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Koshigaya Lake Town

— Koshigaya City, Saitama Prefecture, Japan
1983-

Integrated implementation of flood control measures and urban development

Key Issue

Koshigaya Lake Town was planned and developed as a new town in Saitama, outskirts of Tokyo with rapidly rising population. The area has long been known as a lakeside district, and has experienced numerous instances of flood damage in the past. For this reason, in building a new town in the area, it was necessary to introduce not only measures for draining rainwater from the development area, but also measures against flood damage in the surrounding areas. Additionally, since the development would attract an influx of new residents from areas outside, there was also a need to design the city with the explicit intention of inheriting the traditional lakeside district landscape and raising awareness of the residents for the new town.

Project Approach

Providing large-scale water retention function that contributes to flood damage reduction through integration with urban development

Koshigaya managed to secure land for a large-scale regulation reservoir through the integrated implementation of two distinct development projects: one for improving flood control measures (river works project) and one for developing residential areas (land readjustment project), which enabled good and attractive land use making effective use of the waterfront. Moreover, the Urban Renaissance Agency, taking charge of planning and implementing both river works and land readjustment projects as a single main contractor, made it possible for the development to proceed smoothly and efficiently.

Making effective use of waterfront spaces that contribute to quality of life (QOL) and foster a sense of community

The regulation reservoir for flood control, including the surrounding open spaces, is used as a recreational space. With integral management by the city, the area used for recreation ensures convenience for community activities. During normal times, safe management is conducted by regulating the water level to prevent water from entering into the open space. The Urban Renaissance Agency also supports the activities of citizen groups and NPOs by developing local activity hubs, such as the Mizube-no-Machizukuri-kan (Waterfront Town Planning Community Hall). A range of activities are also carried out around the waterfront area, contributing to maintaining the health of local residents.

Through the fusion of urban spaces and waterfront with a large artificial lake at its core, Koshigaya Lake Town was developed as a pleasant city rich in water. As part of the development, a new station and a shopping center were positioned at the center of the city, offering a high degree of walkability.



Data

Area: 225.6ha
 Project implementing body: Urban Renaissance Agency
 Planned number of housing units: 7,000
 Planned population: 22,400
 Main facilities introduced: new station, large-scale shopping center, community activity facilities (including conference and training facilities, childcare salons, etc.), model home exhibition area utilizing smart grid technology

To the Next Phase

Koshigaya Lake Town established a liaison committee for community activities, consisting of resident groups, NPOs, schools, commercial business operators, and other local stakeholders. Moving forward, this committee seeks to enhance its financial base and aims to develop into a full-fledged area management organization, which is capable of conducting not only conventional activities (led by the Urban Renaissance Agency and/or local government) but also resident-led community activities and events.

