



Fukushima
March 11
Memorial
Park



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Mourning... A Journey through Remembering, Recovering, and Rejuvenating

The Fukushima March 11 Memorial Park was established by Fukushima Prefecture and the National Government of Japan as a place to mourn and pray for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011.



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Park Information

General Information

At 2:46 p.m. on March 11, 2011, the strongest earthquake ever recorded in the country struck off the northeastern coast of Japan. It was followed by a devastating tsunami. The coastal areas of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima prefectures were among the hardest hit. In Fukushima, the disaster was compounded by severe damage to nuclear power reactors. The recovery from this crisis continues even now.

The Fukushima March 11 Memorial Park was created as a place to mourn and pray for the victims, to preserve the memories and lessons of the disaster, and to communicate the story of ongoing revitalization efforts to the world. It stands as both a site of remembrance and a symbol of determination for the future.

Mourning... A Journey through
Remembering, Recovering, and Rejuvenating



Park Zones

This park has seven zones.

National Memorial Hall

On the green hill sits an altar of flower offerings. Nestled inside the hill is a space for reflecting on both pre-disaster and post-disaster days and for offering prayers for the lives lost.



Nakano Settlement

The remains of a settlement that was evacuated after the earthquake, tsunami, and resulting nuclear power reactor accident.



Morotake Settlement

A new rural landscape is being fostered here, remembering the former settlement through earth mounds that mark where houses once stood.



Multipurpose Field

A three-hectare turf field used for various events and activities.



Cherry Tree Hill

Cherry trees have been planted, including the endemic Oshima cherry (*Cerasus speciosa*).



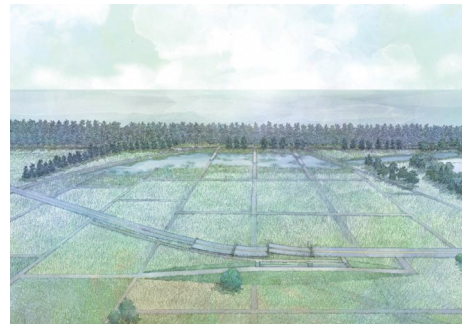
Dangoyama Knoll

This small, rounded hill was a local landmark known as Dangoyama (literally, “rice dumpling mountain”).



Waterside Area

The earthquake caused the land here to subside, forming a wetland. This area has been left untouched to observe how the environment changes naturally over time.





National Memorial Hall

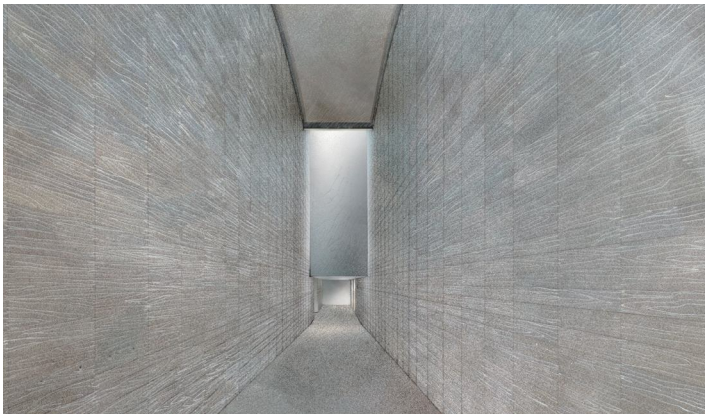
The memorial hall central to this park consists of a gently sloping green hill, with an altar for flower offerings halfway up the hill and a memorial space inside. The top of the memorial hall provides panoramic views of surrounding landscapes, including the direction of the earthquake's epicenter. Nestled inside the base of the hall is a space for reflection and prayer.



Flower-Offering Terrace

A spiral ramp extends from the cylinder toward a distant light, which leads visitors to the hillside open space where an altar for flower offerings is situated facing

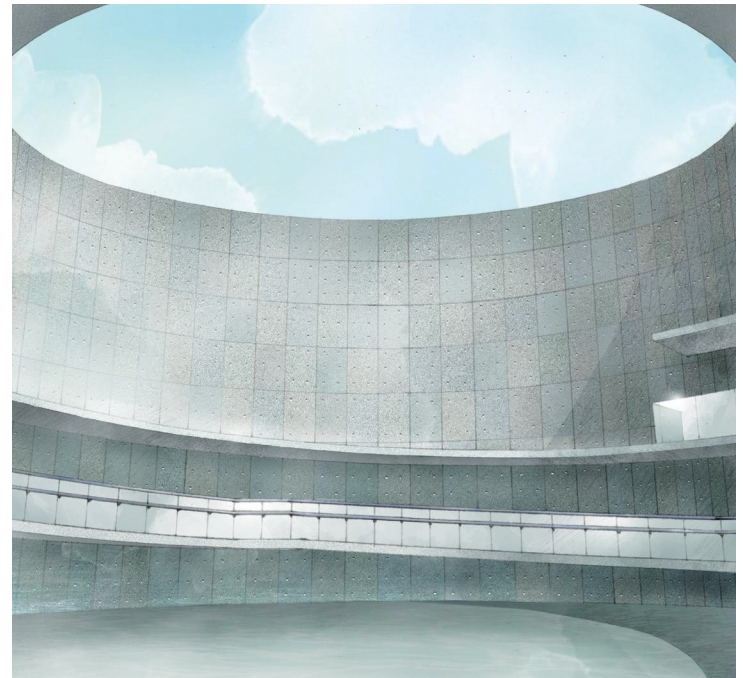
toward the sea. Surrounding landscapes can be enjoyed from seating embedded on the gently sloping hill.



The Space Inside

The entrance hall leads through a passage to the open-air cylindrical space. The space, with a reflecting pool at the base, is filled with

sunlight and occasional sounds of wind and waves. Each and every visit is never the same.



Masuda Bridge •

Hachiman Shrine
(outside the park)

Destroyed Settlement

• Walkway cut through
the embankment

Nakano Settlement

Before the disaster, around 20 families lived in Nakano Settlement. On March 11, 2011, all the houses were damaged by the earthquake and tsunami. Then, due to the nuclear power reactor accident, the evacuation order was issued on the next morning, forcing those spared from the direct earthquake and tsunami damage to leave their homes.

Vestiges of the settlement, including the foundations of houses and scattered windbreak trees that once surrounded them, are preserved to convey the magnitude of the compound disaster and remember the lessons learned.

National Memorial
Hall

Nakano Settlement

Morotake Settlement

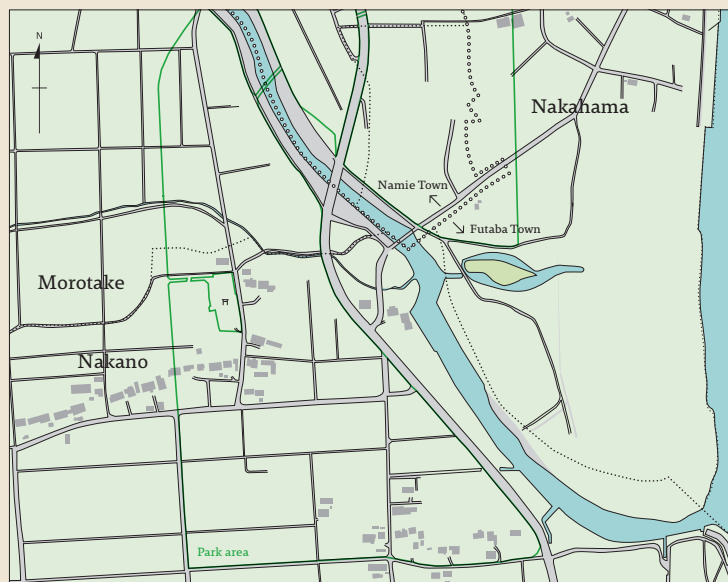
Multipurpose Field

Cherry Tree Hill

Dangoyama Knoll

Waterside Area

Surrounding area



Distribution of houses before the earthquake

Before the disaster, more than 10 houses lined both sides of the north-south road leading to Morotake Settlement in the north and also the east-west road on which local buses used to pass. Further to the southeast, there were about 10 houses.



Masuda Bridge

Masuda Bridge, which connected the former settlements of Nakano and Morotake, miraculously survived the disaster. To the south of the bridge some vestiges of the Nakano settlement are

found. Many houses in this area were once surrounded by tall trees planted as windbreaks, but most were washed away by the tsunami. Only a few of these tall trees remain.



Remnants of the Settlement

• Suwa Shrine
(outside the park)

Forested hill

Morotake Settlement

Before the disaster, there was Morotake Settlement at the foot of the forested hill, on the top of which stands Suwa Shrine, a long-standing guardian of the area. Following the earthquake, the settlement was washed away by the tsunami, and an evacuation order was issued because of the nuclear reactor accident, forcing those whose homes had survived the earthquake and tsunami to leave yet again.

Today, the sites of these destroyed houses are marked by earth mounds, and efforts have been made to generate a new rural landscape, including planting workshops with the participation of local people and visitors who wish to be part of the recovery and revitalization of Fukushima.

National Memorial
Hall

Nakano Settlement

Morotake Settlement

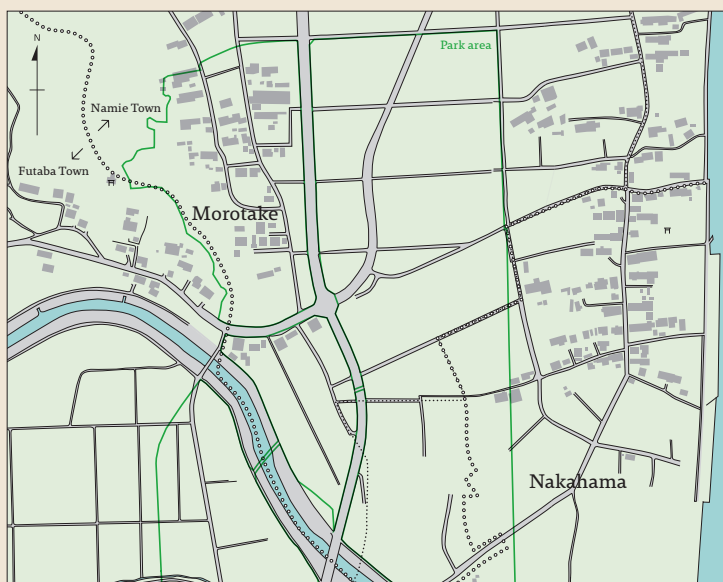
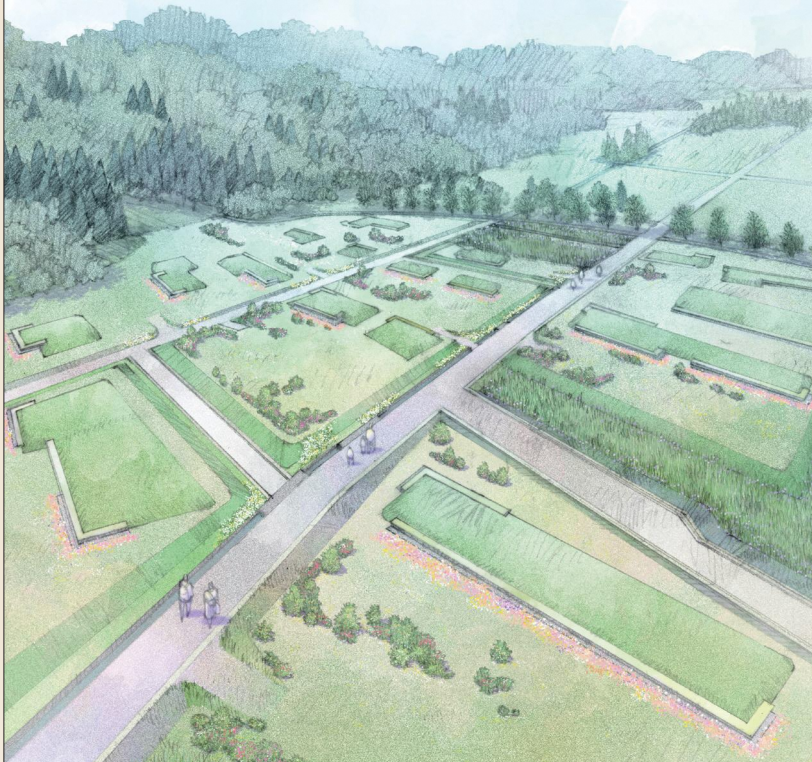
Multipurpose Field

Cherry Tree Hill

Dangoyama Knoll

Waterside Area

Surrounding area



Distribution of houses before the earthquake

Before the disaster, there was a settlement at the foot of the forested hill. It was destroyed in the earthquake and washed away by the tsunami.



Remnants of the Settlement

Most of the roads and irrigation channels retain their original form. They are left untouched to provide clues about what the settlement looked like. The sites

of the destroyed houses are marked by earth mounds, with embedded seating on which visitors can rest as residents used to on the verandas of their homes.

Outside the park

Suwa Shrine



On the top of the forested hill of Morotake Settlement stands Suwa Shrine, a long-standing guardian of the area. There is a path from within the settlement that climbs up to the shrine. After the disaster, local residents took shelter in the shrine's compound. The current building is a 2019 reconstruction, following the collapse of the original structure.



Multipurpose Field

The three-hectare turf field for various events and activities.



Administration Office

The park administration office, also providing information to visitors and accommodates

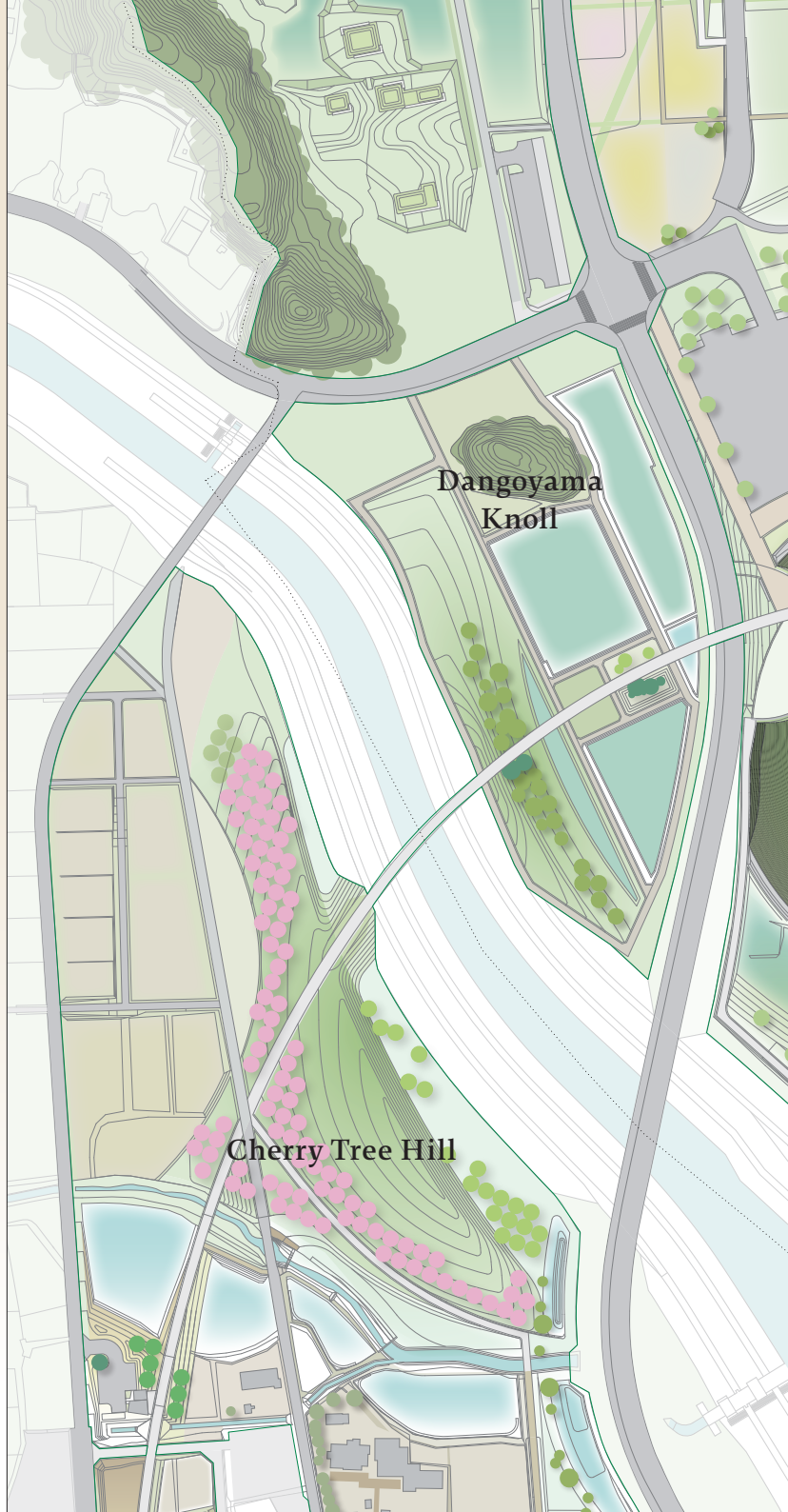
various local communities' activities.

Outside the park

Marine House Futaba



On the southern fringe of the park near the coastline stands a vestige of Marine House Futaba, which used to be a public facility for marine activities. The adjacent Futaba Beach was selected by the Ministry of the Environment as one of Japan's 100 Best Beaches. Although Marine House Futaba was struck and nearly destroyed by the tsunami, it saved lives when evacuees took shelter on its third floor. The area is currently closed to the public.



Dangoyama Knoll

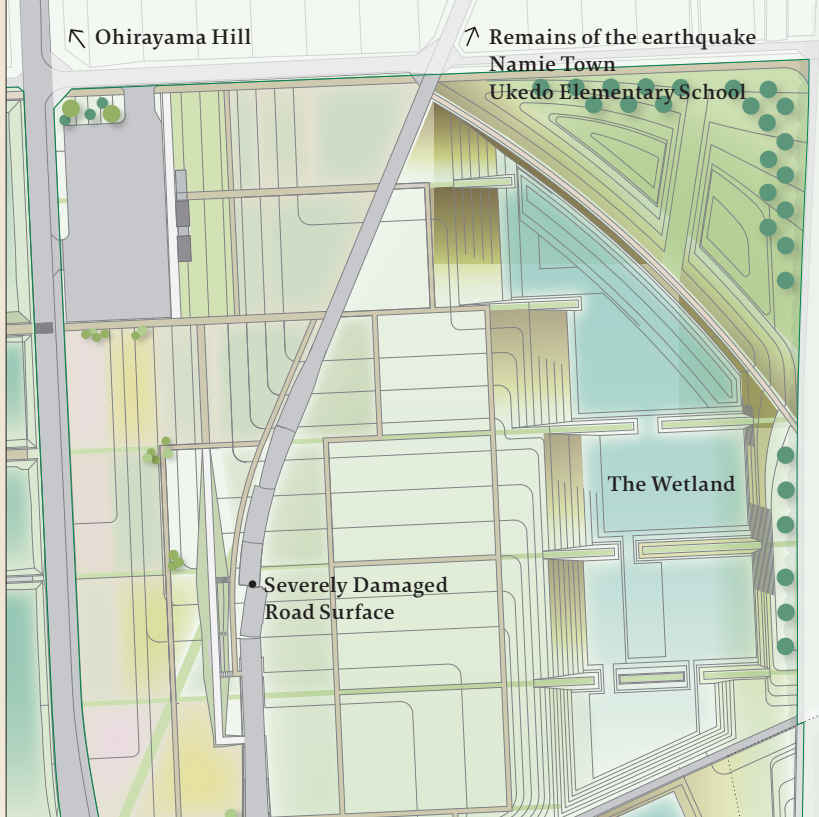
The small tree-covered knoll adjacent to Morotake Settlement is known locally as Dangoyama. At the top of the hill stood a steel fire lookout tower, which used to serve as a landmark for local fishermen.



Cherry Tree Hill

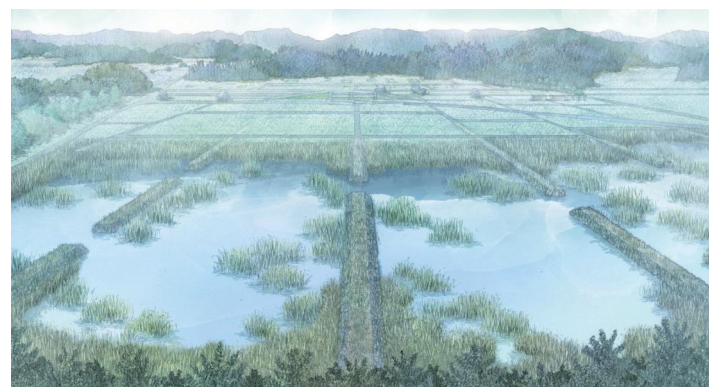
Cherry trees, including the endemic Oshima cherry (*Cerasus speciosa*), were planted on the hill to delight not only the people who used to live in this place but also visitors from Japan and the world.





Waterside Area

Before the disaster, rice paddies entirely covered the area from the town road to the sea. As a result of the disaster, land along the coastline subsided and a series of wetlands emerged. This area has intentionally been left without human intervention, except for trails, retaining the pre-disaster land division and a landscape reminiscent of the rice paddies, allowing visitors to observe how ecosystems evolve over time.



The Wetland

Before the earthquake, this area was comprised primarily of rice paddies. However, as a result of the disaster, the land subsided and became waterlogged, eventually transforming into a wetland. Today, reeds and cattails

grow naturally. The area has intentionally been left without human intervention to demonstrate the natural process of regeneration, allowing visitors to observe how the environment changes naturally over time.



Severely Damaged Road Surface

The severely damaged road surface, probably as a result of the tsunami, testifies to the force of the disaster. On the day of the earthquake, all of the schoolchildren of Ukedo

Elementary School (today in use as a visitor center) managed to evacuate safely on foot to Ohirayama Hill, 1 kilometer inland.

Surrounding Area

There are facilities surrounding the park that also provide information about the damage caused by the earthquake and tsunami, as well as the lessons learned.



1
The Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum

The museum provides information about the disaster and recovery efforts.



4
Suwa Shrine

▶ p.21



2
Futaba Business Incubation and Community Center (F-BICC)

The community center houses meeting rooms, a food court, and shops.



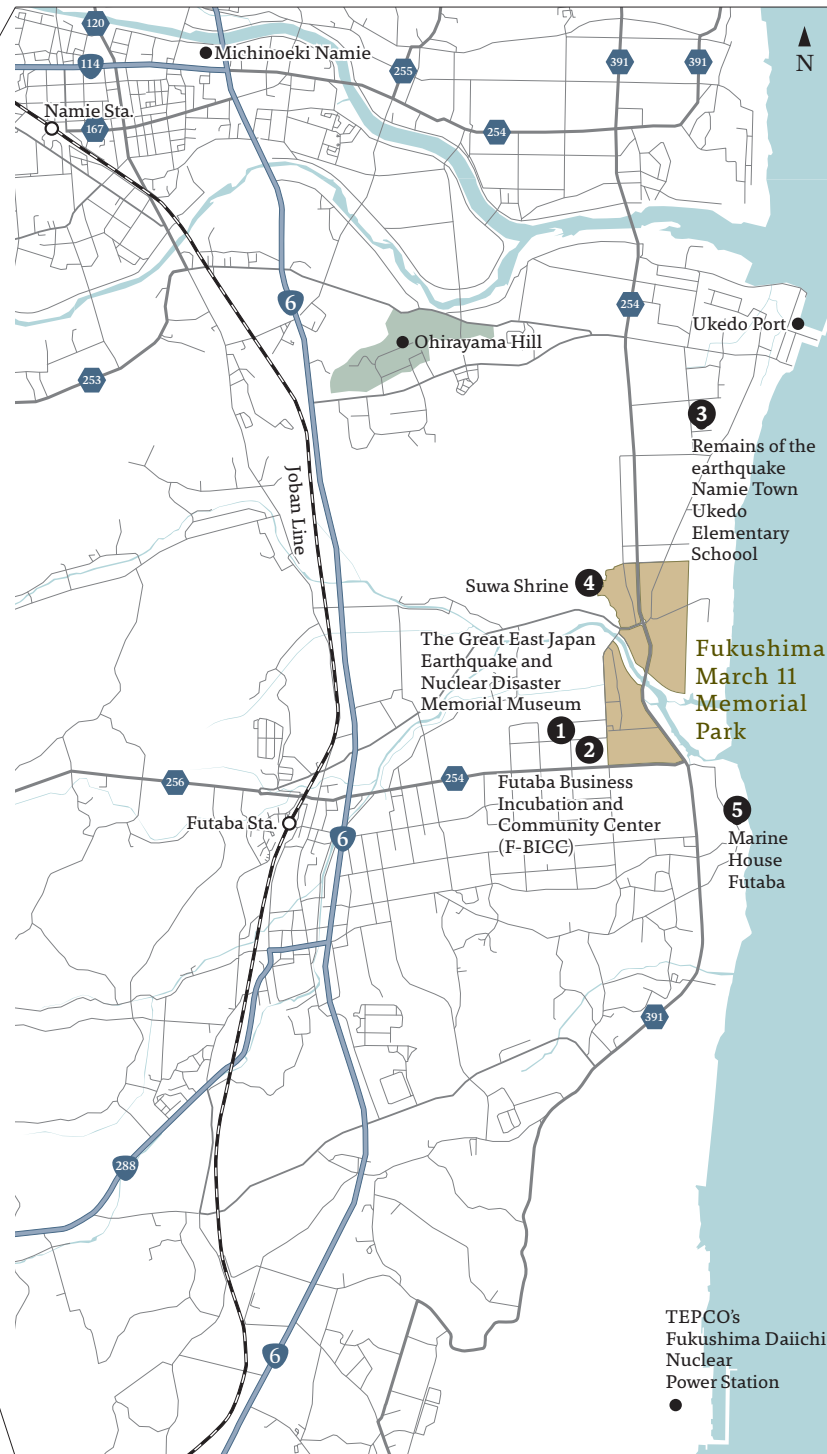
5
Marine House Futaba

▶ p.23



3
Remains of the earthquake Namie Town Ukedo Elementary School

The damaged buildings of the elementary school are used as a visitor center.



History of Park Construction

2011
March 11
The Great East Japan Earthquake occurred.

2012
March
The principles for the memorial park were set out by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

2014
October
Fukushima Prefecture set up a project team for facilities to mourn and pray for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

2015
April
Fukushima Prefecture decided that the memorial park would be constructed in the area between Futaba and Namie Towns.
October
The expert committee concerning the development of the basic plan for the memorial park in Fukushima Prefecture was set up.

2016
June
Recommendations concerning the memorial park were published (Fukushima Prefecture).
September
The expert committee concerning the development of the basic concept for the memorial park in Fukushima Prefecture was set up.
December
The memorial park was incorporated in the Futaba Town Revitalization and Community Development Plan (2nd Phase) as part of the transmission and memorial zone.

2017
April
The memorial park (candidate area) was incorporated into the Namie Town Revitalization Plan (2nd Phase).
July
The basic concept of the park was completed.
September
The cabinet decision concerning the establishment of the national memorial hall in Fukushima Prefecture was made.
October
The expert meeting for the discussion concerning the memorial park in Fukushima Prefecture was set up.

2018
July
The basic plan of the park was developed.
November
The expert committee concerning the memorial park in Fukushima Prefecture was set up.

2019
May
The basic design of the park was published.

2020
July
The facility layout plan for the park was published.

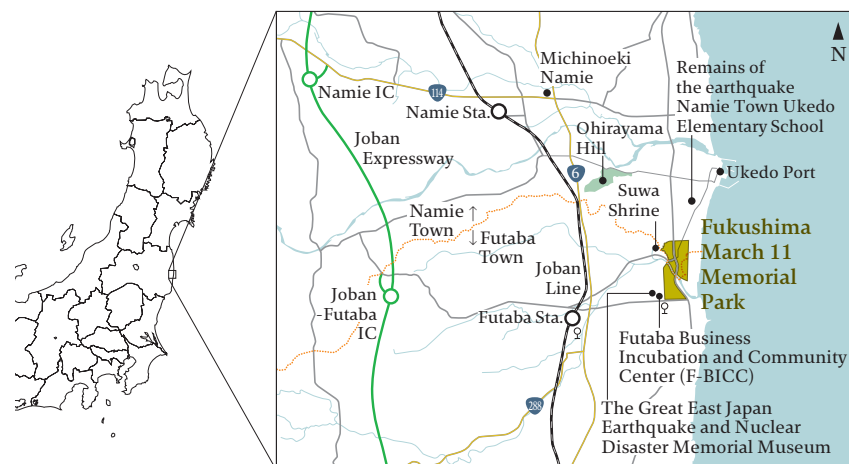
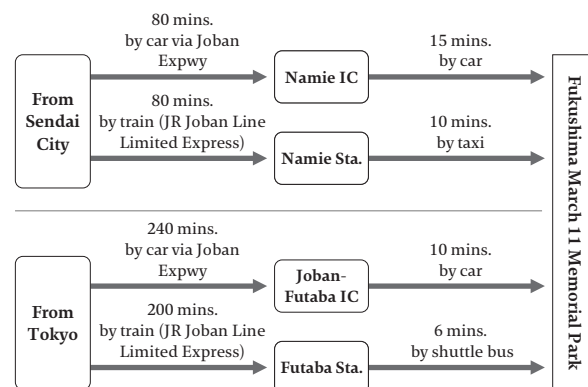
2026
April
The park opened.

Location

Fukushima March 11 Memorial Park
Futaba and Namie Towns, Futaba-gun, Fukushima Prefecture Japan

National Memorial Hall
Futaba and Namie Towns, Futaba-gun, Fukushima Prefecture Japan

Access



Fukushima March 11 Memorial Park

Business Hours

Administration Office

Open: 9:00—17:00

Closed: Tuesdays

(when a national holiday or the

11th of the month falls on a

Tuesday, the office is open on

Tuesday and closed the next day)

December 29 to January 3

National Memorial Hall

Open: 9:00—17:00

(no entry after 16:30)

Closed: Tuesdays

(when a national holiday or the

11th of the month falls on a

Tuesday, the memorial hall is

open on Tuesday and closed

the next day)

December 29 to January 3

Admission: Free



Contact

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Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)

in March 2026

A vertical photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. A few wispy clouds are visible near the horizon line. The ocean is calm and reflects the colors of the sky.

Fukushima March 11
Memorial Park