Construction of Tama New Town

From the early 1960s, unplanned urban sprawl progressing at a speed surpassing that of the construction of roads, sewers and other infrastructure was a major issue for city planning.

In order to respond to this urban sprawl and the lack of residential land in the National Capital Region due to the population increase, the basic policy for construction of Tama New Town was determined in 1964. The planned district was about 14 kilometers from east to west, and 2 to 3 kilometers from north to south, with an area of 3,016 hectares, and the planned population was 300,000. It started accepting residents in 1971, and today it is a composite center of the Tama Area, with not just residences, but also business, commercial, educational, cultural, and other facilities, and a population of around 220,000.

General structure of Tama New Town (from 1966)
The planned development of Tama New Town was based on the neighborhood unit theory. The theory proposes the formation of neighborhood units demarcated by arterial roads, with schools, community centers, parks, and other facilities located within the area. Tama New Town was divided into 21 neighborhood units, which were based on the unit of middle school districts. By separating pedestrian and vehicular traffic, unnecessary through-traffic was removed from living areas. Each neighborhood unit had elementary and middle schools, parks, and a center with commercial and other facilities. These neighborhood units were also combined to form districts, and a district center was located in the center (near a railway station).


Tama New Town was developed based on Clarence A. Perry’s neighborhood unit theory.

Source: Wikimedia Commons.