



Floral Satoyama Garden

From a fallow field to flowerbed filling hearts with joy and wonder through the abundance of blooming flowers

PROJECT TITLE

Floral Satoyama Garden

PROJECT STATEMENT

Inheriting the legacy of the "National Urban Greenery Fair" held in 2017, the "Satoyama Garden Festival" provides a flowral garden for citizens to experience nature in their daily lives through the Flower Bed Adorned with Yokohama Blossoms which spreading across a slope, encircled by preserved forests, capturing the natural flow of wind and light on the ground.

The project has restored a fallow field on the Satoyama mountainside, with the aim of rehabilitating the land use.The flower seedlings used here are procured from local flower production farmers in Yokohama, contributing to the growth and development of the local flower industry.

The project presents a flower landscape from multiple perspectives, providing citizens with the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of flowers while strolling and learning about nature and the environment, promoting physical and mental well-being of citizens. The Satoyama Garden Festival is an exemplary initiative that enriches the community's connection with nature, instilling a sense of pride and responsibility towards the environment.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Location

Asahi-ku, Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture
While Yokohama is primarily known as a coastal city, its northern region comprises vast hilly areas. The planned site is located in the hilly area adjacent to Yokohama Zoological Park Zoorasia, and is a typical "Satoyama(traditional rural landscape of Japan, where natural habitats that are managed and utilized by local communities for their livelihoods)" with hills, valleys, and slopes, with an area of approximately 20 square kilometers. The main project site presented this time is a Flowerbed Landscape on the approximately 1.0 square kilometer sloping land at the entrance. The surrounding area has zones for enjoying the topography of the Satoyama and adventure zones utilizing preserved forests. The fallow land in the valley has also been transformed into a suitable Flower Landscape for the site.

Potential of the site

The Flower Bed is located on a slope facing south and is exposed to direct sunlight, making it a suitable place for flower design and plant growth. In addition, visitors can enjoy the view from above, the powerful view from below, and panoramic scenery from the approximately 9m high deck "Forest Skywalk," offering an immersive experience of dynamic flower landscapes. The flower bed features a barrier-free garden path, accessible to visitors of all generations, enabling them to enjoy the delicate changes in color up close.

Development of the project

The Satoyama Garden Festival is positioned as part of Yokohama City's green policy, "Garden City Yokohama," and is one of the leading greening projects being promoted. The limited period opening of the flower bed has been held twice a year, in spring and autumn, since the "National Urban Greening Yokohama Fair." The opening of the flower bed and flower-viewing is a free admission event.

Realization of design intention

• Establishment of the theme and concept of the flower bed
For the spring and autumn festivals, the overall composition of the flower bed is carefully planned to correspond to the designated theme and concept. The theme is based on Yokohama's historical events or the natural scenery that citizens desire. The selection and deployment of plants are done according to the annual theme.

• Considerations in Plant Design
The climate during the festival period and the selection of plants are taken into account. The spring festival runs from late March to early May, while the autumn festival is held from mid-September to mid-October. According to Japan's climate, planting needs to be done in winter for the spring festival and in summer for the autumn festival. Spring has various obstacles such as damage from late frosts and sudden temperature increases and humidity, while autumn has typhoons that could cause plants to topple over. Thus, plants with frost and heat resistance need to be carefully selected for spring, while those that are heat-resistant and less prone to falling over during typhoons need to be selected for autumn. Moreover, in addition to dealing with the climate through the selection of plants, consideration is also given to planting methods. Japan's humid climate often leads to pest infestations, but to be mindful of the ecological environment and living creatures, no pesticides are used for pest control, but organic or trapping methods are employed instead.

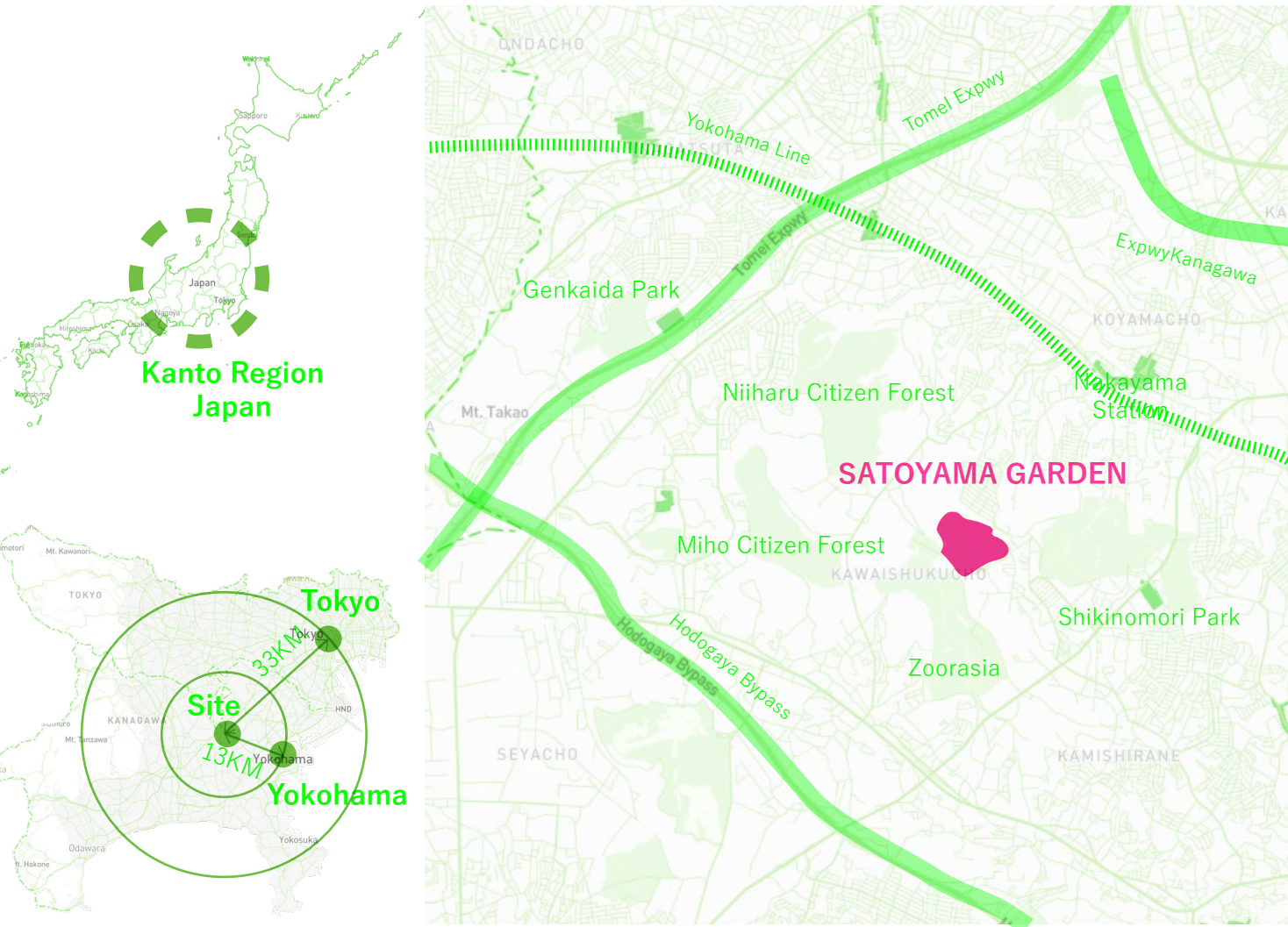
• Considerations in Selecting Flower Seedlings
The selection of flower seedlings takes into account the level of maintenance, design, microclimate, economy, the changes in growth and seasonal landscape during the festival period. Plants that are beautiful when grown alone, as a group, or when scattered among other plants are carefully chosen to bring out their beauty and charm. Furthermore, to increase citizens' interest in nature and this project, the use of new plant varieties and ways of arranging varieties are also important. It is essential to exhibit the power and scenic beauty of plants during the limited festival period. To achieve short-term landscape effects as an event, annual flowering seedlings are widely used, and perennial grasses are used for creating landscape changes and points of interest. Other plantings such as spring bulbs, sowing in spring and autumn, and natural scenery production are also employed. Approximately 50,000 flower seedlings are planted during each festival, and the supply comes from the planned production of local farmers. After the festival ends, usable seedlings are replanted in public facilities in the city for reuse. Careful attention is given to the use of horticultural varieties to avoid disturbing the surrounding vegetation.

Other Instruction/ Social Value

During the festival period, "flower education" events are conducted for elementary school students to enhance their understanding of nature and cultivate their interest in the plants.

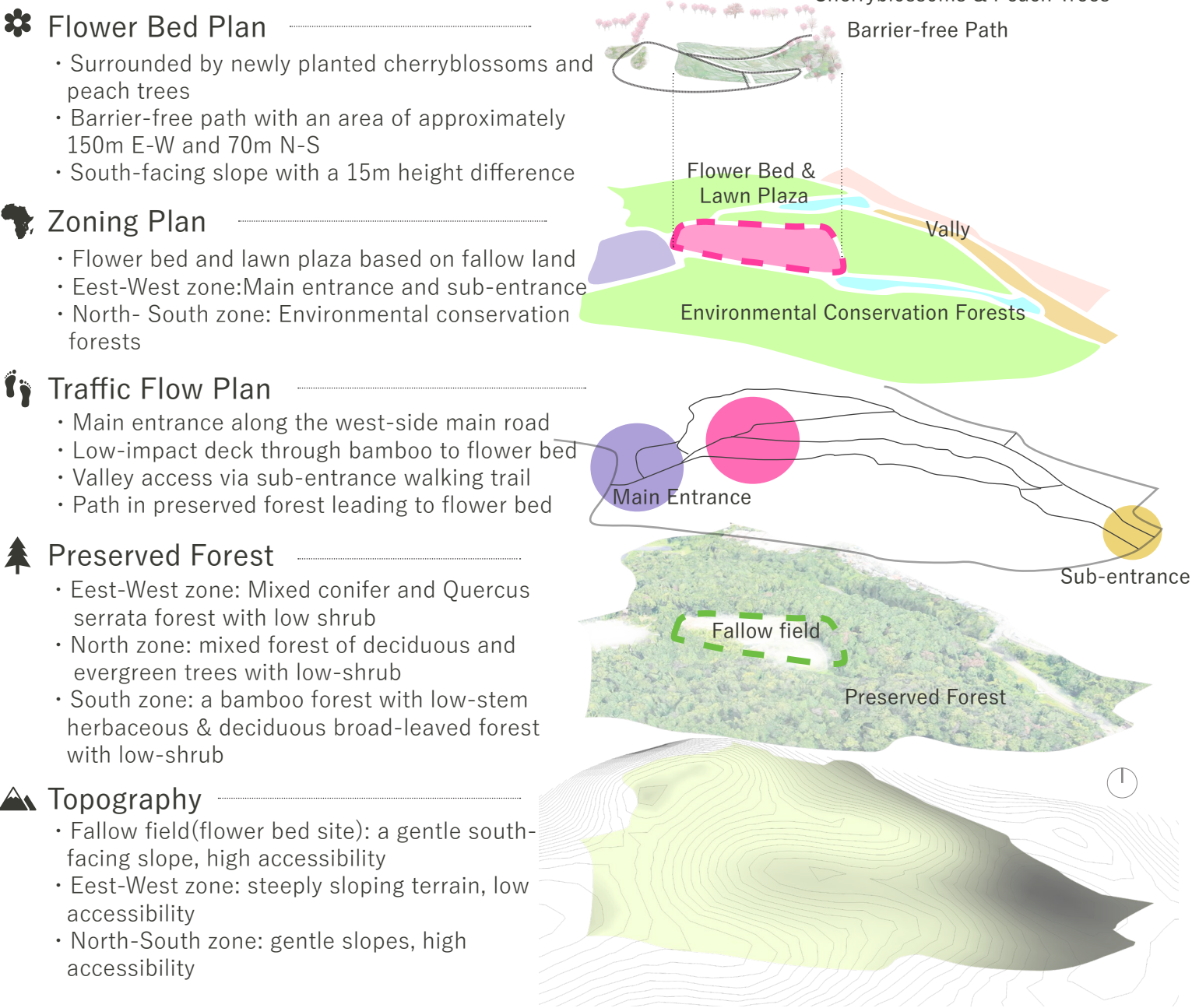
We have developed fallow land and restored lost vegetation to some extent. Leaving Satoyama unattended leads to a loss of biodiversity. By managing it consistently, interest in the natural environment has increased, and interactions through flowers and other flora have emerged. This is a great and effective attraction brought by nature. This is a great charm and effect that nature brings. What used to be a vegetable field that filled our stomachs has now become a field that fills our hearts.

LOCATION



The site is situated in Yokohama, the second-largest city in Japan, and is surrounded by several parks and citizen forests. It is conveniently accessible by nearby railway stations and expressways, located only 13km from the downtown area.

ANALYSIS & CONSTRUCTION



- Flower Bed Plan**
- Surrounded by newly planted cherryblossoms and peach trees
 - Barrier-free path with an area of approximately 150m E-W and 70m N-S
 - South-facing slope with a 15m height difference

- Zoning Plan**
- Flower bed and lawn plaza based on fallow land
 - East-West zone: Main entrance and sub-entrance
 - North- South zone: Environmental conservation forests

- Traffic Flow Plan**
- Main entrance along the west-side main road
 - Low-impact deck through bamboo to flower bed
 - Valley access via sub-entrance walking trail
 - Path in preserved forest leading to flower bed

- Preserved Forest**
- East-West zone: Mixed conifer and Quercus serrata forest with low shrub
 - North zone: mixed forest of deciduous and evergreen trees with low-shrub
 - South zone: a bamboo forest with low-stem herbaceous & deciduous broad-leaved forest with low-shrub

- Topography**
- Fallow field(flower bed site): a gentle south-facing slope, high accessibility
 - East-West zone: steeply sloping terrain, low accessibility
 - North-South zone: gentle slopes, high accessibility

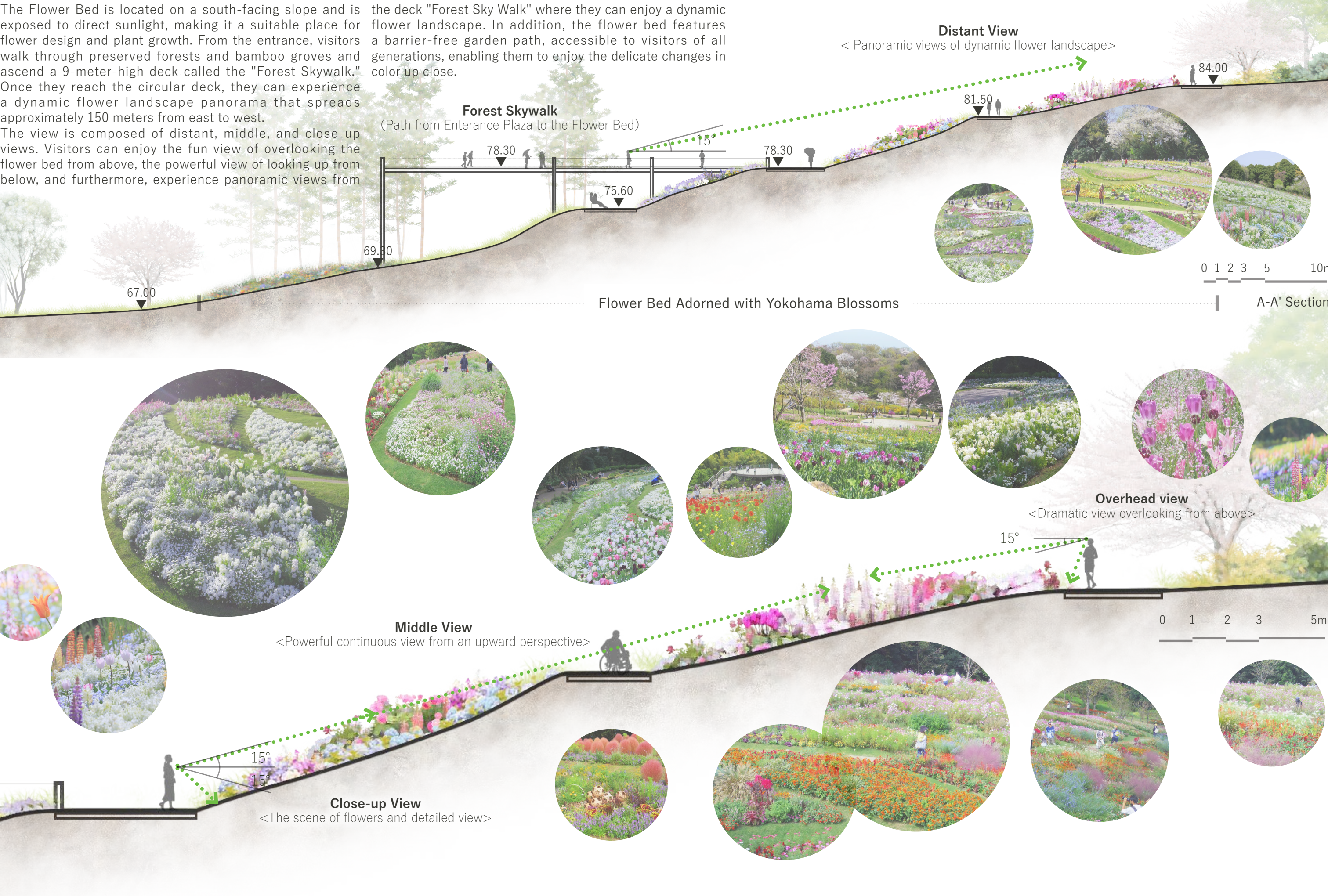
MASTER PLAN



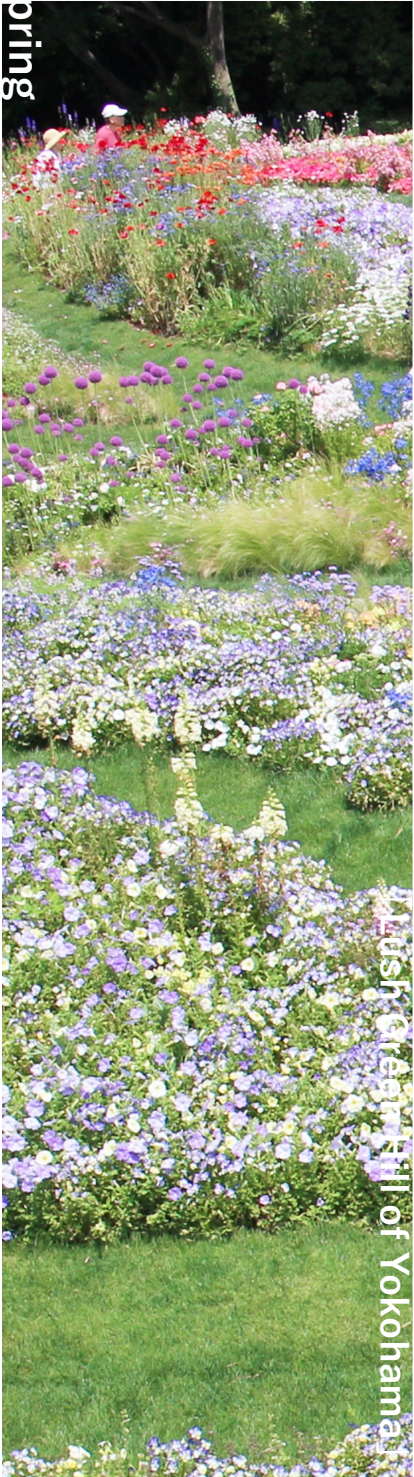
SECTION

The Flower Bed is located on a south-facing slope and is exposed to direct sunlight, making it a suitable place for flower design and plant growth. From the entrance, visitors walk through preserved forests and bamboo groves and ascend a 9-meter-high deck called the "Forest Skywalk." Once they reach the circular deck, they can experience a dynamic flower landscape panorama that spreads approximately 150 meters from east to west. The view is composed of distant, middle, and close-up views. Visitors can enjoy the fun view of overlooking the flower bed from above, the powerful view of looking up from below, and furthermore, experience panoramic views from

the deck "Forest Sky Walk" where they can enjoy a dynamic flower landscape. In addition, the flower bed features a barrier-free garden path, accessible to visitors of all generations, enabling them to enjoy the delicate changes in color up close.



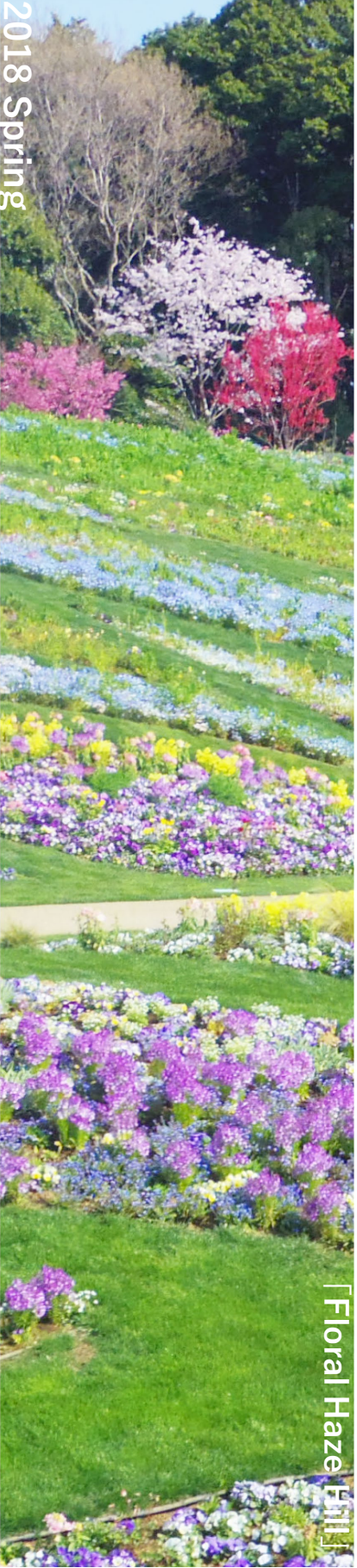
ANNUAL SCENERY & THEME



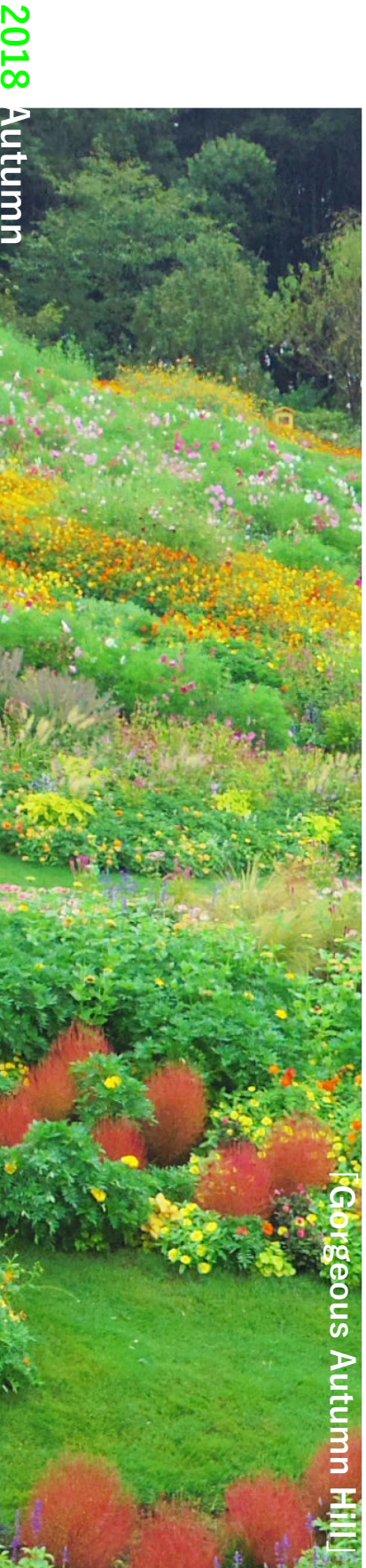
Depicting the lush nature of the Satoyama environment



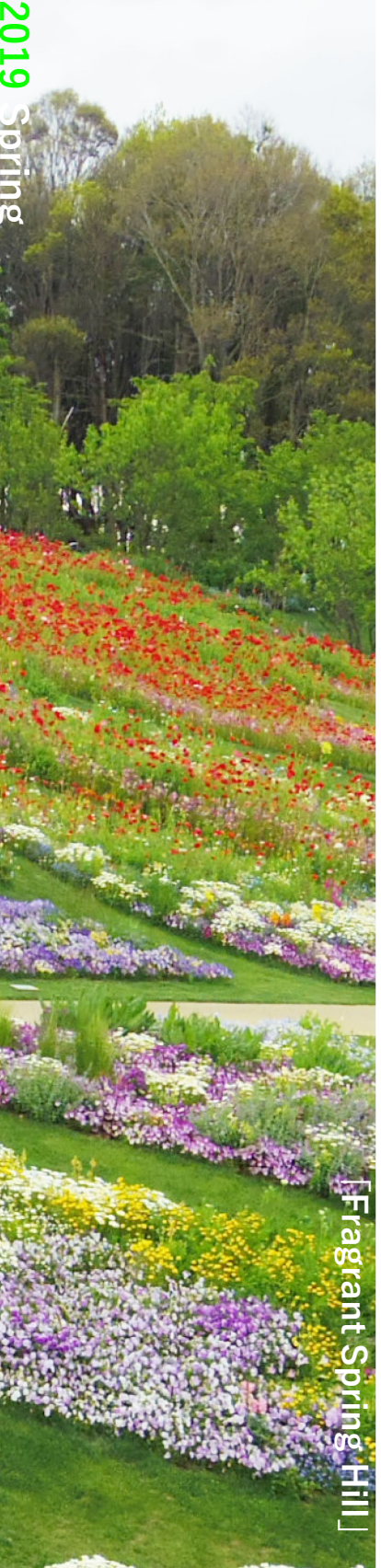
Depicting the autumn foliage of the forest



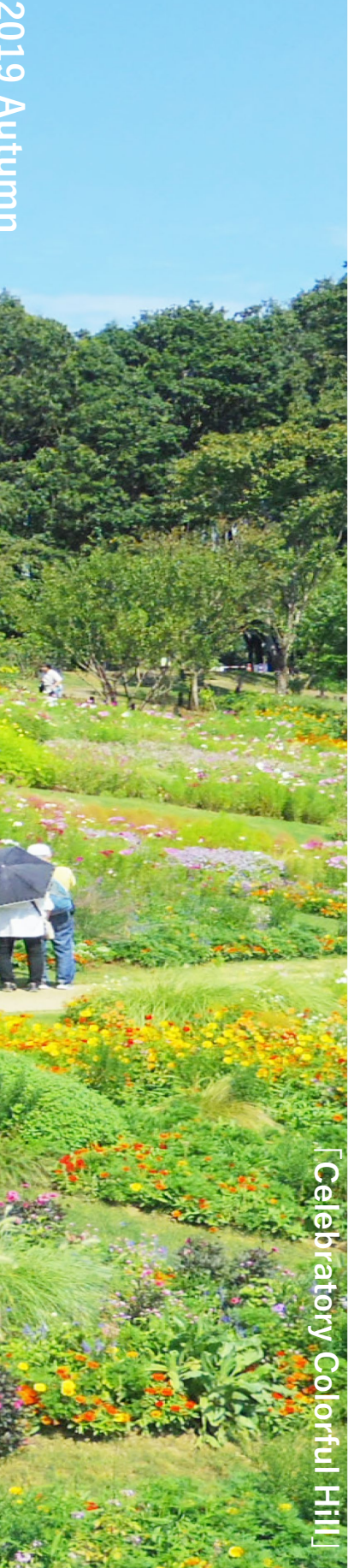
Depicting the cherry blossoms and pastel colors of spring



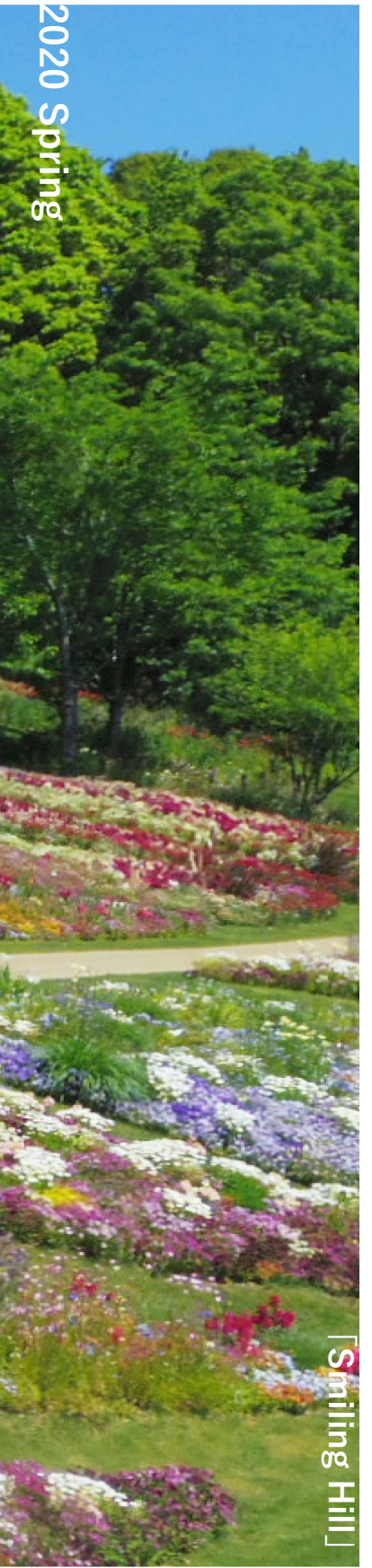
Depicting the diverse colors of autumnal plants



Depicting a fragrant field of flowers



Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Zoorasia with a celebratory flower bed



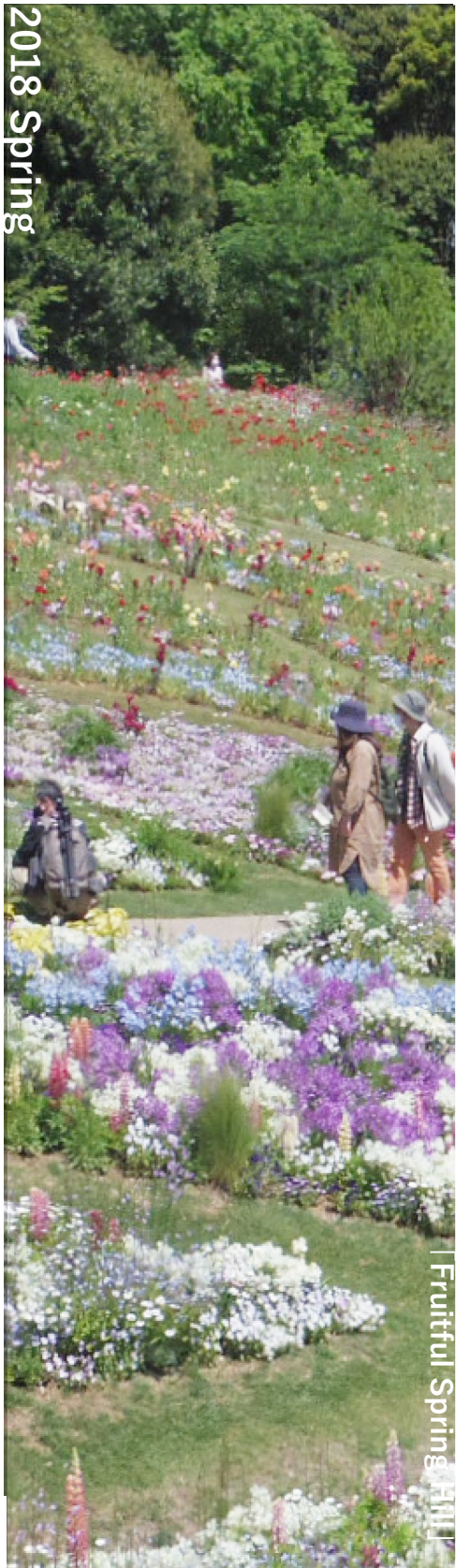
Smiling amidst nature (During the COVID pandemic, we shared free drone videos on YouTube for public viewing)

During the Spring Festival (from late March to early May), and the Autumn Festival (from mid-September to mid-October), the overall theme and concept for the flowerbed are carefully set. The color and composition of the flower bed is carefully planned to correspond to the designated theme and concept, and a selection of plants that match the theme are chosen and arranged accordingly. The chosen theme is based on historical events in Yokohama or natural scenery that the citizens desire.

ANNUAL SCENERY & THEME



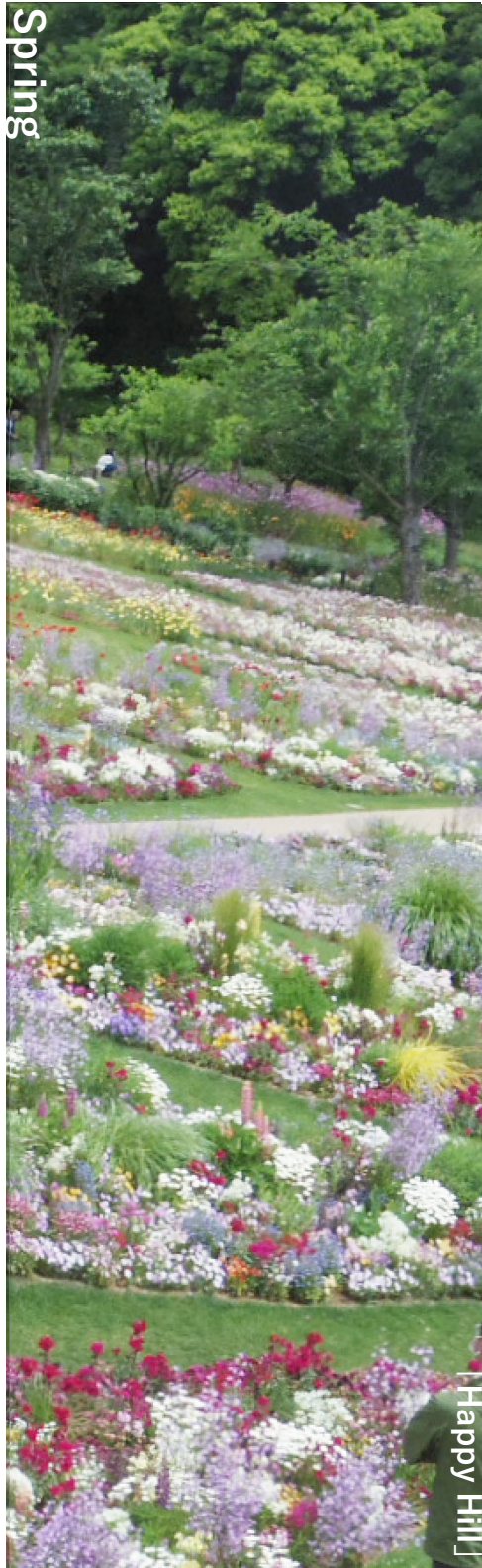
Celebrating the joy of harvest



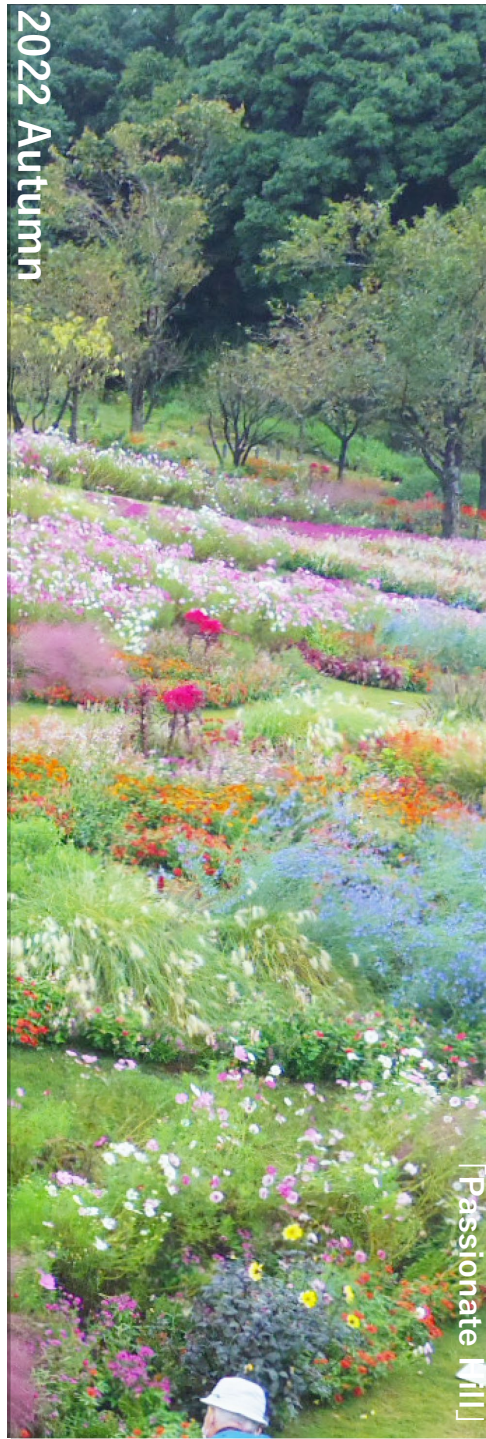
Abundant spring harvests (during the Tokyo Olympics)



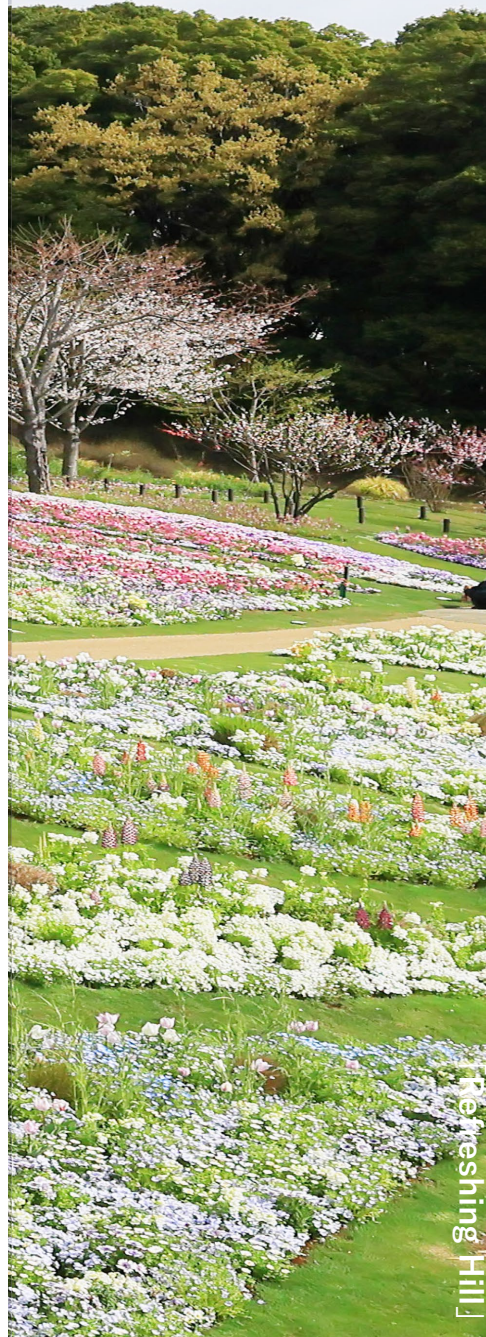
Blessing of mental and physical health



Conveying blessings of happiness



Expressing passion of Satoyama and plants



Depicting a vibrant new beginning and hopeful future

Succession of Blooms throughout the Seasons

Spring



Bulbous flower • Mixed seeds flower | Annual flower
(Planted/sown on site six months prior)

Early Period (Late March)



Bulbous flower:
Early tulips, Late-blooming daffodils..
Mixed seeds flower:
Nemophila, Linaria...
Annual flowers: Violas, Lupines...

Mid Period (April)



Bulbous flower:
Mid-season tulips, Scilla...
Mixed seeds flower: Eschscholzia...
Annual flowers: Nemesia, Linaria...

Late Period (Early May)



Bulbous flower:
Late-blooming double tulips, Alliums..
Mixed seeds flower: Gypsophila...
Annual flowers: Perennial Nemesia...

Autumn



Annual flower • Grass • Perennial Plants | Cosmos
(Sown on site six months prior)

Early Period (Late August)



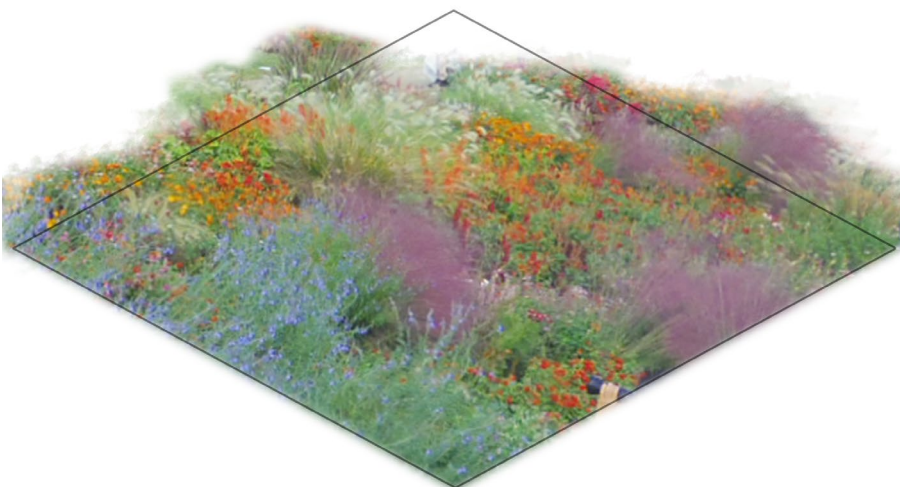
Cosmos
Annual flower: Zinnias, Angelonias...

Mid Period (September)



Various Cosmos
Annual flowers: Nemesia, Linaria...

Late Period (Early October)



Tall cosmos
Perennial flower: Salvia...
Grasses begin to spike

PLANTING STRATEGY

Bulbs Mixing Method



Bulbous flowers possess an unparalleled magnificence among floral materials, yet their blooming period is short and susceptible to weather conditions. To mitigate this risk and further enhance their appeal, a strategy of mixing with annuals and wildflowers (seeds) has been implemented.

Cosmos Sowing Method



We use a donut-shaped sowing method as the basis, with a focus on dwarf cosmos as the main (large area) and mid-to-high height cosmos as accents (small area). The outer perimeter is surrounded by dwarf cosmos to reduce wind and prevent toppling due to typhoons.

Summer Cypress & Grass Planting Method



As one of the highlights of autumn, the use of Kochia creates a highly anticipated landscape for visitors with its attractive shape and volume as it changes from green to vibrant autumnal red. To mitigate risks of insect damage and toppling due to typhoons, it is planted in conjunction with grasses and other plants.



Working System

After the festival, some of the flower seedlings are distributed to public facilities for reuse. The recycling promotes circulation of the flower materials and demonstrates effectiveness of "Garden City Yokohama" project, also contribute to diverse citizen lifestyles.

The flower bed for spring and autumn festivals is planned yearly to match the theme and concept, based on Yokohama's historical events or natural scenery.

Education

During the festival period, "flower education" workshops are conducted for elementary school students to enhance their understanding of nature and cultivate their interest in the plants.

Recycle of Plants



Evaluation



Plan & Design



Plant Selection

The plant sourcing consists of 3 methods, seed sowing, market procurement, and farming contracts with locals. Over 90% of plants are from contract farming, promoting the growth of the local flower industry and reducing the carbon emissions in transportation.

Plant Sourcing

Farming contracts with Locals



Seed Sowing



Market Procurement

WORKING SYSTEM

Closing



Maintenance

Maintenance during the festival entails various tasks: regular watering, removal of spent blooms, plants replacement, management of featured objects...

Opening



Planting Construction



Plant recognition courses



Bouquet-making sessions



Collaborations with artists to decorate the garden with handcrafted artworks

