

The Great East Japan Earthquake, which occurred at 2:46PM on March 11, 2011, inflicted unprecedented damage over a wide area due to strong tremors that reached a seismic intensity of 7 on the Japanese shindo scale, the maximum intensity on that scale, as well as the subsequent tsunami.

Ishinomaki City, in Miyagi Prefecture, was the city most affected by the disaster, with approximately 4,000 casualties, and within Ishinomaki City, the Minamihama area (Minamihama-cho, Kadonowaki-cho, and Hibarino-cho) was hit particularly hard with over 500 people losing their lives in a fire caused by the tsunami.

This 38.8ha memorial park was constructed in the Minamihama district as a place to commemorate the lives lost and to pass down memories and lessons learned from the earthquake to future generation as well as to show Japan's resolute will for recovery to everyone in Japan and abroad.



The scene of a fire in Minamihama area (Kadonowaki-cho) (photographed on March 11, 2011) (Source: 100 Landscapes of Ishinomaki)

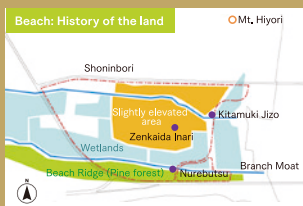


Minamihama area immediately after the tsunami attack (photographed on April 24, 2011 Source: Great East Japan Earthquake Archive Miyagi, Ishinomaki City) ※Provider: Ishinomaki City Social Welfare Consultation

Basic Design Concept

~A location where the history of this land, memories of this community, and a place for commemorating and passing down stories of the disaster all converge~

In order to incorporate the core philosophy into the spatial composition of the park, we thought it vital to consider the following elements: the "beach" that showcases the topography and historical formation of the community in Minamihama area; the "community", which embodies half a century of experiences and memories accumulated in the area before the disaster; and lastly, its function as a "memorial park" which serves to commemorate the lives lost in the Great East Japan Earthquake, pass on the memories of the disaster to the next generation, as well as continue to convey the will for recovery. The combination of "beach" (the history of the land before urbanization), "community" (the memories of the community before the earthquake), and "memorial park" (its role as a memorial park for remembrance and passing down lessons) forms the basis of our core design concept.



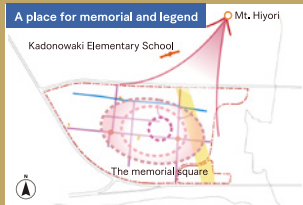
What the beach (history of the land) means

Wetlands and pine forests once unfolded along the southern side of Shoninbori. This soon gave way to mulberry fields, orchards, and rice paddies as it was cultivated, and afterward residential land was developed.



What these memories mean

In order to preserve memories of life in this community and the loss of the community as a lesson learned from the earthquake disaster, we have kept the framework of the community's streets from before the disaster as the main paths of the park.



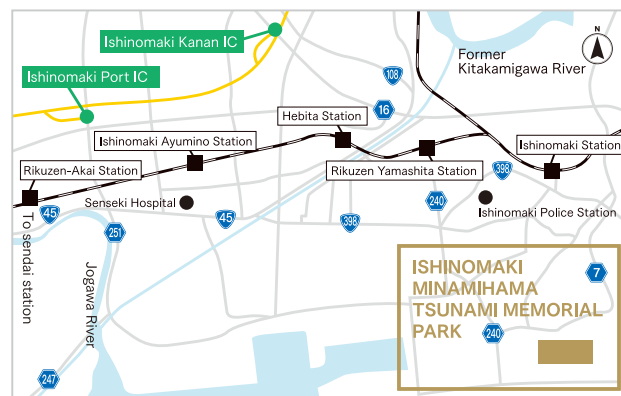
A place for remembrance and passing down stories What the Memorial Park means

This memorial park was constructed as a place to commemorate the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, to pass on the lessons learned, and to convey a resolute will to recover.

Access Information

Location

2-1-56 Minamihama-cho, Ishinomaki-shi, Miyagi 986-0835



- By car
About 15 minutes from Sanriku Coastal Road (E45) Ishinomaki Port IC
About 15 minutes from Ishinomaki Kanan
- By local bus
About 12 minutes via Miyakoh Bus Yamashita Kadonowaki Line, departing from Ishinomaki Station Bus Stop No. 2, get off at Kadonowaki 4-Chome Bus Stop
- By taxi
About 10 minutes from JR Ishinomaki Station to "Kadonowakiguchi"
- By bicycle (bicycle rental)
About 15 minutes from JR Ishinomaki Station to "Kadonowakiguchi"

Hours

ISHINOMAKI MINAMIHAMA TSUNAMI MEMORIAL PARK
9:00AM to 6:00PM April – September / 9:00 AM to 5:00PM October – March
Miyagi 3.11 Tsunami Disaster Memorial Museum
9:00AM to 5:00PM (Last admission at 4:30PM)

Holidays

Open Year-Round
※Miyagi 3.11 Tsunami Disaster Memorial Museum is closed on Mondays (or the day after if Monday is a national holiday), the day after a national holiday (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and the Golden Week holiday), and during the New Year's holidays (December 29th through January 4th.) The museum is always open on the 11th of every month, including weekends and national holidays.

Park Rules

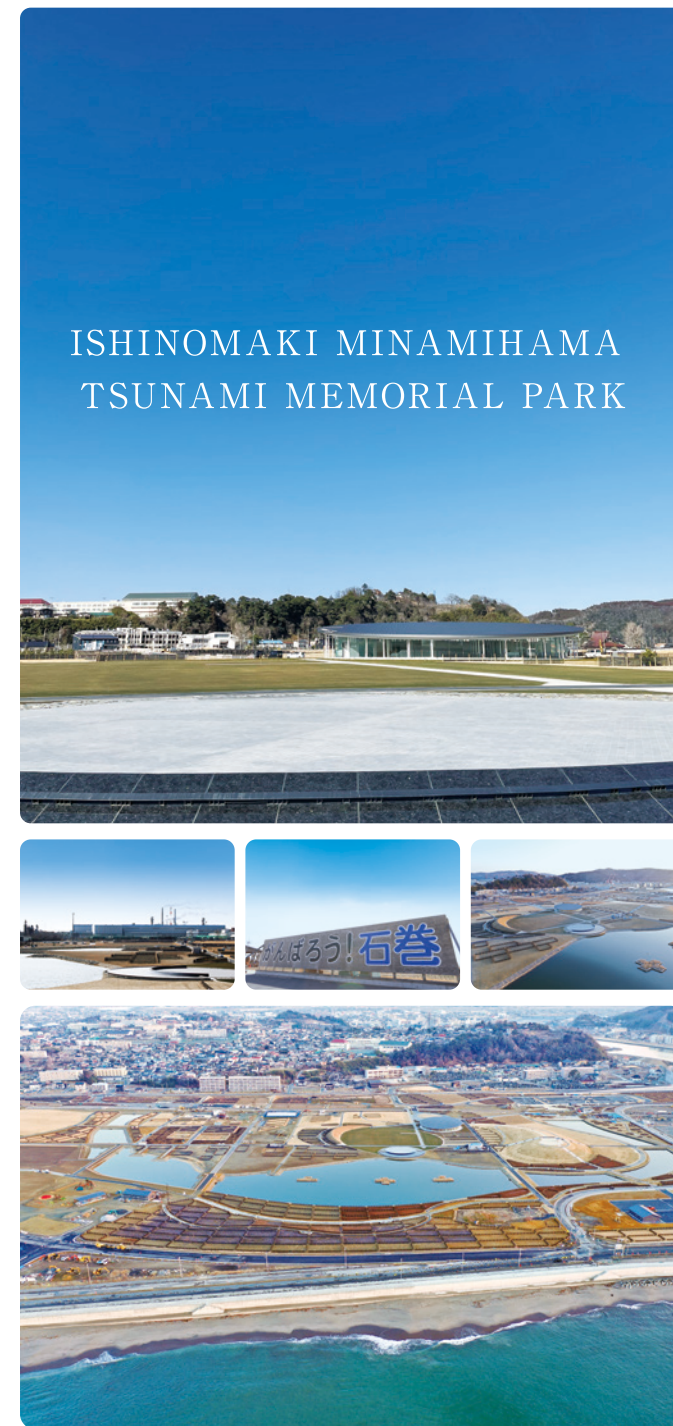
- Please keep the following in mind to use the park safely:
- Using fire is prohibited in the park.
(Smoking is only allowed in the smoking section located in the Kadonowaki parking lot.)
 - Please refrain from using cars, motorbikes, bicycles, and other vehicles while on park grounds.
 - Please refrain from hunting or gathering plants and other wildlife in the park.
 - Please take your trash home with you.
 - In the event of an emergency, please follow park staff's instructions.

Contact

ISHINOMAKI MINAMIHAMA TSUNAMI MEMORIAL PARK Park Office
TEL:0225-98-7401 FAX:0225-98-7485

Miyagi 3.11 Tsunami Disaster Memorial Museum
TEL:0225-98-8081 FAX:0225-98-8082

<https://www.ishinomakiminamihama-park.jp>



ISHINOMAKI MINAMIHAMA TSUNAMI MEMORIAL PARK Guide Map

Park Facility Information

6 Ishinomaki Memorial Cenotaph

This monument was constructed to commemorate the victims in Ishinomaki who lost their lives in the Great East Japan Earthquake. It is engraved with their names.



7 Base for Citizen Activities

A number of events have taken place at the site of the park, such as activities for memorial and passing on lessons held near the "Ganbaro, Ishinomaki" ("Hang in there, Ishinomaki") signboard and the "3.11 Memorial Hall Minamihama Tsunagu-kan", as well as forest-planting. This is a base for various individuals and organizations when they work together.



8 Multi-Purpose Square

This square is equipped with spacious grass fields, clay grounds, playgrounds, asphalt-paved grounds, and other areas, making it well suited for a number of different purposes such as sports, recreation, and resting.

9 Hibarino Matsubara

Before the urbanization of this area, pine forests ran along the coastline. It later became a residential area, but the forest that once existed here is being restored to its former state by the participation of residents in planting trees.



1 The Memorial Plaza

A place where people gather to commemorate those lost in the earthquake. It is a circular plaza in which you can pray in all directions.

2 Place of Prayer

This location is where memories of the community, such as "Zenkaidaike" and "Nakamachidori", which symbolize the history of the land, coincide with the memorial park's function as a place for remembrance and passing down lessons. A semi-circular flower stand that spans from the west to the east is located here. When the trees of Hibarino Matsubara grow in the future, this area will offer a backdrop of Zenkaidaike Pond surrounded by greenery.



3 Miyagi 3.11 Tsunami Disaster Memorial Museum

This exhibition facility aims educate the next generation about the damage during the Great East Japan Earthquake to the next generation in order to mitigate tsunami damage. Visitors can learn about what to do in an emergency through exhibition and videos.



4 1-Chome Hill

The 1-Chome Hill is an artificial hill with a height of 10 meters, and offers a panoramic view of the park as well as the ocean and river.

5 Zenkaidaike Pond

Wetlands unfolded in this area in the time up until its urbanization, which progressed during a period of rapid economic growth for Japan. However, as a result of land subsidization brought about by the earthquake, the area shows signs of its appearance before urbanization.

Minamihama's Changes Over Time



Until the Edo period, the seaside of Shoninbori was a sprawling land of lagoons and sandy beaches. This soon gave way to mulberry fields, orchards, and rice paddies as it was reclaimed, beginning its transformation into a residential area.



Efforts to develop land in Minamicho progressed during a period of rapid economic growth in Japan, and in 1977 the land readjustment project was completed and the area was developed for housing.



This photo was taken on March 12th, the day after the Great East Japan Earthquake. The Minamihama area was one of the most damaged areas in Ishinomaki City due to the tsunami and the spread of fires.