

The Moere Fan Club works to create a lively and beautiful park and city.

There is a beautiful park in northeast Sapporo, encircled by an oxbow lake left by Toyohira River. A park designed by sculptor Isamu Noguchi... Moerenuma Park.

Ensuring that Moerenuma Park is, as Isamu Noguchi envisioned, “a space that enriches people’s hearts through the power of art and lives vividly in the daily lives of people” requires active and involved citizens working together towards this vision.

The Moere Fan Club is a nonprofit organization made up of citizens and park enthusiasts coming together to support Moerenuma Park. We are working to make it a park that is active and lively, one that the citizens of the city can be proud of, understand, and continue to love as a beautiful space well into the future.



A scene from “A Song Will Be Born from Moere: Welcoming Mr. Shuntaro Tanikawa” , an event held in 2005.

What We Do

The Moere Fan Club is involved in mainly the following kinds of activities.
As a nonprofit organization that continues to advocate for an ideal Moerenuma Park, the Moere Fan Club cooperates with citizens and other organizations to conduct a wide range of activities.

1. We organize exhibitions, hold concerts, and various lectures.

EXHIBITIONS



Isamu Noguchi Exhibition at the Glass Pyramid

CONCERTS



Concert with Kyoko Kawamura and Miyako Itchu



Isamu Noguchi Birthday Concert

LECTURES



City Planning, Design, and Moerenuma Park - A Lecture by Mr. Osamu Shinohara



Grand Opening 5th Anniversary "Art Forum"

EVENTS



Cycling Tour from the Black Slide Mantra to Moerenuma Park

2. We hold workshops and nurture the creativity of children.

WORKSHOP



"A Song Born from Moere: Welcoming Mr. Shuntaro Tanikawa"



Minoru Iijima's Amazing Airplane Workshop



A Fun Christmas For All in Moere

3. We protect the natural environment of Moerenuma Park and advocate for its future through

SYMPOSIUMS



Symposium: The Future of Moerenuma Park

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES



Black Slide Mantra Clean Team

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT



Making recommendations to the city of Sapporo for city planning, and management of council meetings

4. We develop and sell written materials and merchandise that promote the park to the world.

BOOK PUBLICATION



Publication of "Moere Bunko (Moere Library)", a digest of ongoing lectures



Publication "Access Moerenuma Park" for the Toyako Summit in 2008

DEVELOPMENT AND SALE OF MERCHANDISE



Development and sales of various merchandise

Moere Fan Club members receive priority access to activities as well as discounts on books and merchandise and more.

MOERENUMA PARK

Messages Sculpted in the Earth

Moerenuma Park is a grand landscape boasting a total site area of 1,890,000 square meters (approximately 467 acres).

This place was once a final waste disposal site.

One late winter day, twenty-two years ago, a prominent artist set his foot on the lingering snow in this place.

What he saw then was a waterside scenery evocative of a primordial landscape.

Above his head was the dome of the sky,

and under his feet the poor old Mother Earth sullied by human beings.

At his first sight of Moerenuma, it was reported that his eyes brightened and his curiosity was aroused.

The man's name is Isamu Noguchi.

Having traveled around the world in constant search of a frontier, he may have conceivably discovered a place dear to his heart here.

Only nine months after his fateful encounter with this place, Isamu Noguchi went hence, leaving his completed master plan behind.

His lifetime-grandest project conceived for a refuse dump in a northern city the

“park designed to be a sculpture in its entirety and a garden of the universe

” was finally greeted with its grand opening ceremony in July 2005, after 17 long years of tenacious, collaborative efforts by people with common interests and aspirations.

Today, Moerenuma Park is a very popular place visited by over 800,000 people, both local citizens and tourists alike, annually.

Everybody visiting here relishes, after their own fashion, their time being

overwhelmed by the daunting scale, perceiving a message inscribed on the earth, or melding themselves into the landscape.

What then, will the park be like 10, 20 and 30 years from now?

I knew from the beginning that it would take thirty years for the garden to mature.

Humans can do only so much. All humans can do is plant a tree thinking it will grow in a certain way.

It wasn't humans who finished the garden, Nature did that all by itself.

By Isamu Noguchi

The future of the park is actually put in the hands of all of us ingathering here.

It is the homework that Isamu Noguchi has left for us to do.



1 One day, in the winter, I had a vision.
I saw the earth as sculpture;
I got the feeling that the sculpture of the future might
be on the earth.

A view of the entire park from a high altitude gives an illusion of the huge Nazca Lines cropping up in modern Sapporo. Moerenuma Park was the last and largest landscape sculpture of Isamu Noguchi. At a press conference in Sapporo, he once said, “Moerenuma Park is not merely a park dotted with sculptures, but the park in its entirety is a grand sculpture.” The vision of “sculpture of the earth’ s surface” , which Noguchi had conceived during his youth through an artistic revelation and cherished for a long time thereafter, was posthumously brought to fruition as a work of environmental art boasting a gross area of about 1,890,000 square meters through the committed and tenacious efforts of both his partners and the city of Sapporo.



2

Now this is something interesting.

It was in March 1988 that Noguchi first set his foot on the Moere Marsh district. What he saw then was a desolate land with scurrying remnants of refuse. Despite the sight of the bleak scenery, he paced about the site in the snow and shouted happily, “This place is crying out for form. And it is my mission to do just that.” What did he mean by “his mission to do” ? But now we know that he must have been compelled by some forces beyond his control to regenerate the refuse dump, a negative legacy of urban life and turn it into something beautiful, thereby contributing to improving the amenity of life. Moerenuma Park is living proof of Noguchi’s conviction that “art can serve the purpose of enriching people’s lives” .



3

**I think my madness in wanting to make gardens and
so forth lies in this usefulness...**

**the need to feel that there is someplace on the earth
which an artist can affect....**

“Because this is such a flat land, it would be all the more relevant for me to create a mountain here” remarked Noguchi. Mt. Moere thus created, and Play Mountain, the inspired vision of which he had gestated for 55 years, constitute the topographical signature of Moerenuma Park. As one approaches the park from the central area of Sapporo, the two landmarks invitingly tower over the rows of houses. Everyone visiting the park would feel compulsive about climbing them. It is not until standing on top of either of the alluring mounds that the entire view of the park as a grand earth sculpture becomes available to us earthbound humans.



4

**Today, under the influence of science,
the concepts of time and space have come to occupy
an important place in the world.
Perhaps, my interest in them has always been at the
root of my search for true sculpture.**

Tetra Mound, a lofty structure situated at the foot of Play Mountain, makes a strong impression upon those approaching from the western side. It is one of many “mountain” motifs found in Moerenuma Park.

The gently-curved green hemisphere in the bosom of a powerful stainless steel triangular pyramid wafts an air of soothing softness like that of planet Earth. Some people interpret it as symbolizing Isamu Noguchi lovingly wrapping his arms around mother Leonie. It would be interesting to look at this piece of work in the context of the artist’ s life. Also, you might want to get close to it, touch it, or view it from a distance without resting content with a fixed sight line. With every change of perspective, yet a new shape would come into your view.



5

Everything was sculpture.

Any material, any idea without hindrance born in space, I consider sculpture.

Water changing its shape as it spurts up, tumbles down, and swirls about was an undeniable aspect of sculpture to Noguchi, which he dubbed “water sculpture.” Moerenuma Park is provided with three water-based facilities: Moere Beach, which was so planned as “to allow children to wade into” ; Aqua Plaza, which is seen as an extension of Noguchi’ s early garden work, California Scenario; and Sea Fountain, in which he pursued the object of simulating a “rippling sea.” It took numerous rounds of rigorous calculation to determine the force of water acting on the relevant structures, as well as repeated process of trial and error, before Noguchi’ s original concepts of water sculpture could be brought into tangible forms as we see today.



6

Actually, the older it is, the more archaic and primitive, the better I like it. I don't know why, but perhaps it's simply because the repeated distillation of art brings you back to the primordial...

To encourage the park's wintertime utilization, Isamu Noguchi had kept emphasizing the need for a nucleus facility since the early days of planning, which later came off as Glass Pyramid. This is a space where people can enjoy the spread of the sky and the dancing sunlight through a wall of transparent glass. The building interior is finished primarily with white brickwork walls and masonry work using granite stone from Aji-cho, Kagawa prefecture, similar materials used for the Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum in Mure-cho. The second floor of the pyramid section is devoted to a stair-like sunken concourse. Thus, a tour of the building would bring you into intimate contact with the essence of Isamu Noguchi's world of art.



7

For me playgrounds are way of creating the world...

It's a way of creating an ideal world—on a smaller scale...

**It's a topology I'm interested in—land in which one can
run around, three feet high.**

Isamu Noguchi aspiringly challenged the creation of 'playable sculptures', saying, "The value of a city lies in how much safe space it can secure for the children to play." The play equipment in triangular, cubic and hemicylindrical shapes created by Noguchi's formative sense is conducive to freewheeling thinking of children and sends their body and mind into vibrant flight. Designing play equipment may well have been Noguchi's attempt to re-live his vanished childhood. Moerenuma Park represents a congregation of play sculptures fathered by the playful spirits of a great artist.



**It is my desire to view nature through nature's eyes,
and to ignore man as an object for special veneration.**

Moere Pond is a flood-induced cutoff body of water that remained after the Toyohira River carved a new channel. The name of the pond came from 'MOIRE-PETSU' meaning a "river of slow current" in the language of the indigenous Ainu people. The waterfront is host to pruinashoot willow, river club rush, and cattail or bulrush (of the genus *Typha*), while clumps of Chinese water chestnut and water milfoil are found in the shallower parts of the pond. Also migratory wildfowl can be spotted during their seasons. With such natural things included, the open space overall was viewed by Isamu Noguchi as a medium of sculpture. His creative activity would dawn with a spiritual communion with mother earth and an act of listening in to the voice of nature.



9

Data Sheets

■ Design and Supervision

Master Planner :
Isamu Noguchi
Design Supervisors :
Isamu Noguchi Foundation
Shoji Sadao
Takashi Sasaki
Executive Architects :
ARCHITECT 5
Jun ‘ichi Kawamura
Hidetsugu Horikoshi
Takeo Matsuoka
Landscape Architects :
Kitaba Landscape Planning
Koji Saito

■ Size and Scale

Site area :
1,888,000 m² (approx. 467 acres)

■ Glass Pyramid

Building area :
3,864 m²
Total floor area :
5,322 m²
Finishing Works :
Exterior walls: Low-E insulating pair
glass supported by DPG;
vibration-finish stainless steel panels,
black color

Floors :
Jet burner-finished Chinese white granite stone;
solid Canadian maple
Interior walls :
Stone masonry using granite quarried from
Aji-cho,
Kagawa pref.; bare concrete; glass cloth + acrylic
emulsion paint

■ Sea Fountain

Total volume of water :
1,800 metric tons
Maximum height of water jet :
25 meters
Main pumps :
180Kw × 2; 100Kw × 2
Jet nozzles :
High-speed jet nozzle (φ165mm) × 1,
Wave-shaping nozzles (φ 200mm) × 4,
Mist nozzles (φ 50mm) × 64,
Pop-up arch nozzles × 16
Fountain lighting :
LED illuminating lamps × 120
Finishing Works :
Fountain basin:Lining with a mixture of coralline
rubble and resin;
lining with a mixture of gravel and resin
Central cone :
Granite stone pitching
Central fountain bowl :
Epoxy resin water-resistant finish



10

Data Sheets

■ Landscaping

● Play Mountain

Plants :

Cool season grasses (for lawns)

Finish :

Granite rocks quarried in Mure-cho, Kagawa prefecture;
shot-blast fl agstone

● Tetra Mound

Plants :

Japanese Elm

(Ulmus davidiana var. japonica)

Ground Finish :

Pebbles embedded in washed-down concrete;
granite stone pavement

Structure :

Steel construction with vibration-fi nish
stainless steel covering

● Aqua Plaza

Plants :

Japanese Elm

(Ulmus davidiana var. japonica)

Finish :

Cubic granite fl agstones for the canal
bed;granite stone quarried in
Sobetsu, Hokkaido for the fountain basin; lining
with a mixture of
coralline rubble and resin

Structure :

Reinforced concrete structure with bare
concrete fi nish

● Moere Beach

Finish :

Lining with a mixture of coralline rubble and
resin

Structure :

Reinforced concrete structure

● Forest of Cherry Trees

Plants :

Ezo Yamazakura (Prunus sargentii); Colorado
Blue Spruce

(Picea pungens);

Japanese Rowan (Sorbus commixta)

Finish :

Shot-blast paving stones

● Amphitheater

Plants :

Ezo Spruce (Picea glehnii); cool season
grasses (for lawns)

Retaining Wall Finish :

Granite stone quarried in Mure-cho, Kagawa
prefecture

● Mt. Moere

Plants :

Cool season grasses (for lawns)

Pavement :

Cubic granite fl agstones and concrete

● Concourse

Plants :

Katsura tree

(Cercidiphyllum japonicum)

Pavement :

Asphalt; shot-blast paving stones

Structure :

Reinforced concrete

● Glass Pyramid (south side approach)

Plants :

Japanese Elm

(Ulmus davidiana var. japonica)

Pavement :

Urethane resin lining