



CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND CREATION OF GREENERY

As one of the largest cities in the world, Tokyo spreads out from the mainland to the Ogasawara Islands, or over 1,900 km from north to south, and has a variation in elevation of more than 2,000 m.

Tokyo consists not only of urban central areas with green spaces, including roadside trees and parks but also of different natural environments: suburbs partly covered with woods and fields, satoyama (open light-filled woodland near populated areas) and hilly terrain full of biodiversity, steep mountain areas overrun by primeval forests, and islands with a unique natural environment and ecosystem caused by volcanic activity, including the Ogasawara Islands registered as a natural World Heritage site.



Ogasawara islands



Valley in Okutama area



City Hall and the surrounding area

► Greening in Urban Areas

In accordance with the Greenery Program, TMG has been creating greenery in parallel with urban development. These efforts helped achieve an improvement for the first time in the percentage of green and blue spaces (water areas) in the 23 wards since the research was started. We plant trees to nurture biodiversity and flowers to express the Japanese spirit of omotenashi, or hospitality, enriching people's lives with the comfort such green spaces bring.



To encourage the conservation of biodiversity, TMG registers green spaces where native species are planted above a certain level, designating them with special logos and highlighting them on our website.

Greenery Program

Requirement

Submission of Greenery Plan satisfying the greenery standards

Target

Newly constructed, renovated, or extended buildings of 1,000 m² or larger in site area. (For public buildings, 250 m² or larger.)

For buildings:

Greening is required for more than **20%** of roof area

On the ground:

Greening is required for more than **20%** of open space area

Examples of TMG greenery standards



*For site areas of 5,000 m² or larger, 25% of greening is required.

*For planned development projects, 30% of greening is required (35% for areas of 5,000 m² or larger).

► Measures for Alien Species

Various alien species are brought in Tokyo from both home and abroad, sometimes having a great impact on native creatures etc. For example, raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) and masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*) are increasingly causing damage to the living environment and ecosystems in the city.

Recently, alien species that can cause damage to the human body have been identified as well. In 2014, redback spiders were found in urban areas. In 2017, red imported fire ants or tropical fire ants were found at piers where cargo from overseas is offloaded. TMG will strengthen measures against these alien species to reduce the impact on the living environment, ecosystem, etc.



▶ Rich Natural Environment in Urban Neighborhoods

Meiji no Mori Takao Quasi-National Park

It only takes approximately 50 minutes to get from the center of Tokyo to Meiji no Mori Takao Quasi-National Park, a famous tourist spot registered in the Michelin Green Guide. Part of the park is the property of the Head Temple Takao-san Yakuo-in that has historical and cultural features as well as magnificent landscapes. It also offers an ecosystem of abundant nature despite its proximity to central Tokyo, well deserving its world famous reputation. In 2018 when the park celebrated the 50th anniversary of its designation as a quasi-national park in 1967, a 50th anniversary project was held to promote recognition of the region.



Events to draw attention to the attractiveness of the mountain in an urban central part of Tokyo as well as the Mt. Takao area



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Efforts to reintroduce the Oriental dollarbird, (*Eurystomus orientalis*) once commonly seen in Mt. Takao, to commemorate 50th anniversary

Natural Parks with Various Features

In addition to Meiji no Mori Takao Quasi-National Park, there are nine natural parks in Tokyo, each having its own distinctive features. Recently, the number of international visitors has increased, along with the range of activities on offer. Given the situation, the Vision for Tokyo Natural Parks was formulated as a comprehensive blueprint for the Tokyo natural parks to more fully enhance potential attractiveness, conserve the rich natural environment, history, and culture as well as promoting the opportunity to visit the parks.



Fuji-Hakone Izu National Park (Miyakejima) characterized by different volcanic landscapes on each island



Chichibu Tama Kai National Park (Mitosan) where we can enjoy mountain-walking through all four seasons

▶ Conserving Precious Nature Together with Tokyo Residents

To conserve the precious nature in urban neighborhoods, including satoyama (open light-filled woodland near populated areas) in mountain areas and hilly terrain, we are working with local municipalities to promote the designation of conservation areas, striving for preservation and restoration.

In satoyama and green spaces needing conservation, local volunteer groups play a central role in green space conservation activities, such as cutting undergrowth and thinning trees. To recruit new human resources to carry out such conservation activities, we

are implementing efforts to promote the activities, such as providing opportunities for experience-based programs in which even inexperienced people can easily participate.



▶ Ogasawara Islands Registered as World Heritage Site in June 2011

Consisting of over 30 islands, the Ogasawara Islands are located in the North West Pacific 1,000 km south of Tokyo, where dolphins and whales inhabit a beautiful blue ocean. Geological features on the island show the evolutionary process of oceanic island arcs. These islands have never been part of any continent, and so the living creatures able to reach the islands over the sea could survive only by adapting to the environment. The Ogasawara Islands were evaluated as an area with a precious ecosystem and registered as a natural World Heritage site in June 2011 as they reveal the evolution of and connection between living things not seen in any other areas.

To protect the value of the World Heritage site, we are removing influential alien species while conserving decreasing endemic species. We are also developing ecotourism to help protect and properly use valuable natural resources and are striving to prevent the entry of new alien species.



Preventing alien species from entering the islands on the soles of shoes