

Restoration of Ara River

Urbanization of Ara River basin gradually damaged its natural environment. Most areas of the plain with relatively conserved nature were riverbeds. Ara River biotope, 57 km away from the river mouth, is the midstream of the Ara River main stream. Hawks and foxes disappeared as the environment became worse. Given the situation, the wheat fields and meadows in the flat riverbeds have been improved to secure a large-scaled nature, good as the natural habitat, in combination with the neighboring Kitamoto nature watching park. Along the downstream, as a part of waterfront space development, banks are being developed in cooperation with the re-development projects.

◆ Key to Restoration

- Nature-based river development
- Biotope development
- Water space development

◆ Overview of the River

Ara River system, originating in Mount Kobushi in Chichibu mountains, unites with Oohora River, Urayama River, Ichino River, and Iruma River. It branches off Smida River in Kita Ward, Tokyo, and flows into Tokyo Bay.

The basin extends across Saitama Prefecture and Tokyo, and its total length is 173 km and the basin dimension is 2940 km². The basin population is 9.05 million and the population density is the second highest among Japanese class A river system, next to Tsurumi River.



◆ Project Efforts for Restoration

【Nature-based river development】

This is started as an effort to maintain and create Ara River's rich nature. The river course has been reverted to the original, using ecosystem-friendly natural materials, and attractive scenery that fits the area's climate has been created. Flood control has been researched, and construction method, technology, and materials have been developed.

【Biotope development】

A big biotope space, over 50 ha, was created combining the neighboring Kitamoto nature watching park (33 ha) and Ara River riverbed (Ara River biotope park).

Ara River biotope park uses the farms between the current course and the original course to create ponds, sand, grass, and original-course-based wands. It revitalizes the area as a waterfront space filled with natural life.

【Water space development】

Ara River downstream-Komatsugawa super bank project, run by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, develops the area in combination with the re-development works. Senbon-zakura (filled with cherry trees) park is created on the bank. The urban road 122, authorized in city plan, runs parallel to the bank, but it is embedded in the bank along Komatsugawa Chuo Park. As a result, the two parks are unified and the visitors can enjoy waterfront and greenery.

