

# Restoration of Tama River

Tama River, with Ogouchi Dam (called Okutama Lake), completed in 1957, and with tourist facilities, has been a relaxation and recreation area for Tokyoites. But its midstream and downstream in Tokyo and Kanagawa have been urbanized as residential and industrial areas. During the high-growth period in 1965-75, its water quality was deteriorated and the variety of the water usage increased. Residents gradually needed more orderly space usage. Recently natural life has returned to the area as the sewage system penetrated and the water quality improved.

## ◆ Key to Restoration

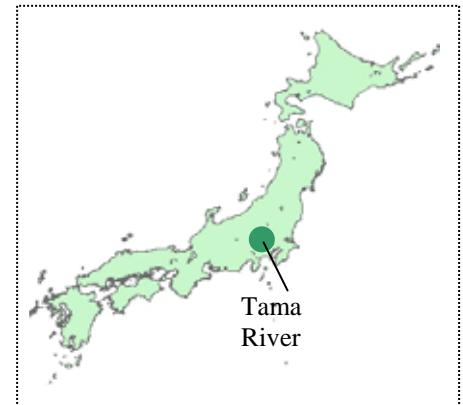
- Revitalizing the river “destroyed by urbanization”
- Creating an environment friendly to people and nature by utilizing Tama River’s rich nature space

## ◆ Overview of the River

Tama River, a class A river originating in Mount Kasatori, Enzan City in Yamanashi Prefecture, flows southeast from western and southern Tokyo, through the Tokyo-Kanagawa border, into Tokyo Bay. Its total length is 138 km and the basin dimension is 1240 km<sup>2</sup>.

The basin extends across the three prefectures of Yamanashi, Tokyo, and Kanagawa. The midstream and downstream plain that occupies one third of the basin dimension is especially urbanized in the Tokyo metropolitan area. During the high-growth period in 1965-75, its water quality was deteriorated.

In recent years, as the sewage system penetrates, the water quality has improved, and natural life has come back to the river once “destroyed by urbanization.”



## ◆ Project Efforts for Restoration

### [Developing sewage system]

The basin sewage system construction was started in 1968, which promoted the sewage system development in Tama area. Other related measures such as plant wastewater regulations were introduced. These measures in combination have substantially improved Tama River water quality.

### [Improving water quality in Tokyo Bay]

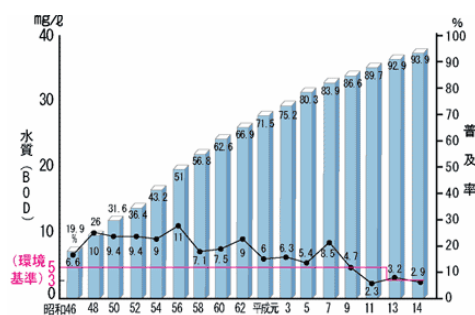
Improved Tokyo Bay water quality and creation of nursing shallows for young fish (e.g., Japanese trout) have satisfied the living conditions for fish that go back and forth between Tama River and Tokyo Bay.

Japanese trout, once not found in Tama River, has come back in the late 1970s, and the number of Japanese trout that run in 2002 Spring was estimated as above 1.1 million.

### [Managing river space]

Tama River space has been managed, according to “Tama River environment management plan” that was established in 1981 for adjusting nature conservation and its use. Recently a research for restoring river ecology was made, and various efforts for restoring the natural environment are in operation.

Sewage system penetration and water quality



Nature-based river development