

An attitude survey on management organizations and local residents surrounding two suburban forests in Kashiwa city, Chiba Prefecture

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Supervisor Associate professor, Maki Suzuki

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1. Background and purpose of this study

Understanding urban ecosystems is the foundation for conservation of biodiversity in residual green spaces in urban areas. For further improvement of the functions provided by green space, evaluation of human impact on urban ecosystems is important (Tsuchiya et al. 2013). Green spaces in urban areas offer a variety of services to people, different actors tend to put different priorities on conservation of biodiversity, their desirable ecosystem services may also vary (Belaire et al. 2011). Urban green spaces are surrounded by many actors land owners of green spaces, vegetation managers and local residents who use green spaces as recreation sites. To improve and sustain the services of urban green spaces for residents, it is necessary to analyze and resolve differences in opinions and requests among various actors surrounding urban green spaces. Kashiwa city, Chiba Prefecture, is located in suburb of metropolitan Tokyo, and experiences rapid diversification of citizens. There are many remnant forests remaining in the city. Such private organizations have different management purpose, management method, personnel composition and so on. As a result, there is a difference in the natural appearance among the green areas existing in the same city, so there are differences in services provided to the local residents. These differences are expected to cause a difference in consciousness to the green areas among the members of the management organization and residents in the vicinity. Here, I investigated two management groups of two suburban forests with different management methods of Kashiwa City and local residents. Questionnaires survey on their feelings and opinion about green spaces, clarified the difference in consciousness among them.

2. Research site and survey method

The study site was set for Konbukuro Pond Nature Museum and the green area both in the Oaota area in Kashiwa City, Chiba Prefecture Forest Oaota. Current vegetation of both green spaces are secondary forests. The establishment of the management group of the Konbukuro Pond Nature Museum is about 50 members in 2010, the establishment of the management group of Forest Oaota is in 2004 and the number of members is about 46 people as current members.

In August 2015 we conducted a semi-structured interview to grasp the actual management objectives and management methods of two management groups. Based on the results of the interview survey, further I conducted a questionnaire survey on the management groups and local residents about objectives of green area management activities, awareness, frequency of use, preference to green areas, Questionnaire survey was conducted to ask questions such as the

functions and satisfaction levels of the actors. As local residents, I chose with parents and guardians of the Kashiwa municipal Toyofuta elementary school in Chiba Prefecture, which is located in the middle of the survey target area, Konbukuro Pond Nature Museum and the forest of Oaota, because they were likely to use both green spaces. Regarding the forest of Konbukuro Pond Nature Museum and Oaota Forest, I prepared and distributed questions about cognition and attachment to each green area, role required for green space and its satisfaction level.

3. Results and discussion

As a result of the interview survey, revealed that the management objectives and methods of two study sites were different each other. The aim of the Konbukuro Pond Nature Museum was to "preserve biodiversity", and the management group of the Oaota Forest was aiming to "foster ties between members".

By collecting the questionnaire survey obtained, 80% of the population were obtained in parents and children of Kashiwa City Toyofuta Elementary School effecting answered the questionnaire. Parents and children of Toyofuta Elementary School showed differences in terms of cognition, usage frequency, opinions, etc., to two suburban forests. In the Konbukuro Pond Nature Museum, were well recognized acknowledged by parents and children of the elementary school, but only about 20% of the population used it more than once a year. Because the Konbukuro Pond Nature Museum was managed as a natural park preserving biodiversity, the demand for the function and beautiful feelings that local residents were seeking in nearby urban forests and the desire for administrators to "be careful" might hane been different from managers' feeling. Although the forest of Oaota was adjacent to the area where parents and children of elementary school live much, it was hardly recognized by parents and children. The result might be attributable the fact that the management group members of the Forest of Oaota is seeking a function as "a place of interaction between members" in the forest, and few members have been "a place of interaction between themselves and users" Meanwhile, the management group of the Forest of Oaota has not set detailed management objectives from the city. Possibly for that reason, the degree of satisfaction of the members of the manadement group was high with the high degree of freedom in activities.

4. References

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