

Tomatoh Environmental Commons

Sharing the landscape of Yufutsu Plain



↑ Hokkaido sika deer in coppice



↑ coppice in autumn



↑ demonstration of culling



↑ coppice excursion

↓ blessing from coppice



↑ ↓ log & transport by pony



↑ safe culling training



↓ Kashiwabara footpath with visitors



↓ firewood yard



↑ Akan excursion



What is Tomatoh Environmental Commons?

Tomatoh Environmental Commons aims to conserve and utilize Tomatoh's rich nature. It constructs up "environmental commons" in Tomatoh and experimentally conserve / utilize the area through a collaboration of non-profits, citizens, corporations and the government.

"Environmental Commons" is an interactive system that citizens utilize, manage, and share information of the environment under the private property. It aims to sustainably conserve the environment through the multi-layered use of the land.

"Tomatoh Environmental Commons" is a non-profit organization that pursues this conservation and utilization in collaboration with the land owners.

What is the commons? What is the feature of Tomatoh Environmental Commons?

The commons, in general, refers to collaborative management system of local environment and is often illustrated as the key to sustainability through accumulated knowledge of nature and resources.

The scope of "Tomatoh Environmental Commons" not only follows the above illustration but also have inherent aspects of the area. The features of Tomatoh Commons are: The land is owned by the public organization. The local people have freely enjoyed the nature by custom. The area has been highly recognized both as the landscape of the historical wild and as recreational land for citizens.

How does Environmental Commons contribute to Tomatoh and Yufutsu plain?

The land of Tomatoh covers a wide area of 10 square km. It includes thermal power plants, oil depots and industrial site of car manufacturers and so on. It also includes big roads and wide green area. The green area consists of forest, wet land and the wild land that is far from being completely managed.

Tomatoh Environmental Commons uses a part of the area and coordinates various activities such as garbage cleaning, fire prevention, forest management and so on.

It aims to involve human activities in the area, develop the landscape, and go forward to sustainable nature and society.



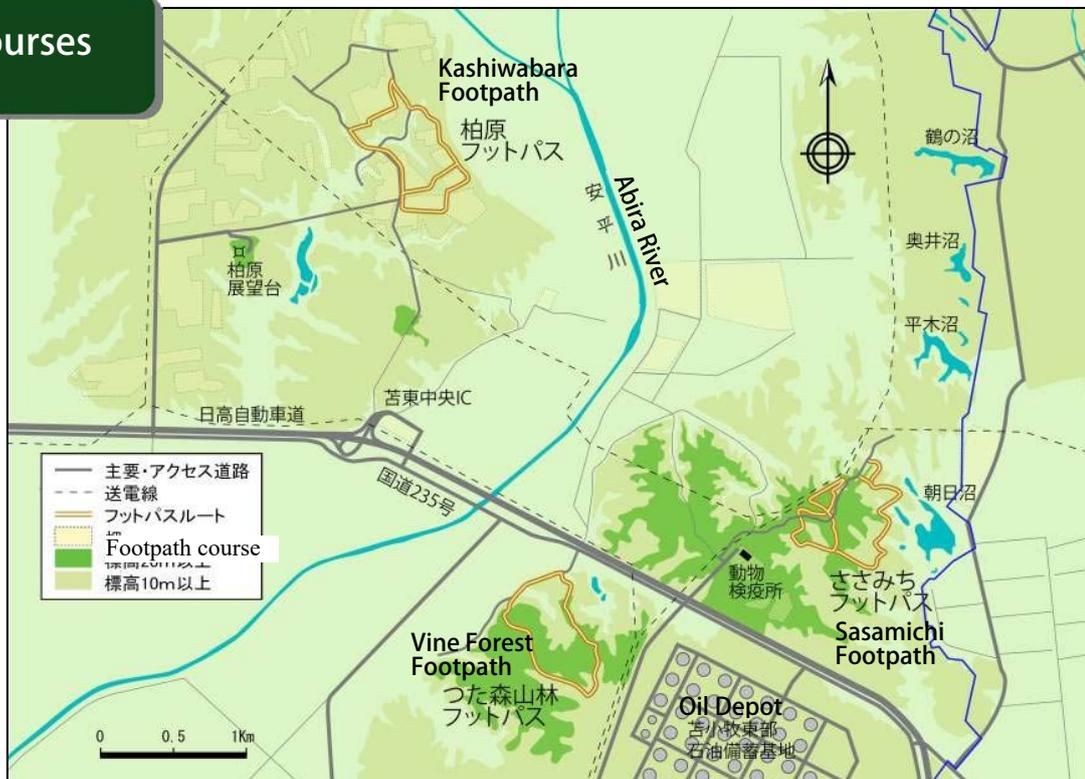
Zone Description:

- (1) **Ohshima forest:** This forest is named Ohshima after the landowner's name. It's a core forest area which is dominated by deciduous broad-leaved trees in the Tomatoh Environmental Commons. Toasa Neighborhood have managed the forest with its own initiative since 1995. The Tomatoh Environmental Commons originated with the management of this forest.
- (2) **Roadside multiple use area:** This area is situated in the northernmost tip of Tomatoh, and is most accessible area. The area includes an experimental forest for reforestation/afforestation (the Hokkaido Regional Development Bureau entrusted it management to the he Tomatoh Environmental Commons), Kyu-ikoi-no-hiroba (a park made and used by citizens), a cosmos garden, and the entrance that is harmonious with the surrounding landscape.
- (3) **Kashiwabara foot path:** A foot path across glass land mixed with swamps and coppice (secondary forest).
- (4) **Oak forest (*Quercus serrata* dominated forest):** The Oak forest is a forest which has been conserved as zokibayashi (coppice) by the Tomatoh Environmental Commons since 1990.

“Zokibayashi” generally means a coppice where local people used to collect firewood, wood for charcoal making, and leaves as well as twigs for manure. Citizens started to be involved in managing the forest in 1994. A foot-path was built by the Tomatoh Environmental Commons. It is popular among people who suffer from depression.

- (5) **Natural restoration area:** Many trees were destroyed due to the stormy wind brought by Typhoon Fifteen in 1981. About 40 hectare-land in the destroyed area has been restored as naturally-regenerating forests. It can be regarded as an eco-museum of natural restoration.
- (6) **Tsutanomori forest & Yamabe-Yuhi-no-sato:** The nucleus of Tomato green area. Forest roads can be used as foot-paths. The foot of the hill around the border of the area where the National Tree Planting Ceremony was held is the best place to see the sun set. Stakeholders including non-profits, citizens and other organizations just started the “Nagomi-no-mori” project, which aims to build new relationships between multiple stakeholders and the forest.
- (7) **Haskap berry (*Lonicera caerulea*) sanctuary:** This area was a wet land in the past but was later dried. Now haskap berry (*Lonicera caerulea*) grows widely in this area.
- (8) **Afforestation/reforestation area:** This forest area was afforested/reforested about 20 years ago by using the subsidy granted to the municipality that accepts oil depots. Planted trees grows.
- (9) **Hamaatsuma natural sandy beach:** A magnificent natural sandy beach. Hama-matsuri festivals have been held over the past 20 years by local people. This beach is also popular with surfers.
- (10) **Yufutsu wild flower garden:** Flower garden for plants growing along a seashore in Tomakomai.

Footpath courses



Activities of Tomatoh Environmental Commons.

- Conservation: Sustainable management of coppice (mainly oak). Conservation of wet land as habitat of Haskap (*Lonicra caerulea*).
- Utilization of the green area: Support for forest management. Set-up, management and social network building of foot paths.
- Research: Research on coppice conservation and wild animals such as bears.

Contact:

Tomatoh Environmental Commons, a non-profit corporation

Secretary-general: KUSAKARI Takeshi e-mail kt-884-556@nifty.com phone: +81-90-6999-2765