



NATURE

Umi-no-Mori Park: A Transformation from Waste to Forest

For 20 years, corporations and Tokyo citizens have worked together to transform a reclaimed wasteland into the beautiful forest of Umi-no-Mori Park.

Full view of the Umi-no-Mori Park.



Nature activities and wildlife watching are available.

The Umi-no-Mori (Sea Forest) Project has been going on since 2005, when a proposal was made to turn a large tract of reclaimed land into a park, with the aim of “creating a forest in collaboration with Tokyo citizens.” Over the following 20 years, saplings were planted on the reclaimed land filled with waste and construction-generated dirt to transform it into a beautiful forest, which was opened to the public in March 2025.

There are very few cases in the world of growing a forest on a waste disposal site built on the sea. Since there were no precedents, a plan was needed to get citizens, corporations, and NPO members to take part in the project from the development stages, so that they could understand the purpose of the project.

Tree-planting days were held every spring and fall between 2007 and 2015, and some of the saplings

that were planted were grown from acorns found in parks around Tokyo, which made the participants feel more connected to the forest.

Circulating and Recycling Limited Resources

The Umi-no-Mori Project has one other important goal, which is “creating a resource-recycling forest.” In order to turn a mound of waste into a forest, it was necessary to create soil that would allow plants to grow.

To overcome the issue of the waste smell, the ground was filled with 12.3 million metric tons of waste and construction dirt in alternating layers. The construction dirt was mixed with compost to create a planting foundation for soil that would allow plants to grow abundantly. The compost was made from leaves and twigs that were pruned from

the trees in parks and along the streets of Tokyo, making effective use of what would have just been waste to create a resource-recycling forest.

The project members took special measures to counter the strong gusts of salty wind that blow along the waterfront, planting species like Japanese black pine and Japanese bay tree, which are resilient to strong winds and salt damage.

The forest is designed to attract insects, birds, and other wildlife, with tree species that they can use for habitats and food. Insects such as butterflies and dragonflies as well as birds like the Eurasian skylark and bull-headed shrike can already be spotted around the park.

Umi-no-Mori Park offers a fantastic, sweeping view of the metropolis, including Tokyo Tower and Tokyo Skytree, and project members have plans to continue improving this new natural space in Japan’s capital. The park also offers a large plaza for picnics and playing ball, an interactive grove for wildlife observation, and a barbecue facility to enjoy with friends and family, allowing visitors to make new discoveries every time they visit.



The park offers events everyone can join, from kids to adults.
© TOKYO ISLAND 2023 All Rights Reserved./ Pic by Tetsuya Yamakawa

Green Urban Development
TOKYO GREEN BIZ

Operating on the concept that envisions green urban development for the next 100 years, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government is pushing initiatives to protect, cultivate, and utilize Tokyo's greenery.