

Functional Improvement Method of Urban Parks Responding to an Aged Society with a Low Birth Rate (Research period: FY2017 to FY2018)

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1. Introduction

As declining birthrate and aging have been proceeding in society, urban parks are required to introduce functions responding to changes in social needs, such as child-rearing support functions particularly as response to declining birthrate or health and welfare functions as response to aging. This study aims to examine how to introduce such functions and direction of solutions to facing issues and create technical material for introduction procedures of such functions.

2. Research contents and results

We researched the examples of urban parks (including overseas examples) about the following (i) to (iv) and organized contents, devices in implementation, issues, etc.

- (i) Example with the child-rearing support function
- (ii) Example with the health / welfare function responding to aging
- (iii) Example of renovation / re-development of an urban park
- (iv) Example of concentration / reorganization according to functional sharing in an urban park

The following describes the outline of examples recognized in the researches (i) and (ii).

(1) Example with the child-rearing support function
Research was made on 19 examples in which a day nursery^{Note)} is located or planned and 21 examples in which any child-rearing support function other than establishment of a day nursery has been introduced. In some of the examples in which a day nursery was established, for the purpose of promoting park use, there are also facilities in the premises of day nursery, which are available by general park users and local residents other than users of day nursery facilities, including child-rearing communication salon,



Photo 1: Example of a day nursery installation (Yokohama City Sorimachi Park)

multiple-purpose toilet, roof square, free cafe, and outdoor clock (Photo 1).

In some of the examples in which child-rearing support functions other than day nursery establishment were introduced, child-rearing support facilities where various indoor child-rearing support programs, such as children playing, childrearing consultation, and child-rearing salon, are available have been established or an infant corner has been established at a corner of the existing park.

(2) Example with the health / welfare function responding to aging

A total of 33 examples were researched in which structural measures such as development of facilities with the health / welfare function responding to aging or non-structural measures such as holding of a health class are conducted. In the examples of structural measures, there was an example in which a jogging course, health appliances for the elderly, etc. were installed when opening a park or redeveloping an existing park (Photo 2) or in which an urban park was developed aiming to promote total health integratedly with adjacent medical and welfare facilities. Examples of non-structural measures include holding of a health class as mentioned above, practice of health exercise in the park, implementation of the walking program, support of activities of the elderly using the characteristics of the park, etc.



健康遊具配置図

健康遊具の例

Photo 2: Example of health play equipment installation (Metropolitan Shioiri Park)

3. Utilization of findings

Based on these research examples etc., we intend to organize points and considerations in introduction of functions, including position in the legal system such as exclusive use permission, appropriate locational conditions of urban parks, and conditions of park facilities, and to publish the results as Technical Note of NILIM,

Note) In the partial revision of the Urban Parks Act in 2017, social welfare facilities (commuting service) including day nursery were added as a target of exclusive use in urban parks.