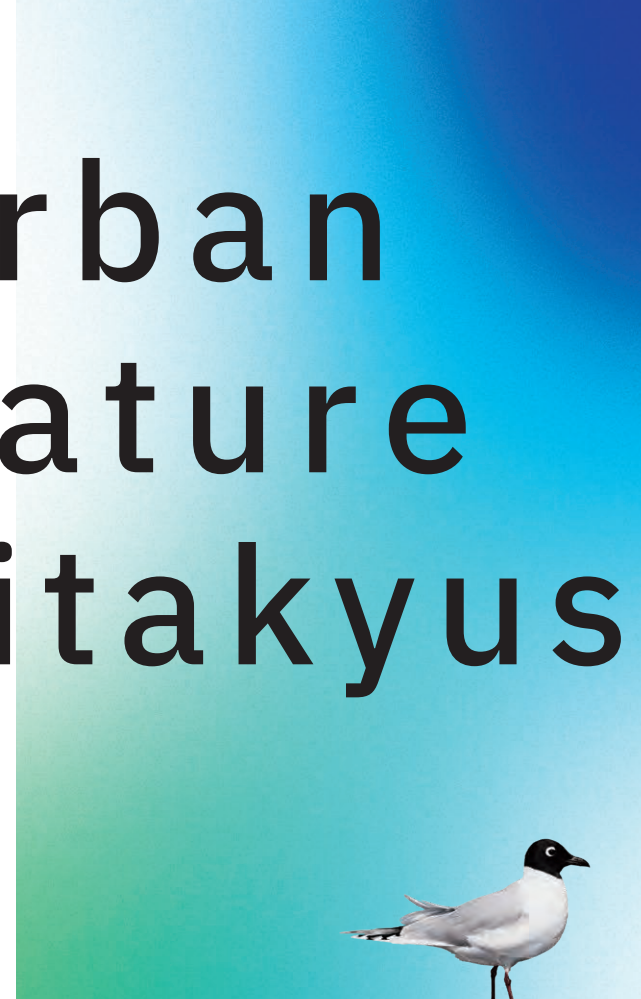


Urban Nature Kitakyushu

Kitakyushu City's Biodiversity Strategy for

2025-2030 May 2025



Urban Nature
Kitakyushu



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Chapter 1

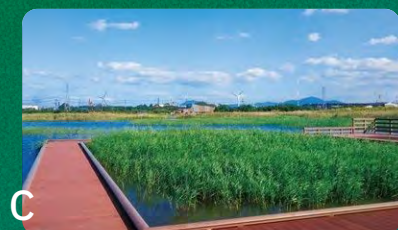
Biodiversity in Kitakyushu City

Kitakyushu as an industrial city primarily based on industry, and developed into one of Kyushu's leading metropolises. It is a city brimming with interesting creatures and nature close to the city, a city that has been protected and nurtured by previous residents - what we might call "urban nature".



Wakamatsu North Coast

This scenic spot, which stretches along the coast in the northern part of Wakamatsu Ward and is part of the Genkai Quasi-National Park, features a unique topography eroded by rough waves, such as at Tomigahana and Senjojiki.



Kitakyushu City Hibikinada Biotope

This miraculous place is where rainwater accumulates on the landfill of a waste disposal site, creating a diverse environment including wetlands and grasslands where many creatures, including rare species, live. It has been designated an Important Wetland by the Ministry of the Environment.



Hibikinada Ryokuchi (Green Park)

The city's largest park, with a variety of natural environments such as forests and grasslands centered around the Tonda Reservoir in Wakamatsu Ward. You can enjoy flowers, greenery, events, camping, and other recreational activities.



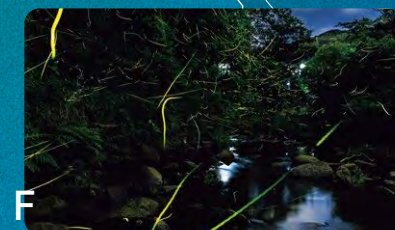
Mt. Sarakura

A 622m mountain that represents Kitakyushu City. It is part of Kitakyushu Quasi-National Park. The mountain is home to many animals and plants, including wild birds and insects, living right next to the city.



Oma Bamboo Grove Park

Oma in Kokuraminami Ward is a production area that produces high-quality, delicious bamboo shoots thanks to rich soil improvement, and painstaking year-round bamboo forest management.



Fireflies

In Kitakyushu City, there are many local activities such as firefly protection and waterside conservation. Many fireflies can be seen flying in the rivers in the city. There are two firefly museums in the city that exhibit fireflies and other waterside creatures.

| Feature 01 |

3
Seas

Hibikinada Sea, Kanmon Strait, Suonada Sea

| Feature 02 |

3
National and Quasi-National Parks

Setonaikai National Park, Kitakyushu Quasi-National Park, Genkai Quasi-National Park

| Feature 03 |

Approximately **40%** of the city's area is forested

| Feature 04 |

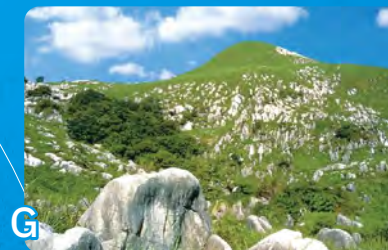
Crossroads for migratory birds

Lying across the Japanese archipelago between Japan and the continent

| Feature 05 |

Treasure Trove of rare creatures

Hiraodai, Sone Tidal Flats, Hibikinada Biotope



Hiraodai

A limestone formation created from the carcasses of marine life (corals and fusulinas) in the sea near the equator over a period of 340 million years, and which has a field with a flock of sheep. It is one of the three major karsts in Japan. Kitakyushu National Park, part of which is designated as a national natural monument.



Kanmon Strait

28 km long body of water that separates Kyushu and Honshu. It is a key point for maritime traffic, and has been the site of historical events such as the Battle of Dannoura. It is part of the Setonaikai National Park.



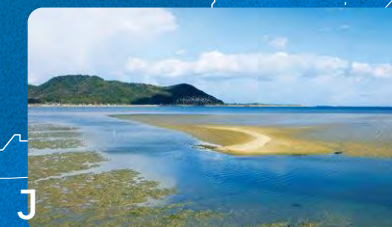
Kitakyushu River Museum

Located on the Murasaki River that runs through the center of Kokurakita Ward, this is a fun facility where you can learn about rivers, nature, and the environment. It features a huge observation window that allows you to look into the river from the side.



Yamada Ryokuchi Park

140 hectares located in the southwest of Kokurakita Ward. During the war, it was a military facility and was spared development, making it a precious place where natural broadleaf vegetation remains.



Sone Tidal Flats

An important wetland designated by the Ministry of the Environment, this is a vast sandy mud flat covering an area of 517 hectares. It is one of the largest spawning grounds for horseshoe crabs in Japan, and is also famous as a stopover site for migratory birds. It has long been a good fishing spot, and oyster farming is still thriving today.

Brown-eared bulbul



Oriental honey buzzard / Brown-eared bulbul

Kitakyushu City is located at a "crossroads of migration" where the routes of migratory birds that traverse the country and those that cross continents such as China and the Korean Peninsula intersect, allowing many migratory birds to be observed during the migration season.



Crested honey buzzard



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Kitakyushu City's world-renowned cuisine, including sushi, is also a product of the city's abundant nature. Promoting "local production for local consumption" of local ingredients has many benefits. For example contributing to the conservation of biodiversity in the seas, rivers, mountains, farmland, and other areas where many creatures live, promoting agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, and helping to combat global warming.



In August 2024 the Kitakyushu Sushi Association was founded with the aim to disseminate Kitakyushu's sushi culture, increase the number of people visiting from both inside and outside Japan, and hold "Sushi Capital City" to improve the city's appeal. In addition, according to statistics from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Kitakyushu City is ranked first in the amount of money spent on "assorted sashimi" (ranking of prefectural capitals and designated cities for households with two or more people), and fish-eating culture is deeply rooted among the city's citizens.



Three important things to keep in mind to make delicious sushi

1 Quality of the fish

For delicious fish, a place where warm and cold currents meet, known as a tidal current, is essential. Large-scale tidal currents exist in only three regions in the world, and one of these is the waters off Japan where there are two separate tidal currents, one near Kitakyushu, and the other off the coast of Sanriku.



Sushi City Kitakyushu Council Member
Mr. Funahashi

2 Freshness

It is very important to prepare sushi while the fish is fresh. There are two types of markets: production markets and consumption markets, and there is a time lag in freshness between the two. Kitakyushu City is a rare urban production market in Japan, and sushi restaurants can procure freshly caught fish in an extremely fresh state.

3 Abundant fish species

The vast majority of marine life lives in shallow waters known as continental shelves. Kitakyushu is surrounded by three seas - the Hibikinada Sea, the Suonada Sea, and the Kanmon Strait - all of which are continental shelves, meaning the city is blessed with an abundance of fish species and large catches. There are no other cities in the world that meet all three conditions - a continental shelf, tidal currents, and fresh fish - so Kitakyushu is the perfect city for local sushi gastronomy.

*Local gastronomy: Expressing the local climate, geography, and traditional culture in cuisine.

Nature's Gifts

The bounty of nature that supports the food culture of Kitakyushu City



Buzen Sea Oyster (Magaki)

Oysters grown in the nutrient rich Buzen Sea. These have passed strict hygiene standards. Winter is Oyster season.



Buzen Crab (Gazami)

This crab is particularly meaty among those caught in the Buzen Sea, especially delicious in autumn.



Kanmon Strait Octopus (Common Octopus)

Due to the strong currents of the Kanmon Straits, their legs are thick and short, with suckers extending all the way down to the tips of their legs. They have a good texture and are delicious.



Oma Bamboo Shoots

Harvested in Oma, Kokuraminami Ward, this bamboo shoot is so delicious that it is the delicacy of choice at top-class restaurants in Kyoto and Osaka, the home of bamboo shoot cuisine.



Wakamatsu Sea Breeze® Cabbage

Wakamatsu Ward's signature agricultural product: sweet and delicious cabbage grown in the mineral-rich sea breeze of the Genkai Sea.



Wakamatsu Sea Breeze® Premium

These large, high-sugar watermelons are grown with care in specially cultivated soil to maintain their sweetness, juiciness, and crispness.



Wakamatsu Mizukiri Tomatoes

Cultivation methods that limit the amount of water given to tomatoes concentrate their sweetness, resulting in tomatoes with sugar content and flavor comparable to that of fruit.



Perilla Chrysanthemum

A vegetable that has been popular in Kitakyushu for a long time. A variety with rounded leaf tips and no jagged notches.



Kokura Beef

This exquisite Japanese black beef is carefully raised in Kitakyushu City. It is a top-class product that has earned the utmost trust from chefs.



Swordtip Squid

In Fukuoka, this is the squid of choice in summer. The meat is soft and tasty. Fishing season: May to August



Indigo Spanish Mackerel

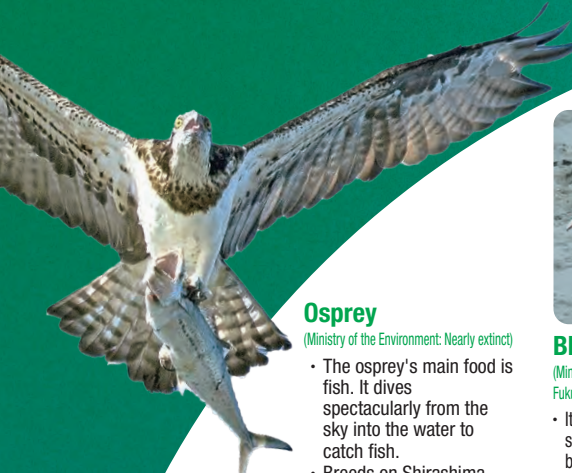
A big fish more than 1m in length. It is called "cold sawara" from winter to spring, and tastes especially good.

Akamoku

A type of sargassum that forms seaweed beds. It is characterized by its strong stickiness and chewy texture.



The various natural environments all around us are home to a diverse range of creatures with unique characteristics. Here we will introduce some of these fascinating citizens of our city.



Osprey

(Ministry of the Environment: Nearly extinct)

- The osprey's main food is fish. It dives spectacularly from the sky into the water to catch fish.
- Breeds on Shirashima Island and other places.



Mudskipper

(Ministry of the Environment: Nearly extinct, Fukuoka Prefecture: Nearly extinct)

- Mudskippers jumping on the tidal flats.
- In the city, they are found in abundance at river mouths and tidal flats on the Seto Inland Sea side, such as the Sone tidal flats.



Fiddler crab

(Ministry of the Environment: Endangered species, Category II, Fukuoka Prefecture: Endangered species, Category IB)

- The Japanese name "Shiomaneki" comes from the male's behavior of waving one of his huge pincers to lure females.
- They live in the muddy tidal flats of inland bays and estuaries.



Black-faced spoonbill

(Ministry of the Environment: Endangered species, Category IB, Fukuoka Prefecture: Endangered species, Category IB)

- It is characterized by its long spatula-shaped beak. It is not a "heron," but a member of the crested ibis family.
- It is mainly a winter bird, but non-migratory individuals can be seen year-round around the Sone tidal flats.



Henatari (Pirenella nipponica)

(Ministry of the Environment: Nearly extinct, Fukuoka Prefecture: Nearly extinct)

- A slim snail shell measuring about 3 cm that lives on the sandy muddy bottom of the inner bay.
- It is still found in large numbers in the Sone tidal flats.



Perplexing fiddler crab

(Ministry of the Environment: Endangered species, Category II, Fukuoka Prefecture: Endangered species, Category II)

- One of the male's claws is huge and white.
- In the Sone tidal flats, they can be found around the sandbar and seabed at the mouth of the Ono River.



Common shelduck

(Ministry of the Environment: Endangered Category II, Fukuoka Prefecture: Nearly extinct)

- A large duck commonly seen in the Chikushi region in winter.
- The Sone tidal flats are a typical wintering location for this species.



Black-headed gull

(Ministry of the Environment: Endangered species, Category II, Fukuoka Prefecture: Endangered species, Category II)

- In summer, their heads turn completely black, hence the name "Black-headed gull"
- 200 to 300 birds spend the winter at the Sone tidal flats every year
- The model for Giravanz Kitakyushu's mascot character "Giran"



Curlew sandpiper

(Fukuoka Prefecture: Endangered species, Category IB)

- A large snipe with a long, slender beak.
- A typical winter bird that spends the winter at the Sone tidal flats.



Hamabo (Hibiscus hamabo)

(Fukuoka Prefecture: Nearly extinct)

- It can be found in Wakamatsu, the mouth of the Suonada Sea, and on the coast in the city.
- It is a designated plant of the Genkai Quasi-National Park.



Japanese yew

- A tall evergreen tree with a beautiful, unique and dignified shape
- The symbol tree of Kitakyushu City



Finless porpoise

(Fukuoka Prefecture: Nearly extinct)

- A toothed whale that lives in the waters around Kitakyushu
- The model of the city mascot SunaQ



Kingfisher

- Bright blue bird that lives near water.
- It catches fish by diving quickly.
- Its numbers in the city were so low in the 1960s and 1970s that it was called a phantom bird. Today, there are not many of them, but they can be seen in various waterside locations in the city.



Blue-banded bee

- It has a black body with beautiful blue-green markings, and is said to be the "blue bee that brings happiness."
- In the city, it can be found in Yamada Ryokuchi Park, Prefectural Central Park, etc.



Eastern marsh harrier

(Ministry of the Environment: Endangered species, Category IB, Fukuoka Prefecture: Endangered species, Category IA)

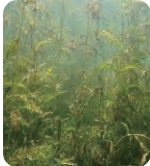
- A hawk that lives in wide reed fields
- Breeding in Japan is localized, but it has been spotted in Wakamatsu and other areas of Kitakyushu
- The name of the Japanese car "Harrier" means "a member of the marsh harrier family" in English



Harvest mouse

(Fukuoka Prefecture: Nearly extinct)

- Japan's smallest mouse
- It lives in grasslands where plants of the grass family such as silver grass grow thickly, and it builds circular nests (ball nests) made of leaves.



Gashamoku (Potamogeton lucens)

(Ministry of the Environment: Endangered species, Category IA, Fukuoka Prefecture: Endangered species, Category IA)

- It is not an algae, but a submerged perennial plant
- It grows naturally in only three places in Japan: Kitakyushu City, Tsugaru City, and Tottori City



Tobataayame (Iris sanguine var. tobataensis)

(Fukuoka Prefecture: Extinct in the wild)

- A small variety of iris, its Japanese name and scientific name are both "Tobata"
- Extinct in the wild. It is carefully cultivated in parks in Tobata Ward

Tortoiseshell dragonfly

(Ministry of the Environment: Endangered species, Category IA, Fukuoka Prefecture: Endangered species, Category IA)

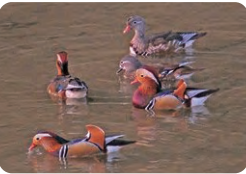
- A symbolic species of the Hibikinada Biotope. Adults can be seen from April to May.
- They live in ponds and marshes covered with reeds and cattails, but their habitat is limited to only a few places in Japan.
- Collection is prohibited under the Species Conservation Act



Mandarin duck

(Ministry of the Environment: Insufficient information)

- A type of duck, the male's winter plumage is a vivid orange-red.
- In the city, they can be found at Michihara Reservoir and Showa Pond in Kokuraminami Ward.



Monarch butterfly

- A migratory butterfly that migrate long distances.
- In the city, it comes flying over Shiranoe Botanical Gardens, Yamada Ryokuchi Park, Wakamatsu North Coast, etc.



Honey buzzard

(Ministry of the Environment: Nearly extinct, Fukuoka Prefecture: Nearly extinct)

- A hawk that feeds mainly on bees
- A summer bird, and Kitakyushu is on its spring and autumn migration route

Horseshoe crab

(Ministry of the Environment: Endangered species, Category I, Fukuoka Prefecture: Endangered species, Category IA)

- A "living fossil" whose appearance has not changed since ancient times
- The Sone tidal flats are one of the best spawning grounds for horseshoe crabs in Japan



The Japanese clouded salamander

(Ministry of the Environment: Endangered species, Category II, Fukuoka Prefecture: Endangered species, Category II)

- A small, water-tolerant salamander that is representative of the rural areas of Kyushu
- A Class II rare wild plant and animal species



Small-spotted diving beetle

(Ministry of the Environment: Endangered species, Category II, Fukuoka Prefecture: Nearly extinct)

- Although its Japanese names is "Kogatano," it is the largest diving beetle in the prefecture.
- It inhabits still water areas with many aquatic plants, such as the Hibikinada Biotope,



Kyushu bitterling

(Ministry of the Environment: Endangered species, Category IB, Fukuoka Prefecture: Endangered species, Category IB)

- A small ray-finned fish found only in northwest Kyushu.
- In recent years, it has disappeared from the Murasaki River.



Endangered species categories

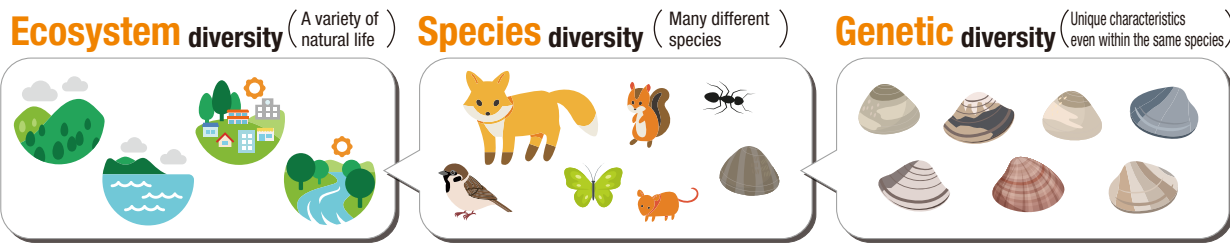
Extinct in the wild	Species that survive only in captivity or in a wild state outside their natural distribution range.
Endangered species, Category I	Species on the brink of extinction.
Endangered species, Category IA	Species that are at extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the very near future.
Endangered species, Category IB	Species that are at high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, but not as high as Category IA.
Endangered species, Category II	Species that are at increasing risk of extinction.
Nearly extinct	Species that are at low risk of extinction at present, but may become endangered if their habitat conditions change.
Insufficient information	Species for which there is not enough information for them to be assessed.

The diverse creatures that live in Kitakyushu City

Flora and Fauna

What is biodiversity?

Forests, villages, rivers, and oceans. Many different creatures live in many different places. These diverse natural environments and creatures are interconnected, and over the course of many, many years, they have developed indispensable relationships with each other. These various creatures and their connections are called "biodiversity." It is said that there are three types of biodiversity: ecosystem diversity, species diversity, and genetic diversity.



Why is biodiversity important?

We are all connected.

Biodiversity is the rich individuality and connections of living things. There are many different types of living things on Earth that have evolved to adapt to their respective environments over a long history. Each of these living things has its own individuality, and they all support each other directly and indirectly.

The value of biodiversity

Our lives and business activities are supported by the blessings of biodiversity in various ways, including the supply of food, water, and fuel. These blessings are called "ecosystem services." These ecosystem services are further classified into four categories: "Supporting services," "Provisioning services," "Cultural services," and "Regulating services." Once the balance of biodiversity is lost, we lose the things we need for life, such as food, water, clothing and fuel. The frequency of natural disasters such as landslides and floods increases, making our lives unsustainable.



Why is biodiversity important?

We humans need to eat something to live and our food, whether animal or plant, are all part of the bodies of other living things. We also breathe and produce carbon dioxide. In order to return this carbon dioxide to the environmental cycle, plants use photosynthesis. Plants remove oxygen from carbon dioxide and release it, and from the remaining carbon they create carbohydrates that other living things can use. And the waste products that are produced by metabolism are decomposed and purified in sewage treatment plants by various microorganisms. Similarly, the original job of cockroaches, which everyone hates, was to decompose animal carcasses and fallen leaves in the forest. In other words, it is impossible for a single living thing to live independently, and living things on Earth live by exchanging energy, information and materials, and interacting with each other. That is why "biodiversity" is important.

[Source: Interview with Professor Shinichi Fukuoka, Ecojin (Ministry of the Environment)]

The contribution of pollinators such as bees

35% of the world's agricultural crops would not grow without pollinating creatures such as bees. The market value of these crops is estimated to be between 235 billion and 577 billion dollars per year. In this way, even the small insects around us have a major impact on our lives if they disappeared.

Biodiversity is being lost at an incredible rate.

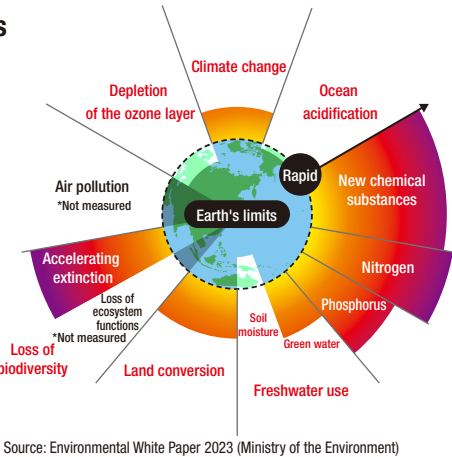
Biodiversity is currently being lost at a rate never seen before. There have been mass extinctions in the past due to natural phenomena, but the current one is being called the sixth mass extinction. The main cause is human activity, and the rate of extinction of species on Earth is about 100 to 1,000 times faster than in nature. It has been reported that 73% of the world's biodiversity has been lost in the past 50 years putting many living creatures at risk.

Ecosystem balance and keystone species

Ecosystems are made up of complex interactions between living things. In an experiment conducted by Dr. Robert Treat Paine, an American ecologist, when starfish living on rocks were removed, the barnacles that the starfish preyed on rapidly increased and covered the rocks. The algae on the rocks then stopped growing, and the shellfish that preyed on the algae decreased in number. As a result, the 15 species of creatures living on the rocks decreased to 8 by the end of the experiment. This experiment proved the existence of "keystone species," which are important species that have a large impact on ecosystems, and are essential for the stabilization of the entire ecosystem. Once the biodiversity that our ancestors protected and nurtured is lost, it is very difficult to restore it. It is thus very important to respect biodiversity, and use it sustainably.

Planetary boundaries

Planetary boundaries indicate the limits of nine elements that must not be exceeded in order for humans to survive sustainably on Earth, and are like a medical checkup for the Earth. Six elements, including biodiversity, have already exceeded their limits, making the realization of nature-positive behavior a global challenge.



Causes of biodiversity loss: the "four crises"

Currently, biodiversity is said to be facing four crises.

1 Crisis due to human activities such as development



Factory wastewater



Dissolved ship's propeller

As the Kitakyushu industrial area developed, a large amount of factory wastewater was discharged into the sea. This caused the water quality of Dokai Bay to deteriorate, and the acidification caused the propellers of ships sailing through the bay to dissolve, leading to the bay being called the "Dead Sea" where no fish could live. However, the water quality has since improved, and over 100 species of fish and shellfish have now been confirmed to be living in the bay.

2 Crisis of reducing our influence over nature



Abandoned bamboo grove (Kokuraminami Ward)

Depopulation and other factors make it difficult to manage land, and as grasslands and scrub forests transition to forests, ecosystem diversity is lost. Abandoned bamboo groves, which are no longer managed, spread into the surrounding forests, weakening the forests' ability to store water and prevent landslides, as well as hindering the growth of cedars and cypress trees, and causing various problems.

3 Crisis due to things brought in by humans and invasive species



Lance-leaved coreopsis



Raccoon

When invasive species are introduced by humans and released into the wild, they become established, and start destroying the original ecosystem. The highly fertile goldenrod has been spotted in Kitakyushu City. Meanwhile, raccoons not only damage ecosystems, but also agricultural crops and the living environment. There is also a risk of infectious diseases. The Invasive Alien Species Act designates invasive species of foreign origin that cause or are likely to cause damage to ecosystems, human life and health, and agriculture, forestry, and fisheries as "specified invasive species," and this includes goldenrod and raccoons.

4 Crisis due to climate change



Coastal erosion

Climate change is causing rising seawater temperatures, which causes seaweed to disappear due to over consumption by sea urchins and fish, and this problem has been confirmed in Kitakyushu City. Seaweed beds are also important for the marine ecosystem, as they serve as spawning grounds for fish and squid, and in recent years they have also been attracting attention as a source of greenhouse gas absorption, or "blue carbon." We will continue to work to conserve seaweed beds, improve the fishing environment, and promote the concept of satoumi that can be applied sustainably in the future.

Chapter 2
Domestic and International
Trends Regarding Biodiversity

(Regeneration of nature)

Nature-Positive becomes a global goal!

Let's all aim to be nature-positive around the world!

At the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) held in Montreal, Canada in 2022, the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework was adopted, and a new framework international goals for conserving global biodiversity by 2030.

The framework's mission by 2030 is to "take urgent steps to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in order to put nature on a path to recovery." The movement to stop and reverse biodiversity loss and put nature on a path to recovery, known as "nature-positive," is accelerating worldwide. This will also contribute to the SDGs goals "14. Life Below Water" and "15. Life on Land."



Adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework.
Source: Ministry of the Environment

30by30 (Thirty by Thirty)

30by30 is a goal to effectively conserve more than 30% of land and ocean as healthy ecosystems by 2030.

It is included in the 2030 Global Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework as one of the goals for achieving nature positivity by 2030.

In Japan, 20.5% of land areas and 13.3% of marine areas are conserved as protected areas (as of 2021).

OECM

OECM* refers to areas apart from national parks and other protected areas where biodiversity can be effectively conserved. Specifically, this includes satoyama, forests fed by water sources and urban nature, etc.

We aim to achieve 30by30 by increasing the number of OECM registrations.

*OECM: Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures

Registration of the Hibikinada Biotope as an OECM

The Hibikinada Biotope functions as a healthy ecosystem with 800 diverse species of plants and animals. It is also home to endangered species such as the tortoiseshell dragonfly and the marsh harrier, making it a valuable place for biodiversity.

In recognition of its importance in biodiversity conservation, the Hibikinada Biotope was registered as an OECM in August 2024.

This was the first registration in Japan (159 sites from Japan have been registered), and at the time of registration, the Hibikinada Biotope was the only such area in Fukuoka Prefecture.



Kitakyushu City Hibikinada Biotope

Let's all work together in Japan to become nature-positive!

<National Strategy>

In light of these international trends, Japan has also formulated the "National Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030," a strategy to protect and utilize biodiversity and natural capital, which are the foundation of global sustainability and the basis of human security. The strategy was approved by the Cabinet in March 2023.

<Major Points of the National Strategy>

- Emphasizing a comprehensive response to the "two crises" of biodiversity loss and climate change, and fundamental change in society to realize nature positivity.
- Ensuring healthy ecosystems, and maintaining and restoring nature's blessings through efforts such as achieving the 30by30 goal.
- Promoting socio-economic activities that protect and utilize natural capital (efforts that incorporate consideration and evaluation of nature and ecosystems, and serve as the driving force for nature positivity).

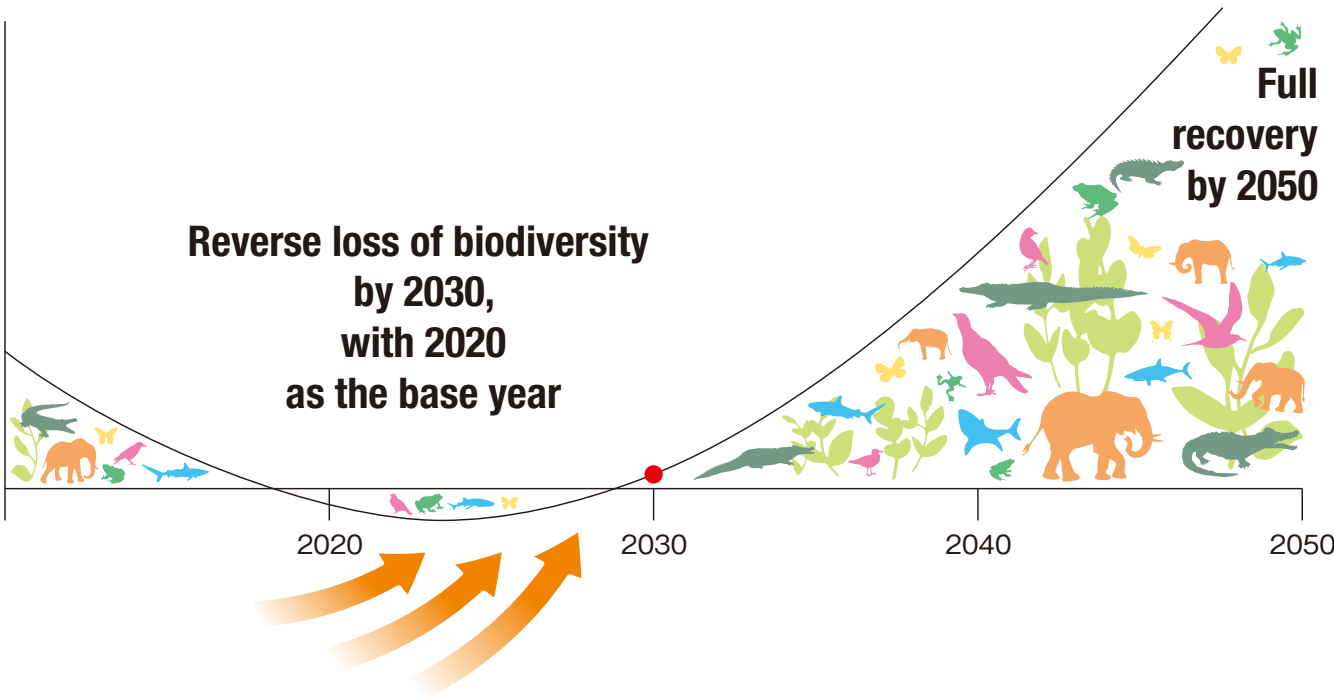
<Enactment of Laws>

In addition, in April 2024, the Act on Promotion of Activities for the Enhancement of Biodiversity in Local Communities (Act on Promoting Activities to Enhance Regional Biodiversity) was passed and proclaimed. This Act creates a certification system for plans related to these activities in order to promote the enhancement of biodiversity in local communities by companies, etc., whereby certified activities can undergo one-stop approval procedures and receive regulatory exemptions, etc.

In this way, by improving the implementation environment, including the legal system, the momentum for realizing nature positivity is increasing nationwide.

The economy too should be nature-positive!

Corporate efforts are also extremely important in achieving nature-positive growth. The "Nature-Positive Economy Transition Strategy" formulated by the government in March 2024 indicates that nature-positive efforts are not simply an increase in costs for companies, but an opportunity leading to new growth in an economy rooted in natural capital. Going forward, there is strong demand for a transition to a nature-positive economy, with the expectation that such efforts will increase corporate value and create business opportunities.



TNFD

TNFD* is a framework for companies to disclose information about their dependence on and impact on natural capital and biodiversity with respect to their economic activities, and the business opportunities and risks associated with them. This allows other companies and financial institutions to understand and evaluate the extent to which a company faces risks related to natural capital and biodiversity.

*TNFD: Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures

SBTs for Nature

SBTs for Nature* is a framework that quantifies the impact of a company's economic activities on fresh water, ocean, land and biodiversity, and sets targets for reducing factors that may have a negative impact.

*SBTs for Nature: Science-Based Targets for Nature

NbS

NbS* stands for Nature-based Solutions. It refers to the idea of using the functions of nature sustainably to solve a variety of social issues.

*NbS: Nature-based Solutions

Chapter 3

Kitakyushu City's Past Efforts

Northern Kyushu is blessed with abundant nature

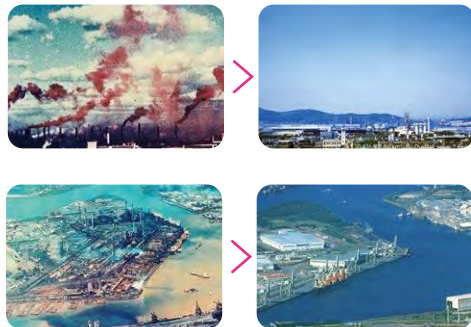
In the northern Kyushu region, people have lived since ancient times, blessed by the bounty of nature, mountains and the sea. During the Jomon period, the bay that formed around the current city of Kitakyushu was said to be a "treasure trove of food," with an abundance of fish and shellfish, and many migratory birds. At the same time, as a gateway to the Asian continent since long ago, the nature seen there has been greatly influenced by people's activities in those times, with rice cultivation beginning at a relatively early stage in the Japanese archipelago.

On the other hand, because nature has been used fairly sustainably, coupled with a favorable natural environment, the "bare mountains" that were widely seen along the Seto Inland Sea coast and other places rarely formed in Kitakyushu, and the area has maintained its rich nature and diverse biota until recent years, with many organisms adapting to secondary nature and living alongside people.

1960s ~ The emergence and overcoming of pollution

Revived blue sea and blue sky

Kitakyushu City has long flourished as a key transportation hub and coal distribution center in Kyushu. The government-run Yawata Steel Works was established here in 1901, and contributed greatly to the industrial development of Japan. However, the rapid growth of the city caused serious environmental problems, such as air and water pollution. To combat this situation, citizens, businesses, and the government of the city came together to work on environmental improvement, and by the late 1980s the city had overcome the severe pollution, and regained the blue skies and seas that we see today.



1970s ~ Large-scale tree planting by companies

Green Revival

Nippon Steel Corporation has been promoting the "Local Forest Creation" program to develop environmental conservation forests at its steel mills since the 1970s, during the era of rapid economic growth when pollution problems became apparent throughout the country. This was done by studying the original vegetation of the area with reference to the forests of local historic shrines (Chinju no mori), and then creating new forests by replanting the vegetation.



After reforestation (Yawata)

1980s ~ Thanks to citizens' efforts, Wild life have returned

The revival of fireflies and sweetfish

As citizens, businesses, and the government came together to take measures against pollution, public awareness of the natural environment also increased, and from the late 1970s onwards, nature conservation and restoration activities began to spread.

A typical example of this is the "Creation of a Hometown with Fireflies." In 1979, Genji firefly larvae were released into the Okumano River, and the following year they flew beautifully, sparking a surge in interest in fireflies and spreading activities throughout the city.

In 1986, a volunteer group called the "Association to Bring Sweetfish Back to the Murasaki River" was founded, and in addition to cleaning up the river, sweetfish were released into the river. As a result, wild sweetfish can now be seen swimming upstream.

Similar activities can also be seen in the development of rivers, parks and green spaces, and the conservation of forests and satoyama. Thanks to the efforts of these citizens, the rich nature of Kitakyushu City today has been protected and nurtured.



Releasing firefly larvae



Sweetfish release festival

Results of the Second Strategy [FY2015 - FY2024])

Basic Goal 1

Instilling awareness of the importance of biodiversity among citizens through contact with nature

- Creating opportunities to come into contact with the natural environment
- Revitalizing agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and promoting contact through local production and consumption
- Using and utilizing satoyama



Horseshoe crab spawning observation tour

Number of participants in the natural environment experience tour

73 people > 960 people
(2015) (2023)

Goal: Cumulative total of 500 people (2019)

Basic Goal 2

Fostering high levels of citizen environmental literacy so that they can act with a global perspective

- Promotion of environmental education and learning, and public awareness
- Cultivation of human resources knowledgeable about the natural environment



Active learning at the Hibikinada Biotope

No. of participants in the Hibikinada Biotope guided tour:

4,548 people / year > 4,244 people
(2015) (2023)

Goal: 4,000 people (per year)

Basic Goal 3

Proper conservation of the natural environment to realize the diverse functions of forests, villages, rivers and seas

- Formation of ecological networks
- Conservation and utilization of ecosystems unique to each region
- Conservation of rare species, and measures against invasive species



Gashamoku Observation Event

Number of participants in natural environment conservation activities

Approx. 2,000 people / year > 3,400 people
(2015) (2023)

Goal: 2,000 people (per year)

Basic Goal 4

Re-examining the relationship between humans and nature, and maintaining a state in which we can enjoy the many blessings of nature

- Promoting urban infrastructure development in harmony with nature
- Environmental consideration in the implementation of projects



Katsuyama Park

Number of trees planted through the Environmental Capital 1 Million Tree Planting Project

657,903 trees > 800,700 trees
(2015) (2023)

Goal: Cumulative total of 1,000,000 trees (2024)

Basic Goal 5

Collecting, organizing, and storing information through natural environment surveys, and utilizing it for conservation measures, etc.

- Conducting natural environment surveys and building a database
- Collecting natural environment information through citizen participation



Tortoiseshell Dragonfly Survey

Tortoiseshell Dragonfly No. of citizen surveys conducted

3 times/year > 6 times
(2015) (2023)

Goal: 3 times (per year)

Kitakyushu City's priorities for the future

Taking account of domestic and international trends regarding biodiversity, as well as the efforts that Kitakyushu has made to date, Kitakyushu will need to focus on three areas going forward.

1 Raising awareness of the importance of nature positivity among citizens and companies

2 Increasing the number of citizens and companies that are involved in nature-positive initiatives

3 Utilizing the city's abundant natural resources to contribute to the city's growth

Nature Positive history

Chapter 4

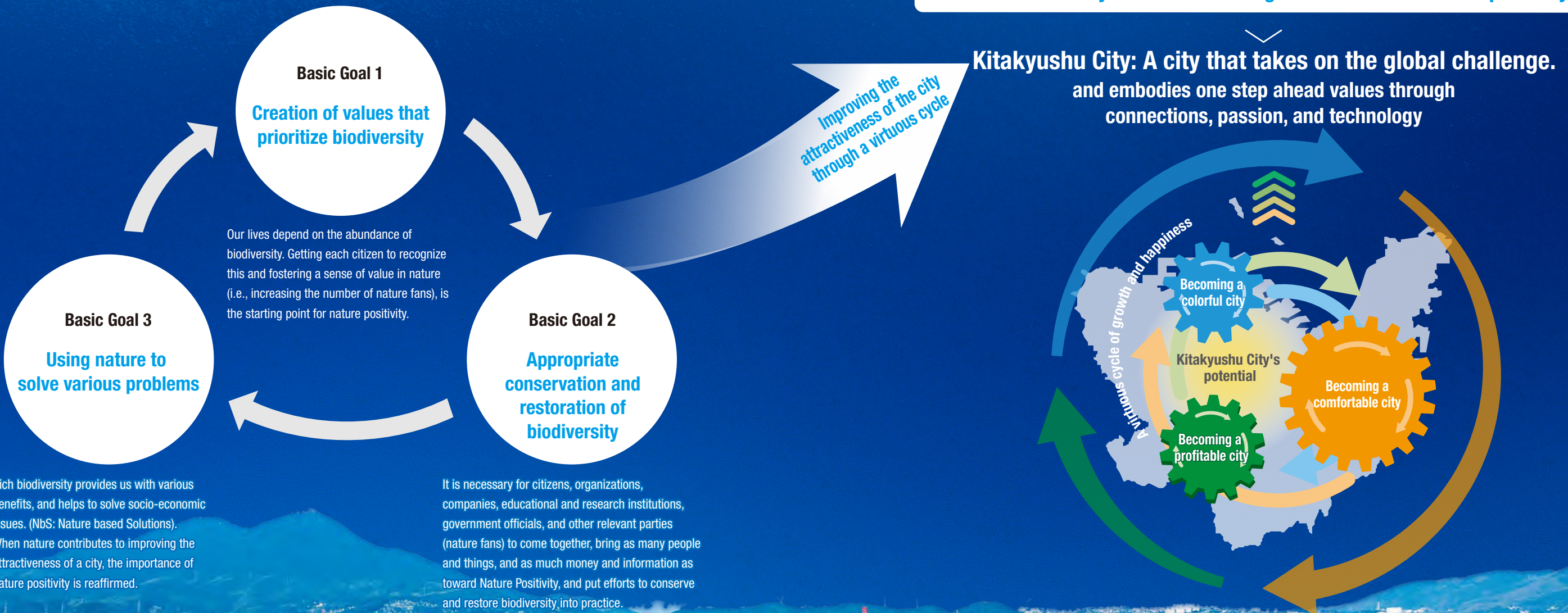
Main Points for 2025-2030 of Kitakyushu City's Biodiversity Strategy

Basic Policy

- We will properly conserve and restore Kitakyushu City's biodiversity and use it sustainably while also effectively promoting its appeal, thereby increasing opportunities for citizens to experience and enjoy nature.
- By developing the community in a way that makes use of nature, we aim to improve the city's brand image, leading to an improved image and development of the city.
- Furthermore, by anticipating corporate needs regarding biodiversity and promoting the transition to nature-positive management, we will contribute to increasing the value and competitiveness of companies in the city.

Kitakyushu Nature-Positive Cycle

Coexistence of city with nature through urban nature & nature positivity



Basic Strategy Framework

Target period : Six years from FY2025 to FY2030
Target area : Based on the entire area of Kitakyushu City, promote wide-area initiatives as necessary.
Positioning : Regional biodiversity strategy based on Article 13, Paragraph 1 of the Basic Act on Biodiversity (Act No. 58 of 2008)



Basic Measures

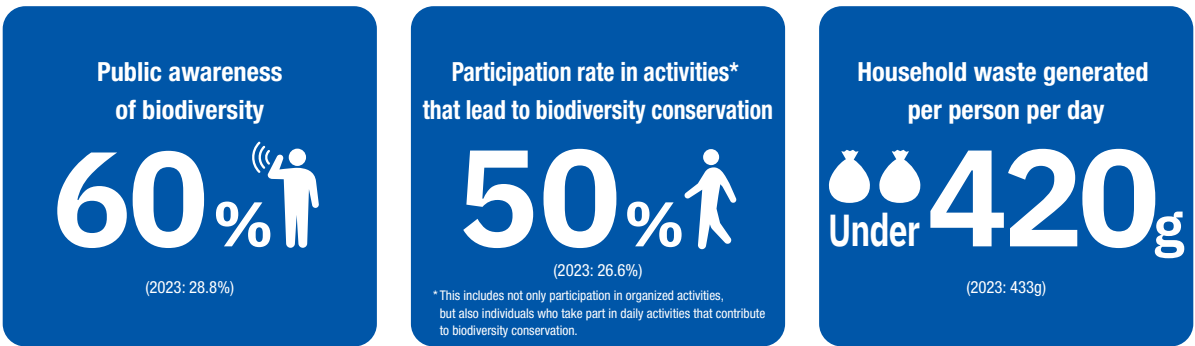
Basic Goals 1 Creation of values that prioritize biodiversity

1

We will deepen public understanding of biodiversity, and foster values that prioritize the connection between people and nature.

- Work with private companies, educational and research institutions, local communities, etc., to create opportunities for citizens to come into contact with nature and living creatures, deepening their interest.
- Encourage a shift to behaviors and lifestyles that contribute to the conservation and restoration of biodiversity (reducing food waste, promoting local production and consumption, etc.).
- Take advantage of the city's characteristic of having abundant nature in close proximity to the city (urban nature) to further promote the appeal of the city's natural environment.

Basic Indicators



Basic Goals 2 Appropriate conservation and restoration of biodiversity

2

We will not only conserve biodiversity in Kitakyushu City, but also promote efforts to restore it.

- Work together with private companies to expand OECM.
- Support citizens and private companies that are working to conserve and restore biodiversity, such as restoring satochi-satoyama.
- Work to conserve rare species, and control specified invasive species.

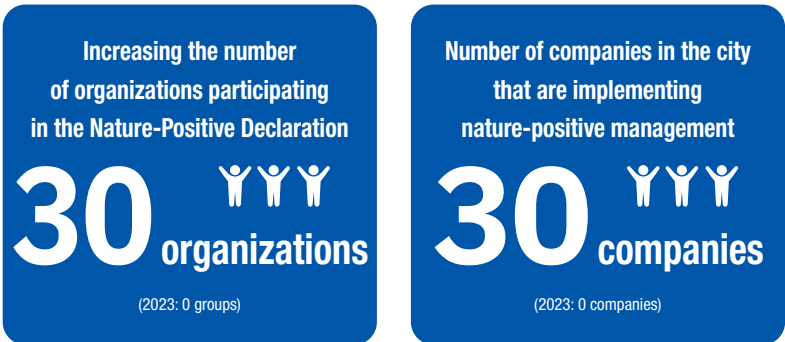


Basic Goals 3 Using nature to solve various problems

3

We will utilize our abundant natural environment to solve a variety of issues, such as improving the city's appeal and realizing a sustainable society, which will lead to the city's growth.

- Promote the strategy, and establish bases and networks for various stakeholders to solve various issues with a focus on nature.
- Promote nature-positive in an integrated manner with carbon neutrality and the circular economy.
- Expand sustainable, environmentally-friendly agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
- Manage forests and bamboo groves through appropriate thinning.
- Promote nature-positive management.
- Increase the number of users of facilities where they can experience the charms of nature.
- Promote disaster prevention and adaptation measures that utilize green infrastructure.
- Promote tourism, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries that take advantage of the benefits of biodiversity.
- Through nature-positive initiatives, we will contribute to increasing the number of tourists, immigrants and companies that move into the area.



Promotion System

To promote the strategy, we will create the **Kitakyushu Nature-Positive Network**,

*This center will be positioned as a "Regional Biodiversity Promotion Activity Support Center" based on the "Act on Promotion of Activities to Enhance Biodiversity in Local Communities (Act No. 18 of 2024)".

Kitakyushu Nature Positive-Center

Purpose: To provide an activity base for promoting the strategy

Structure: A facility for exhibiting creatures from the Hibikinada Biotope and other locations

Activities: In addition to collecting, organizing, and analyzing information on biodiversity in the city, as well as promoting and raising awareness, the center provides advice on nature-positive activities for citizens and nature-positive management for companies. It also functions as the Secretariat for the Nature Positive Network.

and set up the **Kitakyushu Nature Positive Center*** to play a central role.

Kitakyushu Nature-Positive Network

Purpose: To provide a system whereby industry, academia, government and the private sector work together to advance initiatives to promote the strategy.

Structure: Businesses, educational and research institutions, communities (regional organizations, NPOs, etc.), and government, etc.

Activities: Making use of the rich natural environment, the various entities involved work together to promote initiatives that are positioned as strategies, while mutually collaborating and complementing each other, in order to solve issues such as improving the city's appeal and realizing a sustainable society.

An example of a facility that serves as a Nature-Positive Center

Hibikinada Biotope

The uneven topography created after the waste disposal site in the Hibikinada area was filled, created a diverse environment with wetlands, freshwater ponds and grasslands, which became home to a variety of flora and fauna. This is how the Hibikinada Biotope, one of the largest biotope in Japan, was born (opened in October 2012), and it covers an area of 41 hectares. Currently, about 800 species have been found to be living there, including endangered species such as the tortoiseshell dragonfly and the common marsh harrier.

In addition, experience-based events that utilize the abundance of nature are held, providing opportunities for citizens to come into contact with nature.

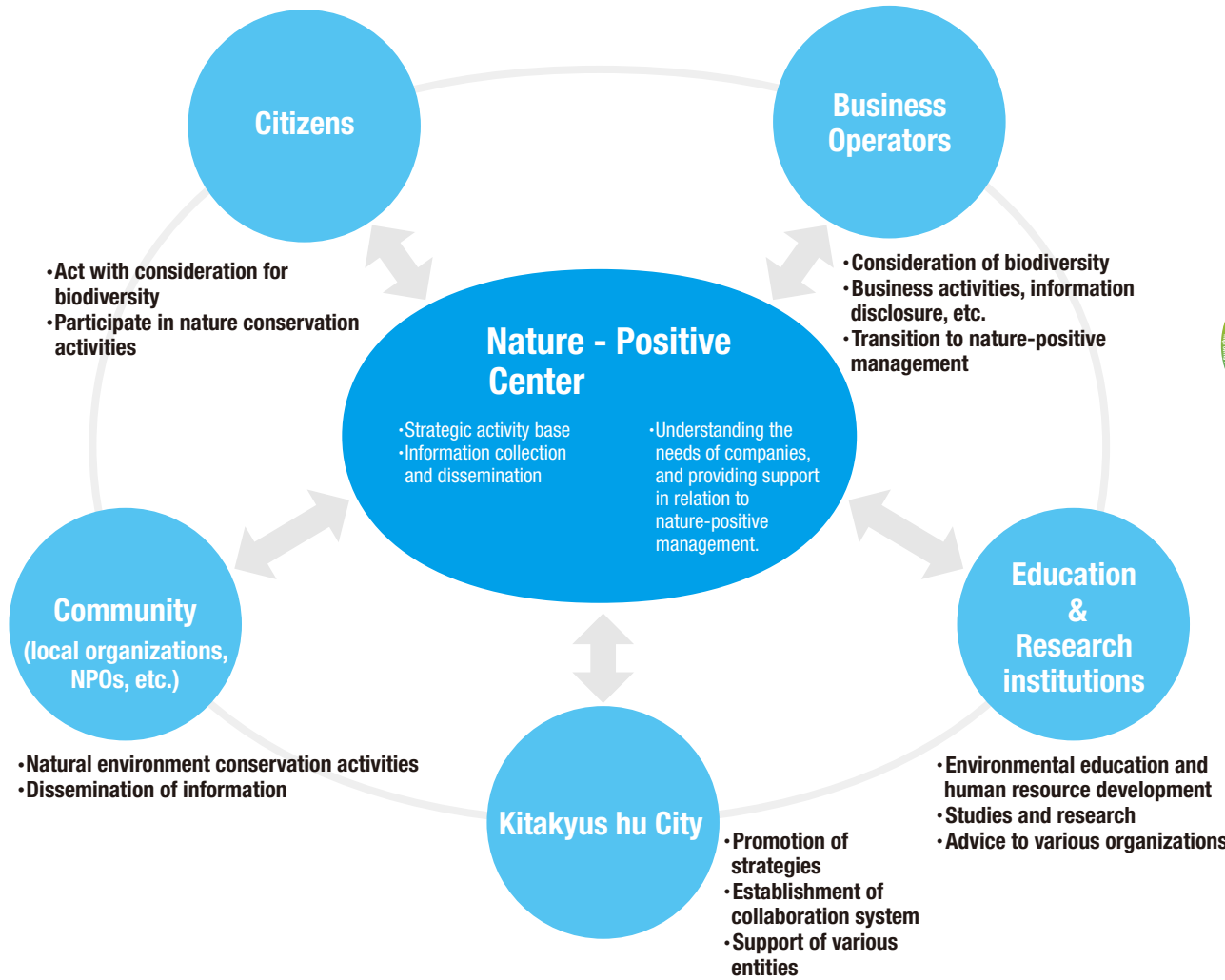
In this way, it is a facility where you can learn while having fun, such as protecting biodiversity and learning about natural environment conservation, while actually conserving the natural environment.

In August 2024, the Hibikinada Biotope was registered as an OECM, an area that can effectively conserve biodiversity, and its importance in conserving biodiversity is now widely recognized.



Hibikinada Biotope (aerial photo)

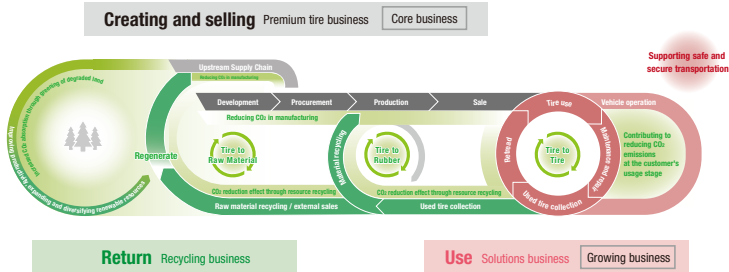
Kitakyushu Nature - Positive Network



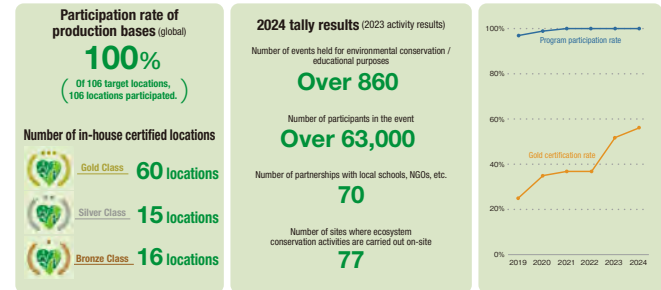
Examples of nature-positive management at local companies

Bridgestone Corporation Kitakyushu Factory

Our corporate philosophy (mission) is to "contribute to society by providing the highest quality," and we are working to achieve carbon neutrality, achieve a circular economy, and promote nature positivity throughout the entire value chain - from "creating and selling," and "using," to "recycling" products back to raw materials, as we develop our unique sustainability business model into a more circular and regenerative one.



Specifically, we promote information disclosure in line with the TNFD recommendations, and are implementing activities in line with the SBTs for Nature framework, focusing particularly on water resources and natural rubber. As part of our biodiversity contribution activity promotion program, we have established an in-house certification system that allows bases to mutually improve their level of contribution through their activities, so as to ensure that initiatives are implemented in the field. At the Kitakyushu Plant, we regularly eradicate giant snails, an invasive species that inhabits the Hibikinada Biotope, and are taking steps to protect the aquatic life and rare species in the Biotope.



Chapter 5

List of Major Measures

Basic Goal 1 Creation of values that prioritize biodiversity

We will deepen public understanding of biodiversity, and foster values that prioritize the connection between people and nature.

Public awareness of biodiversity

60%

(2023: 28.8%)

Participation rate in activities* that lead to biodiversity conservation

50%

(2023: 26.6%)

* This includes not only participation in organized activities, but also individuals who take part in daily activities that contribute to biodiversity conservation.

Household waste generated per person per day

Under 420g

(2023: 433g)

13 Promoting local production and consumption

Local production and consumption means consuming locally produced products, and is an initiative that strongly supports agriculture and fishing in the city, protects the local food culture, and leads to revitalization of the region. Not only can you eat fresh and delicious ingredients with peace of mind, but "the local aspect" also leads to environmental conservation, such as less carbon dioxide emissions during transportation because food is produced and consumed locally, and agriculture and fishing can protect the habitats of living creatures. Kitakyushu City will take advantage of its proximity to consumer areas in the Kitakyushu metropolitan area to promote local production and consumption by disseminating information through SNS, holding food-related events, promoting the use of local food in school lunches, and supporting direct sales stores and morning markets in order to increase consumption of agricultural, forestry and fishery products produced in the city.



Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Festival

16 Promoting ecotourism

Kitakyushu City conducts experiential courses to provide citizens with opportunities to interact with the natural environment, and deepen their understanding of the importance of biodiversity. An example of these courses is a tour to observe spawning at the Sone tidal flats, one of Japan's leading habitats for horseshoe crabs. In cooperation with the Fukuoka branch of the Japanese Horseshoe Crab Conservation Society, the tour covers the spawning of horseshoe crabs, introduces the ecology of horseshoe crabs using panels, allows participants to observe creatures of the Sone tidal flats such as wild birds and sea-bottom animals, and provides explanations about marine debris. In addition, as part of environmental conservation activities, we also pick up trash on the coast. We will continue to promote these initiatives so that participation in these activities will provide citizens with an opportunity to think about the coexistence of cities with nature as a familiar issue.



Horseshoe crab spawning observation

Number	Name of policy	Overview of the initiative
1	Promoting environmental education and SDGs in school education	We will implement educational activities based on the perspective of the SDGs, such as implementing SDG environmental active learning, to foster perspectives and ways of thinking that will lead to the creation of a sustainable society, and aim to raise children who will take the initiative in creating a better society.
2	Nature Classes	This program is aimed at fifth grade elementary school students and involves an overnight stay at the city's Youth Nature Center, where children can develop a sense of familiarity with nature through hands-on activities like walking and canoeing.
3	Implementation of fun school activities along the Itabitsu River	On the Itabitsu River, in a 850m section of the Takami area of Yahatahigashi Ward, the "Waterside School Project" has created a safe waterside zone where children can encounter nature by preserving nature as far as possible, and a natural environment with rapids, pools and babbling brooks. Going forward, we will continue to provide opportunities and places for elementary school students to experience nature as part of our waterside school activities.
4	Public awareness of natural history (Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History and Human History)	To help people think about biodiversity as an issue close to home, we hold courses such as outdoor observation tours and workshops on a wide range of interesting topics related to nature.
5	Promoting ecotours by the Environment Museum	The Environment Museum, which serves as a comprehensive hub for environmental learning, activities and exchange, will provide consultation on planning and proposals for ecotours, and will also disseminate information via its website.
6	Utilizing satoyama as a place for learning about the natural environment (Nagano Green Space)	We hold "Agricultural Experience Classes with Citizen Participation" to provide a place for citizens, mainly NPOs and local residents, to experience the natural environment through farm work.
7	Community flower bed and vegetable garden project	By allowing local residents to use unused city-owned land and parts of parks as flower beds and vegetable gardens, we can increase the amount of greenery in the city, improve the health and meaning of life for the elderly, and promote inter-generational interaction in the community.
8	Conservation and utilization of Hiraodai	We operate and manage the Hiraodai Nature Observation Center in cooperation with Fukuoka Prefecture. The Center was established to protect Hiraodai's precious natural environment while promoting its proper use. We also aim to foster a love of nature by allowing citizens to experience, relax, play, learn and experience nature in a natural environment.
9	Promoting the development of a city full of flowers and greenery	In addition to promoting the creation of "flowering street corners" such as citizen and public flower beds, and conducting public awareness-raising activities regarding urban greening, we aim to "create a city co-created with flowers" by a variety of parties with the motto "One person, one flower."

Number	Name of policy	Overview of the initiative
10	Road cleaning and flower planting activities through the road supporter system	We will provide support such as supplying cleaning equipment and flower seedlings to those who register as road supporters, and promote road cleaning and flower planting activities by local organizations, companies, schools, etc.
11	Circle of reducing food loss and kitchen waste	Food waste (including food loss) accounts for approximately 40% of household waste. We will work to further reduce waste and turn it into resources by promoting the "Food Loss Reduction Campaign", which every citizen can put into practice, and by implementing initiatives such as food waste recycling classes.
12	Management of plastic waste	By collecting plastic containers, packaging and plastic products discarded by households in bulk, by providing citizens with easy-to-understand publicity and by raising awareness of this issue, we will work to recycle plastic resources and reduce marine plastic waste.
13	Promoting local production and consumption	We will actively promote local production for local consumption by implementing the "Love of Local Delicacies from the Seas and Mountains System," holding various PR events, supporting morning markets and direct sales, and promoting the use of food produced in the city for school lunches.
14	Promoting food and agriculture education through agricultural experiences	We will send staff to elementary schools of your choice to carry out experiential activities for students and teachers through our "Exciting Agricultural Experience Project," themed on food and agriculture, promoting efforts to learn and experience "Food," the most fundamental element of life, and the "Agriculture" that supports it.
15	Providing a place for interaction with agriculture	We aim to improve the appeal of Hananogaoka Park comprehensive agricultural center as a place where people can experience agriculture, and we will also provide information about community gardens through guide maps and social media.
16	Promoting ecotourism	We will provide an opportunity for citizens to think about the coexistence of the city with nature by holding eco-tours such as horseshoe crab spawning observations, and Hibikinada Biotope eco-tours.
17	Management of the Hibikinada Biotope, and promotion of environmental study activities	In addition to managing and operating the Hibikinada Biotope, we will work with citizens and NPOs to promote environmental study activities and volunteer nature experience activities in the diverse natural environment of the Hibikinada Biotope as part of our public awareness activities regarding the natural environment.
18	Providing information about the natural environment	We will publicize information about Kitakyushu City's nature using newsletters, pamphlets, leaflets, etc., and will also build a portal site that will serve as an information base to strengthen dissemination of information to citizens.
19	Creating opportunities to experience the natural environment in paid parks	In Kitakyushu City's paid parks* various public awareness programs are being held to create opportunities for people to come into contact with the natural environment. * ① Shiranoe Botanical Gardens, ② Itozu no mori Park, ③ Yamada Ryokuchi Park, ④ Hibikinada Ryokuchi (Green Park), ⑤ Hiraodai Countryside Park

What we can do

There are many things we can do to protect biodiversity. A little ingenuity and thoughtfulness on the part of each of us in our daily lives will lead to the protection of biodiversity.

And the awareness and actions of each and every one of us will lead to even greater activities.

Therefore, it is important for each of us to ask ourselves “what we can do without difficulty in our daily lives”, and act accordingly.

Action

1

Let's eat local

Eat locally grown food and enjoy seasonal produce.

Choose local and seasonal ingredients!

By choosing local and seasonal ingredients, you can protect the creatures that live in rice fields and farms, as well as understand local food culture, and reduce the energy needed for production and transportation.

Therefore, in addition to conserving biodiversity, you can also contribute to fostering civic pride and protecting the global environment.



Action

2

Let's get in touch with nature

Go out into nature and visit zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, etc., to experience nature and living things.

Experience nature and living things!

By going out into nature and visiting parks and zoos, you can experience the joy of spending time in nature, the fascinating nature of living things, and the importance of biodiversity.

Grow greenery and flowers!

By connecting small areas of nature such as home gardens and balconies, we can enrich the ecosystem network (connections between living things) throughout Kitakyushu city.



Action

3

Let's talk about nature

Convey the wonder of nature and the changing of the seasons through photographs, pictures, writing and other means.

Let's learn about biodiversity!

By reading books about nature and living things, and researching plants, birds, and insects that are close to you, you will develop an interest in biodiversity, and begin to learn more about nature and the living organisms in your immediate surroundings.

Let's tell everyone!

By talking with family and friends about what you feel when you come into contact with nature and living things, and by sharing it with everyone through photos and pictures, you can widen the circle of biodiversity.



Action

4

Let's protect nature

Participate in local and national activities to protect the connections between living things, nature, people and culture.

Let's join the conservation effort!

Participate in activities to protect nature and living creatures, and events to observe living creatures.

Kitakyushu City plans and runs a variety of citizen-participation events, including hands-on activities such as agricultural experiences, eco-tours, environmental study activities such as workshops and lectures, and volunteer activities such as clean-ups.

By participating in these various events and being directly involved in activities to protect biodiversity, one can develop a sense of values that prioritize biodiversity.

Action

5

Let's choose well

Make environmentally-friendly choices in your daily life.

Choose environmentally-friendly products!

By choosing products with eco-labels or other environmentally-friendly labels in your daily shopping, you will encourage the companies that produce them to be considerate of biodiversity.

Let's reduce waste!

Sorting garbage, not producing food waste, and bringing your own bags to reduce plastic waste will reduce the amount of garbage, and contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.



Basic Goal 2 Appropriate conservation and restoration of biodiversity

We will not only conserve biodiversity in Kitakyushu City, but also promote efforts to restore it.

Land Conservation Areas* Expansion

30%

(an additional 250 ha is needed)

(2023: 29.5%)

*Conservation area: Protected area + OECM

No. of certified nature-friendly sites (cumulative)

5 locations

(2023: 1 location)

Participation rate in activities* that lead to biodiversity conservation (reposted)

50%

(2023: 26.6%)

*This includes not only participation in organized activities, but also individuals who take part in daily activities that contribute to biodiversity conservation.

Number	Name of policy	Overview of the initiative
1	Conservation of Hiraodai	Hiraodai, a nationally designated natural monument, is one of the largest karst plateaus in Japan. We purchase privately owned land within the designated area to maintain and protect the landscape as a natural monument.
2	Promoting environmental improvement of rivers around the Murasaki River	We are carrying out integrated development of the surrounding urban areas, roads, parks, etc., to restore the river to a familiar environment. The core facility, the Kitakyushu River Museum, is used by many people as a place of relaxation in the city center, and we will continue to promote the development of a familiar river.
3	Creating a home for fireflies	We will work with citizens to conserve fireflies and the aquatic environment through supporting firefly protection groups, and exchanging information.
4	River environment conservation	Considering that rivers are precious natural spaces that provide freshness and relaxation in cities, we will strive to conserve the surrounding natural environment, including preserving the landscape and ecosystem, and will promote river development, such as "creating multinatural rivers" that are in harmony with these environmental functions.
5	Promoting and supporting river weed control and conservation activities	We will promote weed control measures in rivers that take biodiversity into consideration, and actively support river protection groups that carry out weed-cutting and cleaning activities, thereby working to protect river environments.
6	Town cleanup and volunteer support	In addition to conducting local cleanup activities twice a year, we support environmental conservation activities such as volunteer cleanups of rivers, parks, beaches and public roads undertaken by local civic groups, companies, NPOs and schools.
7	Appropriate use of natural parks	In natural parks designated by the national or prefectural government for the protection and utilization of areas with outstanding natural scenery, we will restrict acts that impair the scenic beauty of the parks, and ensure that they are used appropriately.
8	Preserving green spaces and promoting greening	Based on the "Kitakyushu City Green Basic Plan," we have set "coexistence with nature," "enhancement of attractiveness and creation of liveliness," and "assurance of safety and security" as the three "viewpoints of the plan," and will develop measures based on "collaboration" by various entities that support these "viewpoints" to make people's lives more comfortable, and create a bright and vibrant urban space.
9	Forest Conservation	Forests are conserved through the Natural Parks Act, which protects areas of outstanding natural beauty, the Fuchi District System, which maintains urban scenery, and special green space conservation districts, which strictly limit the development of green spaces in cities.
10	Development of forest recreational areas	Adachiyama Forest Park, Takakurayama Forest Park, Sarakura-Hobashira Nature Park and Katsuki Forest of Citizens have been developed as recreational forests close to the public. In addition to conserving the forests, we will work with local residents by weeding, planting and maintaining walking paths, creating an environment where people can enjoy strolling and observing nature.

2 Promoting environmental improvement of waterways around the Murasaki River

Since rivers are precious natural spaces that remain within the city, the Murasaki River is being utilized as a place for citizens to relax and enjoy themselves, while at the same time preserving the habitat and nurturing space for living creatures, thereby restoring the familiarity of the river. The Kitakyushu River Museum, the core facility, has a river observation window where visitors can view the inside of the river, an exhibition area where visitors can learn about the history of the Murasaki River, and a large monitor that displays videos showing the charms of the Murasaki River's rich natural environment. The Murasaki River is the center of our activities, with the keywords of "gathering", "learning" about the water environment, and "relaxing" through contact with nature.

River observation window and large monitor

14 Road construction that is considerate of the natural environment

In constructing the Tsunemi Kusami Line, an urban planning road, we have taken the growth and habitat of living things and plants into consideration. We are developing tall green belts that act as a buffer to prevent bird collisions with vehicles, and restoring reed beds to ensure a habitat for grassland and waterside creatures (harvest mice, marsh harriers, great reed warblers, etc.). We are also installing box culverts to ensure a migration route for living things (raccoon dogs, killifish, etc.).

Raccoon dog travel route

Number	Name of policy	Overview of the initiative
11	Measures to deal with abandoned bamboo groves	To prevent the expansion of abandoned bamboo groves, which cause devastation of forests, we will cut down abandoned bamboo groves and replace them with broadleaf trees. Also, to expand the citizen maintenance base for bamboo groves, subsidies will be provided for the maintenance of bamboo groves and removal of bamboo by citizens, etc., and bamboo choppers will be lent out.
12	Conservation of the fishery environment, and promotion of the fisheries industry	To effectively conserve seaweed beds and tidal flats, we will cooperate with public policies for fisheries, ports, coasts, etc., and implement conservation activities for seaweed beds and tidal flats led by fishermen, thereby conserving biodiversity and regenerating marine resources. Also, to protect marine resources, we will manage resources with great care, and promote aquaculture.
13	Farmland conservation	To maintain the high multi-functionality of farmland, we will conserve Kitakyushu City's rich rural areas and woodlands, and create an environment that allows for sustainable utilization into the future.
14	Road construction that is considerate of the natural environment	In developing and maintaining roads, we consider the local nature and scenery, and promote road construction that takes issues like improving the roadside environment and global warming into account, in order to build a circular society with less environmental impact.
15	Environmental considerations based on the Environmental Impact Assessment System	Based on the Environmental Impact Assessment Act and the Kitakyushu City Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance, we will steadily implement the environmental impact assessment system, striving to harmonize various businesses with the environment, and to protect the environment in our city.
16	Measures against invasive species	Regarding invasive species, we will provide easy-to-understand information to citizens through public relations media such as the city's website, and will implement border control measures for designated invasive species such as "fire ants."
17	Measures against bird and animal damage	To protect the living environment of citizens from harmful wild birds and animals that appear in urban and other areas, and to prevent damage to crops, we capture wild boars, deer, etc., and provide information to citizens.
18	Conducting natural environment surveys	We survey the habitats of the dragonfly, the birds of the Sone tidal flats and the Hibikinada Biotope, and carry out appropriate monitoring to understand the current situation and any changes over time.
19	Support through subsidies, etc., to relevant organizations	We will provide support through subsidies and other means to citizens and NPOs that are engaged in conservation activities for the natural environment and rare species.
20	Expanding the registration of OECM in cooperation with local companies	By collaborating with local companies and others and promoting the registration of OECMs, we aim to increase biodiversity conservation areas within the city, and achieve the 30by30 goal early.

25

26

Basic Goal 3 Using nature to solve various problems

We will utilize our abundant natural environment to solve a variety of issues, such as improving the city's appeal and become a sustainable society, which will lead to the city's growth.

Increasing the number
of organizations participating
in the Nature-Positive Declaration

30 organizations

(2023: 0 groups)

Number of companies in the city
that are implementing
nature-positive management

30 companies

(2023: 0 companies)



Number	Name of policy	Overview of the initiative
1	Building the Kitakyushu Nature-Positive Network	We will establish the Kitakyushu Nature-Positive Network, consisting of businesses, educational and research institutions, local organizations, etc., and carry out activities aimed at solving issues such as improving the city's appeal by utilizing its abundant natural environment, which is part of our strategy, and become a sustainable society.
2	Establishment and management of the Kitakyushu Nature-Positive Center	The Kitakyushu Nature-Positive Center, as the operations base for the strategy, will collect and analyze information on biodiversity, raise awareness of it and promote it, and provide support to encourage nature-positive activities among citizens and companies.
3	Support for a transition to nature-positive management	The project aims to accurately identify corporate needs with regard to biodiversity, and to support the transition of companies in the city to nature-positive management by providing information, advice and other assistance, such as encouraging participation in frameworks such as TNFD, SBTs for Nature, and OECM.
4	Promoting organic farming	To reduce the environmental burden, promote efficient agricultural management and realize sustainable agriculture, we provide farmers with the latest information on organic farming through trial cultivation at the Kitakyushu Agricultural Center.
5	Securing greenhouse gas sinks through forestry promotion and forest conservation	We will utilize the Forest Environmental Tax to maintain the water source conservation and landslide disaster prevention functions of forests, while also promoting a forest management system to link to forest management, supporting the planting and care of privately-owned forests, promoting the development of forests that absorb greenhouse gases managed by the city, and conducting research on the creation of credits for their value. We will also provide subsidies to foster the next generation of forestry workers.
6	Conservation of the fishery environment, and promotion of the fisheries industry	To effectively conserve seaweed beds and tidal flats, we will cooperate with public policies for fisheries, ports, coasts, etc., and implement conservation activities for seaweed beds and tidal flats led by fishermen, thereby conserving biodiversity and regenerating marine resources. Also, to protect marine resources, we will manage resources with great care, and promote aquaculture.
7	Strengthening disaster prevention and mitigation functions in urban areas using green infrastructure	As a disaster prevention and mitigation measure, in order to utilize the functions of green infrastructure, we will implement an initiative based on the disaster prevention and mitigation guidelines in the land use optimization plan.

8 Promoting efforts to become a carbon-neutral society
9 Building a circular economy system

Aiming for green growth through a virtuous cycle between the environment and the economy, we will work to create a comprehensive base for wind power-related industries, and a base for the supply and utilization of hydrogen. We will also promote a circular economy that uses resources in a sustainable manner, such as by creating new recycling businesses that address social issues.

Through these efforts, we will further concentrate green industries and promote the "Kitakyushu Green Impact," which aims to strengthen the international competitiveness of companies in the city by providing various environmental values such as renewable energy and recycling functions.

Since achieving nature-positive is said to have synergies and trade-offs with climate change measures and the transition to a circular economy, we will cooperate with these measures to advance integrated, nature-posachieving efforts.



Offshore wind farm (image)



Kitakyushu Eco-Town Center

10 Hop cultivation and local beer production using water and sewerage resources

The Hibikinada Hop Association is working to revitalize the region and promote the 6th industry by cultivating hops, which are the raw material for beer, and producing / selling local beer, while encouraging citizen participation.

Currently, they produce and sell local beer (Kitakyushu W) using tap water from the Michihara Water Treatment Plant, which is a water and sewerage resource, and hops produced using fertilizers derived from recycled sewage water and sewage sludge at the Hiagari Purification Center. They also use a portion of the sales to protect the creatures in the Hibikinada Biotope, and are conducting business activities that take part in biodiversity.

Moreover, hop cultivation contributes to reducing the cooling load by creating green curtains on buildings, and these efforts were recognized and won the Excellence Award (Corporate Division) at the poster session of the Green Infrastructure Network Japan 2024 National Convention (GIJ2024).



Kitakyushu W



Hop Curtain

Number	Name of policy	Overview of the initiative
8	Promoting efforts to realize a carbon-neutral society	We will work to realize a carbon-neutral society by decarbonizing energy through offshore wind power generation, promoting innovation, and encouraging carbon-neutral lifestyles.
9	Building a circular economy system	In addition to making thorough efforts to reduce and recycle waste, we will take advantage of our city's strengths and Kitakyushu Eco-Town, Japan's largest cluster of recycling industries, to promote a circular economy that recycles waste, and uses it as a recyclable resource.
10	Hop cultivation and local beer production using water and sewerage resources	The Hibikinada Hop Association, a network of hop growers, brewing companies and other related businesses, citizens and the government, is promoting efforts to foster a new culture in the city through hop cultivation using water and sewerage resources, and the production of local beer.
11	Revitalizing local communities through fireflies	The Kitakyushu Firefly Museum and the Katsuki Kurokawa Firefly Museum, which have been developed as places for learning about and exchanging information about fireflies and the waterside, will be used as bases to promote collaboration and support with firefly protection groups in the city, and to revitalize the local community through fireflies.
12	Management and operation of the Kitakyushu River Museum	The Kitakyushu River Museum is used by many people as a place to relax and deepen their understanding of rivers, nature and the environment, while also learning about them in a fun way. Inside the museum, there is a "river observation window" from which you can see what is happening inside the river, and an "ecological aquarium" where you can actually see the fish that live in the Murasaki River. The museum is managed and operated as a facility that can be enjoyed not only by children, but also by adults and visitors from overseas.
13	Environmentally-friendly, soap-based firefighting foam	By using environmentally-friendly, soap-based foam extinguishing agents at the scene of a fire, we will be able to improve firefighting efficiency, and also carry out firefighting activities that are considerate of the ecosystem.
14	Building a food waste recycling model in Kitakyushu	We will create organic fertilizer from food waste generated by supermarkets and other businesses, and build a food resource circulation model that can be used by local farmers for vegetable cultivation, etc., thereby promoting the recycling of local food resources.

Thank you to everyone who applied for the Kitakyushu Urban Nature Photo Contest.

Below, we show some of the works submitted by our residents.

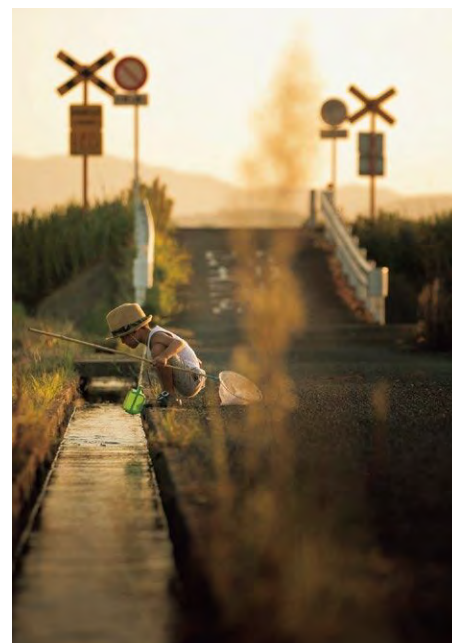


Urban Nature Category

Winner **Yuko Yasaka**

Location Murasaki River (taken from the opposite bank of Murasaki River Park)

The Murasaki River is a place rich in nature that is home to many different kinds of waterfowl, but I happened to come across this beautiful scene while out for a walk, and couldn't help but take a photo. I'm glad that I was able to share this spectacular view with so many people.



Enjoy Urban Nature Category

Winner **Rikosora Papa-san**

Location Kusubashi, Yahatanishi Ward

I often take walks with my son along the rice field path at dusk when the sun is starting to set and it starts to get cooler. The sight of my son, surrounded by the gentle light, was very impressive. It's a scene in my hometown that I love and want to remember forever.

My top pick! Category

Winner Riina, 0

Location Ojika Limestone Cave
(Kokuraminami Ward)

The light shining into the limestone cave and the falling water droplets were very beautiful. I was happy to be able to capture this rare sight, which is not often seen, as the light had to enter the cave after it had rained just before.

