

Utilization of Qualification for Park Administrators to improve their professional abilities and certify park administrators

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1. Foreword

The number of officials in many local governments has been steadily decreasing because of escalating fiscal constraints and administrative reforms, among other reasons. The shortage or complete absence of local government officials with specialized knowledge and technical skills in the maintenance, management, and operation of urban parks has become increasingly more conspicuous and has become a more serious problem for smaller local governments.

For this reason, while holding on to the principle that the maintenance, management, and operation of urban parks shall be performed by local government officials, it is also necessary to promote the establishment of a system in which local governments can maintain, manage, and operate urban parks with the support of private sector personnel who have specialized knowledge and technical skills in related fields, depending on the situation.

The purpose of this study is to prepare technical materials that can be used as a reference when local governments decide to utilize qualified personnel in the private sector for the purpose of helping maintain, manage, and operate urban parks. Accordingly, we surveyed the status and effects of the utilization by local governments of private sector qualified personnel in the maintenance, management, and operation of urban parks.

2. Overview of Survey

With regard to private sector qualifications in the maintenance, management, and operation of urban parks (see Table 1), we collected available information by researching websites, making inquiries into the relevant host organizations, and organized information concerning related qualification systems (contents and levels of required technical skills, track records of each qualification being used as criteria for eligibility for participation in tenders, among other things).

With regard to the status and effects of the utilization by local governments of private sector qualified personnel in the maintenance, management, and operation of urban parks as listed in Table 1, we conducted a questionnaire survey for local governments (see Table 2), and the results of the questionnaire survey are as shown in Figure 1.

3. Next Steps

We plan to prepare technical materials that can be used by local governments as a reference when they decide to utilize private sector qualified personnel in the maintenance, management, and operation of urban parks by summarizing the effects of the utilization of such private-sector qualified personnel and procedures for placing orders for public works with them, among other things, based on the results of the questionnaire survey in 2 above. The technical materials are provisionally titled “Explanatory Materials on New Tools for Urban Park Management.”

Table 1. List of Private Sector Qualifications Surveyed

NO	Name of Qualification	NO	Name of Qualification
1	Professional Engineer	26	Garden Designer
2	Registered Civil Engineering Consulting Manager (RCCM)	27	Garden Coordinator
3	Registered Landscape Architect (RLA)	28	Green Advisor
4	Rooftop Gardening Coordinator	29	Horticultural Welfare Care Worker
5	Interior Planner	30	Park Facilities and Products Safety Manager
6	Welfare and Residential Environment Coordinator	31	Park Facilities and Products Maintenance Engineer
7	Forest Engineer	32	Park Administrator
8	Landscape Gardening Work Operation and Management Engineer	33	Certified Park Professional (CPP) and Certified International Park Professional (CIPP)
9	Landscape Gardener	34	Recreation Coordinator
10	Registered Key Landscape Gardening Technician	35	Event Director
11	Garden Manager	36	Test for Technical Ability of Service and Receiving Visitors
12	Garden Designer	37	Service Care Fitter
13	Slope Construction Manager	38	Test for Ability of Biological Classification
14	Sports Facilities Construction Engineer	39	Vegetation Manager
15	Registered Key Sports Facilities Technician	40	Biotope Planner and Builder
16	Tree Doctor	41	Biotope Adviser
17	Pine Tree Preservation Expert	42	Environmental Restoration Doctor
18	Street Tree Pruner	43	Nature Restoration Promoter
19	Street Tree Consultant	44	Environmental Technology Instructor
20	Turf Grass Manager	45	Green Saver Certification Test
21	Tree Planting Soil Consultant	46	Forest Instructor
22	Pesticide Management Adviser	47	Project Wild
23	Excellent Technician/Supreme Technician (Master)	48	Nature Observation Instructor
24	Environmental Afforestation Tree Identification Certification	49	Secondary Forest Natural Environment Improvement Manager
25	Exterior Planner	50	Biomass Utilization Adviser

Table 2. Overview of Questionnaire Survey

Local Governments Surveyed	Officials in charge of parks at 322 local governments (i.e. 47 prefectures, 268 cities with population of 100,000 or more, and 7 special wards with population of 500,000 or more)
Survey Questions	Utilization of private sector qualified personnel, names of qualifications that they held and how they were utilized, benefits of utilizing them, reason for not utilizing them, etc.
Number of Respondents	75.1% (243/322)

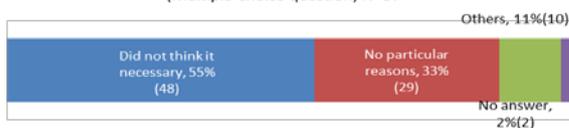
Have you utilized qualified private-sector personnel (including personnel with national qualifications, etc.)? (Multiple-choice question) N=243



Benefits of utilizing private-sector qualified personnel (Free answer)

Ensure the safety and quality of park facilities, enhance the quality of public services, obtain the understanding of local residents, etc.

Reason for not utilizing private-sector qualified personnel (Multiple-choice question) N=87



Private Sector Qualified Personnel Utilized (To be selected from the list in Table 1.)

