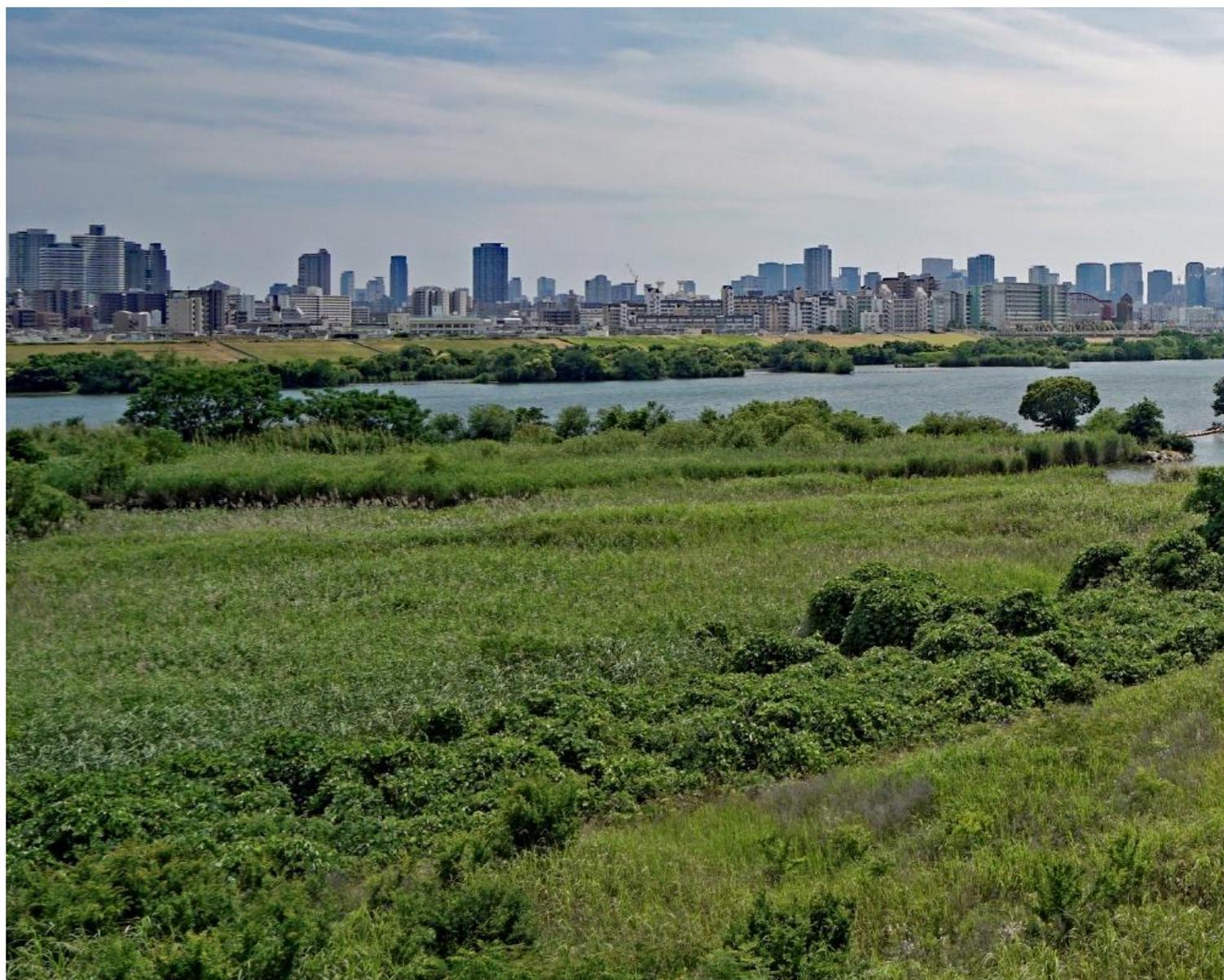


Beautification of the Yodogawa River Landscape



Osaka Prefectural Government
March 2019



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Introduction

The *Osaka Metropolitan Area Grand Design* represents the broadscale direction for urban space creation in the Osaka metropolitan area. As an example of urban space creation based on a cooperative structure covering a wide area, associated organizations in the Yodogawa area actively cooperate to utilize the unique potentials that cities along rivers possess to beautify urban spaces and attract more visitors.

Additionally, in the Osaka Prefectural landscape vision, attention is given to areas including the harmony and relationship with nearby historical and cultural heritages of river axes, landscaping that actively utilizes the relationship with rivers while striving for coexistence with regional characteristics and nature, creation of hydrophilic spaces that take safety into consideration, and preserving greenery along the rivers.

Furthermore, with the aim of making the Yodogawa riverside an attractive urban space, a platform (see p.11) was established as a place where community developers can exchange their opinions freely. Through this platform, a community development design was created to pursue the formation of an attractive landscape.

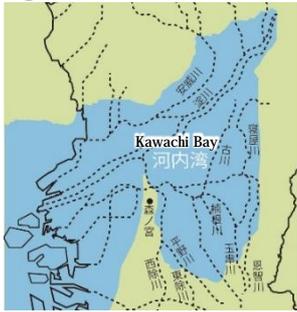
With this in mind, this leaflet introduces the nature, history/culture, and activities taking place along the riverside from a diverse perspective, and also summarizes the fundamental goals and efforts that those partaking in the development all share in order to promote the making of an attractive landscape of the Yodogawa River.

The upcoming Osaka- Kansai Expo 2025 is a great opportunity to share the beauty of the Yodogawa landscape to the world. We hope that by taking our initiatives in consideration, everyone coming into contact with the Yodogawa River will help participate in its further beautification.

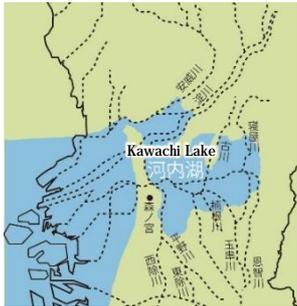
We also hope that our efforts to create an attractive Yodogawa River landscape contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.

1. Transformation of the Yodogawa River

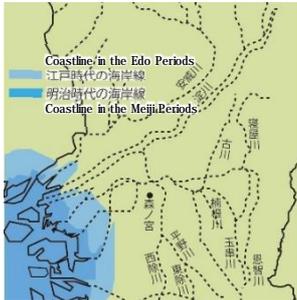
Since its formation, the Yodogawa River has been an active center for politics, the economy and culture since ancient times, serving as a network connecting Lake Biwa to the Seto Inland Sea in order to transport people and goods.



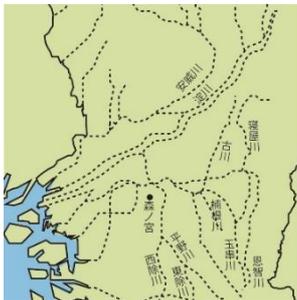
Early Jomon Period
about 7000~8000 years ago



Late Yayoi~Early Kofun
Periods
about 1800~1600 years ago



Edo~Meiji Periods
about 400~120 years ago



Modern Day

○ Ancient Times

Osaka had a lower sea level about 20,000 years ago, and the Osaka Bay and the Seto Inland Sea were land. A coastline was formed after a rise in sea level, creating Kawachi Bay to the east. From the mid-Jomon Period, Kawachi Bay was gradually filled with sedimentation flowing from the Yodo and Yamato Rivers to the northeast and southeast respectively. In the late Jomon Period, Kawachi Bay separated from Osaka Bay and became a freshwater lake, Kawachi Lake, in the mid-Yayoi Period.

Trade with the Chinese mainland and the Korean peninsula began during the Kofun (Tomb) Period, and a canal (Namba Horie) was excavated between Kawachi Lake and the Seto Inland Sea where the Yodo River joined. Nambatsu was built in the middle of this canal and served as the gateway to ancient Japan, making Osaka the center of diplomacy and traffic.

○ Medieval Period

Many rivers flowed in all directions in the Osaka plains during the middle ages and the Yodogawa River played an important role in linking the Seto Inland Sea, the west, and Kyoto from around the Heian Period. Osaka continued to develop as the “Water Capital,” at the same time suffering greatly from frequent floods.

The Yodogawa River at the time had some shallow waters resulting from sediment that accumulated from upstream, making it unstable for ship routes. For this reason, many residents worked together to remove the accumulated sediment and move it elsewhere. The water from the river was also an important resource for farming.

○ Early Modern Period

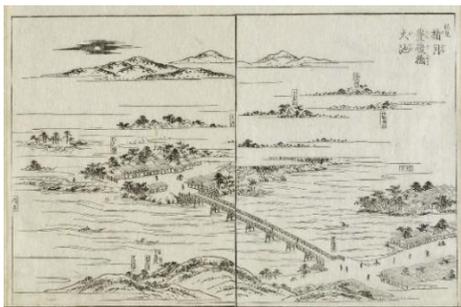
The Osaka plains served as one of the centers for the nation’s politics, economy and culture, and the Yodogawa River was an important foundation for its development.

In 1594, Toyotomi Hideyoshi built the Taiko embankment as he was building Fushimi Castle to help the Fushimi port flourish and prevent the flooding of Ogura Lake.

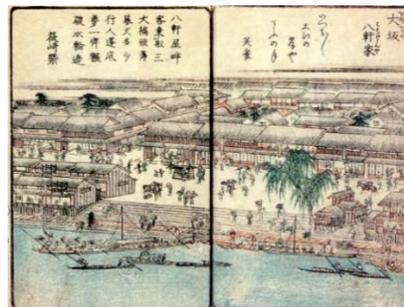
Hideyoshi also built the Bunroku embankment that extended from Hirakata to Nagara. Until then, there hadn’t been a continuous embankment on the left bank of the Yodogawa River. The Kawachi plains were now protected from flooding and the Kyokaido road above the embankment became the shortest, well traveled, stable route between Osaka and Kyoto. Along with the Saigokukaido road on the right bank, the roadside areas developed as post towns.

Osaka flourished as the “nation’s kitchen” during the Edo Period and the rivers that flowed in all directions functioned as a vital distribution network for the economy. The location which is now Nakanoshima, Okawa was lined with warehouses of various feudal clans, and the passenger boats that sailed between Hachikenya, Osaka and Fushimi, Kyoto delivered goods that arrived from all over Japan.

The riverside towns thus flourished and benefited from the Yodogawa River.



Oike (Ogura Lake) Drawings of Famous Locations
in the Capital (courtesy of International Research
Center for Japanese Studies)



(Hachikenya)
View of Yodogawa Riverbanks (Drawings of Famous Locations, 1861)



(Hashiramoto)

○ Meiji Period

In the Meiji Period, the Yodogawa River could not function as a channel because the riverbed rose due to sedimentation.

The Dutch engineer, Johannis de Rijke, led Japan's first waterworks construction project from 1875 to meander the waterway for a gentler flow in order to solve this problem. Water flowed to the center of the river as a result, securing the depth needed for steamboats. Sediment also accumulated in the waterway, coincidentally forming a swamp that became a friendly habitat for aquatic life.

The great damage from the flood in 1885 influenced the enactment of a river law in 1896, and a large-scale construction project to renovate the entire Yodogawa River basin began. This included the excavation of the Shinyodogawa River and the building of Kema Lock Gate and Kemaaraizeki dam.

Until the waterworks were completed in Osaka City in 1895, residents drank water from the Yodogawa River. The need to secure water for daily life, responding to fires and the prevention of infectious diseases called for the establishment of waterworks using the Yodogawa River as a source.

○ Showa Period - Present

The quality of the Yodogawa River deteriorated rapidly from the mid-1950s due to household and industrial wastewater. However, household wastewater was cleaned with the improvement of sewage systems in the 1960s and the water quality recovered. As a result, fishing resumed in the estuaries and continues to support Osaka's food culture to this day.

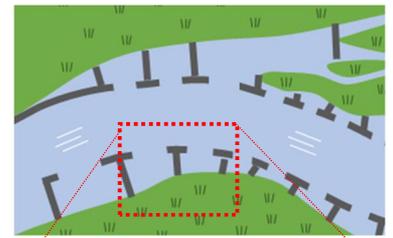
In addition, the Yodogawa River with meandered water (Picture A) has been widened and straightened in order to protect Osaka from flooding (Picture B). As a result, damage caused by flooding has been greatly reduced. Although the wetland environment important for wildlife has decreased, the environment is gradually improving with the effort of dedicated residents.

With the development of cars, railways and infrastructures such as bridges, the once abundant water transportation declined. Recently however, regular sightseeing cruises have been revived and further development of the Yodogawa riverside is anticipated.

Sand that collects at the bottom of the river is also regularly removed for maintenance and to secure space for ship routes. The sand is used as material for concrete, playing an important role in helping to build infrastructures from the high-growth period.

Currently, there are areas with diverse characteristics including rich, natural areas to parks that are filled with activity. The mudflats and coves are inhabited by many species of wildlife, including endemic and rare species of the Biwako Lake and Yodogawa River water systems.

The Yodogawa River helps us in various ways while remaining very close to the people's lives. The history of the Yodogawa, however, can be said to be a history of repeated struggles with floods.



Aerial View of Waterworks Layout

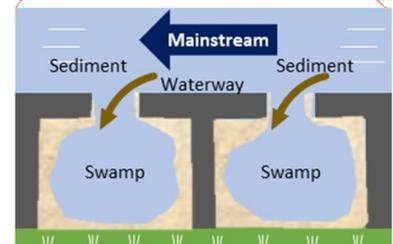


Diagram of Coves Resulting From Waterworks Construction



Picture A: Yodogawa River (1971)
(Mod. from Geospatial Info. Authority Photo)



Picture B: Yodogawa River (2006)
(Mod. from Geospatial Info. Authority Photo)



Ihasenpara (*acheilognathus longipinnis*)
(rare species of the Yodogawa)

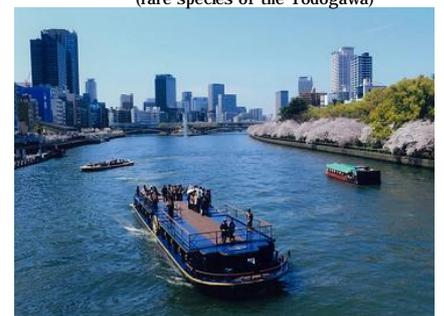


Shijimi (clam) Fishing

(Photo Credit: Osaka City Fisherman's Coop. Assoc.)



Work of Dedicated Residents



Okawa Sightseeing Boat

2. Yodogawa River Landscape

Yodogawa River is rich in nature throughout the seasons, various historical and cultural resources, and infrastructures that have different facades depending on the time of day.

In addition to these tranquil landscapes, it is important to consider the conservation of nature, bustling activities, and daily movement of bicycles, people, ships and railways in thinking about the Yodogawa landscape.

All “things” related to the Yodogawa River thus contribute to its landscape creation, and we present our view of the Yodogawa landscape in hope that it will become a reference for those participating in activities in the Yodogawa area.

2- 1 Selected Areas

The selected area is from the estuary (Yodogawa distance 0.00km mark) to Fushimi (near Misu Lock Gate) and part of the Okawa River which is the former Yodogawa (Hachikenyahama-Kema Lock Gate), where the water transportation is currently in service.



2- 2 Capturing the Landscape

In capturing the landscape, it is important to consider not only what is visible, but also the social background of its history and culture, as well as its origin, based on the natural environment of Yodogawa.

It is also important to capture the landscape after understanding the functions of the Yodogawa River's flood control and water supply, and the fact that it is a place for living organisms.

The Yodogawa River landscape resources are thus categorized into the following four types.

- ① Nature/Life: sunset/sunrise, river surface, coves, mudflats, reed beds, wild birds, wild grass, etc.
- ② Cities/Infrastructure: bridges, buildings, docks, etc.
- ③ History/Culture: Monuments for boat crossing sites and floods, historic buildings, etc.
- ④ Activities: Events utilizing river spaces, water transportation, etc.



Furthermore, landscapes are composed by combining multiple elements (sky, mountains, infrastructure, etc.). It is important to organize the attractiveness of landscape resources (night view, sunset, cherry blossoms, events, etc.) by taking the relationships of the elements into account (shape, color, combination, etc.) and the time period, including seasons and time of day.

Yodogawa River's Main Landscape Resources

	Nature/Life	Cities/Infrastructure	History/Culture	Activities/Liveliness
Distant	<input type="checkbox"/> Sky (blue sky, stars, moon) <input type="checkbox"/> Mountains <input type="checkbox"/> Coast <input type="checkbox"/> Sunset/Sunrise <input type="checkbox"/> Disasters (water increase, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Weather (sunny, rain, snow, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> River fog <input type="checkbox"/> River surface (reflections, waves, clean water, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Yodogawa Riverside Park <input type="checkbox"/> Hillside flowers, green spaces <input type="checkbox"/> Coves <input type="checkbox"/> Reed beds <input type="checkbox"/> Mudflats <input type="checkbox"/> Sewaritei embankments <input type="checkbox"/> Cherry blossoms (fall leaves) <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure walking routes <input type="checkbox"/> Wild birds <input type="checkbox"/> Wild grasses (pampas grass, equinox flower) <input type="checkbox"/> Insects <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic life (crabs, clams, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> High-rise buildings <input type="checkbox"/> Large-scale buildings ・Sakishima Cosmo Tower (<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ・Umeda Sky Building ・Grand Front Osaka ・Redhorse OSAKA WHEEL ・High voltage towers, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Hirakata Park (giant ferris wheel) <input type="checkbox"/> Yodogawa Riverside Park <input type="checkbox"/> Water purification plant <input type="checkbox"/> Bridges <input type="checkbox"/> Water pipe bridges <input type="checkbox"/> Yodogawa-ozeki Weir <input type="checkbox"/> Water locks・ water gates・ drainage pumping stations <input type="checkbox"/> Water intake facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Chimneys <input type="checkbox"/> Sakura-deai Visitor Center <input type="checkbox"/> Water level observation station <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency wharfs <input type="checkbox"/> Craftworks (Signboards, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> View of Yodogawa River banks <input type="checkbox"/> City landmarks <input type="checkbox"/> Hirakata Park (giant ferris wheel) <input type="checkbox"/> Embankments <input type="checkbox"/> Bridge illuminations <input type="checkbox"/> Temples and shrines (<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iwashimizu Hachimangu, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Old Kema No.1 Lock Gate <input type="checkbox"/> Japan Mint <input type="checkbox"/> Mitsu Lock Gate <input type="checkbox"/> Boat crossing monuments <input type="checkbox"/> Kurawanka Hasshochihi monument <input type="checkbox"/> Flood monuments <input type="checkbox"/> Bomb ponds (<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □Sanjikkokubune song))	<input type="checkbox"/> Airplanes <input type="checkbox"/> Naniwa Yodogawa Hanabitaikai Fireworks Festival <input type="checkbox"/> Railways <input type="checkbox"/> Sports (<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ・Cycling ・Jogging ・Baseball ・Walking etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Coves/reed beds conservation activities <input type="checkbox"/> Ship transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Water activities (Canoeing, SUP, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Flood control activities <input type="checkbox"/> Events using the riverside open spaces (<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ・Yodogawa Urban Camp ・Yodogawa Waiwai Gayagaya Matsuri Festival ・Reiwa OSAKA Amanogawa Densetsu, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries (shijimi clam fishing, eel fishing, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing
Near				

3. Fundamental Goal and Policies for Landscape Creation

In order to promote the creation of an attractive landscape, it is important that all people who utilize the Yodogawa area take pride and care to protect, nurture and utilize the diverse and attractive resources along the riverside.

The following are therefore the fundamental goal and policies for riverside residents, community development organizations and companies involved in landscape creation.

3- 1 Fundamental Goal

Conservation and creation of various benefits that can be enjoyed by many people, by beautifying the landscape of the Yodogawa and other major rivers



Sugahara Shirokita Ohashi Bridge Area



Cherry Blossoms at Sewaritei

3- 2 Fundamental Policies

1 Sharing awareness of the conservation and restoration of the rich, natural environment and promoting initiatives that take advantage of regional characteristics

In addition to relaying information on the role of coves and mudflats, and the importance of conservation activities, we will foster interest and attachment to the Yodogawa by promoting activities where people can feel closer to nature.



Shirokita Cove



Cleaning Activities

(Photo Credit: Neyagawa Mizube Club)

2 Promoting efforts that improve the attractiveness of the landscape resources by making it possible to enjoy the stories of Yodogawa's history and culture

We will create a mechanism that attracts the interest of diverse people by relaying information about the historical background and origin of the landscape resources and by making good use of their characteristics.



Misu Lock Gate



Yodogawa Ryogan Ichiran

3 Promoting community development that integrates rivers and regions while effectively utilizing the diverse landscape resources along the Yodogawa in cooperation with various organizations

With various organizations working together to participate in continuous activities that connect the rivers and people, new landscapes will be created to promote cities with beautiful scenery.



Yodogawa Riverside Park, Hirakata Area



Using Emergency Wharfs for Exchanges with Community Development Organizations

4 Disseminating information on the attractive scenery of Yodogawa through various organizations

With various organizations effectively disseminating information on the attractiveness of the Yodogawa landscape and activities that take place, it is possible to promote community development in accordance with the other policies.



Sakura-deai Visitor Center
(Photo Credit: Yawata City)



Information Booths of Community Development Organizations

4. Various Efforts to Beautify the Scenery of the Yodogawa

Many residents, community development organizations and companies are engaged in activities to create an attractive landscape. For further improvements in the future, the following are efforts that various organizations can take part in to help continue to beautify the landscape.

When implementing activities, it is important to ensure safety by taking into account the worsening of weather and increases in river water levels.

4-1 Maintaining and Preserving the Rich Natural Landscape of the Yodogawa

- In order to maintain and preserve the natural landscape, it is important for riverside residents and companies to play a leading role in nature conservation activities. We therefore promote efforts that raise awareness of nature conservation to increase interest and fondness for the Yodogawa area.
 - River education, such as nature conservation, through schools and community activities
 - Cleaning activities in collaboration with companies, etc.
- We promote efforts that increase interest in the Yodogawa's natural scenery and awareness of nature conservation, such as activities to enjoy the natural scenery and to use the river space as a daily living space.
 - Creating a mechanism for local residents to use rivers as daily living spaces
 - Creating new viewpoints to feel the magnificence of nature, such as viewing natural sceneries from hot-air balloons, etc.



Nature education activities by local organizations



Cleaning activities by organizations
(Photo Credit: Neyagawa Mizube Club)



Viewing nature from hot-air balloons
(Photo Credit: Yodogawa Riverside Park Administration Center)

4-2 Utilizing the Historical and Cultural Features of the Landscape Resources

- Relaying not only what is visible now, but the scenery of the past also enhances the attractiveness of the landscape resources and helps to increase awareness.
 - Creating a map that describes the historical and cultural features of the landscape resources
 - Enriching information on boats by digitizing old maps
 - Increasing sightseeing cruises along the old passenger boat routes, etc.
- Promoting efforts to create new landscapes by adding new attractions to landscape resources.
 - Creating new night views by illuminating infrastructures such as bridges



Shinsen-zohō Osaka Oezu (1691)
(Map Credit: Osaka Municipal Library)



Water Transportation
(Photo Credit: Ipponmatsu Shipping Co.)



Temmabashi (Okawa) Illumination

4-3 Creating Activities and Liveliness to Enjoy the Yodogawa Landscape

- By continuing to offer sports or leisure activities while feeling the beauty of the landscape, the activities of people themselves will become a new scene of the Yodogawa.
 - ・ Having sporting competitions or camping while experiencing the magnificent nature of the river space
 - ・ Having events to experience the attractiveness of the Yodogawa and nearby rivers, etc.



Marathon in the river space
(Photo Credit: Osaka Yodo- River Citizens Marathon)



Making reed boats and boating activities
(Photo Credit: Suitonokai)



Yodogawa cruises
(Photo Credit: Yodogawa Waiwai Gayagaya Matsuri Organizing Committee)

- By promoting liveliness in collaboration with community development activities around the Yodogawa area, new sceneries will be created in addition to the community development of surrounding areas.
Example: Collaboration between Kurawanka Gorokuichi and Minato Gorokuichi at Hirakatashuku



Minato Gorokuichi



Hirakatashuku Minato Gorokuichi Map
(Photo Credit: Yodo River Office)



Kurawanka Gorokuichi

4-4 Organizations Effectively Transmit Information About Attractive Landscapes

- Municipalities, community development organizations and companies actively transmit information about the features of the landscape, and seasons and times that are best to see them. We also welcome the spread of information by riverside residents and visitors through such means as SNS.
- Information is transmitted through people, objects, media and places, depending on the purpose.
 - People: through environment and disaster prevention classes, etc.
 - Objects: printing attractive points of the riverside on the backside of packaging, etc.
 - Media: websites, SNS, etc.
 - Places: at tourist attractions, events, in trains, etc.



River classes



Information through SNS

- We collaborate with community development organizations and those who care about the Yodogawa, in addition to those who are knowledgeable about transmitting information. Landscape resource information specific to the area is transmitted to the public to share the attractiveness of the Yodogawa landscape.

Conclusion

We hope that the members of the Yodogawa Riverside Community Development Platform^{※1}, who are engaged in various activities along the Yodogawa River, will lead initiatives according to these policies to create landscapes, and influence other companies and community development organizations to follow.

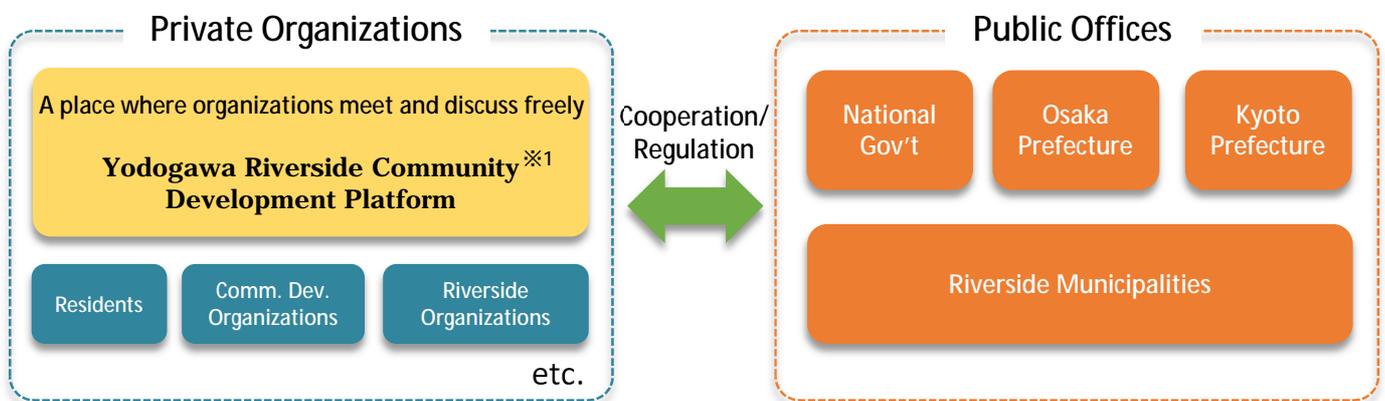
Osaka Prefecture, in cooperation with the national government and local municipalities along the Yodogawa River, coordinates the conservation of the natural environment/landscape, consideration for urban infrastructure/landscapes of buildings, and mutual exchanges of initiatives in each region. We support these efforts and will continue to promote the creation of a wide-area landscape.

In regard to the descriptions of these policies, we will continue to discover more attractive landscape resources of the Yodogawa River and update the descriptions as necessary.

In addition, Osaka Prefecture and other public landscape organizations^{※2} are working on the creation of good landscapes based on the landscape law. For details, please refer to the landscape plans, regulations and policies of each organization.

<Image of Landscape Creation>

Everyone is a Team Player in the Yodogawa's Landscape Creation



- ※1 The Yodogawa Riverside Community Development Platform is made up of riverside community development organizations and was established in August 2017 with the revival of boat transportation from Hachikenyahama- Hirakata to cooperate in the future vision of the Yodogawa riverside. Utilizing the regional resources of the riverside and improving their worth, the platform aims to develop the community by creating attractive urban spaces over a wide area by periodically exchanging ideas and conducting joint projects.

[Members]

- Fushimi City Tourism Association
- Shimamoto Town Volunteer Information Center
- Yodogawa Waiwai Gayagaya Matsuri Committee
- Naniwa Yodogawa Hanabitaikai Committee
- Osaka Tenjin Matsuri Committee
- Osaka Aqua Bus Co., Ltd.
- Keihan Holdings Co., Ltd.
- Yawata City Tourism Association
- Takatsuki City Tourist Association
- Neyagawa Mizube Club
- Washimizu Natsukashi Miraisozo Group
- Ipponmatsu Shipping Co.
- Tabi Tomo- planning
- Oyamazaki Furusato Guide Association
- Hirakata Culture Tourist Association
- Moriguchi/Kadoma Rekishikaido Promotion Association
- Kyokaido Nigiwaizukuri Liaison Group
- Ban PR Inc.

[Observers]

- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; Kinki Regional Development Bureau, Yodogawa River Office
- Yodogawa Riverside Park Administration Center
- Hirakata City
- Neyagawa City
- Moriguchi City
- Shimamoto Town
- Takatsuki City
- Settsu City
- Osaka City
- Suito Osaka Consortium
- Hankyu Corporation
- Setsunan University
- Kyoto Prefecture
- Osaka Prefecture
- Kyoto City
- Yawata City
- Oyamazaki Town

[Secretariat]

- Osaka Prefectural Government Department of Housing and City Development Urban Space Creation Office

- ※2 Among the municipalities within the area, the public landscape offices are Osaka City, Neyagawa City, Hirakata City, Takatsuki City, and Kyoto City. The other riverside municipalities are under the landscape administration under Osaka Prefecture's landscape plans and measures.

References

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(<https://www.suito-osaka.jp/index.php>)
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