# **Certification System for Securing Quantity and Quality Urban Green Space**





### **Overview of the Certification**



- Based on the Urban Green Space Act, the Minister of MLIT evaluates and certifies the efforts of private companies to <u>secure quality urban green spaces</u> from the viewpoints of <u>quantity and quality of green</u> <u>spaces</u>: including <u>climate change</u> countermeasures, securing <u>biodiversity</u>, and improving <u>Well-being</u>, etc.
  The certification is based on conformity with the "Standards for Securing Quantity and Quality of Green Space"
- The certification Is based on conformity with the "Standards for Securing Quantity and Quality of Green Space" established by MLIT.
  - \* The standards stipulate measures to be taken by private companies in the development and management of green spaces.

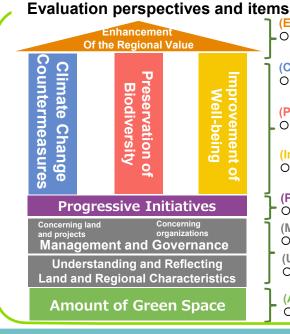
#### Certification Framework

#### **Urban Green Space Act**

#### Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

- Formulates the "Standards for Securing Quantity and Quality of Green Space"
- Evaluates and certifies conformity with the Standards

(i) (ii) Application Certification



#### (Enhancement of the Regional Value)

 Formation of regional communities, ecosystem networks and wind paths etc.

#### (Climate Change Countermeasures)

 Absorption and reduce emission of GHG, heatstroke countermeasures, flood control, resource recycling etc.

#### (Preservation of Biodiversity)

O Ensuring habitat and growth diversity environment, harmony with surrounding environment, environmental education, etc.

#### (Improvement of Well-being)

O Improvement of health, pleasant landscape, safe and secure spaces, creation of lively atmosphere, etc.

#### (Progressive Initiatives)

O Progressive Initiatives Plan

#### (Management and Governance)

O Project management, transparency, communication etc.

#### (Understanding and Reflecting Regional Characteristics)

O Land and Regional Characteristics, consistency with administrative plans etc.

#### (Amount of Green Space)

O Green space ratio, green space area etc.

#### Private business operators, etc. carrying out initiatives for green space preservation

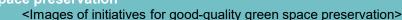
Create a Quality Green Space Securing Plan and apply for certification

#### [Eligible projects]

- (i) Projects creating new green spaces
- (ii) Projects contributing to the preservation or enhancement of the quality of existing green spaces

[Eligible areas]

Sites, etc. containing green spaces within city planning areas, etc.









## Support measures

- ♦ Interest-free loans by the government (Urban development funds) ... Within 1/2 of the amount eligible for the loan
- ◆ Subsidies by the government (Green Infrastructure City Development Support Programme)...Within 1/2 of the amount eligible for subsidies 1



### **Urban Green Space Act**

Article 87

Article 88, etc.

## The Standards for Securing Quantity and Quality Green Space

- 1. <u>Basic approach</u> when tackling initiatives to preserve green space in cities
- 2. Matters which should be tackled by green space preservation business operators and matters they should take into consideration
  - (1) Preservation of both the quality and quantity of green space
  - (2) Climate change countermeasures
  - (3) Preservation of biodiversity
  - (4) Enhanced well-being
  - (5) Management and governance
  - (6) Ascertaining and reflecting land and regional characteristics
  - (7) Enhancing the value of the region and preservation of network characteristics

\*Provision to the effect that matters pertaining to screening and certification of conformity with the guidelines shall be carried out using the separatelystipulated Systems Outline

## Cabinet Order (fees, etc.) Ministerial ordinance

(application method, matters stated in the plan, regular reporting method, etc.)

### Implementation Guideline

	Article 1	General rules
	Article 2	Purpose
	Article 3	Definitions
	Article 4	Eligible entities
	Article 5	Certification targets
	Article 6	Evaluation and certification standards
	Article 7	Screening Committee
	Article 8	Valid period of the certification
	Article 9	Handling of Outline changes after certification
	Article 10	Certification mark
	Article 11	Regular reporting
	Article 12	Green space area calculation method
	Article 13	Administration
7	Article 14	Other
	Supplementary provision	Effective date

Handbook For Application

### Eligible projects, areas, and entities

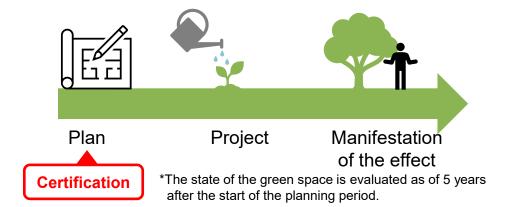


### **Eligible projects**

- Projects <u>creating</u> and managing <u>new green</u> <u>spaces</u>
- Projects <u>preserving</u> or <u>enhancing</u> the quality of <u>existing green spaces</u>



\*Evaluates and certifies plans concerning eligible projects.



### Eligible areas

 Sites, etc. containing green spaces\* within city planning areas, etc.

\*Green spaces in the Urban Green Space Act including not only woodlands and grasslands but also green spaces on artificial ground, rooftop and wall greening, agricultural land, etc.



### Eligible entities

Private business operators, etc. (including local governments)



Landowner or

Private company carrying out a project after obtaining the consent of the landowner etc.





### Areas eligible for certification

The areas eligible for certification shall be "overall sites containing green spaces."



In the case of a project across more than one site, the area of the overall projects\* carried out as an integrated project shall be eligible for certification.



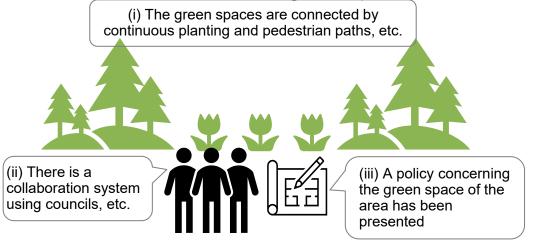
\*Urban redevelopment projects, district plans, etc.

### Certification of multiple green spaces in different projects

If the <u>distance between green spaces</u> <u>is 250m or less</u>, they can be certified as collective green space.



Even if there is 250m or more between green spaces, if certain conditions are satisfied there are cases in they can be certified as collective green space. (Area management, etc.)



### Targets of certification and evaluation

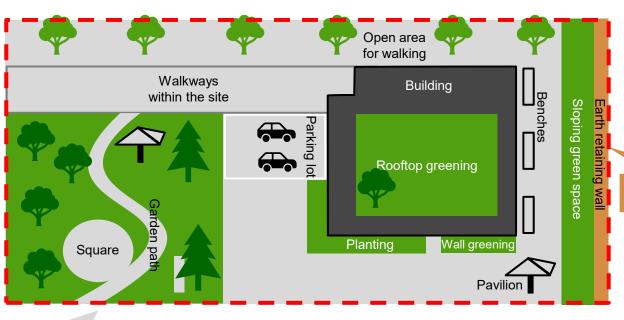




An area implementing green space securing projects

#### (ii) Green space

Facilities covered by natural objects such as trees, grass, flowerbeds, ponds, soil, etc.



#### (iv) Green space conservation facilities

Facilities necessary for conservation of green space (earth retaining wall, fire prevention facilities, etc.)

(iii) Facilities utilizing green space

Facilities necessary to using green space (= outdoor facilities within the site; the garden path, square, open area, walkways, the parking lot, benches, the pavilion, etc.)

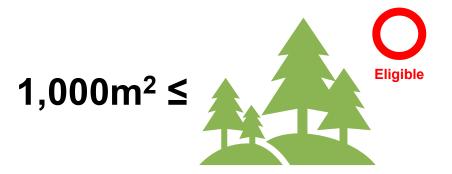
- 1) An area eligible for certification: "An area implementing a green space preservation project" = (i) Site
- 2) Target of evaluation = open area inside the site (including the rooftop greening and wall greening installed in the building)
- Green space + (iii) Facilities utilizing green space + (iv) Green space conservation facilities
- 3) Subject of the scale of the green space: "Green space area" = Area of (ii) Green space

### The scale of green space which is eligible



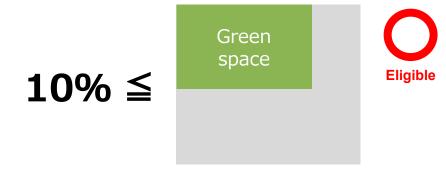
### Green space area

◆ Plans with <u>1,000m² or more of green space</u> <u>area</u> in the area are eligible for certification.



### **Green space ratio**

◆ Plans with <u>more than 10% of the green</u> space or more in the area are eligible for certification.



%Green space ratio is a factor of rank classification

### Comparison with the situation before

As a general rule, projects shall not be eligible for certification if their plan decreases the amount of green space compared to the land utilization before.\*

\*The amount of green space as of 2020 or the time of the plan application, whichever is greater, shall be considered to be "before."

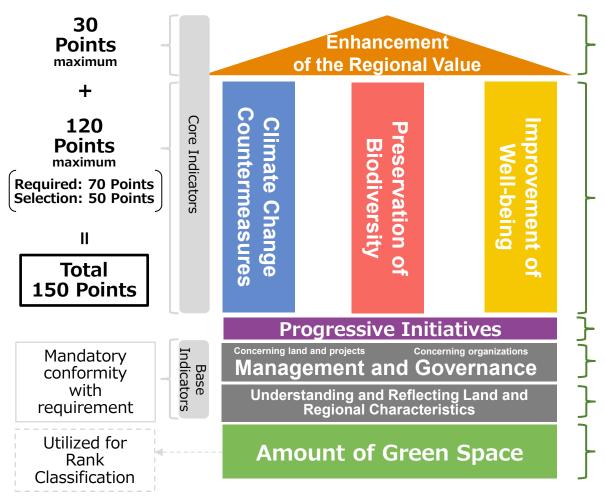


**Not Eligible** 

### **Evaluation Perspectives and Scoring**



- ◆ In the evaluation, "Quality" is scored in terms of "Climate Change Countermeasures," "Preservation of Biodiversity," "Improvement of Well-being," and the "Enhancement of the Regional Value". Besides, the "Quantity": "Amount of Green Space" is taken into account.
- "Management and Governance" and "Understanding and Reflecting Land and Regional Characteristics" are mandatory: Everyone must conform to the required level.
- ◆ The total score is **150 points**.



#### (Enhancement of the Regional Value)

O Formation of regional communities, ecosystem networks and wind paths etc.

#### (Climate Change Countermeasures)

 Absorption and reduce emission of GHG, heatstroke countermeasures, flood control, resource recycling etc.

#### (Preservation of Biodiversity)

O Ensuring habitat and growth diversity environment, harmony with surrounding environment, environmental education, etc.

#### (Improvement of Well-being)

O Improvement of health, pleasant landscape, safe and secure spaces, creation of lively atmosphere, etc.

#### (Progressive Initiatives)

O Progressive Initiatives Plan

#### (Management and Governance)

- O Project management, transparency, communication etc. (Understanding and Reflecting Regional Characteristics)
- O Land and Regional Characteristics, consistency with administrative plans etc.

#### (Amount of Green Space)

O Green space ratio, green space area etc.

### List of evaluation items



# Core Indicators

# Base Indicators

#### Climate change countermeasures (10items)

#### Preservation of biodiversity (12items)

#### Improvement of Well-being [13 items]

- ·Absorption of greenhouse gases by green
- Effective utilization of resources

- Reduction of water use
- Hierarchical structures
- ·Vegetation rooted in the local community
- Prevention from alien species
- Reduction of chemical pesticides and chemical fertilizers
- Management of chemical substances
- Procurement considering to biodiversity/sustainability

#### Selection [10itmes/22items]

- ·Carbon storage through wood use
- ·Reduction of Life-Cycle Carbon
- ·Reducing GHG emissions through the greening of buildings
- •Reduction of ground surface temperatures
- Formation of wind paths \*\*
- ·Heatstroke countermeasures using green shade
- Rainwater storage and infiltration ※
- Recycle materials

- Preservation of cohesive green spaces \*\*
- Ecotones
- ·Initiatives contributing to good habitat and growth environment formation
- Ecosystem networks \*\*
- Environmental education

- Ensuring openness
- !! ·Universal design
  - Crime prevention and safety
  - ·Improvement of physical health
- Improvement of mental health

- Evacuation sites
- ·Buffer green spaces
- Regional communities \*\*
- Interaction and stays
- ·Walkable spaces \*\*
- ·Roadside greening
- Design concepts
- ·Farming use

Progressive Initiatives (1 item)

Also counts as "Enhancement of the Regional Value"

#### Enhancement of the Regional Value (6 items)

- Formation of wind paths
- Rainwater storage and infiltration

- Preservation of cohesive green spaces
- Ecosystem networks

- ·Regional communities
- ·Walkable spaces

#### Management · Governance (9items)

- ·Clarification of the purpose and goals
- ·Creation of a development, maintenance and management plan
- · Clarification of the implementation system

- Involvement of experts
- ·Ensuring funds
- ·Implementation of monitoring
- Disclosure of information
- ·Communication with local residents, etc.
- Management of negative impacts

### Understanding and Reflecting Land and Regional Characteristics [5items]

- ·Natural environment, history, culture
- Social situation
- ·Compliance with regulations
- ·Administrative plans
- Setting of appropriate issues

## **List of evaluation items (Quality)**



(※) Enhancement of the Regional Value

	Perspective	Category		Required selection	( <b>※</b> )	Evaluation indicators
		Greenhouse gas absorption and fixation		Required	-	Absorption of greenhouse gases by green
				Selection	-	Carbon storage through wood use
	Climate change countermeasures	Greenhouse gas emissions reduction		Selection	-	Reduction of Life-Cycle Carbon
				Selection	-	Reducing GHG emissions through the greening of buildings
				Selection	-	Reduction of ground surface temperatures
	unte	Heat countermeasures	6	Selection	0	Formation of wind paths
	ermeas			Selection	-	Heatstroke countermeasures using green shade
	ures	Water disaster countermeasures		Selection	0	Rainwater storage and infiltration
		Resources recycling		Selection	-	Recycle materials
င္ပ				Required	-	Effective utilization of resources
Core evaluation	Preservation of biodiversity (Conservation and recovery of natural capital)	Conservation of water resources	11	Required	-	Reduction of water use
luati		Preservation of a diverse habitat and growth environment		Selection	0	Preservation of cohesive green spaces
9				Required	-	Hierarchical structures
				Selection	-	Ecotones
				Selection	-	Initiatives contributing to good habitat and growth environment formation
		Harmony with the surrounding environment		Required	-	Vegetation rooted in the local community
				Selection	0	Ecosystem networks
		Reduction of the impact on the ecosystem		Required	-	Prevention from alien species
				Required	-	Reduction of chemical pesticides and chemical fertilizers
				Required	-	Management of chemical substances
			21	Required	-	Procurement considering to biodiversity/sustainability
		Environmental education		Selection	-	Environmental education

	Parametrics Cotonomy No Required (W) Explication						
	Perspective Category		No	selection	( <b>※</b> )	Evaluation indicators	
		Open spaces	23	Required	-	Ensuring openness	
		Орен зрасез		Required	-	Universal design	
		Formation of secure and	25	Required	-	Crime prevention and safety	
	Improvement of Well-being	safe spaces		Selection	-	Evacuation sites	
			27	Selection	-	Buffer green spaces	
Col	eme	Improvement of physical		Required	-	Improvement of physical health	
re Ir	ent o	and psychological health	29	Required	-	Improvement of mental health	
Core Indicators	of Wel	Formation of regional communities		Selection	0	Regional communities	
ors	I-be	Creation of liveliness	31	Selection	-	Interaction and stays	
	ing	Creation of liveliness	32	Selection	0	Walkable spaces	
		Enhancement of	33	Selection	-	Roadside greening	
		landscape		Selection	-	Design concepts	
		Utilization of farming	35	Selection	-	Farming use	
	Common	Progressive Initiatives	36	Selection	-	Progressive Initiatives	
				Required	-	Clarification of the purpose and goals	
	Management and governance			Required	-	Creation of a development, maintenance and management plan	
		Appropriate project implementation	39	Required	-	Clarification of the implementation system	
				Required	-	Ensuring funds	
Ва				Required	-	Implementation of monitoring	
ISe I			42	Required	-	Involvement of experts	
Indi		Disclosure of information	43	Required	-	Disclosure of information	
Base Indicators		Communication with local residents, etc.		Required	-	Communication with local residents, etc.	
		Management of negative impacts		Required	-	Management of negative impacts	
	Understanding and Reflecting Land and Regional Characteristics	Land and regional characteristics		Required	-	Natural environment, history, culture	
				Required	-	Social situation	
		Laws and regulations and administrative plans		Required	-	Compliance with regulations	
				Required	-	Administrative plans	
		Issue setting	50	Required	-	Setting of appropriate issues	

### **Example of evaluation standards (Quality of Green Space)**





Biodiversity

Regional Value

**Biodiversity** 

Regional Valu

Well-being

Category: Greenhouse gas absorption and fixation

No.1: Absorption of greenhouse gases by green

[Evaluation indicators]

Does the plan create and manage green spaces as CO<sub>2</sub> sinks? [Evaluation standards]

Level 0: CO<sub>2</sub> absorption amount/site area = less than 0.2kg/m<sup>2</sup>

Level 1: CO<sub>2</sub> absorption amount/site area = 0.2kg/m<sup>2</sup> or more to less than 0.4kg/m<sup>2</sup>

Level 3: CO<sub>2</sub> absorption amount/site area = 0.4kg/m<sup>2</sup> or more to less than 0.6kg/m<sup>2</sup>

Level 5: CO<sub>2</sub> absorption amount/site area = 0.6kg/m<sup>2</sup> or more

【Points】

Level 0 : 0 Level 1 : 1

Level 3 : 3 Level 5 : 5

**Category: Harmony with the surrounding environment** 

No.16: Vegetation rooted in the local community

[Evaluation indicators]

Does the plan create and manage vegetation rooted in the local community? [Evaluation standards]

Trees and herbaceous vegetation (including shrubs and ground cover) that comprise a coherent area of green space or the entire area of green space

Level 0: Less than 30% of them are native species

Level 1:30% or more of them are native species (excl. native species produced overseas)

Level 3: 30% or more of them are native species (excl. native species produced overseas)

Level 5: 50% or more of them are local species

[Points] Level 0 : 0

Level 1 : 1 Level 3 : 3 Level 5 : 5

**Category: Creation of liveliness** 

No.32: Walkable spaces

[Evaluation indicators]

Does the plan create green spaces that contribute to the formation of walkable spaces in the community?

[Evaluation standards]

Level 0:Green spaces are unaccessible from public roads directly.

Level 1:Green spaces are accessible from public roads directly. Level 3:Green spaces are accessible directly from public roads, and it is possible to pass through the green spaces.

Level 5:There is a network that spreads out from the surrounding areas, allowing people to walk continuously through greenery.

[Points] Well-being Regional Value Total
Level 0 : 0 + 0 = 0
Level 1 : 1 + 1 = 2
Level 3 : 3 + 3 = 6

Level 5 : 5 + 5 = 1

### **Example of evaluation standards (Quality of Green Space)**



Management and Governance

**Category: Project plan** (development, maintenance and management, operation)

No.39: Clarification of the implementation system

[Evaluation indicators]

Does the plan clarify the implementation system and persons-in-charge?

[Evaluation standards]

The implementation system and persons-in-charge are clearly set out.

Conformity Judgment (Not scored)

Management and Governance

Understanding and
Reflecting Land and
Regional Characteristics

**Category: Land and regional characteristics** 

No.46: Natural environment, history, culture

[Evaluation indicators]

Have the origins of the land been ascertained and reflected in the plan?

[Evaluation standards]

The origins of the land and surrounding region (natural environment (terrain, vegetation, etc.), history, culture, etc.) have been ascertained and reflected in the plan.

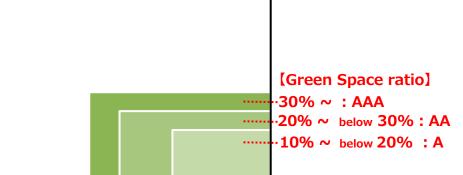
derstanding and Reflecting Land and Regional Characteristics

### **Certification Standards and Rank Classification**



- ◆ Projects that receive a <u>total score of over 60 points</u> as <u>"Quality of Green Space" AND meeting the requirements for "Green Space Area, Green Space Ratio" etc. are certified.</u>
- ◆ The certified projects are **classified into 3 ranks** in accordance with their Quality and Quantity.
- To be certified for each rank, <u>BOTH the "Quality" and "Quantity"</u> need to meet the corresponding rank for each rank.
  (e.g. [Quality: AA. Quantity: A]→[Rank:★])

#### Quantity (Green Space Ratio)



### Quality (Total Score)

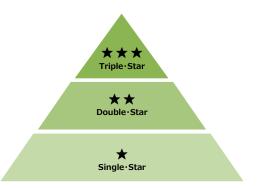
	Climate Change Countermeasures	Preservation of Biodiversity	Improvement of Well-being	Enhancement of the Regional Value	Progressive Initiatives	130-		75. 33	: AAA : AA
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#### Rank

Required:						
1,000m <sup>2</sup> or more						
of green space						

area

<b>Quantity</b> (Green Space Ratio)	Quality (Total Score)	Rank
<b>AAA</b> (30% ~)	<b>AAA</b> (100 ~)	★★★ (Triple•Star)
<b>AA</b> (20% ~ below30%)	<b>AA</b> (80~99)	★★ (Double•Star)
<b>A</b> (10% ~ below 20%)	<b>A</b> (60∼79)	★ (Single·Star)

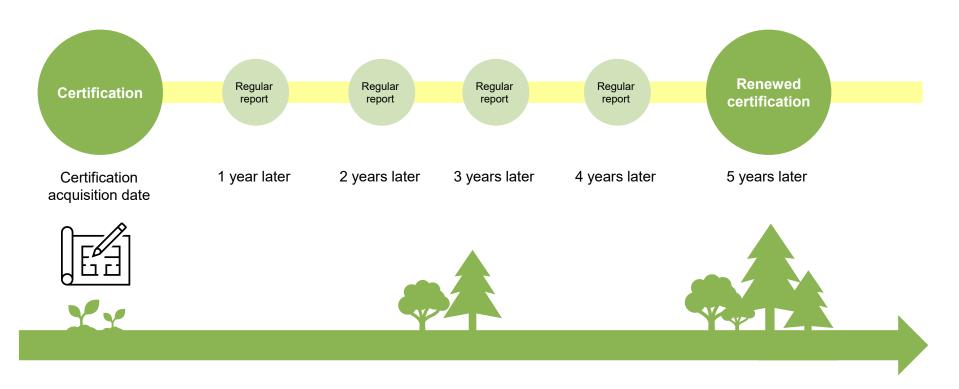


### Valid period and annual report



- ◆ The valid period shall be <u>5 years from the acquisition date</u> and, if desired, renewal is possible via a renewal screening.
- ◆ A regular report by the business operator every one year is necessary.

\*In the case that the project does not conform with the evaluation standards in the regular report, the project shall be subject to advice and an improvement order, and in the case that the business operator does not act in accordance with the order, the certification shall be revoked.



### **Process of the Screening and Certification**



- ◆ The process from application to certification consists of ①Preliminary Consultation, ②Pre-check, ③Application, ④Examination, and ⑤Certification.
- **1** Preliminary **3**Application **4** Examination **5** Certification 2 Pre-check Consultation Pre-check Pre-check Examination Examination **Application** Certification Pre-application (Screening (Administration (Screening (Administration Office) Committee) Office) Committee) Document Preparation **Applicant** Official Receipt of Document Additional Additional Certification Submission Document Document Document Submission Submission Submission Questions/ Ouestions/ Notification of Confirmations Confirmations Certification Notification of ↑ Need more Examination check Completion of (Administration Office) Pre-check > Pre-check Certification Need more check Examination (Screening Pre-check Committee) Clear Clear