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Mt. Chausuyama Landslide

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The Chausuyama Landslide occurred in the Shinonoi area of Nagano City, about 10 km southwest from the city center, on the eastern slope of the mountainous region sandwiched between the Sai River and the Zenkoji Plain. The debris flow traveled across the roughly 2 km boomerang-looking area shown on the map. It averaged 20 m in depth and transported about 9 million m3 of earth, creating a path of 100 - 430 m in width and covering an area of about 46 ha.

Protective work along the debris path began more than a century ago and neared completion in 1997. You can learn about the protective measures that were taken to prevent future landslides in this park.

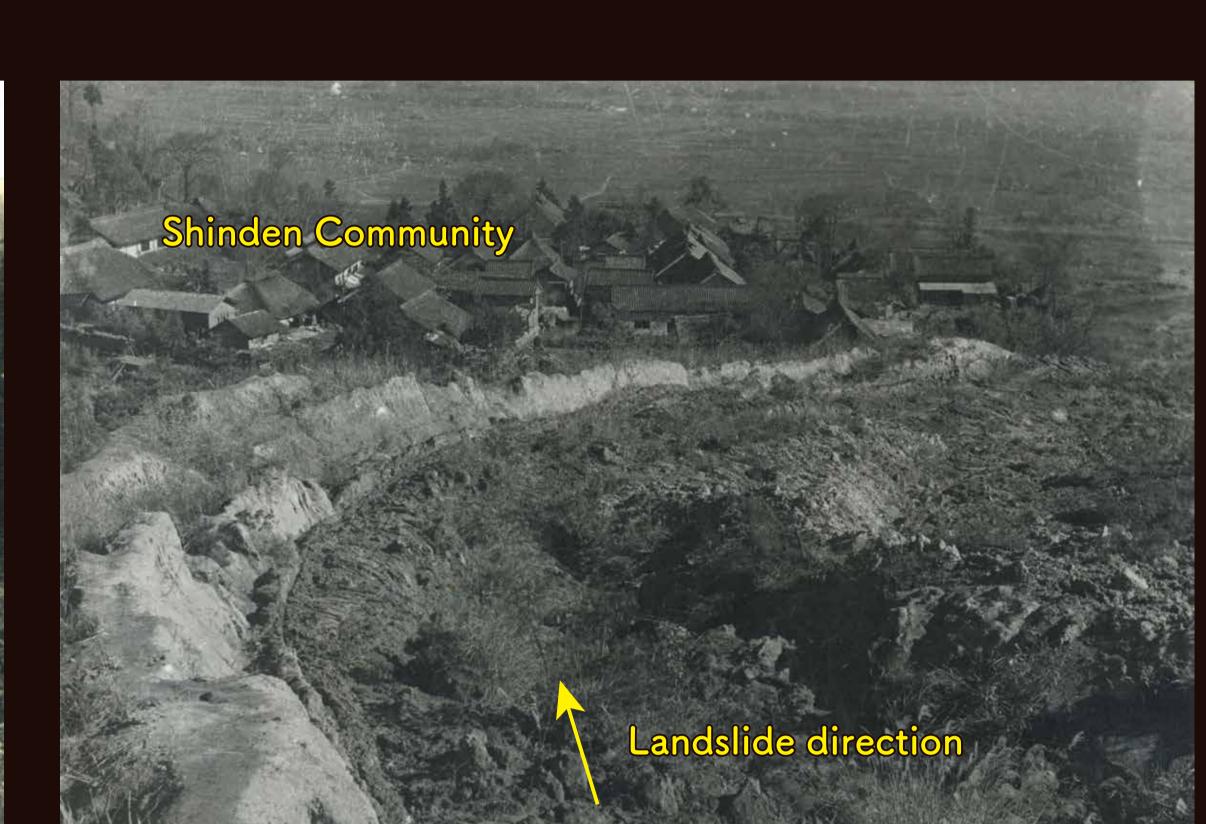
Chronological Breakdown of the Chausuyama Landslide -

Stage		Activity
Stage I	1847 - 1883	Precursor event (Zenkoji Earthquake struck on May 8, 1847.)
Stage 2	1884 – 1929	Movements occurred in the landslide area
Stage 3	1930 – 1943	The first landslide occurred.
Stage 4	1944 - 1964	The second landslide occurred.
Stage 5	1965 – Present	A series of earthquakes in the Matsushiro area (1965 – 1970) repeatedly triggered landslides. Landslide activity gradually subsided once the shaking came to an end. The area has been quiet to date.





Highest point of landslide



Debris flow encroaching on a village

[–]Zenkoji Earthquake ^{–––}

Cited as the initial trigger of the Chausuyama Landslide, the Zenkoji Earthquake occurred on May 8, 1847.

The town was packed with visitors for the final day of festivities surrounding the unveiling of the holy statue that traditionally is kept hidden from public view at Zenkoji Temple. Locals inns were full to capacity with somewhere between 7,000 and 8,000 guests. Then, suddenly, at about 10:00 in the evening, there was a deafening roar and the shaking began. Estimates put the earthquake at M7.4 and placed the epicenter directly beneath Nagano City (138.2° E, 36.7° N). Aftershocks, both big and small, were felt across the Matsushiro Domain 80 times the following day and continued thereafter for over a year.

From Disaster Zone to Park

Years of protective works paid off as ground movements quickly subsided after 1970. This spurred interest is using the landslide area for the greater good, which led to thoughtful deliberations and resulted in the decision to build a park.

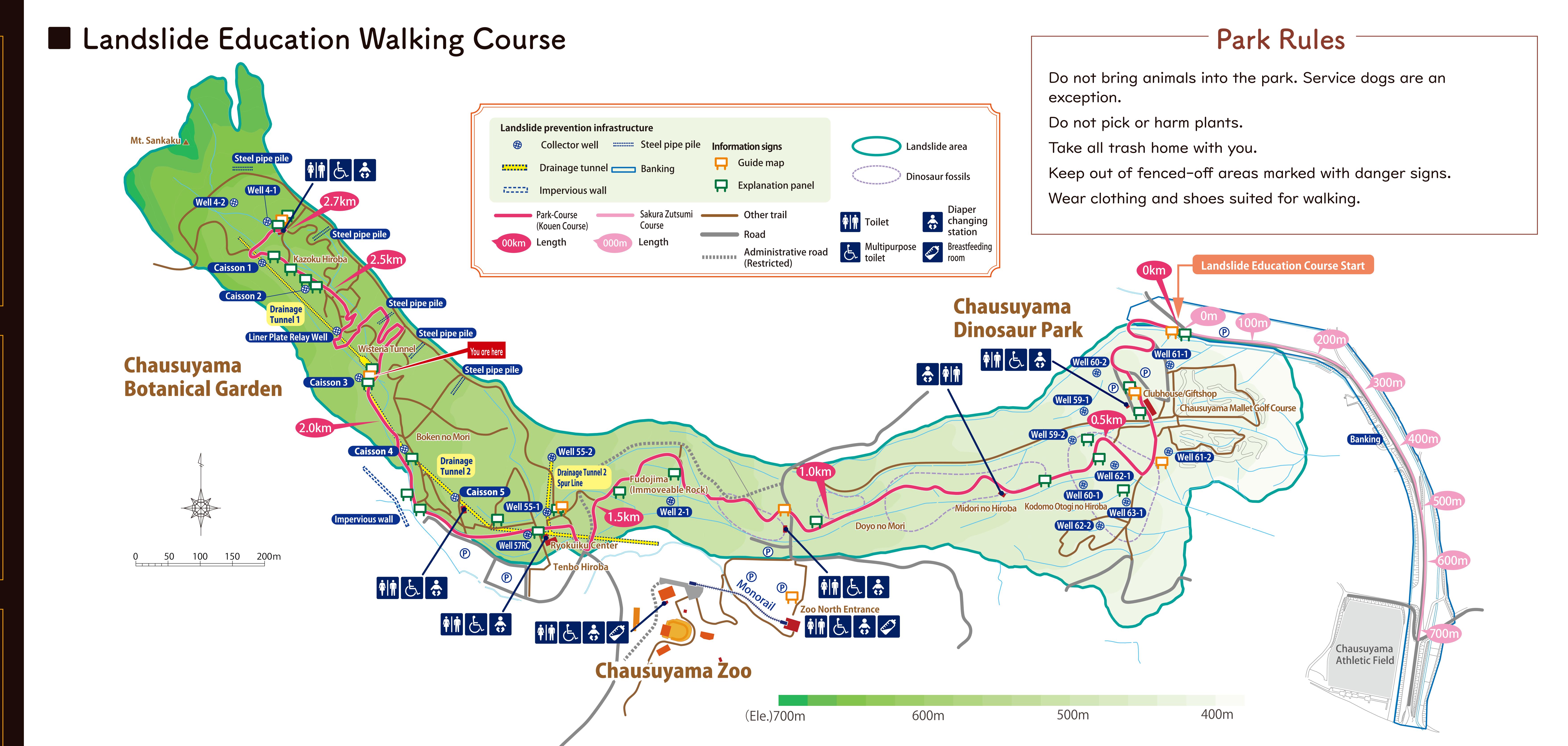
The park was developed over a 5-year period (1977 – 1982) alongside other development projects that commemorated Nagano City's 80th anniversary as a municipality. The upper half of the landslide zone was made into a botanical garden and the lower half into an archeological park focused on dinosaur fossils. The trail you just walked took you through the park that was developed over the path that the landslide flowed.

Landslide Prevention Area -

The entire zone where the Chausuyama Landslide (74.6 ha) occurred has been designated a Landslide Prevention Area under Japan's Landslide Prevention Act. This requires all necessary infrastructure and stipulated actions for preventing slope collapses due to landslides to be taken.



on Mt. Chausu



Park-Course (Kouen Course) (2.7 km): This course takes you to the various places in the park where you can see the landslide prevention infrastructure. Sakura Zutsumi Course (700 m): This course runs on top of the levee that was built to keep future landslides from reaching the river.