



Yongsan Children's Garden Opens along with Future Generations on 4 May

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Dept. in Charge: **Yongsan Park Planning Office**, MOLIT

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- *US Army Garrison in Yongsan(USAG-Yongsan) to be newly decorated as a venue opened for the people for the first time in 120 years*
- *Confirmed safety of the site through the joint environmental monitoring by MOLIT and Ministry of Environment*
- *Prior reservation for visitors can be made via the website of Yongsan Children's Garden beginning from 11:00 on 25 April*

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT, Minister WON Hee-ryong) will be opening **Yongsan Children's Garden**, which has been created from a part of the returned land from the USAG-Yongsan, to the general public beginning from 14:00 on Thu. 4 May.

The land within the Yongsan Park to be temporarily opened is named as Yongsan Children's Garden to convey the meaning of the place, where children who will be leading the forthcoming future can freely stroll and play with their parents.

Before the official creation of Yongsan Park, which will be promoted after the complete return from the USAG, temporary opening will be pursued for the people to experience the laudable achievement as early as possible. Accordingly, it is anticipated to share the process in building the Park with the public and to realize the purpose of 'Yongsan Park built up with the people of Korea'.

This temporary opening is significant in that the land that had been used as the US Army Base until recently will be opened to the public for the first time around 120 years.

The region of Yongsan had been the hub of logistics and transportation, and was occupied by Japanese Army following signing of Korea-Japan Protocol in 1904 and was utilized as a US Army Base until now since liberation from Japan. As such, it had remained a forbidden land that cannot be accessed by the general public for more than 120 years.

Return of the Base began with the decision of transferring the USAG-Yongsan to Pyeongtaek in the 2000s, and then with the opportunity of relocating the Office of the President to Yongsan in 2022, the consensus between ROK-US was actively pursued to accelerate the return of the Base. As the result, 584 thousand m² (approx. 180 thousand pyeong) out of 2.43 million m² (approx. 740 thousand pyeong) of the USAG-Yongsan land was returned in 2022, and among them, 300 thousand m² (approx. 90 thousand pyeong) can be returned to the general public first.

In addition, this temporary opening is particularly significant in that the promise the president-elect, YOON Suk-yeol, made to the people of Korea at the time of press conference held back in March last year stating as, "I will further strengthen communication with the people during my term of office by promptly establishing a public space worth hundreds of thousands of pyeong of land around the Office of the President in Yongsan" has been fulfilled.

Since the Yongsan Children's Garden is geographically connected to the Office of the President, it is equipped with all the requisites to play the role of bridge between the government and the people beyond the roles to be a space for leisure and recreation. Accordingly, it is anticipated that it will be able to establish itself as an undisputed venue for communication with the people through various events held with participation of the public, etc.

I . Spatial composition of Yongsan Children's Garden

Yongsan Children's Garden is composed of General's Residence Zone to be confronted upon entry through the main entrance, Grass Field and lookout hill, which will be the center of the Garden, and sports field situated in the eastern aspect of the Garden.

(General's Residence Zone) The most characteristic aspect of the Garden is the exotic scenery produced by red-roofed single-story detached houses where US Army Generals resided and wooden electric poles, etc.

- Promotional Center has display of photo and video exhibits that introduce the records of 120 years from the time of military occupation of Korea by Japan to this temporary opening including stationing of the US Army following the liberation of Korea while the Exhibition Hall will hold planned media art exhibition* in commemoration of the temporary opening. In addition, the Event House equipped with grass garden will implement various educational and cultural programs for children.

* Artist: SILO Lab / Name of the work: Gentle Light – Brightening the future of Yongsan, the forbidden land, with warm genetle light.

Yongsan Library has rest area in which children and general visitors can enjoy reading, while Record Pavilion allows the visitors to have a glimpse of the lifestyle of the military personnel and their families who resided in the Yongsan Military Base and history of popular music in Korea, etc. born in the clubs of the 8th US Army.

Visitors can have a view of the green Grass Field at a glance while sitting on garden chairs on the deck of the Cafe Eoullim (Association) situated at the boundary of Grass Field. Moreover, diversified projects including use of carbon-reduced coffee beans for realization of public values such as communication and solidarity, etc. sales of snacks made by development impaired persons and collaboration of cafes operated by youths in the region of Yongsan will be carried out at the Cafe.

(Grass Field and lookout hill) 70,000m² (approximately 20,000 pyeong) of land that was formerly 4 baseball fields used by the US military personnel was newly remodeled and decorated as "Grass Field" to fulfill the desire of the people for enjoyment of leisurely rest space in the midst of city along with establishment of stroll path for the enjoyment of a wide range of wild flowers as well as "Garosugil (treelined boulevard)" lined with beautiful Platanus.

When you walk up to the "Outlook Hill" situated at the end of the Grass Field, you can have bird's-eye-view of not only the scenery of the entire returned land but also the view of key landmarks situated in the surroundings including the Office of the President, Yongsan urban center, National Museum of Korea and Namsan Mt., etc.

Furthermore, it is anticipated that the visitors will be able to enjoy even more abundant scenic views in each of the seasons as the flowering plants in Grass Field and Outlook Hill get fully settled and become greener as time passes.

(Sports Field) Baseball diamond and soccer field for exclusive use by children under the age of 12 years will be established for the "Sports Field" situated at the eastern end of the Garden. It can be used for free by making reservation in advance and diversified sports for all programs will be operated at the Field.

II. Environmental management of the Yongsan Children's Garden

The MOLIT and the Ministry of Environment have implemented environment monitoring, etc. and confirmed that the Garden is safe to ensure that people can visit the Yongsan Children's Garden with peace of mind.

Monitoring was executed in the format of measuring air quality at 5 indoor and 6 outdoor locations in September and November last year, and March this year, and comparative measurements were carried out with 4 surrounding regions including senior citizens' center and children's playground that the social classes who are sensitive to health issues use extensively as well as Yongsan Station with large transient population.

As the results of monitoring, all the outdoor areas were safe with concentration of all the substances measured at levels that are lower than the relevant environmental standards or similar to those of the surrounding regions.

It was also confirmed that all the indoor areas complied with the relevant environmental standards including guidelines on air management in offices.

Moreover, diversified measures were additionally taken for the entire region of the Garden being opened to the public in order to fortify safety in addition to the aforementioned measures taken.

Grass or flowers, etc. were planted or mat and/or gravel field was installed after having covered the ground with soil with thickness of more than 15cm in order to ensure that people do not come in direct contact with the existing soil and factors with any possibility of inducing safety issues were blocked at their very source through removal of all above-ground oil storage tanks, etc.

The government will be thoroughly maintaining safety by meticulously executing environment monitoring during the period of temporary opening in order to ensure thorough execution of environmental management in the future.

III. Plan for and guidance on participation in events

In commemoration of the opening of the Yongsan Children's Garden, diversified events with children and family as the them will be held throughout the month of May.

Immediately upon the opening, numerous events including exhibition of popular characters, experiential events such as making flower pots and face painting, etc., and various performances including bubble show and baloon art, etc. as well as exhibition of children's paintings for the children will be held.

In addition, a diverse range of events including baseball and soccer competition, etc. for children will be held continuously in the sports field.

"Stamp Tour Event" through which children can explore all corners of the Yongsan Children's Garden during the entire month of May is planned.

Permanent programs such as "Yongsan Children's Garden Walking Tour" accompanied with commentaries by professional guide as well as with the "Busking on Garosu-gil," etc. will be implemented.

Furthermore, diversified events including sports for all and classic music performances, etc. will be held at various locations within the Yongsan Children's Garden and details will be publicly announced in stages through the website of Yongsan Children's Garden (yongsanparkstory.kr), etc.

Entry is allowed only through reservation in advance* to ensure safe and convenient use of the facility and reservations can be made through the website of Yongsan Children's Garden beginning from 11AM on April 25. Moreover, if there is record of visit, you can gain entry immediately through separate procedure after having file application for entry at the site.

* Locals and foreigners need to make reservation by 5 and 10 days in advance, respectively, and it will be allowed for foreigners to make reservation by 8 days in advance on for entry during 4.25~4.26 (if reservation is made for 4.25, entry on 5.4 is possible)

Yongsan Children's Garden will be opened from 9AM to 6PM (entry closed at 5PM) and will be closed on January 1, Lunar New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and every Mondays.

It can be accessed through the main entrance/exit situated in the vicinity of Exit No. 1 of Sinyongsan Station or auxiliary entrance/exit connected with the National Museum of Korea, and public transportation needs to be used as there is no separate parking area (with exclusin of those for disabled persons).

MOLIT Minister WON Hee-ryong emphasized, "This temporary opening is the most significant progress achieved after having reached the agreement for returning the USAG-Yongsan back in 2003 in the history of Yongsan Park," adding, "We will be creating the park for which the future generation could be the key beneficiaries by continuously communicating with the people taking this temporary opening as the opportunity".



Ref. 1

Bird's-eye-view and guidance to facilities at Yongsan Children's Garden



국민과 함께,
용산어린이정원

편의시설

- 화장실
- 장애인 화장실
- 수유실/기저귀교체실
- AED(자동제세동기)
- 카페
- 유모차/휠체어 대여
- 의무실

주요 시설 안내

<p>1 종합안내센터 용산어린이정원을 소개하고 안내하는 맞이 공간</p> <p>5 이음마당 자연과 문화가 어우러지는 열린 마당</p> <p>9 기록관 1 이곳에 살았던 미군가족의 이야기를 재현한 곳</p> <p>13 전망언덕 용산어린이정원의 풍경과 다채로운 조망이 어우러지는 곳</p>	<p>2 홍보관 용산기지의 과거, 현재, 미래를 만나는 곳</p> <p>6 이벤트 하우스 다양한 행사를 위한 다목적 홀</p> <p>10 기록관 2 용산기지와 미8군 클럽의 이야기를 기록한 곳</p> <p>14 스포츠타워 어린이 축구장, 어린이 야구장</p>	<p>3 용산서가 읽고 소통이 있는 작은 도서관</p> <p>7 카페 어울림 잔디마당 조망이 가능한 휴게 공간</p> <p>11 가로수길 플러타너스가 아름다운 길</p> <p>15 화장실 이용객 편의를 위한 화장실</p>	<p>4 전시관 특별한 주제의 기획전시를 만날 수 있는 곳</p> <p>8 화장실 화장실, 수유실, 기저귀 교체실을 갖춘 편의 공간</p> <p>12 잔디마당 약 7만 제곱미터의 푸르른 잔디가 가득한 곳</p> <p>16 부출입구 박물관에서 스포츠타워로 들어오는 곳</p>
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이용안내

- 운영시간 매주 화~일 9:00 ~ 18:00
- 입장방법 홈페이지 사전예약
*기존 방문이력 있을 경우 현장예약도 가능

버스킹·워킹투어 등 운영 프로그램과, 어린이 축구장·야구장 대관 등 안내는 **홈페이지를 참고**해주세요.

- 용산어린이정원 홈페이지 www.yongsanparkstory.kr



Ministry of Land,
Infrastructure and Transport

Ref. 2

Key visual aspects of Yongsan Children's Garden

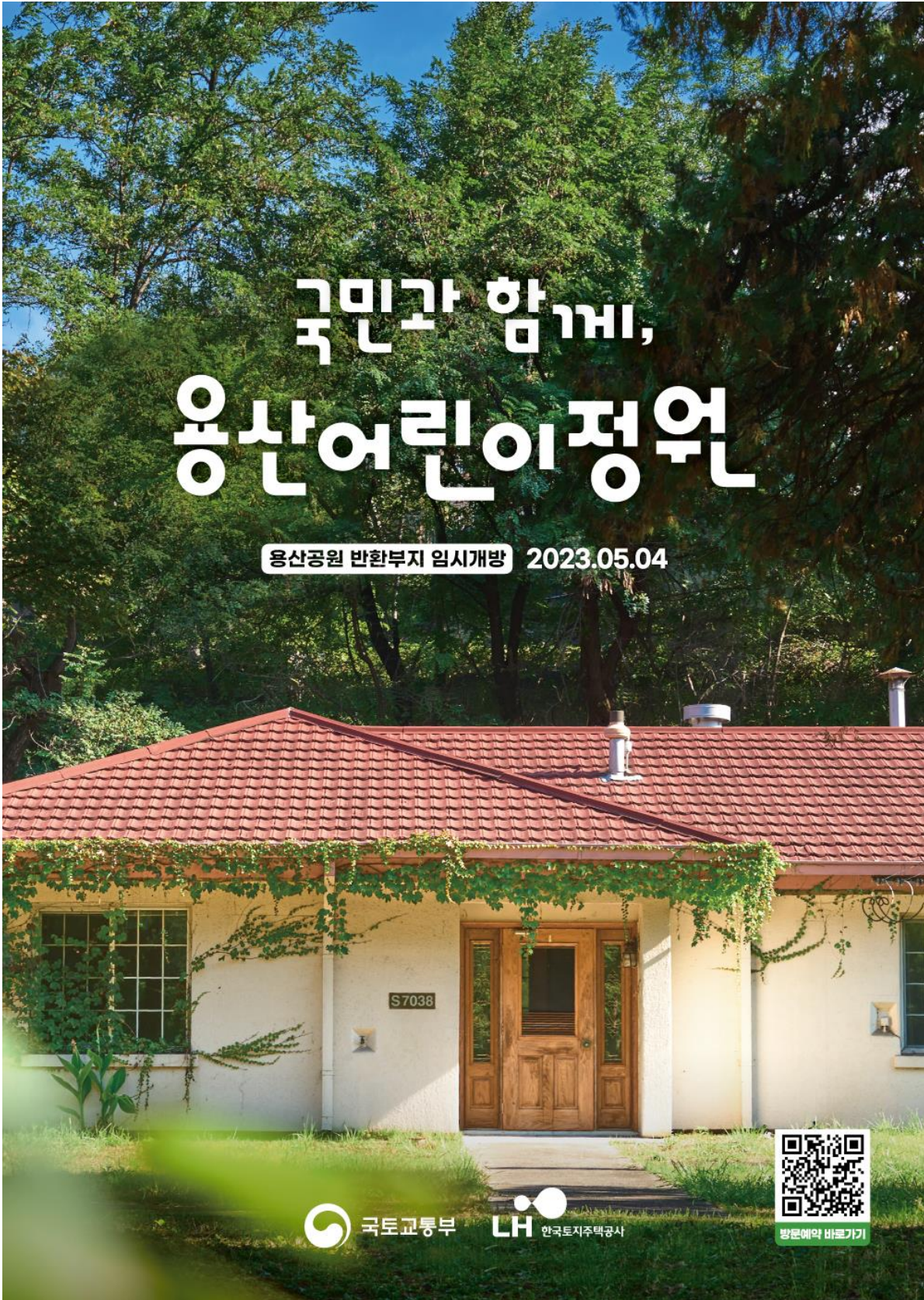




Ministry of Land,
Infrastructure and Transport

국민과 함께, 용산어린이정원

용산공원 반환부지 임시개방 2023.05.04



국토교통부



한국토지주택공사



방문예약 바로가기