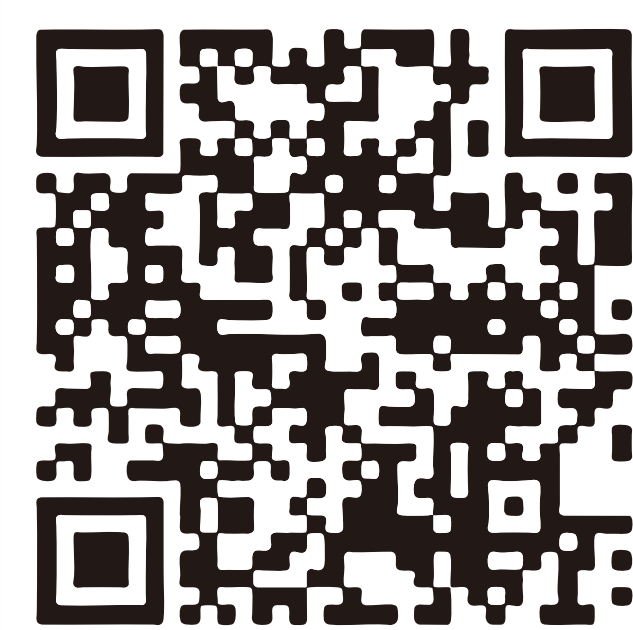


Hirakata's Eight Best Views

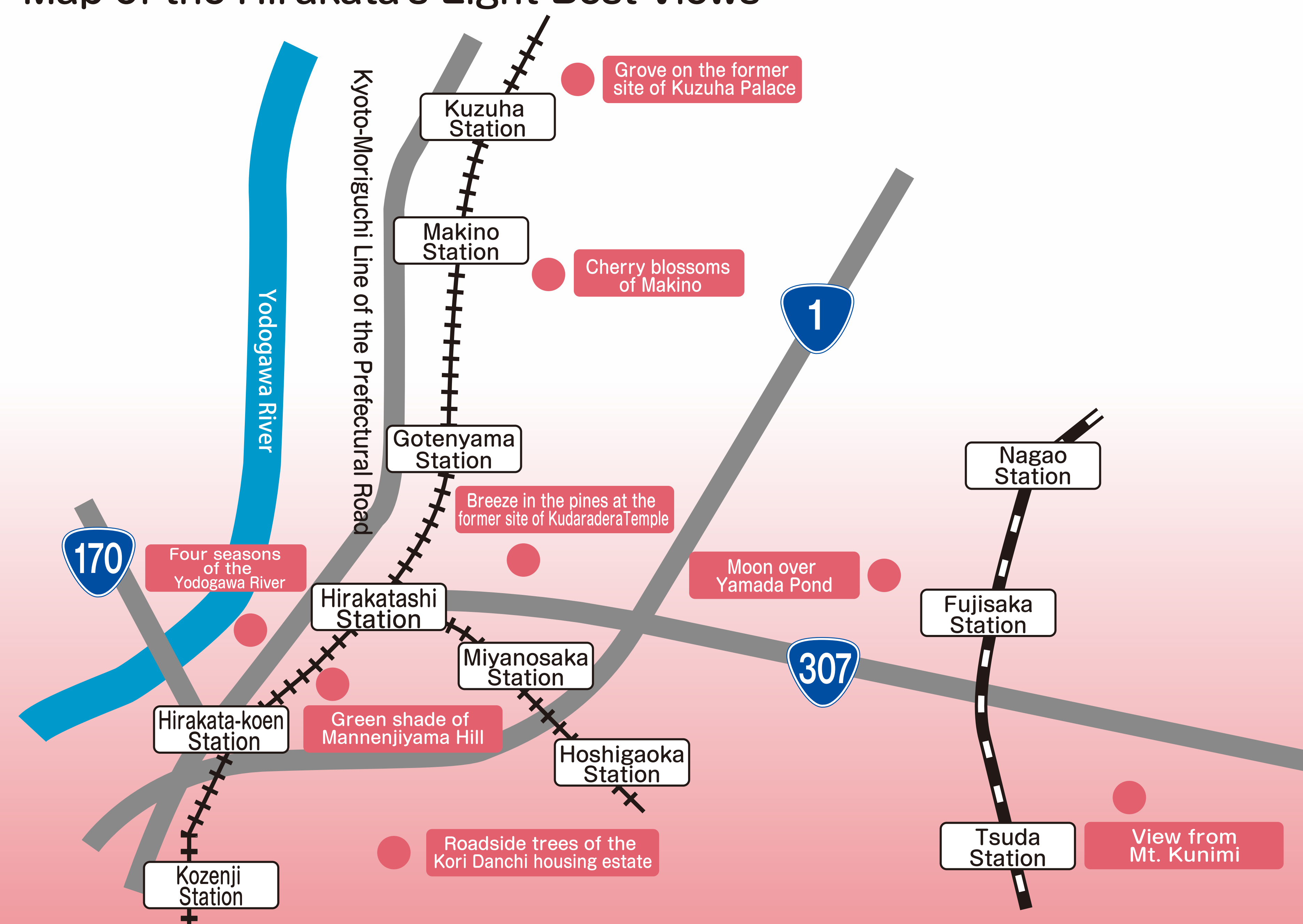
To commemorate the 35th anniversary of the city's establishment, Hirakata's Eight Best Views were designated with the aim of passing on to the future the scenery distinctive of our hometown Hirakata.
Designated on October 1, 1984, by Hirakata City



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Map of the Hirakata's Eight Best Views



Cherry blossoms of Makino

Makino Park is to the north of Katano Shrine (Makino Ichi-no-Miya), which features magnificent Momoyama-period architecture. This area is one steeped in history. The Katano, or Katano-ga-Hara, mentioned in the phrase "Viewing the cherry blossoms in Katano's spring, lost amidst the snows of fallen flowers" from the Taiheiki chronicle, extends south from here.

Ariwara-no-Narihira, visiting Nagisa Lodge with Prince Koretaka, saw the fully blooming cherry blossoms, and composed the following poem:

*If there should be no cherry blossoms anywhere in the world,
our hearts would feel so much more at peace in the spring*
(Kokin Wakashu/Ise Monogatari)

Fujiwara-no-Toshinari also wrote a poem about his feelings towards the Katano cherries:

*I think I shall never again see these cherries of Katano,
with the flowers falling like snow at dawn in spring*
(Shin Kokin Wakashu)

These poems show how this area was beloved by nobles from the capital for its cherry blossoms as far back as the Heian period.

The sacred precincts of Katano Shrine covered about five hectares around the Meiji period, and traces of them can be seen in the pine forest near Osaka Dental University.

After World War II, part of the extensive precincts was given to the city and transformed into Makino Park.

