

Restoration of Moizari River

Moizari River, a tributary stream of Izari River in Eniwa City, used to be a rich creek where salmon spawned. The river improvement construction was done from the 1950s straightening the river course and using the triple-phase method to keep the nearby farms away from floods, but the succeeding rapid city development lowered the flood control safety level. In 1986 the river improvement was restarted, which was certified in 1990 as the second “Hometown river model project” in Hokkaido. Various nature-based methods were introduced with the theme of “waterfront with no makeup,” integrating the river with nature and greenery. River-walk has also been prepared as a part of human-nature symbiotic city development.

◆ Key to Restoration

- Pleasant waterfront space creation
- Old river conservation
- Waterfront development

◆ Overview of the River

Moizari River, a class A river originating in a highland and flowing eastward along Eniwa City into Izari River, derives from “moichan” (it means salmon spawning creek in Ainu). It used to be abundant with salmon but the rapid city development lowered its flood control safety level. River improvement construction was started in 1986 to stop repeating flood damages. Old river course with natural forest needed to be deliberately maintained and succeeded to the next generation as an irreplaceable asset in urban environment. The construction was implemented considering the river’s natural biological environment and aiming at maintaining and creating the scenic attraction.



◆ Project Efforts for Restoration

[Pleasant waterfront space creation]

The “water-and-green healing plan,” established in 1986, aimed at human-nature symbiotic city development. It identified Moizari River, flowing along the city center, as an irreplaceable waterfront space to enrich the city as well as to function in controlling and utilizing water. River width was broadened considering not to damage the scenic attraction and water access.

[Old river conservation]

Disaster-prevention construction created a shortcut stream leaving the riverbed or the old river course area, but it was developed into a channel so as to be ecologically connected to the mainstream. After reestablishing the water flow in the channel, previously non-observed kingfishers were frequently found catching small fish around the channel outlet. This is expectedly caused by growing number of fish thanks to exploding water insects which live in the bed of fallen broad-leaves such as alder, and to leafhopper, leaf beetle, and moth larva that fall from the trees to be eaten by small fish.

[Waterfront development]

Chatteing channel and walking trail were developed along the remaining old river course to establish a comfortable river space. The soft administrative path (river-walk) paved with wood-chips is continuously utilized for welfare and education, such as morning or evening walking (senior citizens) and daytime running (students).



Before development



After development