

The page features several decorative elements: a large blue circle with a gradient in the top right, a smaller similar circle below it, and a large blue circle with a gradient in the bottom right. Two thin blue lines cross the page diagonally, one from the top left to the middle right, and another from the top right to the bottom left.

Traffic Guide

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●●●Child Seat Obligations (チャイルドシート着用義務化)

The Disaster Prevention and Safety Division (Bousai Anzen Ka)

Use of child seats for children of ages 6 years and younger has become mandatory since April 2000 (*Heisei 12*). Please use a proper child seat chosen from three types that suites the ages of the children.

For babies	For toddlers	For children
		
0 to 6 months old	6 months to 4 years old	4 to 6 years old

* The ages in the table are rough measures. Please choose the one that fit the development of each child.

Recycling of child seats

If you have a child seat you no longer use, or if you wish to have a second hand, please make use of “*Kuru-kuru Recycle Ichiba* (the Twingle-twingle Recycling Market)”, an information exchange service for child seat recycling. (The correspondence is only in Japanese.)

* Please contact the Waste Disposal Division (*Haikibutsu Taisaku Ka*) for more information.

* The municipal office does not bear the responsibility for the quality or the safety of the goods you have got from the *Kuru-kuru Recycle Ichiba* (Twingle-twingle Recycling Market), or for the troubles in the trading.

●●●The bicycle parking lots (the east and the 2nd east) of Shiroko Station (白子駅 (東・東第2) 自転車駐車場)

The Disaster Prevention and Safety Division (*Bousai Anzen Ka*)

1) Shiroko Station east bicycle parking lot

Services	- One parking lot is allocated for a user. - An administrator permanently stations.
Location	13-33 Shiroko Honmachi
Capacity	384 bicycles and 16 small motorcycles
Service time	From 6:00 to 22:30
Closed days	1st to 3rd of January
How to utilize	Season / temporal tickets

2) Shiroko Station 2nd east bicycle parking lot

Services	- One parking lot is allocated for a user. - Individual keys are ready for use. - Open 24 hours, all year around.
Location	Shiroko Honmachi 5337
Capacity	34 bicycles and 26 small motorcycles
Service time	24 hours, all year around
Closed days	No closed days, open all year around
How to utilize	Only by season tickets. Please make a registration.

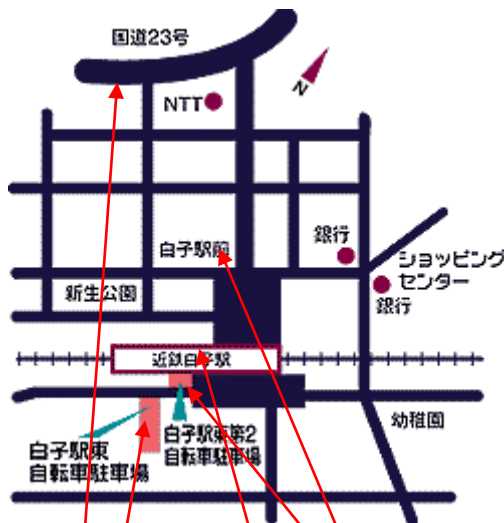
●User registration and other common features

User registration	A user registration is required. Please make the registration at the parking lot between the 15th and the last day of each year. If they are already full, you will be added in the waiting list.
Expiration	The utilization period can be extended up to March 31 of that year (the end of the school/business year). Please take the procedure in at end of the school year.
Limitations	You may be requested to refrain from utilizing the season ticket for cases your school/workplace is close to the station, or your school dose not allow commuting by bicycles or motorcycles.

● User fees

Utilization types	Utilization periods	Bicycles (general)	Bicycles (student)	Small motorcycles
Seasonal	1 month	2,700 yen	2,000 yen	3,500 yen
	3 months	7,500 yen	5,500 yen	9,500 yen
Temporal	1 time per ticket	150 yen		200 yen

- Seasonal utilization: utilizations by month or by three month, starting from the first day of the month and expiring at the last day of the (the three) month(s).
- Temporal utilization: utilization within 24 hours. A ticket is good for use for one time. Temporal service is not available at the 2nd east parking lot.
- Small motorcycles: those less than 50 cc.
- Contact address: Shiroko Station east bicycle parking lot (Phone: 388-6388).



National road 23 The front-side of Shiroko Station
 Kintetsu Shiroko Station
 Shiroko Station east bicycle parking lot
 Shiroko Station east 2nd bicycle parking lot

●●●Block Walls (ブロック塀)

Block walls are effective in creating comfortable residential environment protecting privacy or preventing crime. However, making them excessively high and/or overusing grid blocks will deter ventilation or make them easy to fall over blown by the wind. In the Miyagi Offshore Earthquake in 1988 (*Shouwa* 53), the block walls fell over and killed numerous people. The collapsed walls also obstructed the evacuation, the rescue and firefighting activities. The collapses of block walls were frequently reported also in the Hanshin-Awaji Great Earthquake.

To facilitate the safety and comfort of the town, you should follow the rules in building block walls not to make them harmful.

● Standards for newly build block walls

The Construction Standard Act, the 8th item of article 62: reinforced concrete block walls, stipulates the following standards.

- The height does not exceed 2.2 meters
- The thickness of the walls to be 15 centimeters or more; 10 centimeters or more for those up to 2 meter height
- The diameter of the iron reinforcement wires to be 9 millimeters or more
- The horizontal iron reinforcement wires to be arranged in the foundation and in the top; the vertical wires in the edges and in the corners; both horizontal vertical wires be arranged in all other parts, with intervals 80 centimeters or less. All above applies for building pillars.
- The edge of the wires to be folding back, the vertical wires hooked onto the top horizontal wire and the foundation wire; the horizontal wires hooked onto the vertical ones.
- Locate one pillar with a height $\frac{1}{5}$ of the wall or higher, by intervals of 3.4 meters or less of the wall width.
- The foundation to have a height of 35 centimeters or more to be inserted into the ground by 30 centimeters or more.
- The standards on pillars and foundation excludes the walls with heights 1.2 meters or less

● Check-ups for existing block walls

Conformity to the construction standards is equally important for existing walls, as well as in newly constructing them. Check up the following issues.

- Is the height and the thickness of the walls conforms to the standards?
- For walls of 1.2 meters or higher, whether there are pillars arranged for every 8 pieces of blocks (by horizontal interval of 3.2 meters or less).
- Do the walls have cracks or tilted?
- Are the walls arranged with iron reinforcement; do they have rust?

Does the foundation have its part underground 30 centimeters or more depth?

● Improving existing block walls

It is generally difficult to improve existing block walls if they are slanted, cracked, or build without iron reinforcement . It is similarly difficult to apply improvements on walls without rooting of the foundation or those built on a foundation made of stone stacks.

•Rearranging the height of the walls

Remove the part that exceed the regulation, apply iron reinforcement at the top, do the work of hooking or welding, and cover with mortar.

•Arranging pillars

If the walls need more pillars to meet the standards, remove one column of the wall in the part a pillar is to be added leaving the iron reinforcement wires, then, arrange the pillar along with newly constructing the wall and the foundation in that part. Alternatively, you could use iron frameworks to build the pillars without demolishing the wall.

If you find any checkpoints that match the walls of your own house, you may want to consult architects to find the best ways of rearrangements beside the examples listed above.

You might find it better to use hedges instead of block walls, fences, or lowering the block walls and combining grilles instead, etc. That way you contribute to a green and safe environment of the town.

- Subsidizing program for removing block walls

The city assists the costs for removing block walls to encourage the prevention of the accidents by collapses of them in the potential Toukai/Tounankai/Nankai (the East/the Southeast/the South Sea) earthquakes.

- Eligibility: owners of block walls.

- Relevant walls

Block walls that face public streets/roads and meet the two conditions below:

1. The height from the ground exceeds 1 meter
2. For the walls that stand on a foundation wall, the height from the ground including the foundation wall exceeds 1 meter. The assistance covers only the part of the walls that is made of blocks.

- The subsidy

The city will firstly undergo an examination of the site, and then estimate the amount of the subsidy basing on its own scheme. The delivered subsidy is equivalent to 1/5 of the estimated costs, with an upper limit of 250 thousand yen.

- Notes

- If you wish to apply for the assistance, make sure you do so before you carry out the demolition.

The assistance program is not applicable to the walls located between you and your neighbor.

*For more information, please ask the Construction Guidance Division (*Kenchiku Shidou Ka*; Phone: 059 382-7651).