

Creating a City Rich in Greenery

A city's greenery—represented mainly by parks and green spaces—serves a variety of roles. It brings a sense of ease and calm to daily life, sustains the urban environment, provides areas for recreation, and can supply space for evacuation in the event of disaster. The TMG is carrying out the following measures with a view to fostering a city blessed by water and greenery and in harmony with the environment.

City-Planned Parks and Green Spaces

In Tokyo, among sites totaling some 10,800 hectares designated as parks and green spaces under the City Planning Act, 2,300 hectares require ongoing development. Based on the Development Policy for City-planned Parks and Green Spaces, which was last revised in December 2011, the TMG promotes systematic development of parks and green spaces to create water and greenery networks and to improve Tokyo's disaster-preparedness.



Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park

Comprehensive Policy for Preserving Greenery

With greenery being lost to urbanization, Tokyo and its municipalities jointly formulated the Comprehensive Policy for Preserving Greenery in May 2010 to systematically protect the greenery of cliff lines, estate woodlands, and other areas.

Based on this policy, initiatives are being taken to preserve greenery, including designating special conservation zones, and zones for maintaining and increasing scenic farmland areas, and promoting the Tokyo greenery preservation project, which supports greenery conservation by citizens' groups in collaboration with a private fund. In addition, the TMG encourages the designation of green production districts, with a view to conserving agricultural lands.



Scenic farmland

Privately-Run Parks and Park Usage Development Systems

The TMG has put in place a unique scheme that utilizes the dynamism of the private sector in identifying underdeveloped city-planned parks and green spaces that are suitable as evacuation areas and opening them to the public. And in central Tokyo, where space is at a premium, there is a park usage development scheme which encourages the provision of park facilities and the building of lively communities.

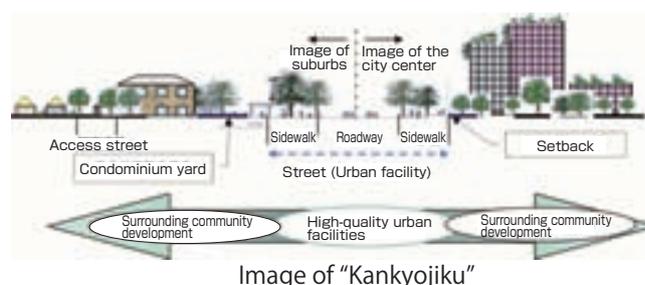
Guideline for Greenery Development in Privately Owned Public Spaces

To enhance the value of open spaces created in the process of large-scale urban development, the TMG established the Guideline for Greenery Development in Privately Owned Public Spaces to facilitate the creation of spaces such as greenery networks and safe and pleasant areas.

Creation of Kankyojiku

"Kankyojiku" are networks of urban spaces lush with greenery. These networks are created when the urban facilities that form the infrastructure, including roads, rivers, and parks, and the adjacent communities are developed in an integrated manner to generate broad and substantial greenery, open spaces, and pleasant landscapes.

The TMG is utilizing guidelines on Kankyojiku formulated in 2007 and the Kankyojiku Council established in 2008 to promote the formation of these areas. In addition, the TMG is also working with municipalities to create kankyojiku, learning from areas where the program has already been implemented.



Water Resources and the Effective Use of Water

The TMG is working with the central government and other authorities to develop water resources in order to safeguard against problems such as water shortages which can affect the life of the city and its residents. TMG initiatives to develop water resources, which began with the construction of the Ogochi Dam on the Tamagawa River completed in 1957, are currently underway at the Yamba Dam. In addition, to ensure the effective use of our precious water resources, guidance is provided to large building owners and developers to use reclaimed wastewater for purposes such as in toilet flush systems and rainwater, which normally flows into the sewer system, for sprinkling and other purposes.



Image of the completed Yamba Dam

Beautifying the urban landscape

To create an aesthetically pleasing urban landscape, it is important to define the future vision of Tokyo's landscape as a whole, and to effectively carry out policies for the landscape by aligning various measures. The TMG is undertaking initiatives for the realization of a beautiful and elegant capital, based on the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Landscape Ordinance and the Tokyo Landscape Plan.

Landscape Creation Through a Filing System and a System for Prior Consultations

The TMG is carrying out landscape creation using a system for prior consultation regarding developments, taking into consideration the criteria for each area. Characteristic natural and topographical features of the city landscape which are important to the physical identity of the city as a whole are designated as "central scenic belts." Areas around cultural heritage gardens and other sites which are of particular importance in promoting a pleasant urban landscape are designated as "special landscape creation districts."

For construction of large-scale buildings and structures that require city planning decisions, a system for prior consultations at the planning stage of the project, before the start of actual application procedures, has been established to encourage plans that give due consideration to the landscape. These include high quality designs around the Imperial Palace and preservation of the scenic landscape of the Diet Building.



Central scenic belt of the Kokubunji cliff line (Chofu City)



Hama-rikyu and Shiba-rikyu Gardens special landscape creation district (Hama-rikyu Gardens)

Selection of Historic Architectural Structures

Tokyo is promoting the creation of elegant and attractive landscapes by selecting and conserving historically significant structures that convey Tokyo's history and culture.

Among historically valuable architectural structures, which are, in principle, over 50 years old, those that are of significant importance to Tokyo's landscape are selected by the governor (80 as of end February 2016). The government helps to preserve these by providing information boards and other support.

Also, among gardens and architectural structures with historical value, such as cultural properties, those which have an especially high impact on their surroundings in the creation of a good landscape are designated by the governor as "historic landmarks especially important for the landscape" (29 as of end February 2016).



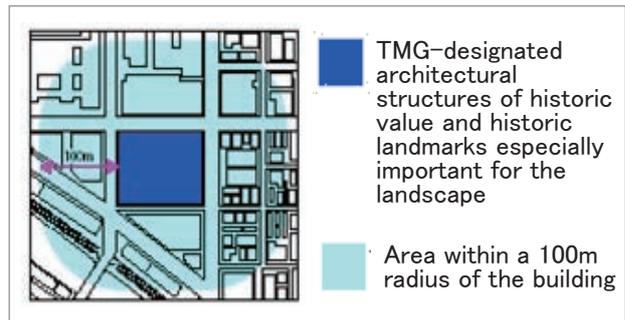
TMG-designated architectural structure of historic value Former residence of Count Ogasawara (Shinjuku Ward)



Historic landmarks especially important for the landscape Garden of the former residence of the Iwasaki family (Taito Ward)

Guidelines for Preservation of Historic Landscapes

In order to promote the creation of historic landscapes in areas around TMG-designated architectural structures of historic value and historic landmarks especially important for the landscape, guidelines for preservation of historic landscapes in accordance with the Landscape Ordinance have been formulated to request the due consideration of developers carrying out construction projects near such buildings.



Illegal Advertising

The TMG is working to prevent the display and posting of illegal advertising through efforts such as the establishment of a penalty system that makes public the names of violators and imposes fees, as well as requiring outdoor advertising permit stickers be affixed to approved advertising materials (program took effect in January 2009).

Starting in fiscal 2005, the TMG made changes to its outdoor advertising business notification system, adopting a registration system for outdoor advertising businesses, so that precise guidance can be given to advertising companies.

Furthermore, due to increased public concern about the urban landscape, a campaign to remove abandoned signboards, stickers, posters, and other advertising material placed on utility poles and other roadside facilities has been conducted annually since fiscal 1997 through the cooperation of road management authorities, the police, and the residents of Tokyo.

Cooperative efforts to remove illegal signs along the course of the Tokyo Marathon before the holding of the marathon have also been conducted since 2007.



Campaign to remove illegal advertising

Recycling of resources

Recycling in Construction

In Tokyo, large amounts of construction byproducts, including surplus soil and concrete waste, are generated every year. Efforts are being made to curb the volume of byproducts generated, as well as to reuse them as construction materials, to help reduce the impact on the environment and facilitate Tokyo's sustainable development.

By stipulating goals and rules for recycling, including the formulation of the Tokyo Metropolitan Construction Recycling Promotion Plan, the TMG is promoting efforts ranging from reducing the amounts of construction byproducts to reusing and recycling them.

Notably, as an effort to reuse surplus soil, the TMG has established the Tokyo Metropolitan Center for Recycling of Construction Surplus Soil to treat surplus soil for use as materials for backfill and in other ways.



The Tokyo Metropolitan Center for Recycling of Construction Surplus Soil



Soil Refining Plant