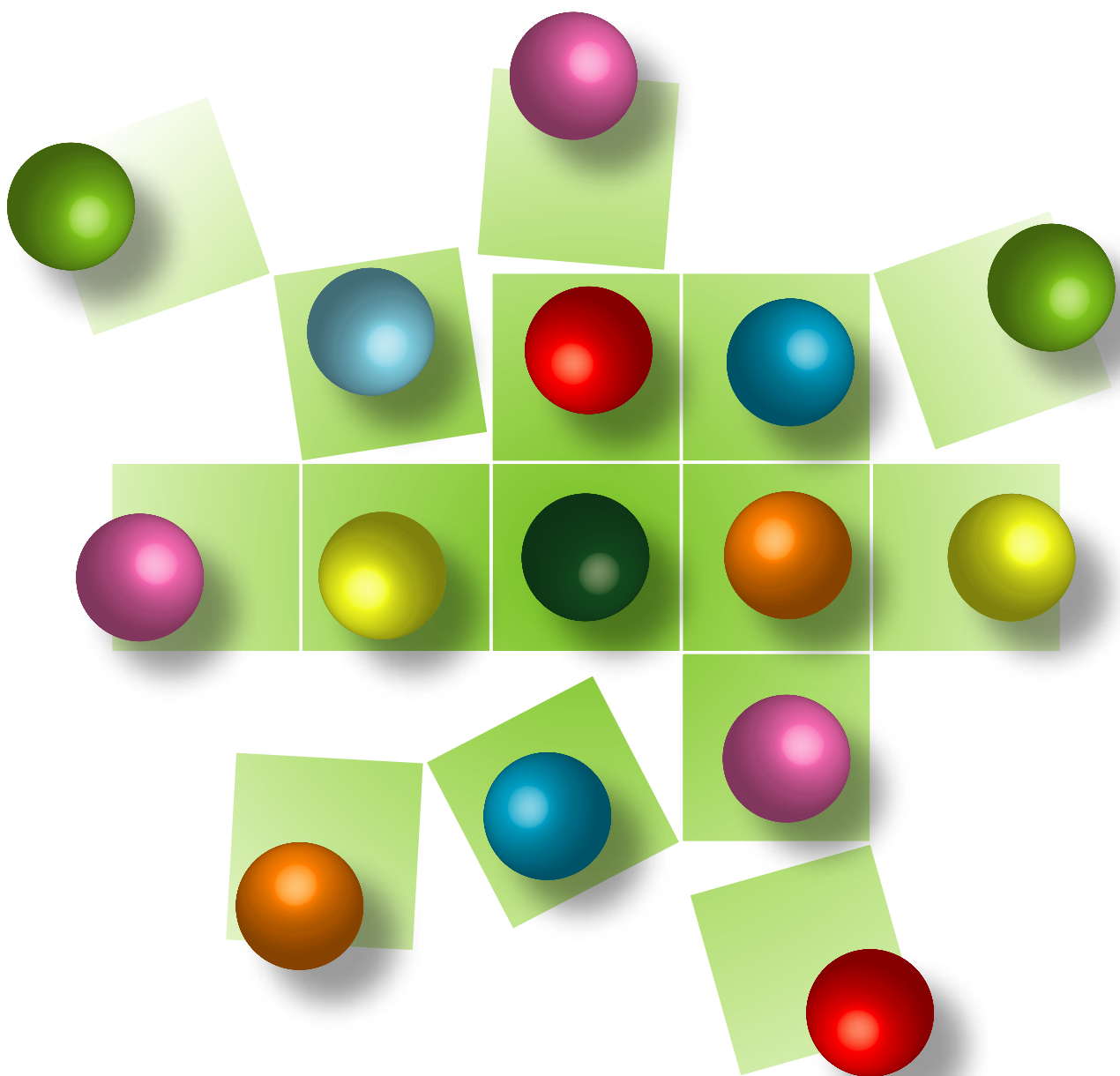

2020 Saitama

Hopeful City Plan

Comprehensive Development Plan
(Basic Concept and New Basic Plan)

Summary



Saitama City

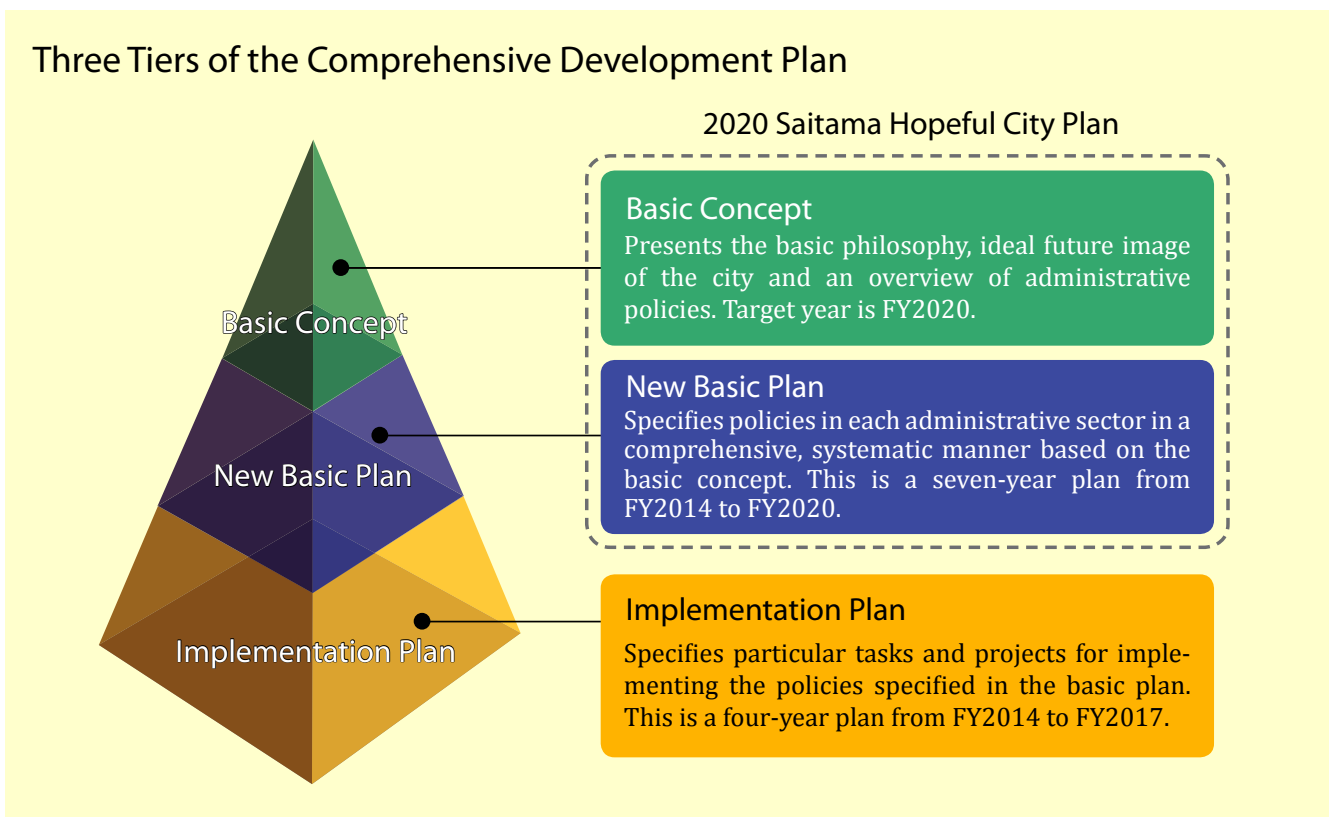
Plan Overview

Components and Time Period

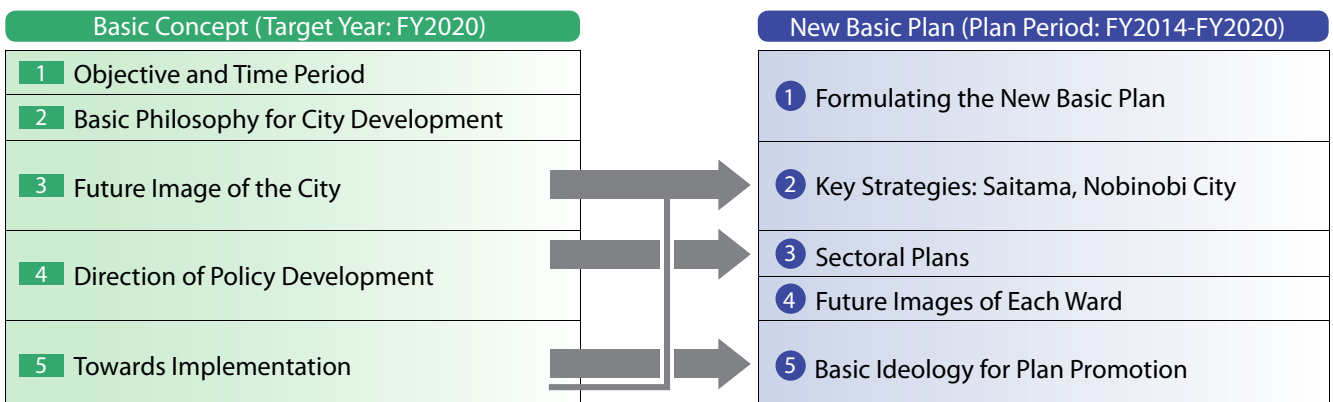
The Comprehensive Development Plan is an operational foundation for the municipal government. Based on long-term perspectives, it draws future targets for city development and gives clear guidelines for comprehensive and systematic implementation of the municipal government in each administrative field.

The Saitama City Comprehensive Development Plan is comprised of three components: the basic concept, new basic plan and implementation plan. First, the basic concept presents Saitama City's ideal future image and an overview of administrative policies. The new basic plan then specifies policies in each administrative field in a comprehensive, systematic manner based on the basic concept. Finally, the implementation plan gives specific tasks and projects for implementing the policies specified in the basic plan.

With the time period for the first basic plan now expired as of the end of FY2013, the new basic plan has been formulated.



Components of the 2020 Saitama Hopeful City Plan





Basic Concept

(Voted on in December 2002, revised in June 2005)

1 Objective and Time Period

Saitama City was founded on May 1, 2001 as an amalgamation of the cities of Urawa, Omiya and Yono, making it the prefecture's first million-resident city. It subsequently amalgamated with the city of Iwatsuki on April 1, 2005.

The basic concept of the Comprehensive Development Plan of Saitama City defines the city's basic philosophy for city development. This concept reflects public voices and an ideal future image of the city, also specifying guidelines for developing the policy essential to achieving development plans suitable for a designated city (the transition was made in April 2003).

The target year for the basic concept is FY2020, as the plan forecasts the population would then reach a peak exceeding 1.3 million.

2 Basic Philosophy for City Development

In building a town by the people to live in together, Saitama City has fashioned its basic philosophy for city development in the spirit of keeping all residents content with the city now and in the future. It consists of three tenets: cooperation between citizens and the administration, respect for people and nature, and hope and responsibility for the future.

● Cooperation between Citizens and the Administration

With both city residents and the administration understanding their roles and responsibilities clearly, city residents and the administration work together to develop a resident-oriented, autonomous city to lead the way in decentralizing authority.

● Respect for People and Nature

Residents are considerate of one another in their interactions, and city development respects personal living spaces, as well as people and nature as it advances.

● Hope and Responsibility for the Future

All parties must perform their roles and responsibilities to build up a unique charm to Saitama City and sustainably develop a city full of hope and vitality to pass on to future generations.

3 Future Image of the City

We have established the followings as the future image of Saitama City and will strive to achieve this image.

● A Dynamic and Active Hub City for Eastern Japan

Saitama City is a key transportation hub: it is highly accessible with five Shinkansen lines and highway routes such as the Tohoku Expressway, has a population exceeding one million and has various integrated city functions. With the development of Saitama New Urban Center, Saitama City aims to expand its functions as a hub for people, goods and information while creating new industries and diverse civic activities to become an autonomous city with vibrant interactions, both domestic and international.

● A City that Coexists with Nature: Symbolized by the Greenery of Minuma and the Water of Arakawa River

Saitama City is home to some of the foremost natural resources in the Tokyo metropolitan area with the rice fields of Minuma in the central area, Arakawa River in the west and the rich Moto-Arakawa River in the east. Much wildlife lives in the green fields and the waters of these areas. While working to conserve, restore and generate such areas, Saitama City is also actively involved in initiatives for global environmental issues to create a richly green city at one with nature.

● A City with a Comfortable Lifestyle to Nurture Youth

Saitama City strives to improve its welfare, education and social services to enrich lives and to build a city where everyone can live life to its fullest, regardless of their values or lifestyles.

The city also aims to nurture youth who carry forward a new era and bring unique and attractive culture into the city.

4 Direction of Policy Development

Working toward achieving its future city image, Saitama City has based its policy development on the seven following areas:

- (1) Protect and nurture a peaceful and pleasant environment [Environment/amenity]
- (2) Support childrearing and build a community where all can live in peace and health [Health/welfare]
- (3) Cultivate individual identity with brilliance [Education/culture/sports]
- (4) Create a high quality foundation for human and environment [Urban foundation/transportation]
- (5) Promote city development to increase industrial dynamism [Industry/economy]
- (6) Ensure safety and support civic life [Safety/life infrastructure]
- (7) Deepen understandings and expand various interactive activities [Interaction/community]

5 Towards Implementation

- (1) City development through cooperation between citizens and the administration [Civic activities]
- (2) City development by effective and efficient financial and administrative operations [Financial and administrative operations]
- (3) City development to create the identity of Saitama City [Establishment, sharing and dispatch of the city image]

New Basic Plan

(Voted on in December 2013)

1 Formulating the New Basic Plan

◆ Objective and Time Period in Formulating the New Basic Plan

- Saitama City was founded on May 1, 2001 as an amalgamation of the cities of Urawa, Omiya and Yono. With the “Saitama Hopeful City Plan” for comprehensive development as its guidelines, Saitama City comprehensively and systematically proceeded to build a city embodying the three pillars of its future city image as described in the basic concept.
- Since then, Saitama City has steadily developed—it became a designated city on April 1, 2003, also amalgamating with Iwatsuki on April 1, 2005, and population surpassed 1.2 million in 2007. Still, the circumstances surrounding the city have been in constant flux: demographic aging with fewer children, economic globalization and global warming have all advanced; administrative decentralization reforms have pushed forward; and the Great East Japan Earthquake has raised resident awareness of safety and security issues.
- Under these circumstances, the New Basic Plan gives the basic guidelines for comprehensive and organized city administration while appropriately responding to Saitama City's changing socioeconomic conditions. To do so, it gives comprehensive and systematic measures for achieving the ideal future image of the city and working together with residents to build an autonomous, resident-oriented city.
- The New Basic Plan is a seven-year plan from 2014 to 2020, the target year of the Basic Concept.

◆ Total Population Outlook

- Total population is predicted to rise from 1,222,000 in 2010 to 1,256,000 in 2020, the target year of the plan.
- Total population is predicted to peak in 2025 at 1,260,000 before going into decline, then drop to 1,174,000 in 2050.

◆ Course for Future Urban Structure

- Looking to promote sustainable development into the future, Saitama City will work to limit urban center expansion, gather various city functions in localized hubs and develop a network between these hubs. This will create an urban environment where the various functions needed in residential life are all accessible by foot, bicycle or public transportation, while also helping to keep the urban zone contained within the river and green spaces into the future. In turn, this will make Saitama into a polycentric, collaborative city which supports a high quality of life, creates various dynamic exchanges, and is at harmony with rich nature.

② Key Strategies: Saitama, Nobinobi City

- These five key strategies have been set forth to help Saitama City respond appropriately to the harsh climate the city finds itself in, including the predicted population decline, rapid aging and socioeconomic changes, and achieve the future image of the city put forth in the Basic Concept. These strategies will help Saitama City to effectively utilize its strengths and centrally allocate its limited management resources in terms of personnel and finances.
- While working across different sectors on the basis of mutually related key points, these key strategies will also help to bring the best out of Saitama City by developing and growing the city's strengths and possibilities together with its residents into the future. This is embodied by Saitama's catchphrase: "Nobinobi City, or the city living freely and easily."

Key

Strategies 1

Create a city that cultivates the next generation of workers

—Rich and productive education and childrearing—

Key Points

(1) Promoting environments to comfortably birth and raise children

- Enrich daycare centers and after-school clubs for children to accommodate waitlisted children
- Offer employment support and good working environments for those of childrearing age
- Facilitate residents in assisting each other with childrearing within the community

(2) Training the children and adolescents that will lead our future

- Further improvement of school education, utilizing experiences accumulated to date
- Promote initiatives for supporting the growth of children and adolescents through collaborations between school, home, community and administration

Key

Strategies 2

Create a city with healthy, active seniors

—Utilizing the knowledge and experience of our seniors in the community—

Key Points

(1) Stimulating the city with the rich knowledge and experience of our seniors

- Support seniors in utilizing their knowledge and experience to work or start a business
- Encourage seniors to give their knowledge and experience back to the community through volunteerism, sports, culture and arts, education and other community activities

(2) Promoting lifelong health and activity

- Promote health with education and support, urging residents to participate in health checkups and examinations
- Urge residents to participate in various sports, including volunteering for local teams and attending games
- Promote the use of public transportation, bicycles and walking to replace vehicle use

Key
Strategies 3

Create a city of innovation

—Creating value from new perspectives and challenges—

Key Points

(1) Promoting business development to beat out stiff business competition

- Encourage technical R&D(Research and Development) and market development with an eye toward expansion overseas through collaborations between industry, academia and government
- Promote local consumption and produce of “Saitama City’s brand” by discovering and using city resources and appeal
- Support businesses in the community in their pioneering initiatives and CSR(Corporate Social Responsibility) activity

(2) Developing environments and promoting employment where people can exhibit their various abilities

- Develop work and entrepreneurship support and work environments where various entities can exert their abilities through collaborations with national and Saitama prefectural organizations
- Create work opportunities by discovering and utilizing local resources, and attract more businesses using our strengths
- Develop various industrial human resources by enhancing career education

Key
Strategies 4

Create a low-carbon city at one with nature

—Rich nature and low-carbon lifestyles—

Key Points

(1) Build a low-carbon city that promotes a change in lifestyle

- Promote next-generation vehicles and take advantage of pilot initiatives such as special zones
- Promote use of renewable energy and energy saving
- Promote the 3 R’s: reduce, reuse, recycle
- Promote a polycentric, collaborative city structure and use of public transportation, bicycles and walking to replace vehicle use

(2) Promote environmental conservation and utilization through various entities

- Provide more places and opportunities for environmental education and learning
- Conserve and utilize the Minuma rice fields and other green spaces and waters through collaboration with residents and businesses

Key
Strategies 5

Create a city where everyone supports community safety

—Safety in numbers and communities strong against disaster—

Key Points

(1) Promote development of communities that support each other on a daily basis

- Promote various exchanges in the community
- Urge the community to watch over children and seniors living alone
- Encourage neighborhood councils and other civic activities and collaborations

(2) Enhance preparations for unforeseen disaster

- Develop disaster-resilient urban infrastructure
- Encourage educational activity and disaster education to raise disaster awareness
- Establish and reinforce first response and emergency systems in collaboration with relevant organizations
- Reinforce disaster preparedness in the community with support for those requiring assistance during disasters, and developing as well as utilizing human resources for voluntary disaster prevention organizations and community disaster prevention initiatives



3 Sectoral Plans

1 Environment and Amenity

Protect and nurture a peaceful and pleasant environment

- 1 Achieve sustainability with low environmental loads at the community level
- 2 Create a closed-loop city where everyone participates and works together
- 3 Build a city with rich, beautiful green spaces where man is at one with nature

2 Health and Welfare

Support childrearing and build a community where all can live in peace and health

- 1 Make childrearing easier
- 2 Develop senior-friendly living
- 3 Create communities where everyone can live life in their own way
- 4 Build communities full of vitality and health in both mind and body

3 Education, Culture and Sports

Cultivate individual identity with brilliance

- 1 Promoting education that cultivates dreams and raising healthy youth
- 2 Enrich lifelong learning and make use of its results
- 3 Make Saitama a healthy, active city in sports
- 4 Create an artistic, cultured city with rich living for the body and mind

4 Urban Infrastructure and Transportation

Create a high quality foundation for human and environment

- 1 Form a city that provides quality low-carbon living environments
- 2 Form an attractive city center and sub-centers to spark activity and interaction
- 3 Build dynamic transportation systems to support life and interactions

5 Industry and Economy

Promote city development to increase industrial dynamism

- 1 Develop an environment for cultivating dynamic local industries
- 2 Create new industries to take advantage of Saitama's characteristics
- 3 Develop and provide employment support for the human resources to support the local economy

6 Safety and Life Infrastructure

Ensure safety and support civic life

- 1 Build disaster-resilient urban infrastructure
- 2 Form living environments to minimize accidents and crime
- 3 Develop safe and secure life infrastructure

7 Interaction and Community

Deepen understandings and expand various interactive activities

- 1 Respect human rights
- 2 Encourage and stimulate interaction and friendship in the community
- 3 Build a multicultural city open to the world

4 Future Images of Each Ward

Nishi Ward	A pleasant and thoughtful town developed from rich nature, history and culture.
Kita Ward	A town I want to live in; being built by everyone, everyday –Transitioning from “The Town That’s Just Right” to “A Better Kita Ward”–
Omiya Ward	A pleasant town with excellent quality of life where the green of Hikawa Shrine and culture are in harmony
Minuma Ward	Coexistence with nature of Minuma –A town cultivating and protecting the local culture–
Chuo Ward	A safe town creating an urban culture of harmony with a friendly atmosphere
Sakura Ward	A high spirited town with three generation families –comfortable environment with abundant nature–
Urawa Ward	A green town with festivities and education –Wakuwaku Urawa-ku, a town to create my future, a town for my future–
Minami Ward	Everyone is a central player in this joyful town
Midori Ward	A breezy green town with fireflies shining their light
Iwatsuki Ward	A town that protects, cultivates and enjoys its history, culture and nature

5 Basic Ideology for Plan Promotion

