

Restoration of “Ajisai (Hydrangea) Road” in Itadori Area, Seki-City, Gifu Prefecture

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1. Introduction

Both the National Route 256 and Prefectural Route 52 in the Itadori area of Seki City, Gifu Prefecture, are called “Ajisai Road,” with approximately 100,000 hydrangeas planted along the road’s 24-km stretch. It is one of the important tourism resources for the area, such as is seen in the holding of a hydrangea festival during the rainy season.

2. Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study was to revitalize the “Ajisai Road,” which has been declining year by year, and to make it function as an effective tourism resource to revitalize the Itadori area. In order to achieve this, three measures were considered necessary as the axes of “Ajisai Road” revitalization: "understanding the current condition of hydrangeas," "unifying management methods," and "establishing a management scheme," respectively.

3. Contents of Study

3.1 Assessment of Soundness of the “Ajisai Road”

In order to sustainably manage healthy hydrangeas, it is necessary to understand their current condition. To this end, we adopted the concept of a soundness assessment used in routine inspections of soil-erosion control facilities (e.g., soil-erosion control dams), and studied the criteria for assessing the soundness of hydrangeas and how to handle the results.

The items to be examined in the soundness assessment were determined based on the "Guidelines for the Inspection and Diagnosis of Trees in Urban Parks (Draft)" and the "Guide to Countermeasures against Fallen

Table-1 General Criteria for Measures and Assessment

判定	判定基準	措置等の目安
A 健全	調査項目のすべてが「a」である	必要な措置等を講じる必要なし
B 概ね異常無し	調査項目のいずれかに「b」がある	必要に応じ経過観察 通常通りの管理を行う
C 要経過観察	調査項目のいずれかに「c」がある	必要な措置等を講じ経過観察 回復の見込みあり
D 枯死の危険性有り	調査項目のいずれかに「d」がある	必要な措置等を講じ経過観察 撤去・更新を検討する
E 枯死	調査項目のいずれかに「e」がある	撤去する 環境次第で他の樹木への更新も検討

⑨ あじさい診断カルテ (案)

全樹種	紫陽花
種別	白糸の滝公園
調査者	(氏名)
調査日	2022年12月20日
調査地	
樹種別	名 所 目
樹高	1.1 m
樹木直径	0.9 m
樹皮	0.6 m

調査項目	ア	イ	ロ	ハ	ニ	ホ	ヘ	ヘ
樹形	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全
葉の生長状況	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全
枝の生長状況	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全
根回りの状況	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全
樹木の健康	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全	健全

その他の観察事項

判定	措置等の目安
A 健全	必要な措置等を講じる必要なし
B 概ね異常無し	必要に応じ経過観察 通常通りの管理を行う
C 要経過観察	必要な措置等を講じ経過観察する 回復の見込みあり
D 枯死の危険性有り	必要な措置等を講じ経過観察する 撤去・更新を検討する
E 枯死	撤去する 環境条件によっては、他の樹木への 更新も検討する

Figure-1 Hydrangea Diagnosis Chart (Draft)

Street Trees." The evaluation items were designed to be indicators that require no specialized knowledge and can be conducted at minimal cost and in a simple manner. Under these conditions, five survey items were established: (1) vigorousness of the tree, (2) status of leaf growth, (3) status of branch growth, (4) percentage of dead and damaged trees, and (5) damage by pest and disease. Each of these survey items is rated on a 5-point scale (a-e), and the lowest rating is judged as the overall soundness rating. The evaluation results were graded into five levels: A (sound), B (generally normal), C (requires observation), D (in danger of dying), and E (dying), and guidelines for necessary measures, etc. were established for each result. Based on the above study, a "Hydrangea Diagnostic Chart (Draft)" was created to inspect the hydrangeas. Based on these results, a management plan for the "Ajisai Road" will be made, and necessary measures will be taken starting from the areas with many hydrangeas with low evaluation results.

3.2 Creation of a Hydrangea Management Manual (Draft)

The analysis of the current situation revealed that the pruning and other methods of hydrangea are not standardized and vary from place to place (or from operator to operator) on the "Ajisai Road." Therefore, we reorganized the hydrangea management manuals prepared in previous studies and developed a "Hydrangea Management Manual (Draft)" for the operators who manage the "Ajisai Road." The contents are pruning and fertilization. The manual describes pruning methods for post-flowering pruning before flower bud differentiation and pruning during dormant season, when the shape of the entire plant is adjusted. Fertilizer application is described in terms of the fertilizer to be applied after flowering and the fertilizer to be applied in preparation for growth in the spring.

In addition, a Hydrangea Management Manual (Draft) titled "How to Manage Hydrangeas" was prepared for the general public to help local residents when they grow hydrangeas in volunteer activities or at home. The purpose of this manual is to help local residents learn more about hydrangeas and become more attached to the "Ajisai Road."

3.3 Establishment of the "Ajisai Road" Management Scheme (Draft)

Currently, Seki City is the main operator of the “Ajisai Road.” However, in order for the “Ajisai Road” to function as an attractive tourism resource beloved by tourists and local residents, it is considered necessary to have cooperation from other parties besides the government. Therefore, a scheme was developed to enable the entire Itadori area to be involved in hydrangea management, with the aim of solving regional issues such as depopulation and loss of motivation for Living.

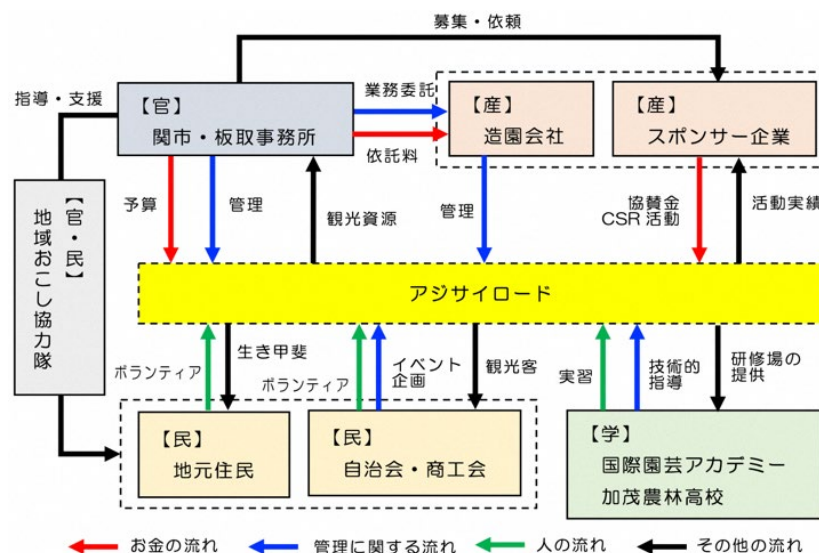


Figure-2 Management structure of “Ajisai road”

The management scheme was developed based on the characteristics of the Itadori region, referring to examples of initiatives in other tourism destinations. As a result, it was decided that it would be appropriate for the industry-academia-government-private sectors to manage the “Ajisai Road” by sharing the roles of budget, management, human resources, and technology. Seki City, the "government" entity, will provide support for hardware, management, and budgetary aspects. The "private sector," such as residents and local residents' associations, will participate in volunteer work and event planning as well as gain a sense of fulfillment from their participation. The local development cooperation team will serve as a bridge between the "public" and "private" sectors, coordinating detailed requests from the residents with the local government. The "industry" consists of local landscaping companies that actually manage the “Ajisai Road” and companies that sponsor the road. The sponsors are companies that contribute sponsorship money to the management and operation of the road, as in the case of Nagoya City's sponsored flower beds, and the sponsorship money will be used to cover management costs. In the "academia" category, students from our school and Gifu Prefectural Kamonourin High School may participate in volunteer activities; their classes can be conducted more practically if the “Ajisai Road” provides a place for practical training for special lectures.

As described above, a management scheme was developed to enable local organizations to operate as one unified entity. In the future, it is the hope that the management and operation of the site will shift from a government-centered to a resident-centered approach led by the local Development Cooperation team, as is the case of other tourism destinations.

4. Summary

In this study, the three axes mentioned above were examined, and guidelines, manuals, and other mechanisms were developed for each. Going forward, the continued research and study on the practicality of these measures will be required in the future.

*Following is a description of the figures and tables

表-1 総合健全土評価判定基準及びその措置 : Table-1 General Criteria for Measures and Assessment

判定 : Judgment

判定基準 : Judgment Criteria

措置等の目安 : Guideline for Measures, etc.

健全 : Sound

概ね異常無し : No Abnormality

要経過観察 : Requires Observation

枯死の危険性あり :

枯死 : Dying

調査項目のすべてが “a” である : All survey items are “a”

調査項目のいずれかに “b” がある : “b” exists in any of the survey items

調査項目のいずれかに “c” がある : “c” exists in any of the survey items

調査項目のいずれかに “d” がある : “d” exists in any of the survey items

調査項目のいずれかに “e” がある : “e” exists in any of the survey items

必要な措置等を講じる必要なし : No need to take necessary measures, etc

必要に応じ、経過観察 : Observation as necessary

通常通りの管理を行う : Management to be carried out as usual.

必要な措置等を講じ、経過観察 : Take necessary measures, etc., and monitor progress

回復の見込みあり : Prospects for recovery exist.

必要な措置等を講じ、経過観察 : Take necessary measures, etc., and monitor progress

撤去・更新を検討する : Consider removal or renewal

撤去する : To be removed

環境次第で他の樹木への更新も検討 : Consider replacement with other trees depending on the environment

図-1 作成したアジサイ診断カルテ (案) : Figure-1 Hydrangea Diagnosis Chart (Draft)

図-2 アジサイロードの管理構造 : Figure-2 Management Structure of “Ajisai Road”

お金の流れ : Flow of Money

管理に関する流れ : Flow of Management

人の流れ : Flow of People

その他の流れ : Misc. Flows

アジサイロード：“Ajisai Road”

【行政・民間】地域おこし協力隊：[Administration and private sector] Local Development Cooperation Team

【行政】関市・板取事務所：[Administration] Seki City, Itadori Office

【産業】造園会社、スポンサー企業：[Industry] Landscaping Company, Sponsor Companies

【民間】地元住民・自治会・商工会：[Private sector] Local Residents, Local Residents' Associations, Associations of Commerce and Industry

【学校】岐阜県立国際園芸アカデミー、加茂農林高校：[School] Gifu International Academy of Horticulture, Gifu Prefectural Kamonourin High School

募集・依頼：Recruitment/Requests

指導・支援：Guidance/Support

業務委託：Outsourcing

委託料：Outsourcing Fees

予算：Budget

管理：Management

観光資源：Tourism Resources

協賛金：Sponsorship Fees

C S R活動：CSR Activities

活動実績：Activity Results

ボランティア：Volunteer

生き甲斐：Life Fulfillment

イベント企画：Event Planning

観光客：Tourists

実習：Practical Training

技術的指導：Technical Guidance

研修場の提供：Providing Training Venues