Abstract: This study analyses the characteristics of scenic viewing landscape in Matsudo City based on citizens’ preferences determined from their nominated scenic viewpoints, as well as related photos and comments submitted during the activity ‘My Favorite Scenic Spots of Matsudo City’ from 2009 to 2018. Through sorting out ten-year data, there are a total of 47 scenic viewpoints in Matsudo City, based on 64 contributors with 82 photos. Matsudo citizens’ preferences of scenic views, including the types and distribution characteristics of the scenic viewing subjects, and distribution characteristics of the viewpoints in Matsudo City, were classified and analyzed. The analysis results showed that the scenic viewpoints in Matsudo City are mainly concentrated in the western part, whereas the most preferred scenic viewing subjects are landmarks, both artificial and natural, mainly located outside of Matsudo City, especially Mt. Fuji and Tokyo Skytree. Most of the scenic viewing subjects could still be viewed clearly until now. Areas along the Edo River, areas surrounding Matsudo Station, and the Yakiri area have great potential for vitalizing the scenic viewing landscape of the city. This study suggests that Matsudo City’s landscape planning in the future should focus more on the scenic views and the preservation of these locations.

Keywords: scenic view, landscape evaluation, citizen preference, Matsudo City

1. Introduction

Matsudo City, as a city with both lowland and terrace topography, has many different topographical features. There are many ramps or steps within the city area. Bounded by the JR Joban Line, the western part of Matsudo City is mostly flat and open, whereas the eastern part is mainly terraced. At the same time, as a transportation hub and the center of the city where people and businesses gather, there are many high-rise commercial and residential buildings in the surrounding area of Matsudo Station.

Like many other cities in Japan as an ordinary city in the landscape, Matsudo City does not have many landscape resources and features. However, since Matsudo City has both undulating terrain, high-rise buildings, and a broad view, especially along the Edo River, it is a city that is very suitable for scenic viewing.

In the Landscape Plan formulated by Matsudo City Hall in 2011, ‘scenic view’ was also valued as one of the elements of Matsudo City’s landscape development, in order to retain the current superiority of Matsudo City on scenic viewing landscape.  

Meanwhile, ‘My Favorite Scenic Spots of Matsudo City’, an activity designed to allow citizens to rediscover the beauty around them and share with others, has been conducted by the Matsudo City Hall since 2009. In the past few years, this activity has collected many submitted photos and comments, a part of which were related to scenic views. Moreover, submissions about scenic views have the most scenic spots according to the classification of different landscape elements, showing the love and preference for scenic views of Matsudo citizens.

Previous studies on preference of scenic views have mainly concentrated on the natural scenery, including mountains and riversides, and places around residential areas. Fuyu et al. (1994) and Kojima et al. (1995) showed photos to participants of experiments to collate people’s perception and understanding of scenic viewing landscape and their preferences for natural elements of scenic views. Through photograph analysis and questionnaire surveys, Tosa et al. (2009) identified Kobe citizens’ awareness of mountains. Yokota et al. (2001), Yokota et al. (2002), and Murakawa et al. (1996) analyzed features of photographs taken by inhabitants from buildings fronting rivers, in order to identify inhabitants’ preferences and also clarified the characteristics of these preferences. Some other studies have mainly focused on the overall landscape preferences. Through questionnaire surveys and submitted comments by participants of experiments, Oishi et al. (2003), Yamamoto et al. (2003) and Oishi et al. (2007) analyzed the distribution, reasons, and evaluation tendencies of landscape preferences. Morinobu et al. (2010) clarified citizens’ perception of the landscape in Yashio City by extracting different landscape components.

To date, there is almost no study that focuses on the citizens’ preferences of scenic viewing landscape throughout the whole city. Therefore, this study aims to clearly elucidate the citizens’ landscape preferences for the scenic views of Matsudo City, to explore the charm of Matsudo’s landscape, and clarify the direction of future landscape planning.
development of scenic views. Moreover, as an ordinary city that has limited attractions, this study on the scenic viewing landscape of Matsudo City may provide a reference for the development of other ordinary cities.

2. Research objectives and methods

(1) Research objectives

Based on analysis of the activity ‘My Favorite Scenic Spots of Matsudo City’ from 2009 to 2018, there was an overall of 64 contributors who contributed 82 photos and 69 comments related to 47 scenic viewpoints within these ten years (Table-1). These scenic viewpoints and subjects in the photos were determined as the objectives of this study. Some examples of the photos are shown in Figure-1.

(2) Methods

Since this study aims to well elucidate the general preference of citizens for the overall scenic viewing landscape in Matsudo City, methods of this study mainly refer to the studies by Oishi et al.,9) Yamamoto et al.,10), for the overall scenic viewing landscape in Matsudo City, methods of this study mainly refer to the studies by Oishi et al.,9) Yamamoto et al.,10), Oishi et al.,11) and Morinobu et al.12)

1) Classification analysis

Based on discussion with the Landscape Guidance Department of the Urban Planning Division, Matsudo City Hall, as well as submitted photos
and comments by contributors on the homepage of Matsudo City Hall, data was sorted using Excel. The scenic viewing subjects of each viewpoint were extracted, then classified and analyzed according to the different attributes of the scenic viewing subjects.

2) Geographical analysis

Google Earth and ArcMap were used to locate and display scenic viewpoints and the line of sight from viewpoints to targets. This data was combined with the terrain conditions of Matsudo City (ArcMap) to analyze the distribution status and characteristics. Functions provided by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan were used to calculate azimuths and generate the topographical section spanning from scenic viewpoints, whose subjects were located outside of Matsudo City, to the actual subjects. Furthermore, field trips were also conducted to verify the scenic viewing conditions of these viewpoints.

3. Review of Landscape Plan in Matsudo City

According to the Landscape Plan formulated by Matsudo City Hall in 2011, the entire Matsudo City area is the landscape planning area. Based on the characteristics of landscape resources, Matsudo City is divided into five types of landscape areas: the waterfront, forests on the slope, terraces, green spaces, and central urban area. According to the Landscape Plan, there are five essential landscape elements for the city: forests on the slope, waterfront, scenic views, history and culture, and agricultural landscape are essential landscape elements for Matsudo City. Guidance is carried out to vitalize these elements.

Three crucial areas were specified for scenic views: the waterfront area, the terrace area, and areas along the road. Matsudo City Hall gave instructions to preserve the scenic views of these areas, for example, no changing of the surrounding terrain, avoiding installation of excessively obstructive billboards, and ensuring that the colors of buildings and billboards do not affect the look and feel of the scenic views.

4. Classification of scenic viewing subjects

All the scenic viewpoints and related contents are shown in Table-1. The names of scenic viewpoints reported in this study mainly used the names provided by Matsudo City Hall during the activity, but were partially revised or supplemented based on the photos and comments submitted by contributors.

According to Nishimura et al. (2004), there are three types of scenic viewing landscapes: perspective, vista, and panorama. In this study, scenic views that we analyzed were mainly perspective and panorama types according to photos submitted from citizens in Matsudo City. Furthermore, photos of 'scenic views' depict the line of sight toward the main subject as well as other residual subjects in the broader vision. According to the line of sight or the range of the field of scenic view, the scenic view can be divided into the scenic viewing foreground, subjects, and scenic viewing background, which indicates that multiple elements and objects may be included in one photo.

In the analysis of submitted scenic viewpoints and photos, contributors' thoughts according to the comments by themselves were considered as a priority in this study. The scenic viewing subjects that were clearly expressed as the targets were extracted as the main subjects, those that were expressed later within a comment and in the manner of "I can also see..." were recorded as minor scenic viewing subjects, whereas those that appeared in the photos but were not mentioned by contributors were not considered. For clarification, the main subjects were the only classification standard in this study.

In Matsunoto et al. (2015), the constituent elements of the scenic viewing subjects were divided into 11 different elements including buildings, roads, green spaces, complexes, water areas, vast areas, etc. In study by Asano et al. (2018), the scenic viewing subjects were divided into five categories: natural landmark type, artificial landmark type, natural panorama type, artificial panorama type, and complex panorama type.

After integrating all the submitted photos and comments, it was found that the main scenic viewing subjects were relatively simple, mainly focusing on nature and urban landscapes, in addition to landmarks. Therefore, according to type, main scenic viewing subjects were divided into artificial landmarks (high-profile landmarks known by Matsudo citizens such as Tokyo Skytree and Matsudo Building), natural landmarks (famous mountains such as Mt. Fuji), nature (such as rivers and green spaces), and normal infrastructure (such as urban areas, roads, and community center). According to the location, main scenic viewing subjects were divided into scenic views within Matsudo City, scenic views outside Matsudo City, and scenic views towards the sky.

(1) Types of scenic viewing subjects

Table-2 Classification results of types of scenic viewing subjects

| TYPES OF SUBJECTS | VIEWPOINTS | CONTRIBUTORS | PHOTOS |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|--------|
| Natural landmark | 14 31.91%  | 19 40.94%    | 24 55.85% |
| Artificial landmark | 26 55.32% | 19 40.94%    | 34 75.83% |
| Complex panorama | 9 19.15%   | 21 32.81%    | 31 37.80% |
| Natural          | 15 31.91%  | 19 37.44%    | 28 40.94% |
| Nature           | 14 29.79%  | 15 23.44%    | 18 21.95% |
| TOTAL            | 47 100%    | 64 100%      | 82 100% |

(2) Locations of scenic viewing subjects

Table-3 Classification results of locations of scenic viewing subjects

| LOCATIONS OF SUBJECTS | VIEWPOINTS | CONTRIBUTORS | PHOTOS |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------|--------|
| OUTSIDE of Matsudo City | 14 29.79% | 15 23.44%    | 18 21.95% |
| Sky                   | 7 14.89%   | 10 15.63%    | 10 12.20% |
| TOTAL                 | 47 100%    | 64 100%      | 82 100% |

(3) Mt. Fuji and Tokyo Skytree as scenic viewing subjects

Among all the subjects, photos of Mt. Fuji and Tokyo Skytree accounted for a marked proportion. Scenic views of Mt. Fuji and Tokyo Skytree were analyzed separately. The statistics in Table-4 include not only Mt. Fuji and Tokyo Skytree as the main scenic viewing subjects but also minor subjects.

According to Table-4, the number of scenic viewpoints towards...
Table-4 Mt. Fuji and Tokyo Skytree as scenic viewing subjects

| SUBJECTS | VIEWPOINTS | CONTRIBUTORS | PHOTOS |
|----------|------------|--------------|--------|
| Mt. Fuji | 18         | 26           | 32     |
| Tokyo Skytree | 7 | 21 | 31 |
| TOTAL    | 47         | 64           | 82     |

Table-5 Geographical information

| No. | Viewpoints | Subjects | Elevation (m) | Azimuth (°) | Geodesic length (m) |
|-----|------------|----------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 3   | From a small high place in Makinocho to Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | 247.18 | 120.36 | 120.36 |
| 38  | From Kuriyama / Kuriyama to Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | 247.95 | 114.12 | 114.12 |
| 42  | From Yagiri to Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | 247.67 | 113.79 | 113.79 |
| 52  | From Edogawa embankment to Mt. Tsukuba | Mt. Tsukuba | 22.07 | 50.81 | 50.81 |
| 61  | From a small high place in Makinocho to Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | 247.18 | 120.36 | 120.36 |

Mt. Fuji and Tokyo Skytree markedly differed, accounting for 38.30% and 14.89%, respectively. However, the number of contributors and photos were similar. These findings show that Mt. Fuji can be seen from more places in Matsudo City, but Matsudo citizens are as passionate about viewing Tokyo Skytree as Mt. Fuji.

5. Geographical analysis of scenic views

(1) Overall distribution and types of scenic viewing subjects

The 47 scenic viewpoints are recorded on the map (shown in Figure-2) with different symbols according to the different types of scenic viewing subjects. The overall viewpoints of Matsudo City are mainly concentrated in the flat areas in the west, especially areas near Matsudo Station, along the Edo River, and Yakiri area, whereas the viewpoints in the east with higher terrace are relatively few and scattered. Scenic viewpoints whose targets are natural landmarks and nature are distributed in a relatively wide range, whereas viewpoints whose targets are artificial landmarks and normal infrastructure are relatively concentrated in the range from Matsudo Station to the Yakiri area.

(2) Scenic views outside Matsudo City

Scenic viewing subjects that are located outside of Matsudo City accounted for a high proportion, comprising mainly of famous mountains, landmark buildings, and urban areas. Thus, scenic views outside Matsudo City were analyzed separately.

1) Distribution and geographical information

The distribution of scenic viewpoints whose targets are located outside of the city is summarized separately in Figure-3-1 to Figure-3-4, according to different subjects. Geographical information (Table-5), including elevation of subjects, azimuth to subjects, and geodesic length, indicate that scenic viewing subjects located outside of Matsudo City are mainly in the western and southwestern direction of the city. The azimuth of scenic views is mainly in the range of 220°–250°.

2) Current status of scenic views

Field trips were conducted from Nov 2020 to Aug 2021 to verify the current status of the scenic views of Matsudo City (Table-6). Most of the scenic viewing subjects located outside of Matsudo City could still be viewed. However, scenic views towards Mt. Fuji from Tojo History were blocked by high-rise residential buildings in Kanamachi, Tokyo. Furthermore, the scenic view towards Mt. Nantai from Sendabori had disappeared. The single contribution about Mt. Nantai was submitted in 2009, and environment around this scenic viewpoint has changed a lot in the past few years. It is assumed that the new supermarket and residential buildings are the main influencing factors.
In addition, according to field trips, Tokyo Skytree can be viewed from the Edo River coastal area in the north of Matsudo Station under appropriate weather conditions, although there were no prior contributions about this viewpoint location. This may be because Tokyo Skytree is more conspicuous and viewed more easily in the southern area along Edo River, Yakiri area, rather than in the northern area.

3) Representative topographical sections

Out of all the scenic views towards subjects located outside of Matsudo city, five were selected as representative in this study (from Edogawa embankment towards Mt. Tsukuba, from Sendabori towards Mt. Nantai, from Fuji Park in Yakiri towards Mt. Fuji, from agricultural land in Yakiri towards Tokyo Skytree, and from Fuji Park towards Saitama) to generate topographical sections (shown in Figure-4).

According to the topographical sections, it is evident that the scenic views towards the outside of Matsudo City were mostly views from low to high areas. Although the topography of Matsudo City has terraces, it is still relatively low and flat compared to the mountainous terrain, and the highest elevation is at the 21st Century Forest Park (34.0 m above sea level)\(^{19}\). These findings suggest that high buildings within the line of sight from scenic viewpoints to targets can easily become obstructive factors (Figure-5) to scenic views, indicating that the scenic views of Matsudo City are fragile and need more preservation.

At present, Shizuoka Prefecture's effort on the preservation of the scenic viewing landscape may serve as a good model for Matsudo City in the future. Shizuoka Prefecture currently has a prefectural-wide landscape formation plan that designates important scenic viewing areas.\(^{20}\) Furthermore, in the landscape plans and ordinances of cities in Shizuoka Prefecture, for example, Shizuoka City\(^{21}\) and Fujimiya City\(^{22}\), scenic viewpoints are designated for better preservation. Applications are required for development and new constructions in the areas preserved for scenic views\(^{23}\). In Matsudo City, there is currently no such preservation of scenic viewing landscape. In addition, the situation in Matsudo City is more complicated, since many of the scenic viewing subjects are located outside of the city, and new buildings that obstruct the views of subjects may be located outside of the city. The future preservation of the scenic viewing landscape in Matsudo City is required for development and new constructions in the areas preserved for scenic views.

### Table 6: Current status of scenic views towards the outside of the city

| No. | Viewpoints | Main Subjects | Current Status |
|-----|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1   | From a small high place in Makinohara toward Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 2   | From Tokkondaira to Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 13  | From Kogazaki to Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 15  | Mt. Fuji and current from Kogazaki riverside ground | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 18  | From Tojo-tei to Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 21  | From the roof of the city hall toward Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 31  | Mt. Fuji from the open space of the municipal hospital | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 32  | From Yagiri to Mt. Fuji | Tokyo Skytree | O |
| 42  | Yagiri / Rice Straw Bocchi and Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 43  | From the Edogawa embankment toward Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 46  | From Kameyakari / Fujimidai to Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 47  | From Kameyakari / Fujimidai to Mt. Fuji | Tokyo Skytree | O |
| 51  | From Akiyama to Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 52  | From Kuriyama Water Purification Plant to Toshiba | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 53  | From Kuriyama Water Purification Plant to Tokyo Skytree | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 54  | From Kogazaki Junior High School to Mt. Tojo-tei | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 55  | From Kameyakari Junior High School to Mt. Tojo-tei | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 56  | From Kameyakari Junior High School to Mt. Tojo-tei | Tokyo Skytree | O |
| 9   | From Akiyama to Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 10  | From Tojo-tei to Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 19  | From Kameyakari Junior High School to Mt. Fuji | Mt. Fuji | O |
| 20  | From Kameyakari Junior High School to Mt. Fuji | Tokyo Skytree | O |

Notes: ‘O’ stands for the view is in good condition and can see the view target clearly, '-' stands for the view target is now be blocked or recognized difficultly.

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**Figure 4-1 Scenic view towards Mt. Tsukuba (from Kogazaki)**

**Figure 4-2 Scenic view towards Mt. Nantai (from Sendabori)**

**Figure 4-3 Scenic view towards Mt. Fuji (from Yakiri)**

**Figure 4-4 Scenic view towards Tokyo Skytree (from Kogazaki)**

**Figure 4-5 Scenic view towards Saitama (from Yakiri)**

**Figure 4- Representative topographical sections**

Notes: The gray line ("-"-) represents the line of sight from the scenic viewpoints to the subjects, and the black arrow ("-"-) represents the directions of the scenic views.

**Figure 5 Section of a case where scenic view became blocked**

Notes: The black rectangle indicates the obstacle (buildings), and the dotted line represents the original line of sight, which is now obstructed by the presence of the obstacle.
views in Matsudo City requires more consideration and exploration.

6. Conclusion

This study analyzed the classification and geographic distribution of scenic views collected in the ‘My Favorite Scenic Spots of Matsudo City’ activity from 2009 to 2018. As an ordinary city formed by sprawl, without much superior landscape characteristics, Matsudo City has many scenic views that provide beautiful scenery and pleasant moods. Furthermore, scenic viewpoints are mainly concentrated in the western part of Matsudo City, mainly located along the Edo River, near Matsudo Station, and in the Yakiri area, whereas scenic viewpoints in the eastern part are scattered and relatively few. According to the different attributes of scenic viewing subjects, Matsudo citizens prefer landmark-type subjects that are mainly located outside of Matsudo City. Among all the subjects, Mt. Fuji and Tokyo Skytree are particularly preferred. Field trips and analysis of topographic sections show that the scenic views towards the outside of Matsudo City were mainly from low area towards natural and artificial landmarks, indicating that the scenic views of Matsudo City can be easily affected by changes in the environment around the scenic viewpoints.

These findings suggest that areas along the Edo River, areas surrounding Matsudo Station, and the Yakiri area should be designated as crucial areas to preserve and vitalize the scenic viewing landscape of Matsudo City in future landscape planning. In addition, due to the topographic relationship between Matsudo City and subjects located outside the city, Matsudo City should pay additional attention to the height control of new buildings around scenic viewpoints.

As a city with ordinary landscapes, the superiority of Matsudo City’s scenic views towards the outside the city may be implication for other cities with topographical characteristics but little attractions. A city’s landscape development should not only be limited by administrative boundaries. The scenic views beyond the boundary can also be a focal point for the future development of landscape. However, this study only analyzed the current situation of Matsudo City's scenic viewing landscape, and did not explore the strategies and methods of preservation. The ways of preserving the scenic viewing landscape in Matsudo City, especially control of new high-rise buildings outside the city boundaries, will be investigated in the future.

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