

Welcome to the Tarouemon Nature Restoration Area!



Arakawa Tarouemon Area
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- I can give you the latest news about the Tarouemon Nature Restoration Area, tell you the history of the Arakawa River, tell you about the flood control facilities and give you an explanation of biotopes in the area.

- 1) Latest topics
- 2) The history of the Arakawa River
- 3) Straightening of the river channel and the construction of continuous levees
- 4) Cross-levees
- 5) The former river channel
- 6) Local biotopes
- 7) Fauna and flora to be seen here

1) Latest topics



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- People interested in this place are talking about how we can make it even better.

- Check out their discussions here↓
http://www.ktr.mlit.go.jp/arajo/arajo_index050.html
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2) The history of the Arakawa River



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- The course of the Arakawa River has been artificially altered twice in the past.
- The first time was in the Edo Period, when the river channel at Kuge in Kumagaya City in which the river originally flowed was changed to its present course (converging with the Iruma River).
- This rerouting is called the Arakawa westward shift.



2) The history of the Arakawa River



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- The second time was after the devastating flooding of 1910, when the meandering river was straightened out.
- It was also at this time that the continuous levees and cross-levees were put in place.

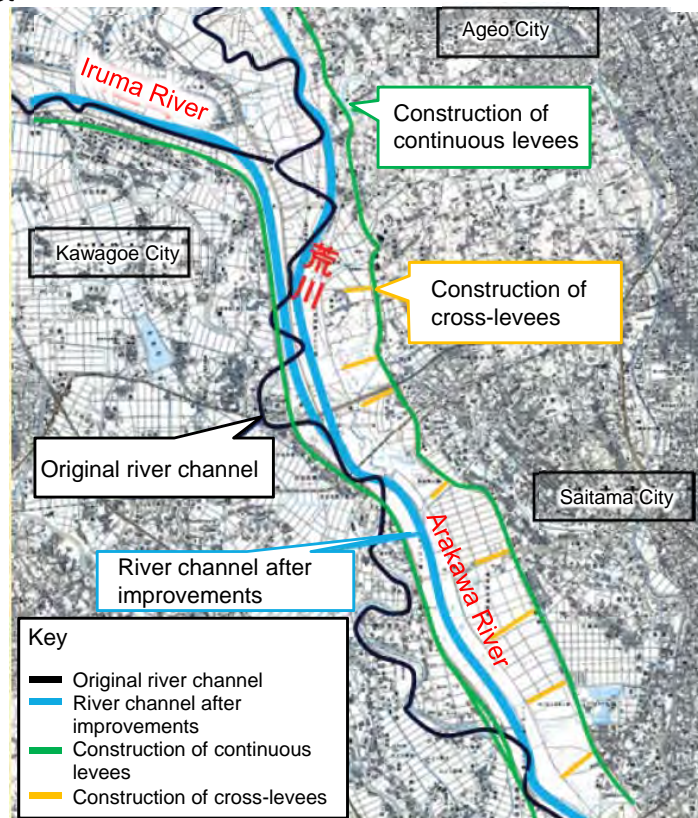


3) Straightening of the river channel and the construction of continuous levees



- The meandering river channel was excavated and straightened. It was mainly from the soil excavated at that time that the continuous levees were built.
- Cross-levees were also constructed, taking advantage of the width of the riverbed. The cross-levees provide an enhanced flood-control effect, while also playing a part in protecting agricultural land.

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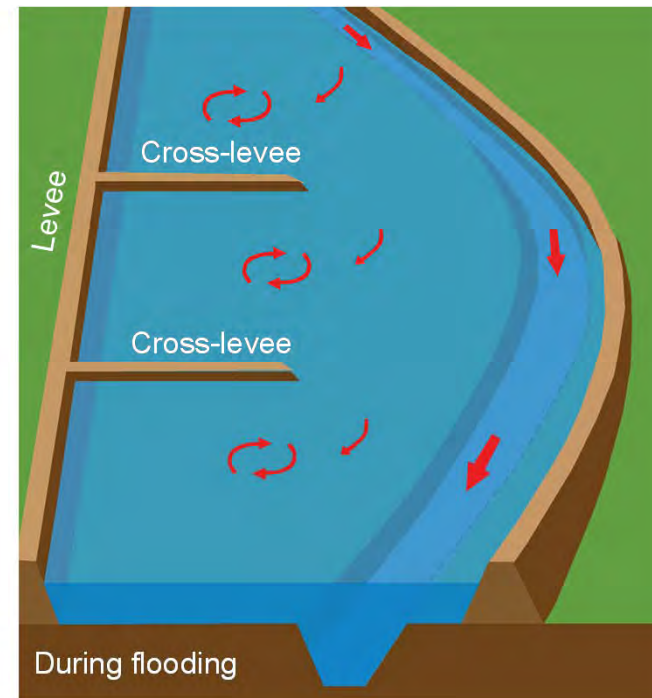
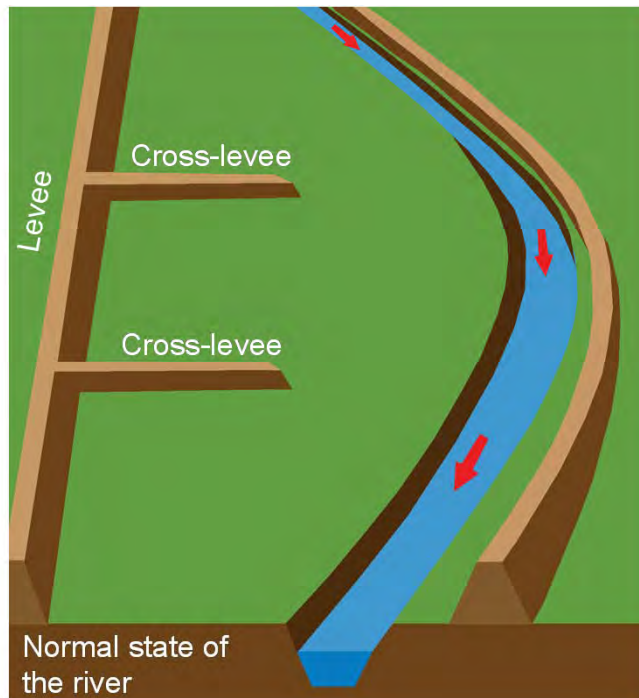


4) Cross-levees



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- The Arakawa River is wide, and this was taken advantage of to install 'cross-levees' that work to mitigate the momentum of floodwaters
- The cross-levees play a part in reducing the amount of water that flows downstream at the peak of flooding.



4) Cross-levees



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- Cross-levees were built at a total of 27 locations (currently 25 locations) along a section of river approximately 35 km long, from the vicinity of Nukada Bridge in Yoshimi Town to the vicinity of Sasame Bridge in Toda City.
- In addition to flood control, the cross-levees are also used in part to carry road and railway bridges.



◀ At Meishu in Yoshimi Town, a large-scale cross-levee was constructed. After the improvements, settlements that avoided the flood-prone northern side and used the southern side came to gather in the lee of the cross-levee.



◀ The Komyo Shinden cross-levee was built approximately 1.7 m long, almost at right-angles from the right-bank levee of the Arakawa River. Today a road runs along it, and the riverside area is used for paddies, fields, a golf course and sports ground.

5) The former river channel

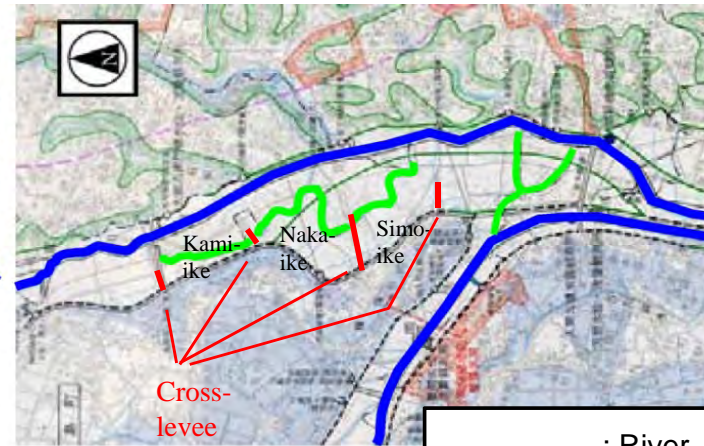


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- The river course meandered until 1954, when it was straightened out. Kami-ike pond, Naka-ike pond and Simo-ike pond are where the river channel used to be.



1881 Military Map



Current river channel

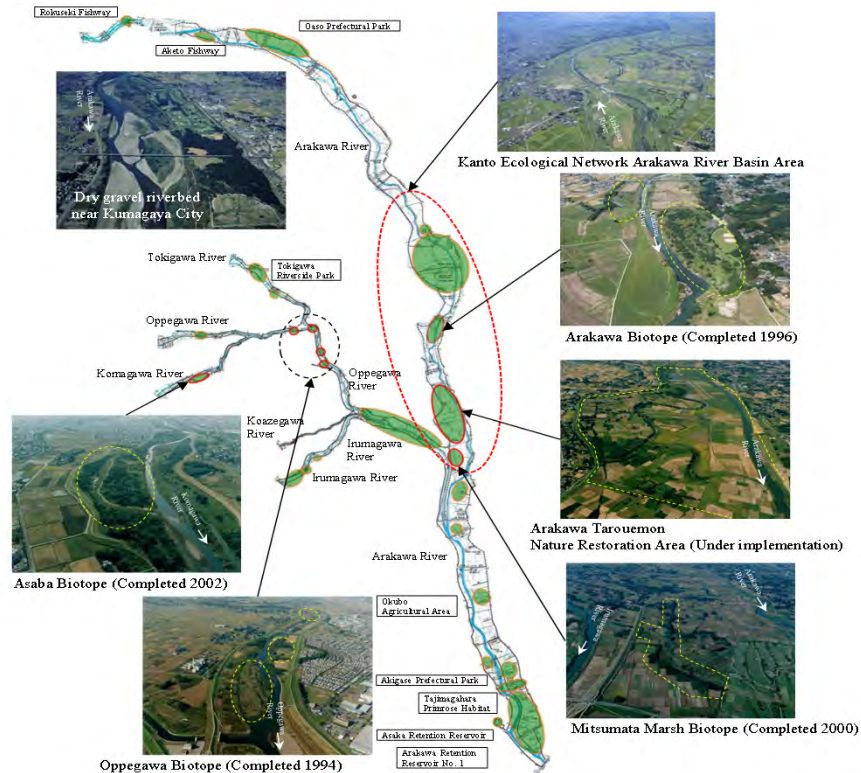
— : River
— : Former river channel

6) Local biotopes



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- Arakawa is dotted with large-scale natural areas, including the Tarouemon Nature Restoration Area.
The Mitsumatanuma Biotope is very near – you should pay it a visit!

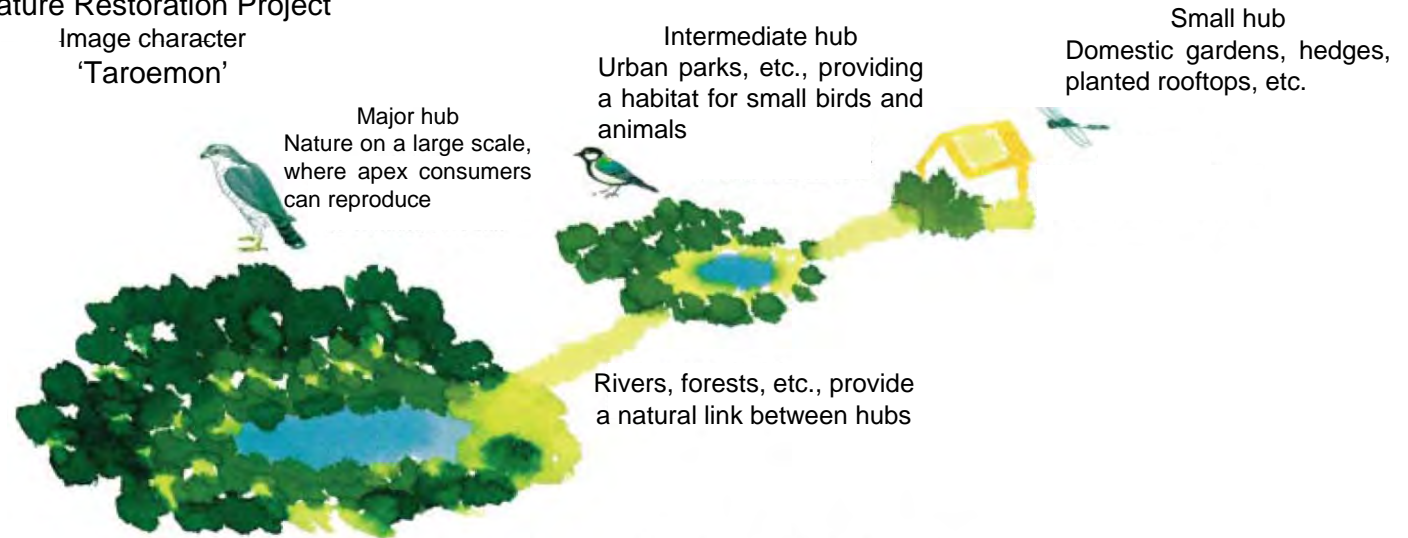


6) Local biotopes



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- It's thought that the formation of an ecological network leads to the formation of a natural environment in which apex consumers can reproduce.



View of the ecological network

7) Fauna and flora to be seen here

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- The *Neozephyrus japonicus* butterfly and the alder tree are fauna and flora typical of the Arakawa River.
- In the Tarouemon Nature Restoration Area, alder trees have been transplanted to replace those lost, in an initiative to increase the population of *Neozephyrus japonicus* butterflies.



Neozephyrus japonicus

The *Neozephyrus japonica* butterfly is known to favor young alder trees. The female butterfly has a tendency to lay her eggs on young alder trees. On hatching the caterpillar wraps itself in an alder leaf and grows as it eats the leaf. Adult butterflies can be seen from June to September.



Alder trees

The alder is a tall tree that grows in floodplain wetlands and abandoned paddies. It is a species typical of the Arakawa River floodplain, and produces a fruit that resembles a small pinecone. The alder tree is beneficial to many insects, including the caterpillar of the *Neozephyrus japonica* butterfly, which feeds on its leaves.

※The addition of more pages like this introducing fauna and flora is under consideration.

※Source material on fauna and flora :

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Office for the Upper Reaches of the Arakawa River

idem

(2003) 'Nature of Arakawa Illustrated Reference, The Flora of Arakawa'
(2004) 'Nature of Arakawa Illustrated Reference, The Fauna of Arakawa'

Going forward....



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This information will be continually updated.
Be sure to come back !