



# Streams and Streets of Tōgō

Tōgō Nika-cho/Tochi Izumi-cho and

The symbol of Tōgō, the old castle town, has long been its Dōden River. Its clear waters, walking paths, flower beds, and 14 bridges lend it a soothing, healing quality.



Stocking the Dōden River with carp<sup>①</sup>



Light-up along the Dōden River<sup>②</sup>

The Tōgō district is where the town surrounding Tōgō Castle stood after the Asakura Clan relocated their headquarters to Ichijōdani. Still flowing through the district's center today, the Dōden River gives it a rich "hometown" feel, and its beauty captured the attention of novelist Shiba Ryōtarō, who praised it in his *Kaidō wo Yuku: Echizen no Shodō*.

A peek into its clear waters reveals the many carp that call the river their home. They were introduced into the river during the 2008 10th Anniversary celebrations of the riverside area's completion, and convey the importance that locals residents attach to preserving the river's pristine waters.

Every June a summer concert is held and the river lit up by candlelight. The soft glow along the riverside beckons strollers to its environs.



Dōden River



Aoyama Residence<sup>③</sup>

Along the river, stone lanterns and old merchant houses such as the Aoyama Residence bring to life the area's heyday. Every year on May 5th the Hanayama Festival, a festival to pray for the health and safety of children, safety from fires, and bumper crops, is held at Tochi Shrine. Children bearing bamboo spears form the locus of this festival, which carries a history of nearly 750 years.



Hanayama Festival (Pref. Folk Cultural Property)<sup>④</sup>

