Creation of a Comfortable Urban Environment

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.

Promoting Development of City-Planned Parks and Green Spaces

To realize a Tokyo filled with greenery and build a city that is resilient to disasters, the TMG, special wards, cities, and towns formulated the Development Policy for City-Planned Parks and Green Spaces (last revised in July 2020). Based on the development policy, which designates sites totaling some 530 hectares as areas for priority development for the period until the end of fiscal 2029, the TMG and municipalities promote systematic development of parks and green spaces.

Preserving and Creating Greenery on Private Land

With greenery being lost to urbanization, the TMG, special wards, cities, towns, and a village jointly revised the Comprehensive Policy for Preserving Greenery in July 2020 to systematically protect the greenery of cliff lines, estate woodlands, and other areas. Currently, initiatives are being taken to preserve greenery, including the designation of special conservation zones.



Higashifushimi Park



Scenic farmland

Preserving and Utilizing Urban Farmland

The TMG has formulated Guidelines for the Creation of Green Agricultural Residential Communities (March 2022), aimed at promoting the development of communities consisting of a combination of agricultural land, estate woodlands, and residential areas. Through the scenic farmland area conservation system, it is also promoting the designation of agricultural landscape preservation districts in order to maintain and increase agricultural landscapes formed by Tokyo's remaining farmland and estate woodlands. Additionally, the TMG helps municipalities with designating additional "productive green lands" (designated agricultural land) and extending the term of designation when certain conditions are met, and subsidizes the cost of turning such land into parks (Productive Green Land Park Subsidy System), so that farmland can be well preserved and utilized.

Park Development Utilizing the Dynamism of the Private Sector

The private sector is a key partner supporting Tokyo's urban development initiatives. Under the TMG's park and community development system, special permit project system, and privately run park scheme, city-planned parks and green spaces are being developed by private businesses.



Park developed under the special permit project system (Shiba Park)

Utilizing the Guidelines 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 Guidelines for Greenery Development in Privately Owned Public Spaces to facilitate the creation of spaces such as green 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.

Image of suburbs Image of the city center Access street Rederces and community development Surreet (Urban facility)

Image of "Kankyojiku"

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 to keep city activities and resident life safer from problems such as droughts. TMG initiatives to develop water resources, which began with the construction of the Ogochi Dam on the Tama River completed in 1957, followed by completion of Yamba Dam in March 2020.

In addition, to ensure the effective use of our precious water resources, the TMG encourages large building owners and developers to use non-potable water, such as reclaimed wastewater and rainwater, for flushing toilets, sprinkling, and other purposes.



Yamba Dam

Project to Clean Up Sections of the Outer Moat

The proliferation of blue-green algae in sections of the outer moat (lchigaya-bori, Shinmitsuke-bori, and Ushigome-bori) of the former Edo Castle in central Tokyo has resulted in unsightly landscapes and an unpleasant odor. This has hampered the moat's ability to bring a sense of ease and calm to Tokyo, thereby negatively impacting the overall image of the city.

To address this issue, the TMG is advancing a project to clean up the outer moat, which is designated as a historic asset of Tokyo. The project seeks to offer places to relax to those working in central Tokyo through improving the water quality of the outer moat, while also adding charm to the city through the creation of elegant landscapes.

To achieve this, the TMG is working with relevant parties to study ways to secure the sources and amount of water necessary to be supplied to the moat, the construction of new waterways, and other matters. The TMG has publicized a basic plan, which includes an outline of routes to supply reclaimed water and water from the Arakawa River via the Tamagawa Josui and other waterways. In accordance with this plan, since fiscal 2022, the TMG has been implementing specific measures, such as creating preliminary designs for facilities needed to supply water to the moat, with the aim of completing construction in the mid-2030s.



«Right image from Future Tokyo: Tokyo's Long-Term Strategy Version Up 2022 (February 2022)»

Beautifying the Urban Landscape

To create an aesthetically pleasing urban landscape, it is important to define policies for the creation of Tokyo's landscape as a whole, and to carry out effective measures for the landscape by aligning various initiatives. 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 and Prior Consultation System

The TMG carries out landscape creation through a system for filing and prior consultation that considers criteria for landscape creation established for "central scenic belts," which are areas with characteristic natural and topographical features that are important to the cityscape of Tokyo as a whole, and "special landscape creation districts," which are areas around gardens designated as cultural treasures and other sites of particular importance in creating a pleasant urban landscape.

For construction of large-scale buildings and other developments 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 guality 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 (97 as of end-December 2022). The government helps to preserve these by providing information boards and other support.



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



Historic landmarks especially important for the landscape Garden of the former residence of the lwasaki family (Taito-ku)

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" (76 as of end-December 2022).

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.



TMG-designated architectural structure of historic value and historic landmarks especially important for the landscape

Consideration required within a 100m radius of the building

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.

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



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 impacts 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 from public works in Tokyo for use as materials for backfill and in other ways.



Tokyo Metropolitan Center for Recycling of Construction Surplus Soil



Soil refining plant

Creating an Attractive City That Is Chosen by the World [Central Tokyo and the Waterfront Area]

The TMG will promote urban development projects that elevate the charm of central Tokyo and the waterfront area through leveraging the unique characteristics and potential of the areas to shape and strengthen them into diverse city hubs, as well as uniting the areas by enhancing the transportation network linking them together, among other efforts.

Shaping Diverse City Hubs

In Nihombashi, an area that embodies an elegant cityscape rooted in history and culture, a section of the Metropolitan Expressway will be relocated underground.

Additionally, efforts are underway to transform the Tokyo Expressway (KK Route), a vehicle-only highway, into a pedestrian-centered public space.

In the Tsukiji district, the TMG will promote community development project that make full use of the capabilities of the private sector, while leveraging the potential of Hama-rikyu, the Sumida River, food culture, and other attributes. The district will be shaped into a hub where a new culture is created and transmitted through the welcoming and exchange of many different people from around the world.

On the former site of the Olympic and Paralympic Village in Harumi that welcomed athletes from around the world during the Games, steady progress is being made to build residential buildings, a hydrogen station, and other infrastructure.

Enhancement of the Transportation Network

Preparations are underway to commence the project to build a new Central Tokyo and Waterfront area subway line, which will serve as the backbone for the transportation network connecting central Tokyo with the waterfront area.

Additionally, the TMG will work to improve convenience of access throughout the entire area by expanding the operations of TOKYO BRT, establishing a water transport network, and ensuring the enhanced convenience and speed of public transportation between central Tokyo and the waterfront area.

