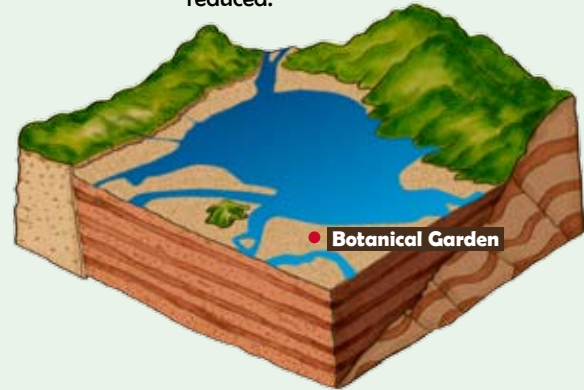


## Environmental Changes of the Chihwuyuan (Botanical Garden) Site

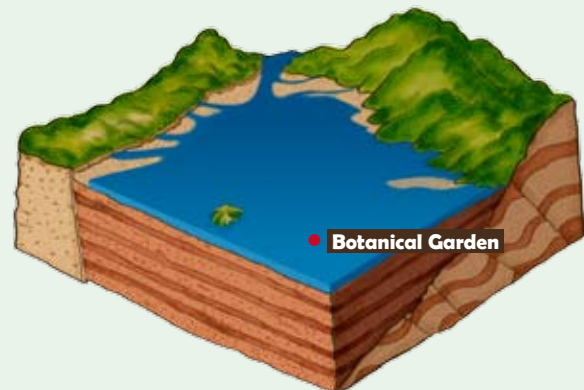
**Prehistoric Period:** About 4500 years ago, during the Middle Neolithic Period, human activity in the area surrounding the Botanical Garden began.



**Floodplain Period:** Approximately 7000 years ago, the Taipei Basin became a liveable terrestrial environment as the erosion brought by lake-level fluctuation gradually reduced.



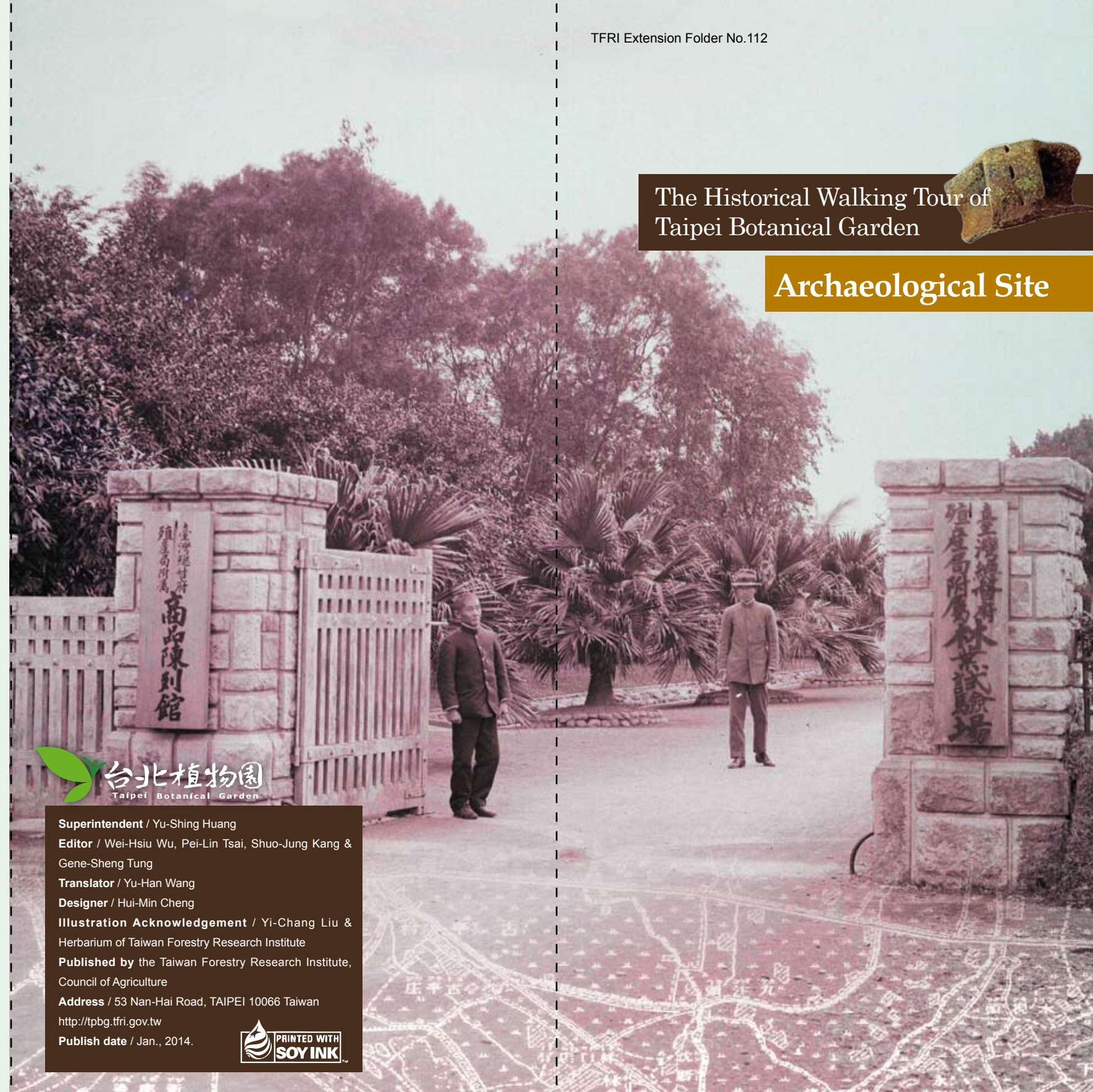
**The Ancient Taipei Lake Period:** The sea level rose and the Taipei Basin became a brackish water lake as the seawater entered the basin around 9000 years ago.



## The Historical Walking Tour of Taipei Botanical Garden



## Archaeological Site



Lying under the waters of the ancient lake that once filled the Taipei Basin 9000 to 7000 years ago, the area surrounding nowadays Taipei Botanical Garden was first inhabited around 4500 years ago when the Taipei Lake developed into a basin after years of sedimentation. Let us take a journey through time and space, to the ancient past of the Taipei Botanical Garden.

## The Discovery and Research History of the Chihwuyuan (Botanical Garden) Site

- 1901** Japanese scholar Satō Denzō reported that pottery, stone and jade artifacts, as well as shells were found in the Tagal shell mound, Tagal, located in the nowadays Taipei Botanical Garden area, used to be the home of the Pingpu indigenous Kefagalan tribe.
- 1945-1949** An initial understanding of the Chihwuyuan (Botanical Garden) Site was obtained through investigation made by Japanese scholars Kanasaki Takeo and Kokubu Naoichi, who found artifacts such as stepped stone adzes, pottery with rope patterns in the Taipei First High School (now Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School).
- 1980** Archaeologists Huang Shihchiang and Liu Yichang reinvestigated the Chihwuyuan (Botanical Garden) Site which was consequently designated as an important archaeological site.
- 1999** Through archeological excavations, Liu Yichang preliminary determined that Chihwuyuan (Botanical Garden) site has at least two prehistoric cultural layers.
- 2001** Excavation at the site yielded artifacts from the early periods to the later periods, including relics from the prehistoric Xuntangpu, Yuanshan, Chihwuyuan, and Shihshanhang Culture, as well as artifacts from the Qing regime, Japanese colonial period and postwar period.
- 2006** Archaeologist Liu Yichang proposed the possible spatial distribution of human activities over time in the Chihwuyuan (Botanical Garden) Site by linking prehistoric cultural layers with ancient environmental changes.
- 2008-2009** Liu Yichang conducted further investigation and excavation so that a better understanding of the cultural connotation of the site, and the relationship between ancient environmental change and human activities.

## Characteristic of the Chihwuyuan (Botanical Garden) Site

The most distinguishing feature of the Chihwuyuan (Botanical Garden) Site is that it is a multicultural site in which relics from different time spans can be found within the same archaeological site. Such multicultural archaeological site is a rare find, and it indicates that the area surrounding the Botanical Garden has been a pleasant and livable habitat since the prehistoric times.



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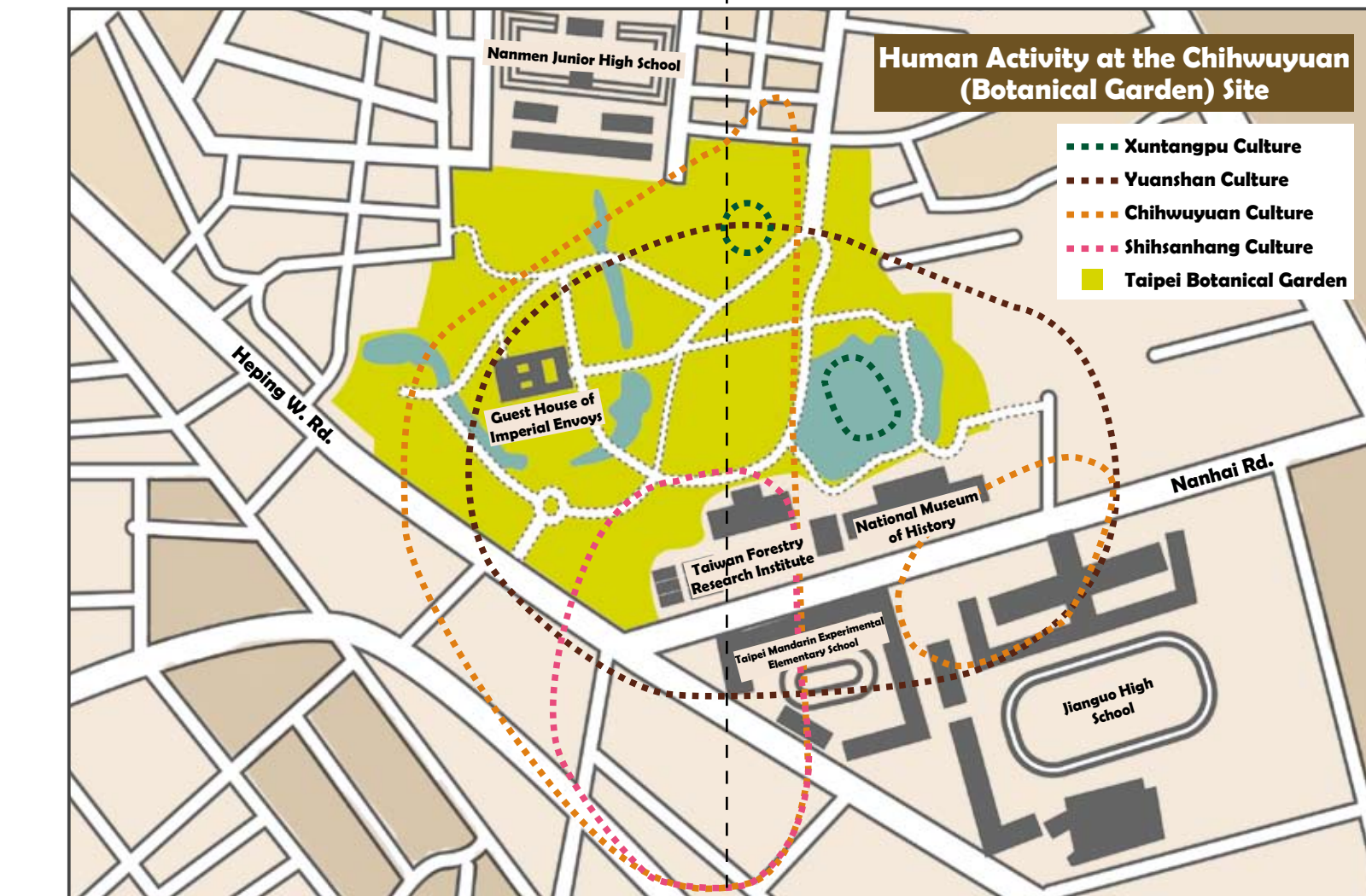
## Xuntangpu Culture

Dating back to 4500 to 3500 years ago, the Xuntangpu Culture is representative of the Red Corded Ware Culture in northern Taiwan. The Xuntangpu relics unearthed in the Botanical Garden site are mostly brown sand pottery. Vessel surfaces are often cord-impressed while the inside and outside of the mouth are painted red. The types of stone artifacts are relatively few, with woodcutting axes and adzes, chisels, concave stones and stone shovels used in daily life being common. The artifacts indicate that the idea of personal adornment and networks of interregional exchange already existed during this period.



## Yuanshan Culture

The late Neolithic Yuanshan Culture can be dated back to 3200 to 2500 years ago. It yields an abundance of relics including pottery, jade, stone and bone-made tools, as well as a few bronze artifacts. The different types of tools used in farming, hunting and fishing demonstrate the multi-use of resources at the time. The evidence of constant interregional interaction as well as warfare and headhunting has also been found. The artifacts of the Yuanshan Culture unearthed at the Botanical Garden Site are predominantly red sand-mixed pottery.



## Chihwuyuan (Botanical Garden) Culture

The Chihwuyuan (Botanical Garden) Culture existed in the late Neolithic Period, around 2500 to 1800 years ago. The representative site of this culture is the Chihwuyuan Site. Jars and bowls with square decorative patterns can be seen as the primary characteristic artifacts of this culture. Among the wide range of stone tools discovered, a high percentage of them are hoes and axes used for farming, while arrowheads and net sinkers are less common. This indicates that people lived primarily a farming lifestyle while still relying on hunting and gathering for their food.



## Human Activity at the Chihwuyuan (Botanical Garden) Site

- Xuntangpu Culture
- Yuanshan Culture
- Chihwuyuan Culture
- Shihshanhang Culture
- Taipei Botanical Garden

## Shihshanhang Culture

The Shihshanhang Culture is a Metal Age prehistoric culture which dates back to 1800 to 350 years ago. Apart from locally made pottery, a large amount of ironware and imported ceramics, glassware, agate and coins have also been found. The artifacts unearthed date back to before the Song, Yuan and mid Ming dynasty, which indicates that it was hard for the people of this period to survive on agriculture or hunting and fishing, and, as a result, they had begun to make foreign contact and trade. The majority of Shihshanhang artifacts discovered in the Botanical Garden is pottery.



## Taiwan Indigenous People, Qing Rule, and Japanese Colonial Period

According to records from Dutch documents, around 800 to 350 years ago, the area which is now the Botanical Garden was inhabited by the Pingpu indigenous of the Rieuwwerwar tribe which belonged to the four tribes of Luilang. It was one of the most important indigenous settlements in Taipei Basin. By the end of the Kangxi period, the Han Chinese had already entered Tagal as developing households. The 25th year of Qianlong's reign (1760) saw the emergence of Manka as a great political, economic and military centre. The Botanical Garden area, located in the vicinity of Manka, gradually became a Han Chinese settlement. Having been through Japanese Colonial and post-war period, this area has been inhabited by various groups of settlers with different patterns of settlement and human activities over the course of time. It is certain that this area is continuing, and will continue to change and evolve in the future.

## The Chihwuyuan Site - Seed Samples

A large quantity of seeds were discovered in the bottom layer of the Chihwuyuan Site, including millet, rice, Job's Tears, mung beans, bog bulrush, Ebenaceae, *Ehretia dicksonii*, Feather Cockscomb, Green Amaranth, Neem, wutong, Poaceae, etc. It has been presumed that, among all these crops, millet, cultivated rice, mung beans and Job's Tears were the main staple food crops during this period.

