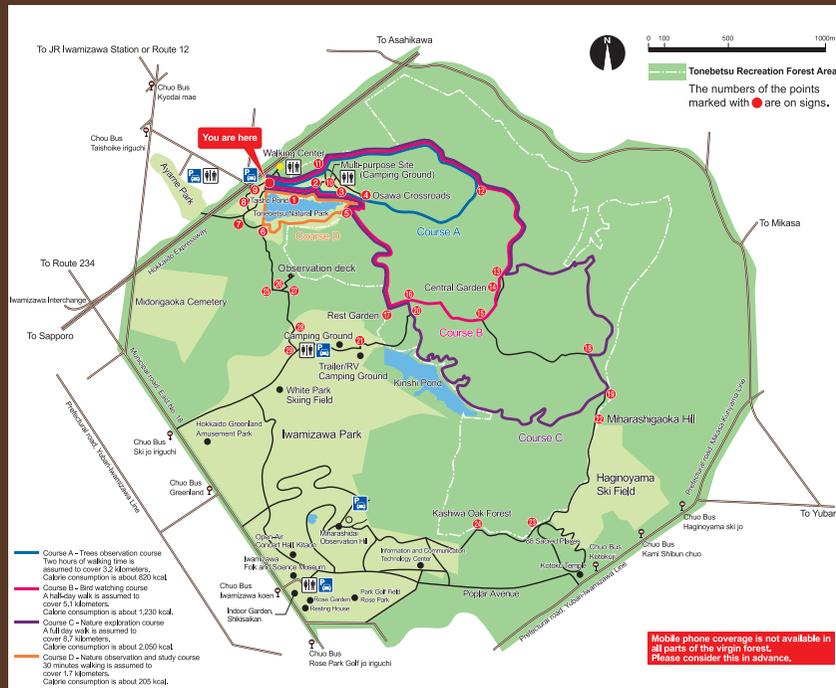


# Tonebetsu Virgin Forest Map



Toilet Car Parking

## The Functions of the Tonebetsu Virgin Forest

The Tonebetsu Virgin Forest is a vibrant habitat for many birds, insects, grasses, flowers, and trees. Its rich natural environment helps clean the air, absorb our carbon dioxide emissions, helping to prevent global warming. It also produces clean water necessary for the agricultural products we eat. This virgin forest also allows visitors to experience fresh greenery in spring, the spirited colors of summer, tinted colorful leaves in autumn, and snowflakes on the branches like blooming snow flowers during winter. This is a place of relaxation throughout the four seasons where many people can enjoy good health and peace of mind.



## The Story of the Tonebetsu Virgin Forest

The Tonebetsu Virgin Forest is located on the eastern edge of the vast Ishikari Plain. From this national forest, spreading out over 400 hectares overlooking the suburbs of Ishikari City, visitors can enjoy taking in distant views of the Yubari and Mashike mountain ranges. This is apparently one of the best natural recreational forests with a primitive environment remaining. In April 1972, the forest was renamed Tonebetsu Recreation Forest from Tonebetsu National Forest, and became an object of study for academics in the field of forest ecology. Finally, the entire area was designated as a protected forest for headwaters conservation and for public health. It is also a wildlife sanctuary where more than 100 species of natural broad-leaved trees and more than 350 different understorey plants grow. More than 40 species of wild birds can be observed throughout the year. Hoping that the excellent natural environment of this primeval forest would be preserved for future generations, it was named Tonebetsu Virgin Forest. Walking trails have been developed to allow as many people as possible to enjoy nature to the fullest. The Walking Center was established for activity purposes.



## Precautions for the use of the Tonebetsu Natural Park

- Take care of plants and animals.
- Do not smoke or play with fire.
- Do not ride bicycles or motorcycles in the park.
- Do not venture off walking paths.
- Beware of dangerous insects and plants such as ticks, bees, and Asian poison ivy.
- Beware of wild bears and foxes.
- Refrain from going near the pond at night.
- Use the facilities considerately.
- Stay away from wild birds during their nesting season.

A guide map can be downloaded from the Iwamizawa City website.



**Iwamizawa City**