

07 The Greenbelt Concept

The concept of the green belt was presented at the 1924 International Town Planning Conference held in Amsterdam. In Japan, green belts were incorporated into urban planning administration as “green space” to prevent disorderly urban expansion.

In 1932, the Tokyo Green Space Planning Council was formed. Over a period of seven years the council conducted studies and planning, and formulated the Tokyo Green Space Plan in 1939. The green belt set forth in the plan was positioned

as both part of the project to celebrate the 2,600th anniversary of the founding of Japan and air defense plans to create vast green areas. Although these parcels of green space were made available for agricultural use as part of agricultural land reform following the war, in turn reducing the amount of land, many of the large parks and riverside parks that exist in today’s special ward area (the Ryokudo-koen Park along the Kanda Josui Canal, etc.) can be considered products of the Tokyo Green Space Plan.

The satellite city concept

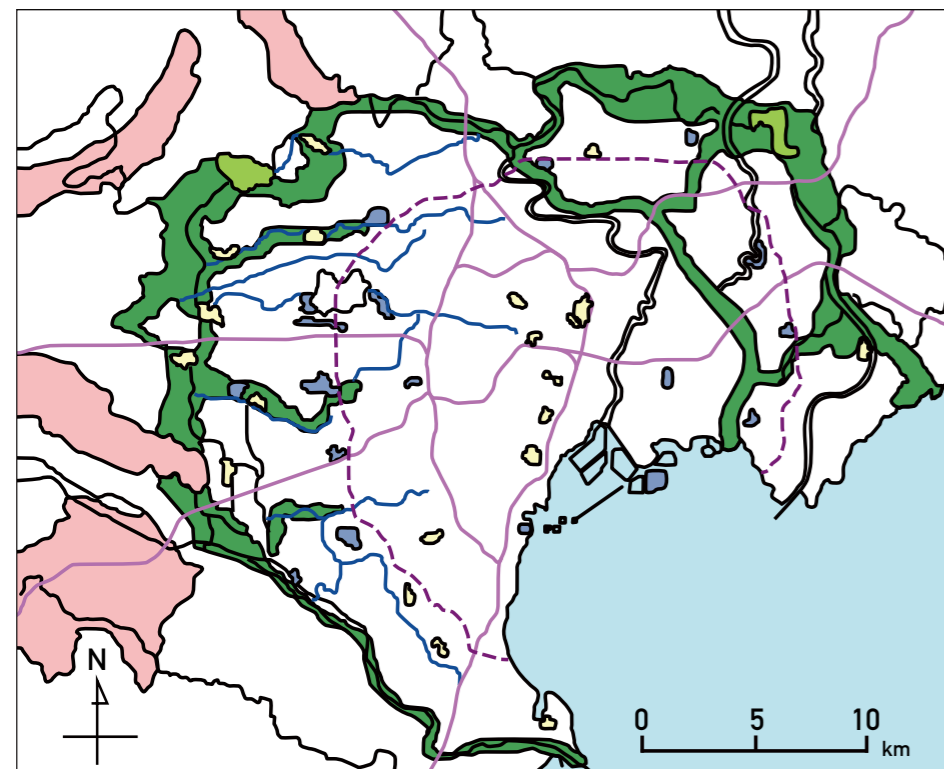
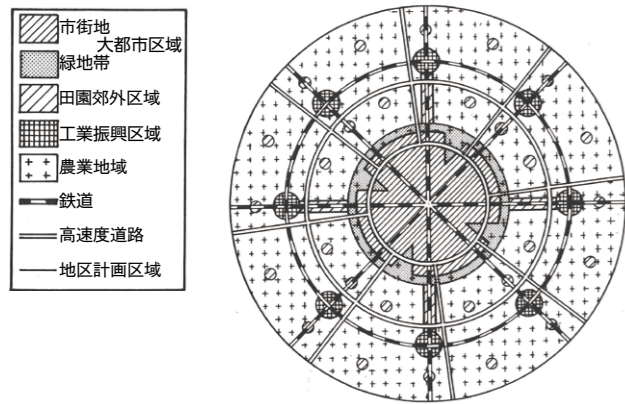
(Kanto Regional Greater Tokyo Area Plan)

At the Amsterdam International Town Planning Conference, greater metropolitan area planning required for satellite cities and, as an upper-level city plan, regional planning were proposed, also having a major impact on Japan.

Source: Yorifusa Ishida. *Nihon kindai toshikeikaku no 100 nen* (100 years of modern urban planning in Japan). Jichitaikenkyusha.

Paul Wolf’s 1917 schematic plan for a major city presented at the Tokyo District Board of City Planning.

(By Paul Wolf, “Stadttebau” Klinkhardt u. Biermann, Leipzig, 1919)



Tokyo Green Space Plan area (1939)

The Tokyo Green Space Plan adopted at this time was a Tokyo Regional Green Space Plan covering a wide area that included Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama, Chiba, Ibaraki, and Yamanashi prefectures. This map shows the area around the City of Tokyo.

Source: *Heisei 12-nen kensetsu hakusho* (2000 white paper on construction). Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.



Present-day Kinuta Park
Source: Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association.



Present-day Koganei Park
Source: Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association.



Present-day Toneri Park
Source: Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association.



Present-day Mizumoto Park
Source: Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association.

Projects to celebrate the 2,600th anniversary of the founding of Japan

In 1940, the year which corresponds to the 2,600th anniversary of the founding of Japan, projects were implemented to mark the occasion. In an effort to secure green space, from an air defense standpoint as well, city planning decisions were made for centers within the greenbelt. City planning decisions designating Kinuta (approx. 80ha), Koganei (approx. 91ha), Toneri (approx. 101ha), Mizumoto (approx. 169ha), and Shinozaki (approx. 124ha) as green space were finalized and the projects were advanced. A portion of these green areas still remain in Tokyo.



Parks and green spaces under the Tokyo Special City Plan (Plans to re-examine the plan for postwar reconstruction) (1950)

In July 1948, the Ministry of Construction designated 18,000 hectares of land as Tokyo Special City Plan Green Space Areas. This green open space inherited land formerly used as air defense open space. However, citing that park land had been used as agricultural land to secure food during the war and other reasons, in November of the same year, a movement to free up large plots of green space for agricultural use emerged, and it was decided to release portions of the green land for sale. This resulted in the loss of about 460 hectares, at least 63 percent of the green space, mainly large green spaces used for air defense. Later on, Tokyo’s plans for post-war reconstruction underwent major revision, and plans for park land and green space were cut back.

Source: *Tokyo no midori wo tsukutta ijintachi* (The great figures who created Tokyo’s greenery). Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association.

Green space	Total land area purchased	Area withheld	Area released	Area excluded
Kinuta	76.06		33.77	42.29
Jindai	71.51		52.47	19.04
Koganei	89.98		38.71	21.19
Toneri	101.67		96.57	5.11
Mizumoto	165.44		75.67	35.16
Shinozaki	154.26		137.56	16.69
Komazawa	41.89	31.77		9.92
Kami-itabashi	44.76		28.57	16.19
Shakujii	57.85	19.39		
Total	745.57		463.31	165.6

Chart shows the plan for Shakujii only. Figures are not included in the total. Retained land area refers to a district overseen by the national government retained for five years taking urbanization into consideration. Prepared from *Tokyo no koen: 140 nen* (Tokyo parks: 140 years). Bureau of Construction, Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

Application of the Act Concerning Special Measures for Establishment of Landed Farmers on green land (in hectares)

The Act Concerning Special Measures for Establishment of Landed Farmers was put into effect with the aim to renew the land ownership system in effect prior to World War II and create farming communities centered on landed farmers. It was necessary for green land districts to incorporate a good portion of districts for the establishment of landed farmers. Adjustment of green areas and districts to establish landed farmers did not go smoothly.