

CITY OF WATER

In the Edo Period, a network of rivers and canals crisscrossed the city. Water transport, carrying everyday goods from other parts of Japan, played a big part in the Edo economy and in the daily lives of its inhabitants, and Edo thrived as a city of water. Today, efforts to create pleasant waterside spaces are underway by seizing opportunities presented by urban development.

Green roads along the Kitazawa and Karasuyama rivers

Today



The rivers have been buried underground. The space above them are being turned into green roads and pleasant spaces along manmade streams.

A Tamagawa-Josui Channel

Today



Tamagawa-Josui Channel redeveloped in Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden

B Shibuya River

Past



Today



Future



Construction has begun to restore a clear stream and create waterside spaces.

C Nihonbashi

Edo Period



Early Showa Era



Today



Construction of the Metropolitan Expressway following WWII transformed the earlier cityscape.



Sources: Old map: Jinbunsha restoration of the *Kaiho Oedo Ezu* (Pocket Map of Edo) (original edition printed in 1843), with the cooperation of Kochizu Library Co., Ltd.; Modern map: The current map has been scaled down to 78% east and west; P. 34 images: "Summer scene of Ryogoku-bashi Bridge" National Diet Library website; "Kitazawa River" and "Karasuyama River" ©SETAGAYA; "Shibuya River in the Past" Memories of Shibuya (published by Shibuya Board of Education); "Future Shibuya River" Tokyu Corporation; "Nihonbashi in the Edo Period" National Diet Library archives; "Nihonbashi in early Showa Era" Chuo Ward Kyobashi Library archives