



Nagaike Oasis



Nagaike Oasis Maintenance Committee (NOMC), Ms. Hideko Nakashima



Entrance to Nagaike Oasis



Visitors



NOMC Mates



Sightseeing Spot: Nagaike Oasis



Nagaike Oasis, surrounded by water and greenery, is one of the most popular relaxation spots in Kumatori Town. It was made by redesigning the old reservoir, which is still functional.

We named this spot OASIS, preserving its original meaning, while additionally allocating a representation for each of its five letters:

- O for Osaka
- A for Aqua and Green
- S for Sensitivity
- I for Identity
- S for Symbolic Relaxation Spot



The Boardwalk in the Aquatic Plant Field

It is our sincere hope that this name will encourage Osaka prefectural citizens to participate in environmental improvement activities around the many reservoirs in the prefecture...



Flower garden along the walk



Nature trail



Rental farm plots

Here at Nagaïke Oasis:

The promenade extends 1.5 kilometers around the water. The flower garden accompanying it with its various kinds of seasonal flowers will certainly be eye-pleasing. Rental farm plots are available for the enjoyment of growing vegetables. Aquatic plants such as lotus flowers, water lilies and pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) are planted in the water field and can be viewed while walking along the boardwalk. Moreover, wild birds such as the egret, grebe and kingfisher (*halcyon*) are frequent visitors to the oasis.

In 2009, this oasis was selected as best in the section of Green and Nature of the Osaka Prefectural Museum Framework <*1>.

In 2010, this oasis was selected as one of 100 Best Reservoirs at an event sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries <*2>.



Lotus flower



Egret



Water lilies



Grebe



Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*)



Kingfisher(*Halcyon*)

<*1> Osaka Prefecture regards the whole of its area as a single museum and tries to promote its charms.

<*2>The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries selected the 100 best reservoirs for farming purposes along with their special features.



Maintenance Activities



The NOMC maintains daily cleaning, mowing, and growing as many as 300 different kinds of flowers and aquatic plants (including 20 kinds of lotus flowers bringing 300 into full blossom daily).

For instance, in growing lotus flowers, we need to level the underwater soil in March and April, plant the lotus roots in the water field and grow them. It is pretty hard work. In April and May, we need to fertilize them, exterminate harmful insects and their natural enemy, the crayfish, and catch red-eared slider turtles (*Trachemys scripta elegans*). Crayfish will damage the stems and tortoises will chew the new lotus flower buds.

Exchanges among local residents are also encouraged. NOMC Mates (NOMC's subcommittee members) join together twice a month to maintain the garden flowers.

Twice a year, the members of the residents' committees in the neighborhood get together to do the cleaning and mowing.



Cleaning the aquatic plant area



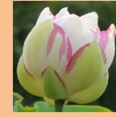
Maintaining the flower garden



Red-eared slider turtle (*Trachemys scripta elegans*)



Annual Events (Lotus Flower Festival, etc.)



Views of the Lotus Flower Festival



Field activities of the elementary school pupils

July (Lotus Flower Festival): Lotus flowers are at their best in July. Visitors can taste lotus tea, lotus nut Zenzai (sweet lotus nut soup with pieces of rice cake), and sake “served through an elephant trunk”. <3>

November (Fureai Festival – Let’s get together! Festival -): While visitors indulge in a bowl of miso soup with pork and vegetables, they can participate in a walk rally and enjoy listening to musical instrument performances by local residents.

Throughout the year, Nagaike Oasis serves the local elementary school pupils as the site of their field activities.

<3>Pour sake into a lotus floor leaf, and taste the sake as it trickles down through its stem, the “elephant trunk”. It tastes good with the added lotus flavor. When this way of drinking sake was first tried, it soon became popular.



Sake served through an “elephant trunk”



In the same manner, children drink water



When are flowers at their best?



- February thru March : Narcissus, Christmas Rose
- March thru April : Tulip
- May thru October : Water lily
- June thru July : Hydrangea
- June thru August : Lotus Flower
- July thru August : Sunflower
- September thru October : Red spider lily (Lycoris radiata)
- September thru November : Cosmos



Hydrangea



Red spider lily (Lycoris radiata)

Moreover, as you walk, you can take in the exquisite beauty of a Japanese garden and a 250 year old bayberry tree alongside the walk.



Japanese garden



Bayberry tree



Views of lotus flowers

