

## Story of Friendship between Philadelphia and Japan through Cherry Trees

Philadelphia's earliest official relationship with Japan started with the Japanese Embassy to the United States in 1860 and the Iwakura mission in 1872. Following these events, at the Centennial Exposition in 1876, Japanese craft objects, art, dwelling, bazaar and garden were introduced through the major exhibition, leaving a long-lasting impression of Japanese culture on the citizens of Philadelphia. West Fairmount Park has retained Japanese artistic associations almost continuously since the Centennial. Flowering cherry trees around the park and the city are also a symbol of friendship with Japan. 1,600 cherry trees were gifted from Japan to Philadelphia in 1926 to commemorate the American Sesquicentennial. In 1933, Japanese residents of the Philadelphia region gifted additional 500 cherry trees and planted them alongside John B. Kelly Drive. The Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia (JASGP) has planted and cares for Philadelphia's cherry trees in the spirit of international friendship. A ten year pledge was fulfilled by planting 1,000 new cherry trees in Philadelphia between 1998 and 2007. Since 2008, JASGP has planted dozens more cherry trees in Clark Park, Franklin Square, Morris Park, working with community and neighborhood parks to help build green and peaceful urban communities.



Spring starts at Shofuso

**SHOFUSO**  
**CHERRY BLOSSOM**  
**VIEWING MAP**



**SHOFUSO**  
JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER  
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# Have an Ohanami style picnic in Philadelphia

Every year when the cherry trees bloom in Japan, friends and family gather under the blossoms to have flower-viewing picnics called "Ohanami". Enjoy the simple pleasure of sitting outdoors and watching the delicate petals float on the spring breeze under the cherry trees around Philadelphia.

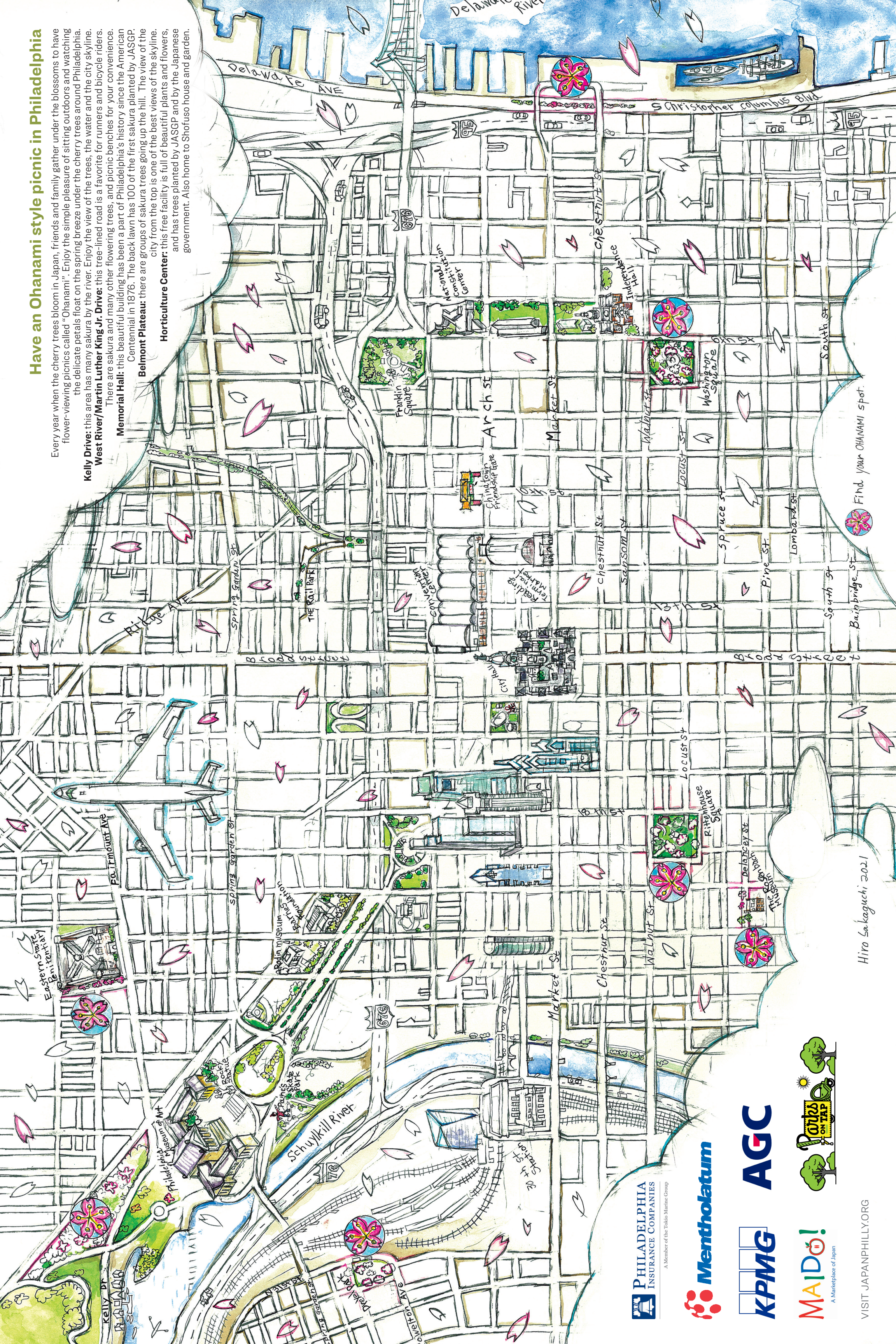
**Kelly Drive:** this area has many sakura by the river. Enjoy the view of the trees, the water and the city skyline. There are sakura and many other flowering trees, and picnic benches for your convenience.

**West River/Martin Luther King Jr. Drive:** this tree-lined road is a favorite for runners and bicycle riders. There are sakura and many other flowering trees, and picnic benches for your convenience.

**Memorial Hall:** this beautiful building has been a part of Philadelphia's history since the American Centennial in 1876. The back lawn has 100 of the first sakura planted by JASGP.

**Belmont Plateau:** there are groups of sakura trees going up the hill. The view of the city from the top is one of the best views of the skyline, and has trees planted by JASGP and by the Japanese government. Also home to Shofuso house and garden.

**Horticulture Center:** this free facility is full of beautiful plants and flowers, and has trees planted by JASGP and by the Japanese government. Also home to Shofuso house and garden.



Find your OHANAMI spot.

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