



The Walkable Community: City Planning Through Green Mapmaking

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Background: Walking Research Yields Fresh Discoveries

The ideas that were first introduced by Owariasahi's Green Map team in 2003 continue to interest residents in field research walks. These walks allow participants to undertake research specific to their interests. Popular themes include nature, history, welfare, traffic, scenic and lifestyle, with each theme having its own route and brief introduction on a flyer. The teams host as many as 10 research walks a year. The collected data is shown on a Green Map made for the city's annual fair.



Encounter with a neighborhood historian during field research



Tutorial on how to use the broom plant



Owariasahi Green Map (2005)

Impacts: The Green Map Contributes to City Planning

The Green Mapmakers' research was submitted to the Owariasahi Environmental Office. The city officials' improvement planning benefited from the detailed discoveries collected by the Green Map team. For example, a dumpsite on the

river was cleaned up only after Mr. Wakasugi and the Green Mapmakers brought it to the City's attention. When other citizen complaints failed to solve the dumpsite problem, the Green Mapmakers spurred officials to action. The map thus

became a resource and a source of support for environmental officials when asking the planning department for action. Mr. Wakasugi continues to participate in the City's workshops to contribute the planning expertise and awareness gained through this process.

Water quality testing based on the Mapmakers' environmental assessments



The Green Map has also been used to support careful development. The City conducted water quality tests based on the map's environmental assessment, and it led to the creation of a walking path in the northern forest of Owariasahi, connecting residents with the area's natural resources.