



Disaster Prevention Collective Relocation Promotion Project / Utilizing Areas Vacated by Collective Relocation Project

[Background]

During the Great East Japan Earthquake that struck on March 11, 2011, gigantic tsunami waves that swept the eastern coastal area of Sendai City resulted in the loss of many lives and complete devastation of residences and farmlands, etc.

[Response]

Besides from adopting tsunami risk reduction measures such as constructing coastal levees and elevated roads, regions at high risk of experiencing tsunami damages are specified as designated disaster risk areas where construction of residential buildings is prohibited. Efforts of relocating residents to lower risk regions were also made in order to protect the safety of people living in high risk regions.

Nevertheless, in order to create new appeals and values for the relocation sites, the city is making efforts to promote utilization of relocation sites alongside citizens and private sector companies.

1 Eastern Sendai Disaster Prevention Collective Relocation Promotion Project

The City of Sendai had prepared relocation sites for citizens who were living in designated disaster risk areas to relocate to, and constructed public facilities such as water supply, sewage, meeting halls, etc. at the relocation sites.

Other relocation promotion efforts include subsidizing reconstruction of homes for people who relocated, acquiring land in designated disaster risk areas, providing support for victims of disaster, and more.

From specifying designated disaster risk areas to relocating residents, the City of Sendai proceeded with the project while organizing information sessions geared towards citizens and conducting survey of public opinions. By the end of March of 2017, 1773 households had been relocated (including relocation to Disaster Reconstruction Municipal Housing (refer to example 7)).



▲ Bird's Eye View Map



▲ Bird's Eye View of Relocation Site

2 Sendai City Utilizing Areas Vacated by Collective Relocation Project

Concrete discussions began in 2015 surrounding utilization of land purchased by the City of Sendai as a part of the Disaster Prevention Collective Relocation Promotion Project (vacated areas) in ways that takes into consideration of the memories of victims of disaster.

Besides from repurposing the vacated areas into parks and farmlands, the City of Sendai strived to fully utilize the liberal creativity and proposals brought on by civilians and to create spaces that embody these new appeals, by exchanging opinions with citizens and experts during the discussion phase.

As land use based on characteristics of the region, such as regional history and culture (life before the disaster, etc.) that

was lost to the earthquake, and the precious natural environment of the region, is being sought after, the City has been recruiting businesses capable of utilizing vacated areas since 2017, with the keywords 'Convey, Connection, Creation' in mind.

By September 2022, 13 businesses have been launched, of which include farms, dog runs, hot spring facilities and more, transforming the region into a place where people can have fun in diverse ways.

- ▲ Arahama area
Sendai Arahama Elementary School (Ruins of the Great East Japan Earthquake)
- ▲ Arahama area
JR Fruits Park Sendai Arahama (Sightseeing Orchard)
- ▲ Minami-Gamo area
Gamo Park (Dog Run)
- ▲ Fujitsuka area
AQUAIGNIS SENDAI (Multi-function Facility)