1. Natural Parks

Natural parks are those parks which have been designated under the provisions of the National Park Law. Natural parks are classified by the degree and scale of the scenic beauty of the site location into national parks, quasi-national parks, and prefectural natural parks. As of April 1, 1972, 30 national parks covering an area of 1,036,000 ha, 18 quasi-national parks covering an area of 1,512,000 ha, were designated. As of March 31, 1972, prefectural parks were designated in all prefectures, except the three prefectures of Aomori, Okinawa and Kagawa, consisting of 276 locations and covering an area of 5,000,000 ha. In Kagoshima Prefecture, three national protection areas are designated; and in some Prefectures, there are both prefectural parks which are not listed on the Natural Park Law.

The National Park Law designates a part of the natural park as a special protection area or the quasi-national park or a special area (Grades 1 to 3) and strengthens the control of various activities in such an area, in order to protect the scenic beauty of scenic locations of natural parks. The law also designates certain parks in national or quasi-national parks, strengthening the control of various activities in marine parks in order to preserve the excellent marine beauty.

Some natural parks are designated regardless of the ownership of land, privatic land in the special protection area and Grade 3 protection area, where particularly distinctive landscape is cared for, is purchased and made into a government land in order to obtain the preservation of beauty, and for promoting various education facilities from being disorderly set up in the park area, a group facility area is established.

Users of natural parks are increasing yearly. Both the number of users of both national and quasi-national parks and the number of users per 100,000 people, continued to increase until 1971, but slightly decreased in 1972, and the total number of users also tapered off. The number of users of national parks in 1971 included 47,500,000 persons for the Honshu-National Natural Park, being the largest in number, followed by the 10,000,000 persons for Sero Natural National Park and by 25,000,000 persons for Zunkizaki Kogen National Park.

The number of users of quasi-national parks included 64,000,000 persons for Rokko quasi-National Park, 21,500,000 persons for Nakanawa quasi-National Park, and 2,600,000 persons for Mikuni Was quasi-National Park.

Saliens Points of the Legend and Map Compilation

This map shows the scope of national and quasi-national parks as of April 1, 1974, and prefectural natural parks as of March 31, 1972. Special protection areas in national and quasi-national parks are shown with the actual topographic shape of the area having a larger area and with small symbols for areas such as having a sea area.

References

1. Data from the Environment Agency.
3. Data from Prefectural Governments.

2. Public Parks

Public parks are parks or green zones which are generally established by local public entities under the provisions of the Public Parks Law in City Planning Areas designated under the provisions of the City Planning Law. Public parks are broadly classified into basic parks, larger green zones, special parks, and larger parks, etc.

Setting-up of public parks is aimed at preventing the bad effects of increase urbanization centralization of the population and industries and improving the living environments of cities. For this reason, the Public Parks Law stipulated that the construction areas and buildings which were to be confined within the park areas and park facilities should not exceed two-thirds of the park area. As of March 31, 1972, there were 1,068 City Planning Areas, and local public entities contained in these areas are 1,780,000 ha. The total area of the City Planning Areas was 706,000 ha which accounted for about 30% of the total area of Japan, and the population in these areas amounted to 18,500,000 persons which account for about 40% of the total population of Japan.

The established standard for public parks was 4,000 ha and above per inhabitant of the City Planning Area or 3,000 ha and above per inhabitant of the urban district in the City Planning Area. As of March 31, 1972, however, the number of public parks was 13,500, their total area was 15,300 ha, and the actual area of public parks per inhabitant within the City Planning Area was, on the average, 34.1 ha.

The area of public parks per inhabitant of the City Planning Area charted by St. Mat and Mura was as follows: 18.2 ha and above for 41%, 10.6 to 18.2 for 62%, 4.0 to 10.6 for 6%, of above-mentioned St. Mat and Mura and below 4.0 for 1% of above-mentioned St. Mat and Mura. There were 790 St. Mat and Mura, which have no public parks, although such small communities have City Planning Areas.

On public parks and green zones which constitute City Planning Areas, those which have been established by the Government included the following: national parks, former gardens and estates of the Imperial Household, such as the Outer Garden of the Imperial Palace, the Kyoto Imperial Gardens, the Kyoto Imperial Garden, Kitanomaru Park, and the Higashiyama Imperial Garden; Maruo Kiyotake Park, Ando Government-operated Park and Yoshinogawa Riverline Government-operated Park.

Besides the parks, there are historical national features preservation districts and archeological green zone preservation districts, as districts under the provisions of the City Planning Law.

Saliens Points of the Legend and Map Compilation

This map shows the area of public parks classified by St. Mat and Mura, the area of the parks per public inhabitant in the City Planning Area, and St. Mat and Mura which come under the City Planning Law as of March 31, 1972.

The City Planning Area is not designated for each St. Mat and Mura, but part of the administrative areas of St. Mat and Mura are sometimes shown in this map. However, the scope of the City Planning Area is not indicated, but each St. Mat and Mura which come under the provisions of the City Planning Law are separately shown in a uniform color.

References

1. Data from the Ministry of Construction.