an area of 7,500 square meters beside the National Stadium and Jingu Gaien. It will feature a large concrete pedestrian deck, five commercial facilities such as shops and restaurants, a plaza and a forested area. The overall goal is to prove people with “an improved living environment suited to their needs,” according to a Mitsui news release.

Another PFI project in the capital is the redevelopment of Tokyo Sea Life Park, a public aquarium in Edogawa Ward’s Kasai Rinkai Park on Tokyo Bay. It involves the construction of a new aquarium to replace the existing iconic glass dome designed by architect Yoshio Taniguchi. Opened in 1989, the dome has been described as aging and irreparable by proponents of the project. Despite opposition by the Architectural Institute of Japan, which lobbied to preserve the dome, the project is going ahead (the ultimate fate of the dome remains unclear). Earlier
this year, the Tokyo government announced the successful bidder for the ¥43.1 billion project is a consortium led by NEC Capital Solutions.

“The Tokyo Metropolitan Government ignored citizens’ objections and decided to transfer the entire aquarium functions to the new facility,” says Motoyasu Muramatsu, an architect who has opposed the project. “Although the water basin and glass dome connecting the aquarium to the sea will remain, the freshwater aquarium will be demolished, and more than 1,000 trees that have grown over the past 35 years will be cut down, and the rich soil removed.”

**Balancing interests**

Advocates call PFIs a way of financing public projects that saves money for taxpayers and the government in a time when public coffers are increasingly strained. Opponents say they are privatization schemes that can bilk the public while lining private pockets.

In Britain, which began using PFIs some 30 years ago, the National Audit Office found in 2018 that PFIs can cost 40% more than using public money, and there was scant evidence that investment in more than 700 public-private projects had produced benefits.
Those opposed to the Jingu Gaien redevelopment and similar projects involving public parks say they reflect how the public is shut out of the decision-making process. | TIM HORNAYAK

Japan, however, continues to explore PFIs under legislation such as the Private Finance Initiatives Act of 1999. Between that year and 2020, the number of PFI projects in Japan reached 875, representing a value of some $61 billion, according to a Cabinet Office document, which states that “PFI has become one of the preferred methods of developing social infrastructure and is steadily gaining traction.”

Tokyo, meanwhile, sees the private sector as a key player in its plan to improve parks located amid high-priced real estate.
“The Tokyo Metropolitan Government and municipalities have the primary responsibility for the development of urban parks and green spaces. A ‘parks and community development system’ is used to promote the commercialization of parks and green spaces,” says the aforementioned Tokyo Metropolitan Government spokesperson. “This is a system to create comfortable urban spaces with greenery and open spaces by seizing opportunities for private development, while balancing urban development and the improvement of parks and green spaces, and solving local issues.”

Those opposed to the Jingu Gaien redevelopment and similar projects involving public parks say they reflect how the public is shut out of the decision-making process.

Rochelle Kopp is a business consultant who has been campaigning against the Jingu Gaien redevelopment plans. She says she tried to present a petition against the project, which now has more than 100,000 signatures, to Mitsui Fudosan and Itochu, but both developers have refused to meet her.

“This is far beyond simply hurting trees — it’s really a question of democracy and public participation in decisions about the environment around them,” Kopp says. “Deals have been made in dark, smoky rooms without public involvement. The whole way of going about it has been quite abhorrent and disturbing.”

Kopp says much of the planning process for Jingu Gaien took place out of the public eye, with only the minimum disclosure required legally. She points to questions about the project’s history raised by
Tokyo Metropolitan Government assembly member Akira Harada, who received partially redacted planning documents from local government agencies.

She thinks the argument that aging facilities should be replaced with newer ones is not convincing and holds that more money should be set aside for maintenance instead of megaprojects, citing overseas fundraising entities such as Chicago’s Friends of the Parks, a nonprofit group that raises money for playgrounds, plants trees and educates the public.

“I have seen a lot of parks in Japan that are not taken care of and that is a huge public failing of government, but that doesn’t mean that the only way to solve it is to turn it into a shopping mall,” Kopp says. “There’s a reason why we have public spaces and there’s a role for government, but it just feels like the (Tokyo Metropolitan) Government wants to abdicate its responsibility.”
Tokyo plan likened to putting ‘skyscrapers’ in Central Park

By STEPHEN WADE

April 29, 2023

People gather in front of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building in Tokyo, Sunday, April 9, 2023, as they protest against the Meiji Jingu Gaien area redevelopment project. An area known as Jingu Gaien is famous for a row of about 150 ginko trees. The redevelopment plans call for razing a historic baseball stadium and a neighboring rugby stadium in the area and rebuilding them in different spots in the reconfigured space, making room for a pair of towering skyscrapers and a shopping area. (AP Photo/Stephen Wade)

TOKYO (AP) — The Jingu Gaien area in central Tokyo is a cultural and historic treasure, a mostly green space set aside almost 100 years ago with private donations to honor Japan’s famous Meiji Emperor.
With the tacit support of Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, a real estate company is planning to redevelop the green enclave with a pair of high-rise towers — about 190 meters (620 feet) each — and a smaller 80-meter (260-foot) companion.

Plans also call for razing a famous baseball stadium where Babe Ruth played — and demolishing an adjoining rugby venue — and rebuilding them on a reconfigured tract that provides more commercial space.

“This is like building skyscrapers in the middle of Central Park in New York,” Professor Mikiko Ishikawa told the Associated Press.

Ishikawa is an emeritus professor at the University of Tokyo who did her masters degree at Harvard. She studied landscape architecture and Central Park's history and said the park was an inspiration for the Japanese – as were European designs – when Jingu Gaien was completed in 1926.

“Tokyo would lose its soul,” said Ishikawa, who described the area as “the showroom of the Japanese nation” when it was opened.

“Jingu Gaien is a public place, and you should think of it as a commons,” she said.

The controversial, billion-dollar project pits a diverse group of activists, preservations, and local residents against Koike, the metropolitan government, and real estate developer Mitsui Fudosan.

The project will take more than a decade to complete, but Koike has allowed some limited construction to begin despite questions about the environmental impact.

“The Jingu Gaien was paid for by private money, maybe the earliest example of crowd-funding,” Ishikawa said.

Opponents have filed suit seeking an injunction to stop the project, which would allow environmental issues to be addressed and explore if the area needs a radical makeover.

“For me and other people who live in the neighborhood, we never dreamed there would be anything like this happening,” said Tenco Tsunoi, a graphic designer who opposes the project.

“It was a complete shock,” added Tsunoi, who said the project was done “very quietly” by the city and the developer.

Activists have gathered almost 200,000 signatures on a petition to stop the project. And a newspaper poll conducted by Tokyo Shimbun last year showed 69.5% against the project.

Famous Japanese composer and musician Ryuichi Sakamoto, days before his death on March 28, sent an emotive letter to Koike to oppose the project as his last cause. About 6,000 gathered earlier this month near the National Stadium to remind Koike of his wishes.

Sachihiko Harashina, an engineer who specializes in environmental planning and is the president of Chiba University of Commerce, said Koike seemed to favor the developers.
“If the governor has a mind to hear the voice of the people, she should make more communication with the people,” Harashina said in an email to AP.

Harashina is a leading international and national expert on Environmental Impact Assessment, or EIA. He termed as “very poor” the quality and thoroughness of the impact assessment on this project.

“I should say this is one of the poorest EIAs in Japan,” he said. He said the city’s own Environmental Assessment Committee has pointed out several flaws.

“One of the major problems in the process of the EIA for the Jingu Gaien redevelopment project is the lack of scientific analysis of the ecosystem of the park,” Harashina said.

Harashina and others say that Koike could stop the project if she wished.

Koike addressed Jingu Gaien several months ago at news conference. A Japanese reporter, posing a question, told Koike that local statutes require her to “take measures in the event that business engages in fraudulent behavior.”

“There are people who have great interest in this matter — people who are opposed and people who are very active,” Koike replied. “There are people who voice such concerns but this issue is going through procedural steps — fraudulent or not.” She said the city council was “currently deliberating on this matter.”

The flashpoint has been trees, green space, and who controls a public area that has been encroached on over the years. Also at issue is the fate of more than 100 ginko trees that line an avenue in the area and provide a colorful cascade of falling leaves each autumn.

The developer says the trees on the avenue will be kept, but 18 others away from the main avenue will be felled. In addition, Ishikawa said the root system of the remaining ginko trees will be damaged — perhaps killed — when the new baseball stadium is built within about 8 meters (25 feet) of the tree line.

About 1,500 trees were cut down to build the National Stadium for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The Olympics, caught up in a corruption and bribery scandal over the last several years, also helped the city pass legislation to remove height restrictions in the Jingu Gaien area. Activists believe planning for the project began a decade ago.

“Up until now, Tokyo has preserved a lot of these public spaces,” Ishikawa, the landscape architect said. “If this goes through, this will be the first one of these preserved places that will be completely destroyed. This will be like a tidal wave, or the domino effect. If this can go forward in Jingu Gaien, what’s next?”

Save Tokyo’s historic Chichibunomiya Rugby Stadium!

Tsuyoshi Horao
Former Japan National Rugby Team Member

My name is Tsuyoshi Hirao, and I am a former Japan national rugby team member. Chichibunomiya Rugby Ground is a "sacred place for rugby" in Japan, along with Hanazono Rugby Stadium in the western part of the country. It has a 75-year history as a dedicated rugby stadium, standing against a backdrop of rows of ginkgo trees. However, there are plans to relocate Chichibunomiya. The facility is old and needs to be renovated. However, the new stadium being planned is a rugby stadium in name only, that will bring little benefit to players and spectators. Building the new stadium will also lead to the destruction of a 100-year old forest in Jingu Gaien park.

We who love rugby do not want to be part of “sportswashing” that destroys the environment under the guise of sports. Please support this petition and read further for more details on why the stadium rebuilding plan is so problematic.

1. **No more games under the blue sky. The roof will not open and close.**

   One of the most enjoyable aspects of rugby is how you can make the weather work for you. In the great games of the past, the weather is part of what is etched in everyone's memories. Games in cold rain or light snow are unique. But the planned new facility will have a closed roof, rather than the current open-air stadium.

2. **Artificial turf will be used.**

   Artificial turf or hybrid turf will be used in the new stadium. Players may suffer burn injuries as a result. There will be more serious injuries. Microplastics are also a concern due to the friction created in the intensity of the competition.

3. **The number of spectator seats will be drastically reduced from 25,000 to 15,000, a 40% decrease.**

   The number of seats will be reduced by 40%, nearly half. Even now, it is difficult to get tickets for many games. With 10,000 fewer seats, it will be even harder.

4. **Can the new facility really be called a rugby field?**

   Although detailed plans for the new facility have not yet been released, it has been announced that it will serve as a venue for live concerts, basketball games, and even ice shows. A large screen will be installed on the north side of the stands. Although it may be convenient and efficient to have a facility that can be used for anything, but can such a facility be a "sacred place for rugby" as the current
Chichibynomiya is? The current Chichibunomiya rugby stadium should be renovated rather than rebuilt, avoiding spending a huge amount of money to build a new facility. Hanshin Koshien Stadium, which is even older than Chichibunomiya, was transformed into a beautiful ballpark by renovation work that was done only during the off-season. It was a renovation that respected tradition, preserving the scenery that was enjoyed by our predecessors. We would like to do the same thing, passing on a historic stadium to the next generation by renovating Chichibunomiya rugby stadium.

5. The destruction of Jingu Gaien will start with the relocation of Chichibunomiya.

The area where the new facility will be built is home to the National Foundation Memorial Archive Forest. The first step in the construction will be cutting down approximately 150 100-year-old trees, thus devastating the forest. In this time of climate and environmental crisis, is cutting down a 100-year-old forest an act that we can be proud of in front of our children? After the current Chichibunomiya rugby stadium is relocated, in its place a high-rise building of nearly 200 meters and the new Jingu baseball Stadium will be built. The new baseball stadium’s placement will kill the trees of the famous gingko avenue. Also, the 18 ginkgo trees leading to the east entrance of Chichibunomiya stadium are scheduled to be cut down. The construction of a new stadium, which will involve environmental destruction, is out of step with the current trend in the sports world.

Jingu Gaien, along with its 100-year old forest, is a special place where people can become familiar with sports. The trees in this forest were carefully selected and planted 100 years ago with a variety of trees, so that it would become a natural and special forest.

These are all the things that will be lost in the redevelopment plan. There is only a short time left before this plan is approved, so please support us by signing this petition. Let's protect the “Sacred Place of Rugby” and pass down Chichibunomiya rugby stadium to the next generation with pride.

Endorsers:
Kohei Saito (Associate Professor, University of Tokyo)
Tatsushi Fujiwara (Associate Professor, Kyoto University)

Photo: Wikimedia Commons Edomura no Tokuzo
https://www.change.org/p/%E7%A7%A9%E7%88%B6%E5%AE%AE%E3%83%A9% E3%82%B0%E3%83%93%E3%83%BC%E5%A0%B4%E3%82%92%E3%81%93%E3% 81%AE%E5%9C%B0%E3%81%A7%E7%B6%99%E6%89%BF%E3%81%97%E3% 81%9F%E3%81%84-%E3%83%A9%E3%82%B0%E3%83%93%E3%83%BC%E3%81% AE%E8%81%96%E5%9C%B0-%E3%81%AE%E7%A7%BB%E8%BB%A2-%E6%9 4%B9%E6%82%AA%E3%82%92%E6%AD%A2%E3%82%81%E3%82%88%E3%81%86-85a326a7-0477-45de-a7d6-35fb41a8ee59?recruiter=50398483&recruited_by_id=e7f77248-85a2-11e8-aa85-3f9d4b12376&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=p etition_dashboard
Save Jingu Stadium! Protect this Historical Cultural Asset and Sacred Baseball Site

Robert Whiting

Meiji Jingu Baseball Stadium (Jingu Stadium) is home to the Tokyo Yakult Swallows and other professional baseball teams and has been loved by many baseball fans as the "Mecca of college baseball" featuring teams from the Big Six Universities League.

Jingu Stadium, which opened in 1926, has been the center of Japanese baseball history along with Hanshin Koshien Stadium. It is one of the only remaining baseball stadiums where Babe Ruth played, making it a notable place in the history of world baseball. This stadium is filled with nearly 100 years of tradition and the memories of the players and spectators who played and cheered there under the wide blue sky.

However, Jingu Stadium is about to be torn down and replaced with a new stadium as part of the Jingu Gaien redevelopment project. In many ways, this plan is a betrayal of the expectations of baseball fans, and in addition, it threatens to destroy the surrounding environment, including endangering the ginkgo trees that are the symbol of Jingu Gaien.

Through this petition we hope to make more people aware of what is happening. We would appreciate your support and hope that you will sign this petition calling for Jingu Stadium to be spared.

Petition started by:

Robert Whiting, author of “The Chrysanthemum and the Bat”
Citizens Who Care About Meiji Jingu Stadium

The following is a list of problems with the current redevelopment plan:

(1) The new stadium will be surrounded by a forest of skyscrapers. The baseball environment will be worsened.
According to the redevelopment plan, three skyscrapers of 190 meters, 185 meters, and 80 meters will be built around the new stadium. Attached to the stadium itself will be a 60-meter-high hotel building. Surrounding the field with tall buildings will deprive fans of the spectacular big sky, sunsets and full moons that they have come to love as part of the Jingu Gaien experience.

In addition, the buildings will create strong winds that will blow onto the stadium, likely impacting the games played there. Spectators will find themselves sitting in the long shadows created by the skyscrapers, which will be uncomfortable and make it difficult for them to enjoy the game. In addition, based on the information shared so far about the plans, the hotel building will be placed behind the infield stands in a design that may force the outfield stands to be compressed. If the outfield stands where the fans share their excitement were to shrink, it would take away half the fun of attending a game at Jingu Stadium, given the great popularity of the Yakult Swallows oendan. This could cause people to lose interest in attending games at Jingu Stadium. We ask that further detailed information about the new stadium plans in this regard be released.

2) Jingu No. 2 Stadium and the softball fields will be eliminated. Thus, the general public will no longer be able to play baseball at Jingu Gaien.

Jingu Gaien isn’t only a place for professional baseball. It is also a sacred place for amateur baseball. The Jingu No. 2 Stadium, which has served as the venue for amateur baseball, will also be demolished as part of the redevelopment plan. The six softball fields (located in the plaza in front of the Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery) and the adjacent indoor ball practice building and batting center will also be closed. No replacement facilities will be provided for any of them. The futsal court and golf practice range will also be eliminated.

In promoting Tokyo as an Olympics host, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government proclaimed that Jingu Gaien would be a “sports cluster” where “opportunities will be created for everyone to enjoy sports.” But in reality, the plan is to build non-sports commercial facilities and courts for an expensive members-only tennis club and steal sports facilities from the public. We object to the elimination of places where the general public can conveniently enjoy sports. Shutting out amateur athletes makes a mockery of the spirit of the founding of Jingu Gaien.
The beloved tradition of Swallows players practicing on the open field in front of the Picture Gallery will also be lost. The redevelopment plan, as a whole, will alienate the general public from the game of baseball.

(3) Destruction of an important architectural heritage

Jingu Stadium, which was built as part of the construction of Jingu Gaien, was designed by Masakazu Kobayashi, who also designed the nearby Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery. The Picture Gallery is designated as a national important cultural property. Jingu Stadium, including its beautiful arched colonnade arcade, is also architecturally important and should be considered a valuable historical cultural asset. The window frames of the stadium’s colonnade have the same design as those of the Picture Gallery. We cannot stand idly by and let such a historical cultural asset be lost because of commercial priorities.

(4) The symbol of Jingu Gaien, the rows of ginkgo trees, will be damaged.

The construction of the new stadium will destroy the stadium’s harmony with Jingu Gaien. The deep pillars that will be driven into the ground for construction of the new stadium’s outfield fence only 6 meters away from the ginkgo trees will damage their roots, cut off the supply of water, and inhibit their growth. Just picture in your mind the row of dead gingko trees after they have withered as a result of the damage from the stadium construction. How proud will we baseball fans be able to feel about attending games at this new stadium knowing that it will kill these iconic and beloved trees?

Furthermore, the smaller row of 18 ginkgo trees at the east entrance of the Chichibunomiya Rugby Stadium are in the way of the new stadium, and so plans are for them to be transplanted. However, tree experts warn that the likelihood of such huge trees being able to be transplanted successfully is low, so they will most likely die as well.

Thus, the construction of the new stadium will lead to the destruction of precious 100-year-old trees.

(5) Huge amounts of CO2 and construction waste will be generated by building a new stadium.
Beautiful Hanshin Koshien Stadium, built at about the same time as Jingu Stadium, was renovated during the off-season, giving it a new lease on life. In Boston and Chicago, stadiums older than Jingu Stadium, Fenway Park and Wrigley Field, have been restored and are beloved symbols of their cities.

In this era of environmental crisis, Jingu Stadium should be renovated, not relocated and rebuilt. For the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, which claims to be pursuing a “Green Transformation,” renovation should be the best way forward.

Jingu Gaien, this beautiful place filled with green, has been passed down over generations and is a special home for our hearts. We who love Jingu Stadium strongly oppose this redevelopment plan that shuts the general public out of sports.

Governor Koike and the developers, we call on you to halt the Jingu Galen Redevelopment Plan and renovate our beloved Jingu Stadium so it can be continued to be used going forward.

Co-signers:

Kohei Saito, Associate Professor, Tokyo University, author "Capital in the Anthropocene"Marty Kuehnert, 1st Rakuten Eagles GM, Sendai 89ers Senior GM.