Please Come and Visit the Water Resources Area of the Tama River

Water Resources Map

Okutama Mizu-to-Midori-no-Fureaikan (Water and Green Museum)

You can learn about Okutama's nature and the relationship between water and forests through experiencing them. (closed on Wednesdays)
[Contact Information]
5 Hara, Okutama Town,
Nishitama Gun, Tokyo
Tel 0428-86-2731

Okutamako-Ikoi-no-michi (Lake Okutama Valley Trail)

It's a trail with the total length of 12 kilometers from Ogouchi Dam to the natural park facilities "Yama-no-furusato-mura (Mountain hometown village)." You can learn and feel the role of the water conservation forest and Ogouchi Reservoir while enjoying the view of Lake Okutama. (Opening period: from around mid-April to the end of November)
[Contact Information]
5 Hara, Okutama Town, Nishitama Gun, Tokyo, Ogouchi Reservoir Management Office
Tel 0428-86-2211

Suigenchi-fureai-no-michi (Water Resources Area Hiking Trail)

▲ Suigenchi-fureaino-michi "Yanagisawa Pass Zone"

To help more people enjoy and connect with the water conservation forest, we have developed three water resources area hiking trails called "Suigenchi-fureai-no-michi."

▲ Suigenchi-fureaino-michi "Mizuhi Zone"

For inquiries about this brochure

Web Page of
the Water Conservation Forest "Mizufuru"
https://www.mizufuru.waterworks.metro.tokyo.lg.jp

Water Resources Administration Office,
Bureau of Waterworks, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Technical Section: Tel 0428-21-3897 (main)
600 Urajuku cho, Ome City, Tokyo 198-0088

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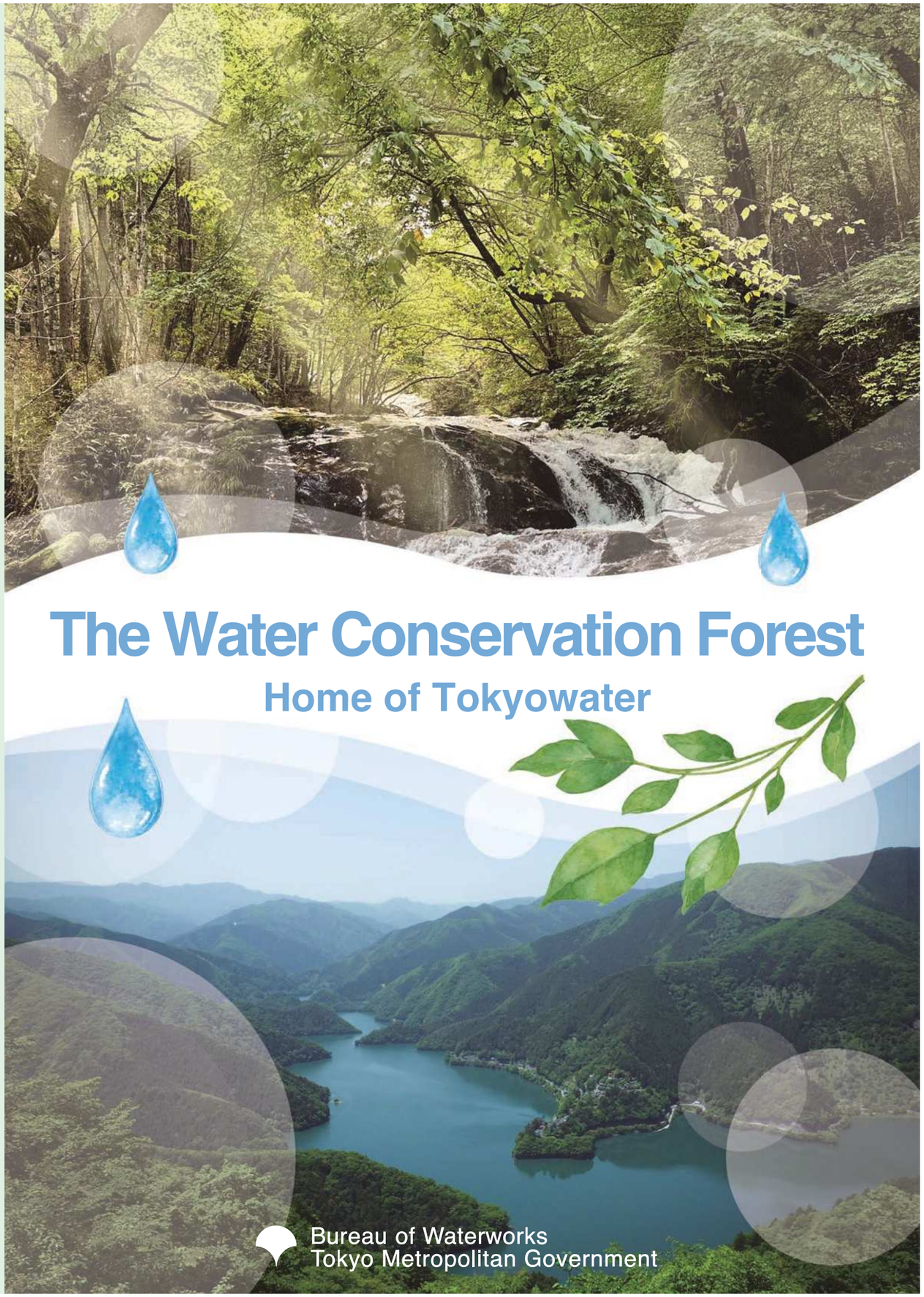


The Water Conservation Forest

Home of Tokyowater

Bureau of Waterworks
Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Spread of the Water Conservation Forest

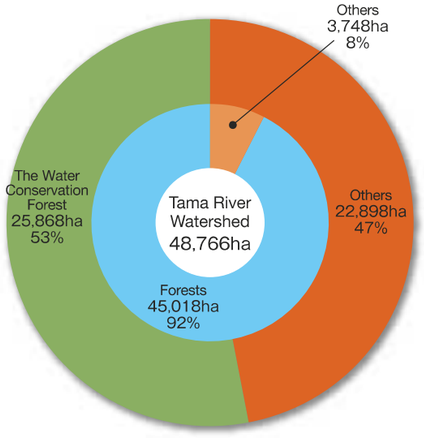
In the upper reaches of the Tama River, forests cover approximately 90% of the catchment area, and over half of the forest is the water conservation forest owned and managed by the Bureau of Waterworks, nurturing the precious water source that supplies our customers.

The water conservation forest extends from Okutama Town in Tokyo, Kosuge Village, Tabayama Village and Koshu City in Yamanashi Prefecture (approximately 30.9km from east to west and approximately 19.5km from south to north), covering an area roughly equivalent to 40% of the 23 wards of central Tokyo.

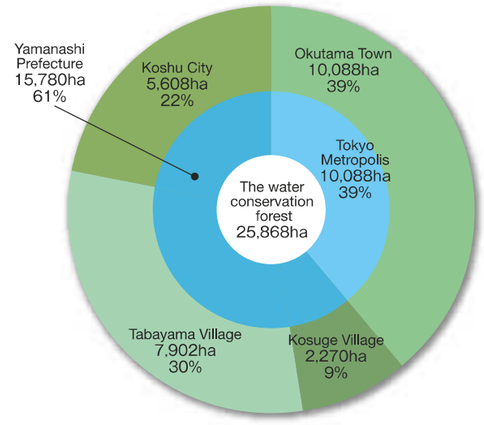
The Tama River, one of the major water sources for Tokyo residents, rises at Mizuhi (the place where the first trickle of the Tama River emerges), located approximately 138km upstream from Tokyo Bay.

The headwater area is surrounded by mountains, and there is a "watershed" where the rainfall is divided between the three rivers: the Tama River, the Arakawa River, and the Fuji River, depending on the location where the rain falls.

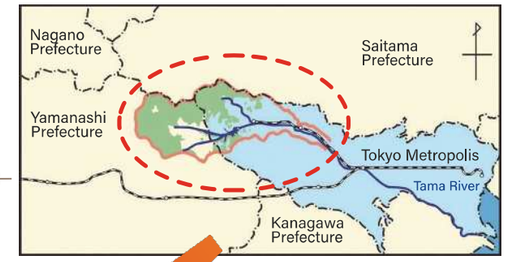
Tama River Watershed	**48,766ha**
The Water Conservation Forest	**25,868ha**



Area of the water conservation forest in the watershed of the Tama River (as of April 1, 2026)



Area of the water conservation forest by location (as of April 1, 2026)



Map of the Watershed of the Tama River (as of April 1, 2026)

The Water Conservation Forest Effect

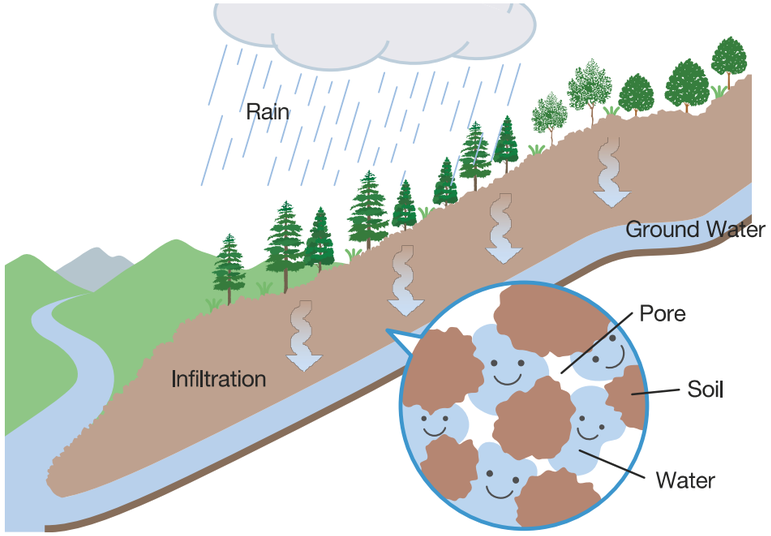
Forests perform functions such as water resources cultivation, which includes stabilising river flow and purifying water quality, as well as preventing rainfall-driven soil erosion, runoff and slope collapse, thereby contributing to soil conservation and landslide prevention.

By properly managing the forests in the upper reaches of the Tama River and keeping them working effectively, the Bureau of Waterworks secures a high-quality, stable water supply while contributing to the preservation of the Ogouchi Reservoir, which serves as a vital water source for Tokyo.

Water Conservation Function

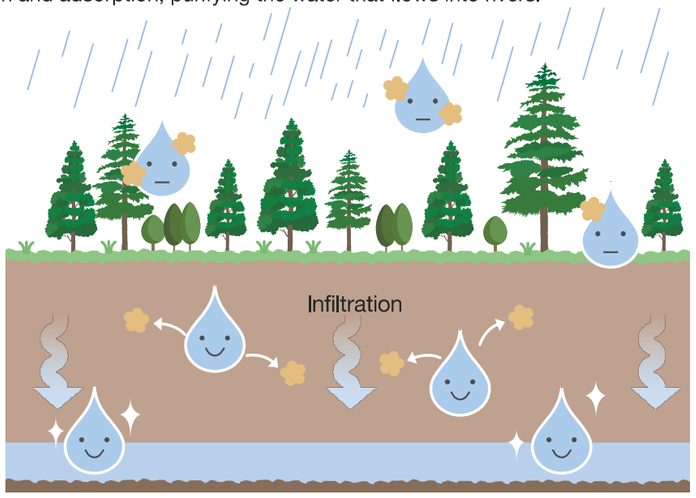
▼ Store water

By temporarily holding rainwater in forest soil and releasing it gradually, forests help maintain a stable river flow. For this reason, forests are often referred to in Japanese as a "Green Dam."



▼ Purify water

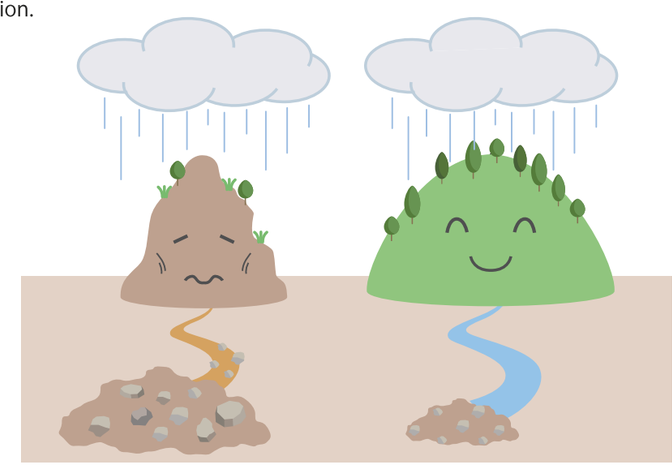
As rainwater seeps into forest soil and moves through it, substances such as dust and dirt are removed through processes like filtration and adsorption, purifying the water that flows into rivers.



Prevention of Soil Erosion Function

▼ Prevent soil erosion and landslides

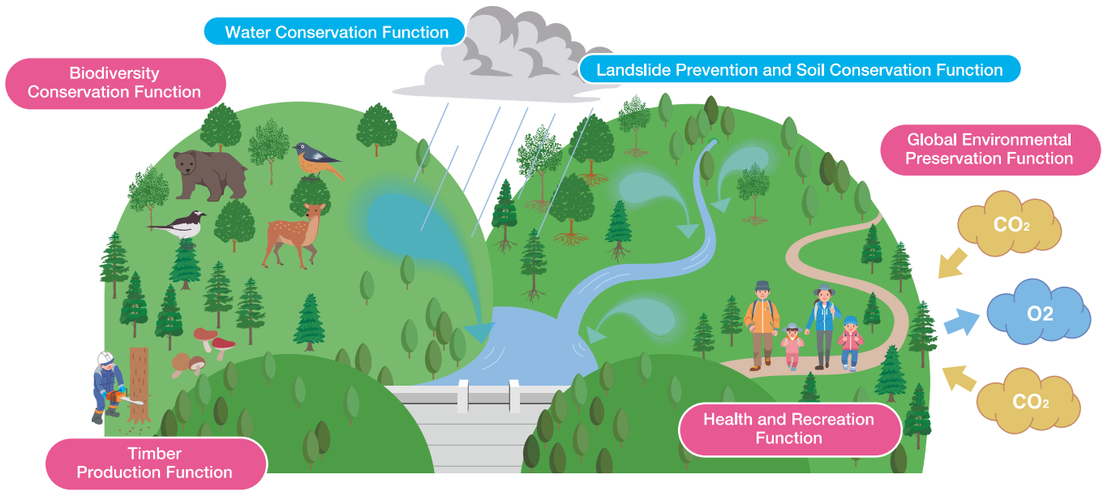
Forests mitigate the impact of rainfall and help prevent landslides, thereby reducing sediment runoff from mountainous areas. This, in turn, helps prevent sediment-related disasters and the loss of dam capacity caused by sediment accumulation.



Multifunctionality

Forests are the foundation of ecosystems. By providing abundant food and habitat for a wide variety of organisms, they help conserve biodiversity and sustain diverse species.

They also perform multiple other functions: global environmental preservation functions such as carbon dioxide absorption, oxygen production and biomass fuel, along with health and recreation functions.



History of the Water Conservation Forest

During the Meiji period, the forests in the upper reaches of the Tama River were devastated by slash-and-burn farming and reckless deforestation. The lower reaches suffered frequent droughts and floods, posing a major problem for Tokyo, which depended mainly on the waters of the Tama River.

To address these problems, the Tokyo Prefectural Government at that time turned its attention to water resource cultivation of the forest. In 1901, it acquired imperial forests owned by the Imperial family in Okutama Town, Kosuge Village and Tabayama Village, and began managing these as the water conservation forest. In 1912, it acquired prefectural forests bestowed by the Imperial family in Yamanashi Prefecture, and in 1933, privately owned forests in Okutama Town, thereby gradually expanding its management of the water conservation forest.

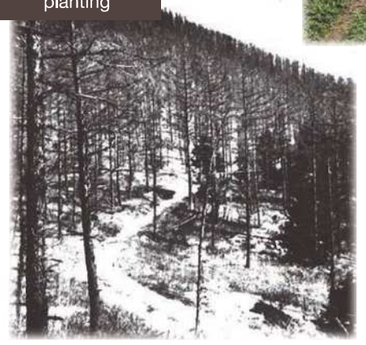
Since then, the area under management has increased through initiatives such as the private forest purchase program launched in FY2010, leading to the current situation.

Managing the water conservation forest using new technologies

Conserving lush forest today

In the water conservation forest, larch saplings known for their high tolerance to severe weather conditions were initially planted.

Approx. 30 years after planting



More than 200 workers were engaged in tree planting.

In the early stages of management by the Bureau of Waterworks, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the large-scale reforestation project was carried out to address areas without forest cover.

Reforestation in degraded land (1922)

Management of the Water Conservation Forest

We develop management plans every 10 years to manage the forest systematically from a long-term perspective, ensuring the water conservation forest is properly maintained.

Currently, our forest is being appropriately managed under the 12th Water Conservation Forest Management Plan (Plan Period: FY2026 – FY2035).

Objectives

The objective is to maximize water resource cultivation spanning the upper reaches of the Tama River through systematic management of the water conservation forest, thereby securing a stable supply of high-quality water resources for the future and preserving the Ogouchi Reservoir as a valuable water source area specific to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

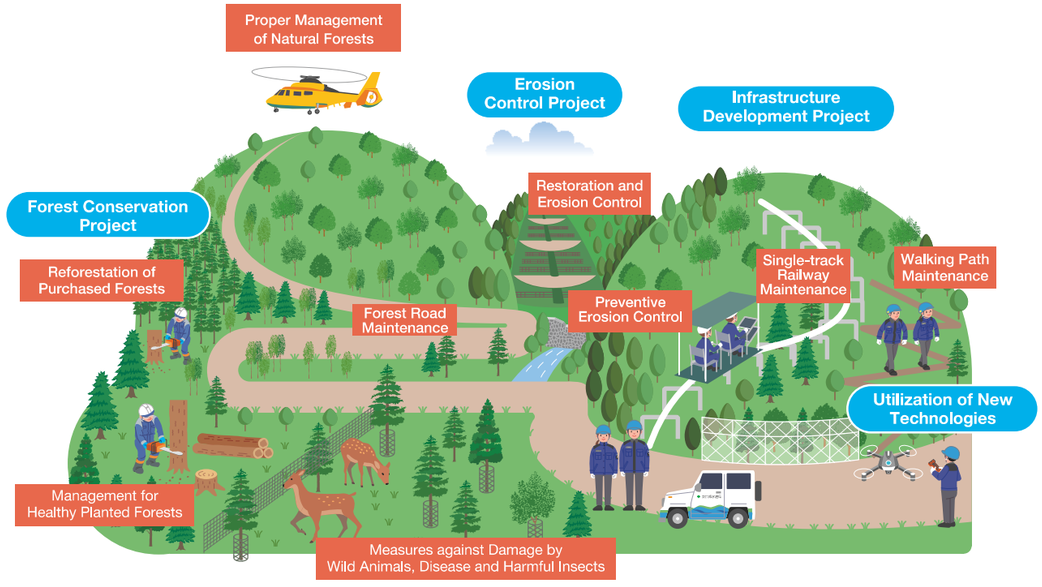
Basic Policy

- To further enhance the functions of the forest, we will continue our forest conservation initiatives and promote forest maintenance, including the regeneration of purchased forests and the restoration of landslide-damaged areas.
- To address ongoing challenges such as deer damage and forest fires, we will strengthen collaboration with local governments and other organizations to reinforce our work.
- We will improve the forest management infrastructure and actively use new technologies to safely and effectively manage our expanding water conservation forest.

Through proper forest management, we also work to create rich forests that provide abundant food and habitats for wildlife, conserve biodiversity and help prevent global warming through carbon dioxide absorption and fixation by trees.

【Management Overview】

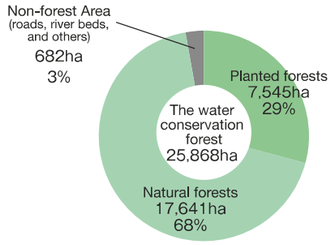
Building on our basic forest management policies, etc., we pursue systematic forest management through the four key projects below.



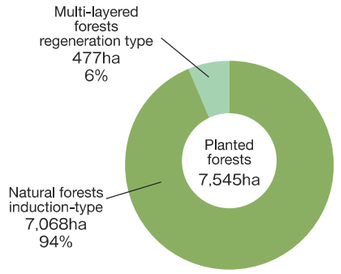
Management of the Water Conservation Forest

Current Situation of the Water Conservation Forest

The water conservation forest consists of "planted forests," where saplings are planted and raised by humans, and "natural forests." Planted forests and natural forests are cultivated and managed according to their own growing environment and condition.



Area of planted forests/Natural forests (as of April 1, 2026)



Area by type of planted forests (as of April 1, 2026)

Planted forests

Natural forests

Forest Conservation Projects: Nurture and Conserve the Water Conservation Forest

To further enhance forest functions, we nurture and conserve the forests in accordance with their conditions, regenerate acquired forests and carry out measures against wildlife damages, insect pests, forest diseases and forest fires.

1 Managements for Healthy Planted Forests

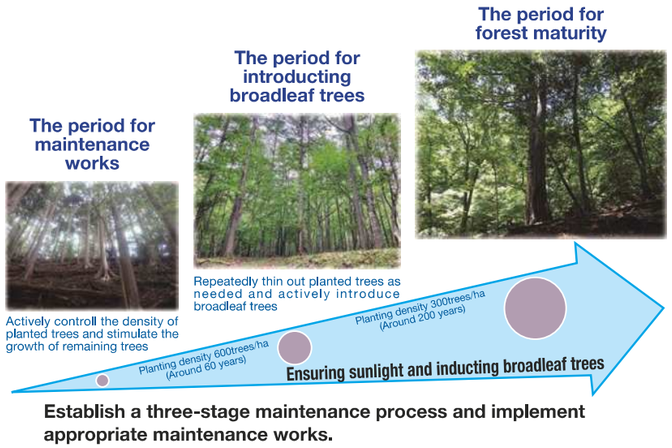
We classify and manage planted forests in two categories: "Natural forest induction-type" and "Multi-layered forests regeneration type."

(1) Natural forests induction-type

[Approach to forests management]

This type of forests is allowed to shift toward a more natural state consisting of diverse tree ages, heights and species.

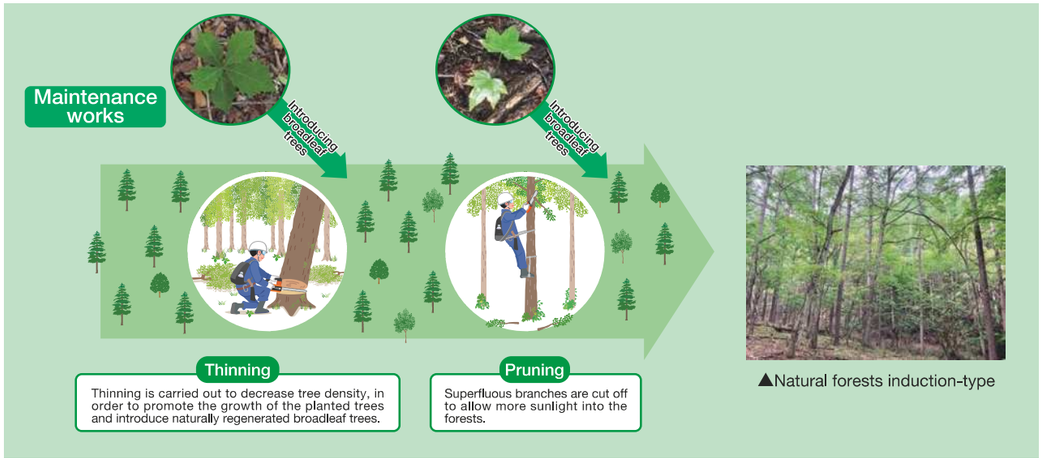
By creating forests suited to the region, it becomes possible to leave future development to natural processes, allowing the forest's ecological functions to persist stably.



Establish a three-stage maintenance process and implement appropriate maintenance works.

[Management method]

By carrying out works such as thinning and pruning the branches in a planned and consistent manner to ensure sunlight in the forest, we allow broadleaf trees to grow and develop naturally.



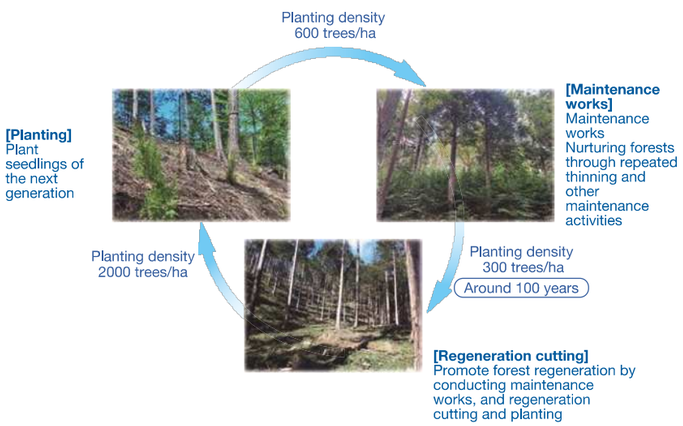
▲Natural forests induction-type

(2) Multi-layered forests regeneration type

[Approach to forests management]

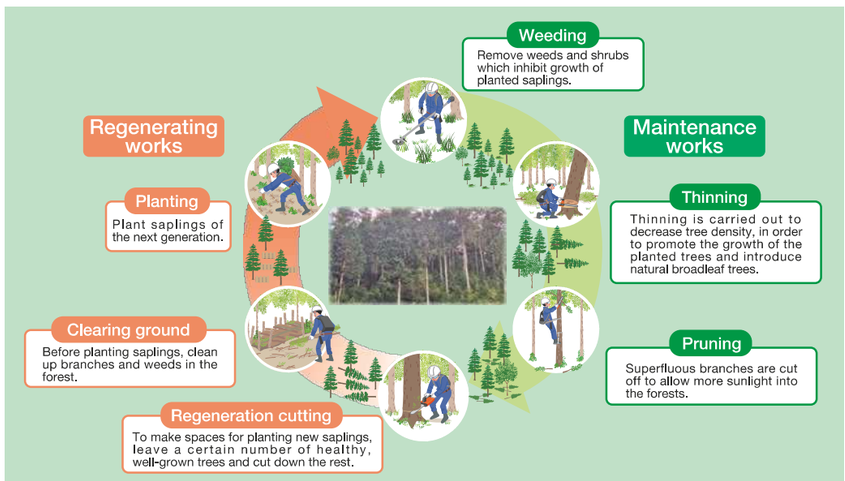
In planted forests with a favourable growing environment and healthy growth, where access is good and the site is suitable for timber harvesting, we cultivate forests composed of multiple generations of planted trees through repeated logging and planting, while incorporating broadleaf trees as appropriate.

By renewing these forests systematically and reliably, we keep the forest functions stable and help prevent global warming by cultivating vigorous young trees that absorb carbon dioxide.



[Management method]

We conduct selective logging" leaving selected trees standing" and plant the next generation of saplings in the resulting gaps to promote regeneration.



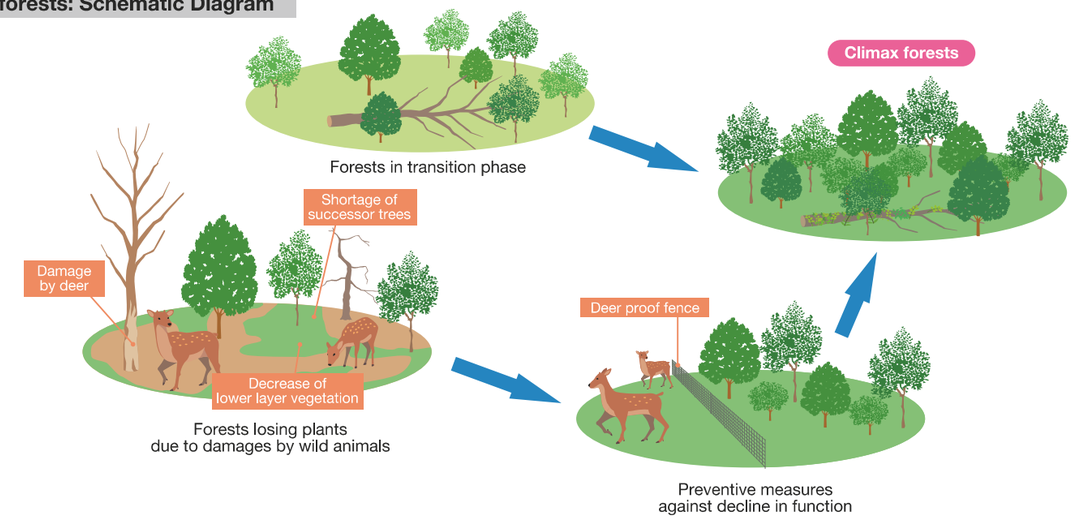
Management of the Water Conservation Forest

2 Proper Management of Natural Forests

Our approach to natural forests is to generally leave them up to nature, thereby aiming for stable climax forests where tree species suited to the local environment can take root and regenerate themselves across generations.

We monitor trends in damage from wildlife, pests and diseases within the forest; if any problems emerge, we put measures in place such as deer proof fences to help the transition to climax forest.

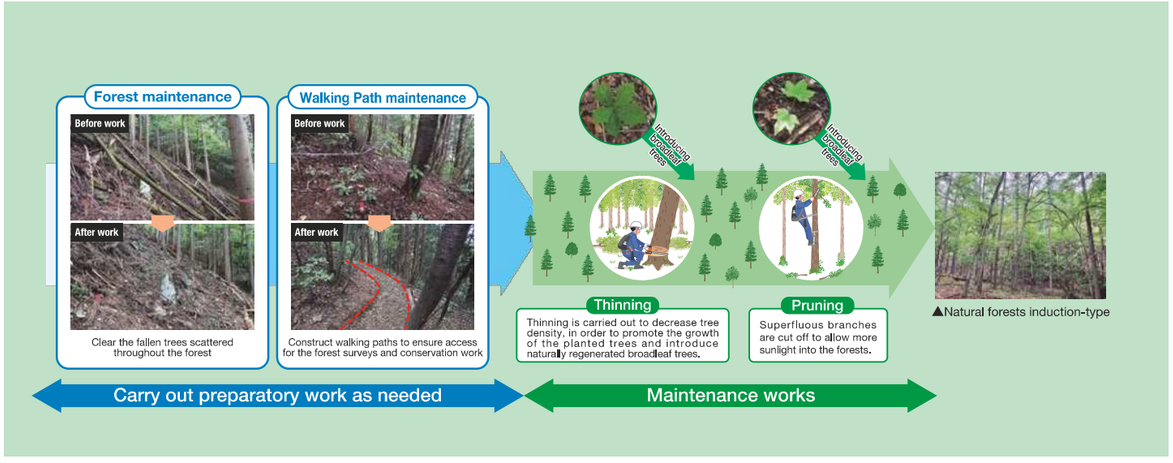
Vision for the future of natural forests: Schematic Diagram



3 Maintenance of Purchased Forests

Purchased forests are managed separately from our existing water conservation forest management practices, including carrying out preparatory work to ensure safe and efficient silvicultural operations.

Once the preparatory work is complete, we repeatedly carry out thinning and pruning to promote the growth of the planted trees, while also introducing and cultivating broadleaf trees.



4 Measures against Damage by Wild Animals, Disease and Harmful Insects

(1) Measures against damage by deer

Damage caused by deer continues to occur, such as tree withering by bark eating or decrease of undergrowth vegetation by deer feeding.

In response, we survey deer populations and install deer proof fences as a preventive measure. We also strengthen our collaboration with wildlife management departments and local governments to undertake deer culling.

Measures against damage by deer (Deer proof fences)

(2) Measures against damage by bears

Each year, bears strip the bark from planted trees, resulting in tree death or stunted growth.

To address this damage, we pile branches from pruning around the base of the trees and wrap them with protective materials.

Measures against damage by bears (Branch collection)

(3) Pests and disease control

To prevent insect pests and forest diseases such as oak wilt, we install nest boxes to promote the nesting and breeding of wild birds that prey on these insect pests. Alongside this, we gather information and conduct surveillance to assess damage and detect new pests and diseases early.

Wild bird nesting in a nest box

5 Preparing for Forest Fires

Once forests are lost due to fire or other causes, it takes an extremely long time and considerable cost to restore their functions, thus robust measures are necessary.

As part of our forest fire preparations, we run preventive awareness campaigns such as installing and updating warning signs, and set treeless zones to prevent fire from spreading. We also hold drills and training exercises that simulate fire outbreaks.

Fire prevention belt

Scenes from a forest fire drill

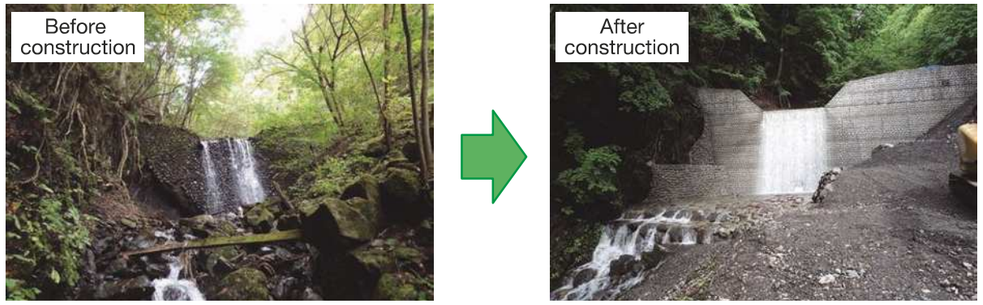
Management of the Water Conservation Forest

Erosion Control Projects: Prevent Landslides and Restore

To maintain the water resource cultivation function and prevent sediment runoff into the Ogouchi Reservoir, it is important to stabilise mountainside slopes and restore damaged mountain streams.

For this reason, we systematically implement preventive erosion control works to identify and address areas at risk of landslides in advance, as well as restoration works to repair landslide-affected sites.

◯Erosion prevention project



Restoration of erosion control facilities through repairs to damaged sections of check dams

◯Erosion recovery project

Restoration of landslide areas using the earth retaining wall

Preventing the expansion of stream erosion through check dams

Infrastructure Development Projects: Improve Access to Forest

To properly manage and maintain our forest, it is essential to develop and maintain forest management infrastructure, such as forest roads, single-track railways and walking paths, to ensure access to the forest.

To this end, we prevent rockfalls and other hazards while developing facilities in line with the expansion of forest areas, thereby establishing a safe and well-organized forest management infrastructure and ensuring its proper maintenance.

Forest roads

Single-track railways

Walking paths

Leveraging New Technologies: Manage with New Methods

Work in the water conservation forest is conducted under harsh conditions, such as steep slopes and limited communication connectivity. Therefore, in order to sustainably and appropriately manage the forest, it is necessary to ensure the safety of staff and contractors while enhancing work efficiency and productivity.

We will therefore preserve the expertise built up over more than 120 years and actively bring in new technologies, including the ever-evolving digital tools now available.

Establishing a communication infrastructure by installing portable antennas

Using digital devices in field surveys

Measuring tree data using a 3D forest measurement system

A Collaborative Watershed Forest Project

Purpose/Period

To deepen understanding among Tokyo residents and businesses of the importance of water resource areas, and to strengthen collaboration, the Tokyo Waterworks Bureau is advancing a range of initiatives under a newly restructured framework.

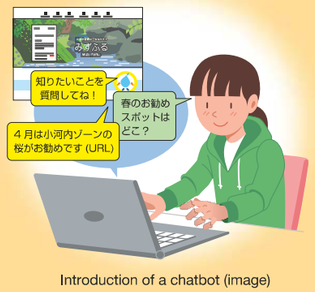
The project runs for three years, from FY2026 through FY2028.

Details of the Initiative

Learn

To raise awareness of the water conservation forest among people of all ages and to help them understand the importance of the watershed area preservation.

○Activities
- Expansion of the water conservation forest website"Mizufuru"
- Renewal of learning support materials for elementary school students, etc.
- Enhancing the Tama River Water Resources Supporters



Introduction of a chatbot (image)


Scene of learning activities using the Kids Page (image)


Email newsletter for suppoters (image)

Experience

To experience the water conservation forest firsthand and discover the appeal of the watershed area

○Activities
- Development of a new area in the Suigenchi-fureai-no-michi "Ogouchi Zone"
- Conducting The Water Conservation Forest Guide Tour
- Promotion of forest conservation activities by students


Image of the observation facility


Scene from The Water Conservation Forest Guide Tour


Forest conservation activities by university students

Collaborate

To work with companies, Tokyo residents and relevant local governments to create the watershed forest together and promote understanding of water resource conservation

○Activities
- Enhancing forest conservation activities through collaboration with companies
- Enhancing corporate sponsorship scheme
- Introduction of new activities by the Tama River Water Resources Forest Team
- Collaboration with local governments and other organizations


Forest conservation activities by companies


Example of new activities for the Forest Team


Scene from a festival organized by the local government (Tama River Source Festival in Kosuge Village, Yamanashi Prefecture)