

Formation of urban landscapes starting from urban parks

– Creation of (Draft) Guidelines for the development and management of urban parks with links to adjacent facilities, streets, etc. –

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1. Background and development

In Japan, the “Three Landscape Greenery Laws” were enacted in June 2004 with the aim of forming beautiful and characteristic national land, creating rich living environments and giving individuality and vitality to local communities. Urban parks, as core facilities for the formation of good urban landscapes, are indispensable facilities for green and refreshing urban development. By linking related projects together, it is expected that even better urban landscapes can be formed.

To meet this expectation, departments in charge of developing and managing urban parks are also expected to give due consideration to links with the areas around parks, adjacent facilities, etc., with a view to forming integrated landscapes. However, ways of achieving such links have yet to be identified, much less evaluated. By researching good examples of this, therefore, we have drawn up principles for effective links with surrounding areas, adjacent facilities, etc., points to bear in mind, and other matters related to the development and management of urban parks.

2. Outline of the creation of (Draft) Guidelines

(1) Compilation of case studies from Japan and abroad

We gathered and surveyed cases of good urban landscapes, in which urban parks are integrated with adjacent facilities and their surrounding areas, are “open” and “have beautiful neighborhood characteristics”, mainly in urban areas. Of these, we produced a compilation consisting of 20 domestic and 10 overseas cases.

The compilation starts by giving an “Outline of Integration and Links with Adjacent Facilities, etc.”, continues through “Outline of Urban Parks”, “Outline of Adjacent Facilities, etc.”, “Main Steps When Creating Links”, “Location and Landscape Status of Urban Parks, Adjacent Facilities, etc.”, and “Content of Links”, and concludes with a data section.

(2) Study of principles for developing and managing urban parks

Our (Draft) Guidelines bring together the principles, matters to be borne in mind, and other issues when promoting the development and management of urban parks with links to adjacent facilities and surrounding areas, as came clear in our analysis of case studies.

The Guidelines have been created so that urban parks can make a greater contribution to forming good urban landscapes through wide-ranging, diverse links with adjacent facilities, etc. The aim is that local authority departments in charge of developing and managing urban parks will use the Guidelines when seeking ideas for diverse links in line with the characteristics of their respective areas.

The Guidelines consist of “Part 1: Steps When Creating Links”, in which we indicate general matters to bear in mind when forming good landscapes through links, divided into stages; “Part 2: Links in Tune with Adjacent Facilities”, in which we show the points to bear in mind for each type of linked adjacent facility; and “Case Studies”, a compilation of cases from Japan and abroad that will provide useful reference for these.



Photo 1 Greenery along Jozenji-dori, a case study in Sendai City

3. Publication of results

The resultant (Draft) Guidelines were published under that title in “NILIM Material No. 542” in August 2009. They have also been published as a pdf file on the NILIM website. <http://www.nilim.go.jp/lab/bcg/siryou/tnn/tnn0542.htm>