

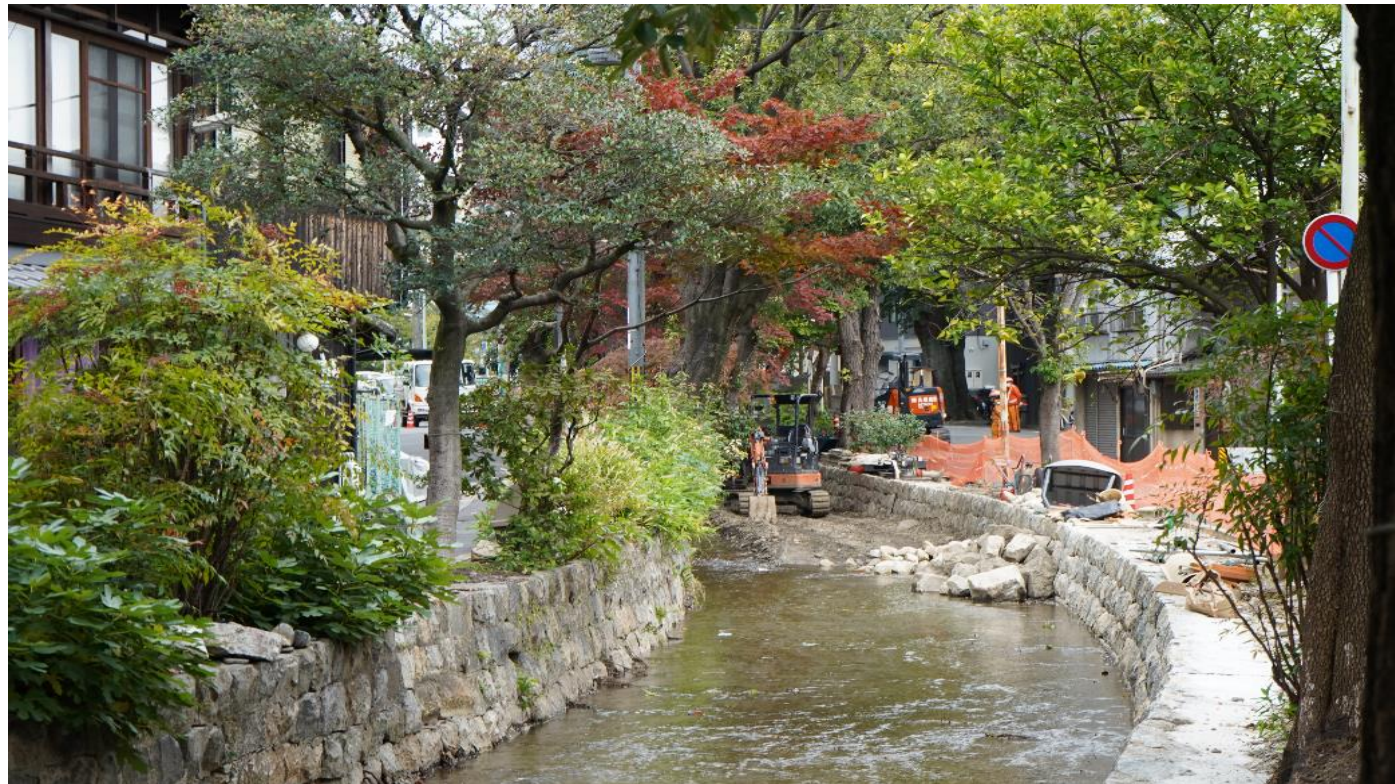
A scenic view of the Takase River in Japan. The river flows through a stone-lined channel. In the foreground, a wooden boat is filled with several large, stacked sake barrels (kazaridaru) with Japanese characters written on them. The background shows a traditional stone bridge crossing the river, surrounded by trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, red, and yellow. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and traditional.

Team 5: A Community Space Along the Takase River

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Komlavi Touglo, Terence Tan

Project Goals

- Development of a community space along the Takase River
- Understand the history of the Canal and current renovation
- Analyze relationships between ecosystem and community along the Canal
- Determine what the locals would like to see



A Neighborhood Left Behind

The neighborhood facing restoration is known for Burakumin

Part of a caste system in Japan

Face discrimination in employment

Historically underclass, so likely don't have much of a voice



<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/i-wanted-to-escape-this-life-by-hiding-who-i-was>

Environmental Justice



<https://www.kyotojournal.org/uncategorized/feeling-the-trees-shivering-endangered-environmental-knowledge-in-northern-kyoto/>

- Urban Burakumin live in substandard conditions
- Many homes are cramped and poorly constructed
- Marginalized groups are disproportionately affected by environmental harm
- Machizukuri (neighborhood groups) gained power in Japan during the late 20th century
- Buraku Liberation League

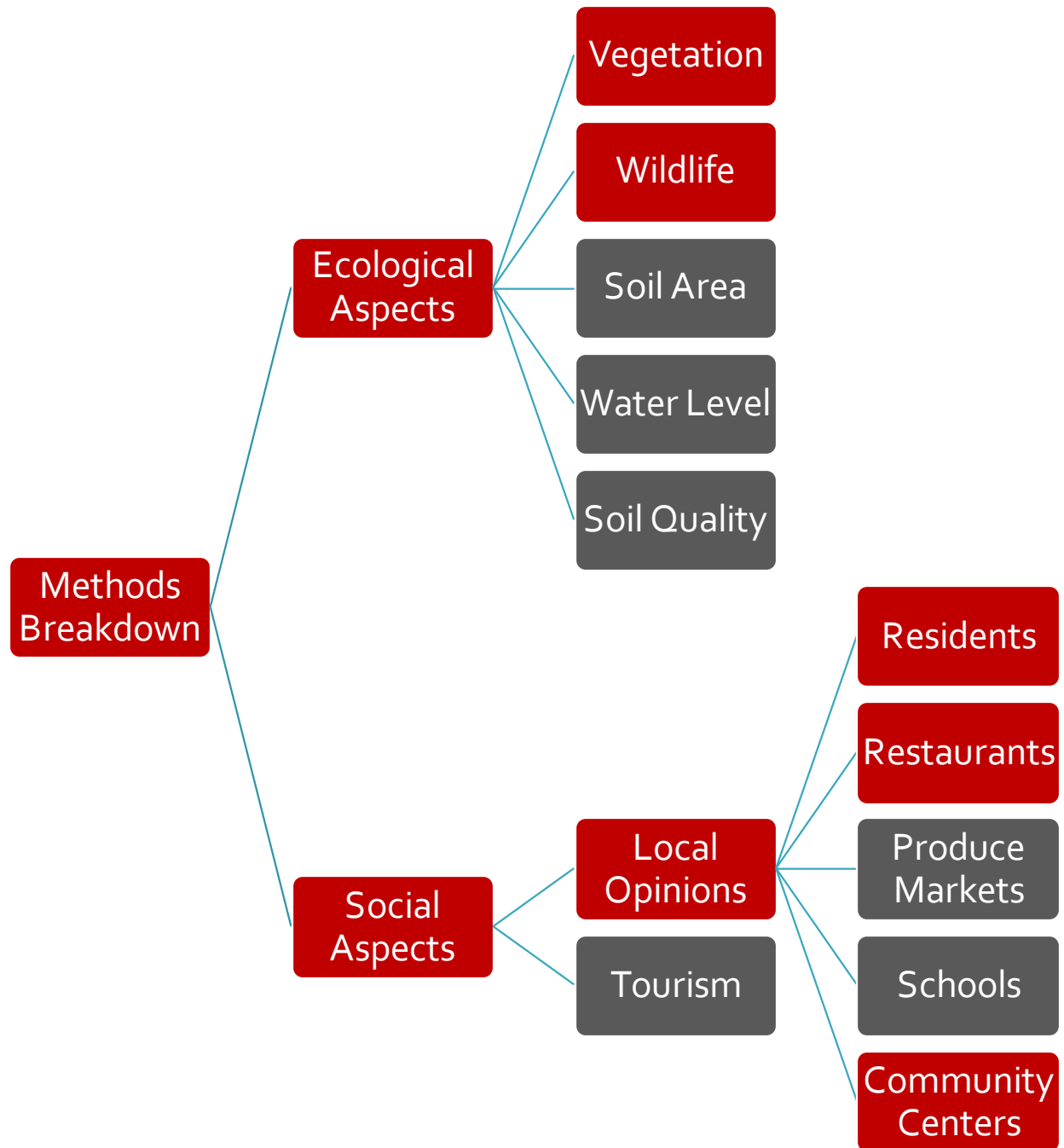


Takase River

- Built in 1611 to transport goods
- Now serves as a place to walk along and take in scenery
- Canal began restoration in 2010 and continued past Gojo in 2022
- Involves the removal of trees, which are currently tagged
- Some trees may have importance to neighborhood
- May have ecological consequences

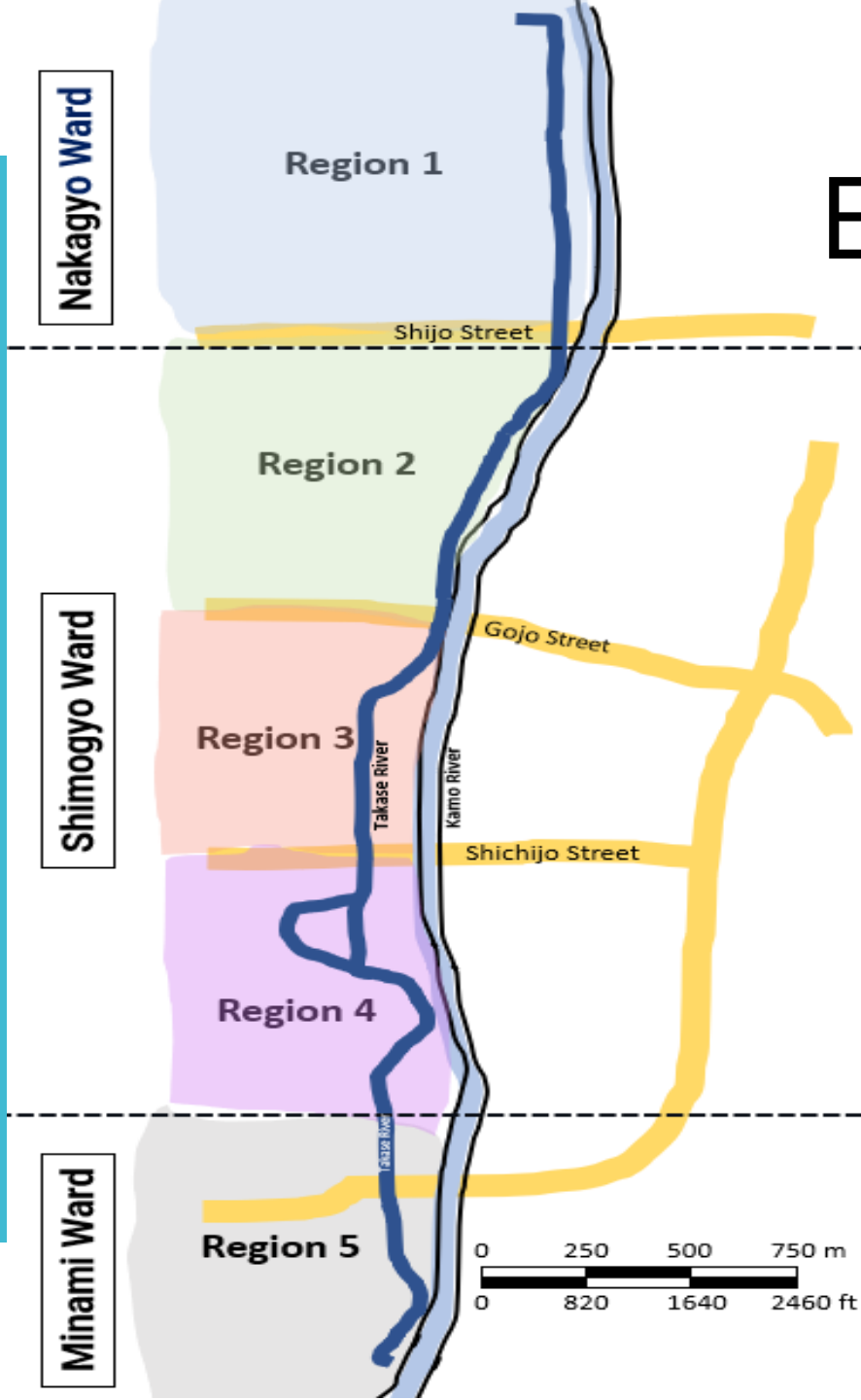


Methods



Establishing Discrete Regions

- 3 Wards: Nakagyo-ku, Shimogyo-ku, and Minami-ku
- Self-imposed regions
- Divided based on Ward and Major streets



Ecological Aspects

Vegetation Analysis

- Created database of plants and trees
- Vegetation Identification Software: PictureThis!



Wildlife Analysis

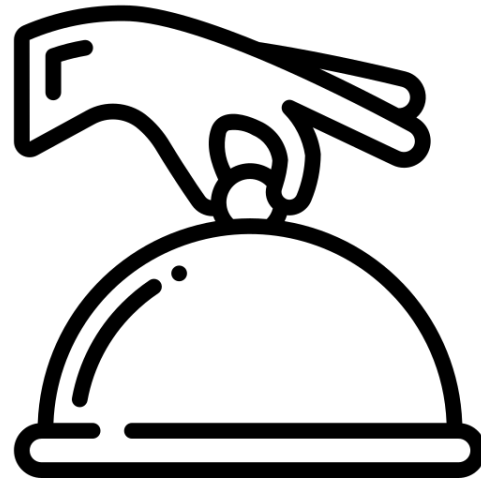
- Identified wildlife species in regions 3 and 5
- Completed onsite research throughout the day
 - 6am, 10am, 2pm, 6pm
- Animal Identification Software: Seek by iNaturalist



Analyzed Metrics



**Vegetation
Biodiversity**

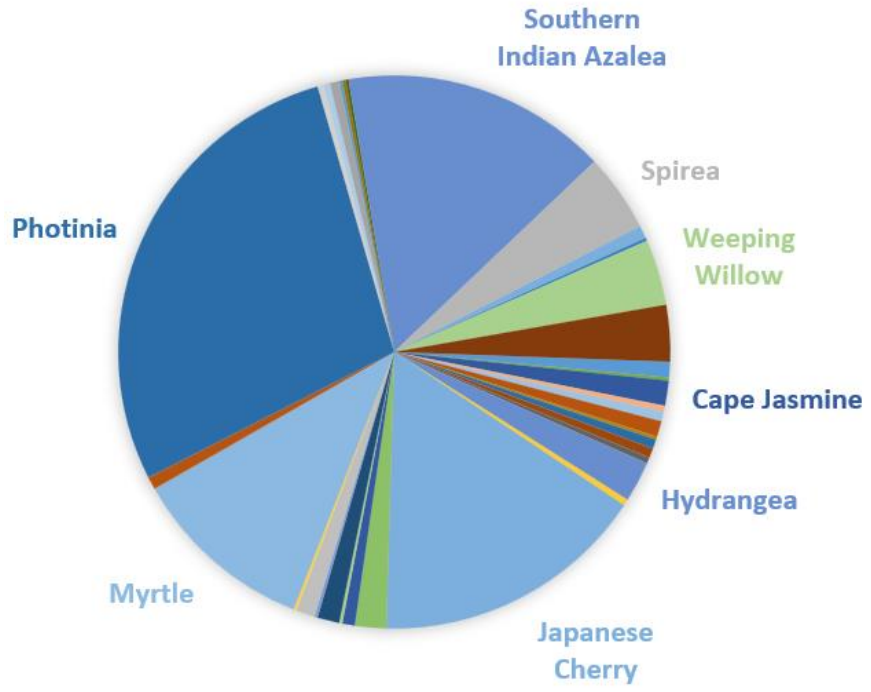


**Produce
Edibility**



**Potted
Plants**

REGION 1 SIGHTINGS

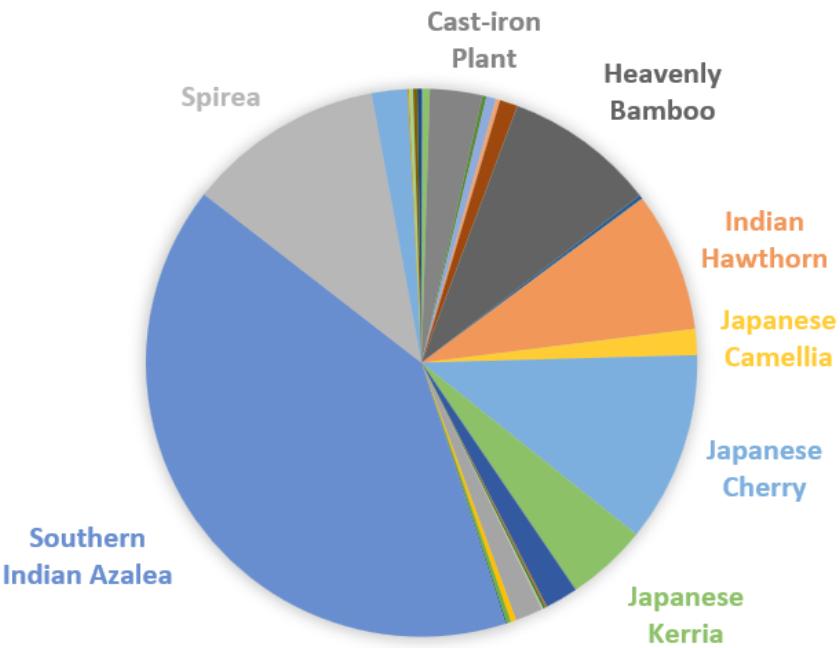


Region 1

Important Metrics

Biodiversity	★	★	☆	☆	☆
Edibility	★	★	☆	☆	☆
Potted Plants	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆

REGION 2 SIGHTINGS

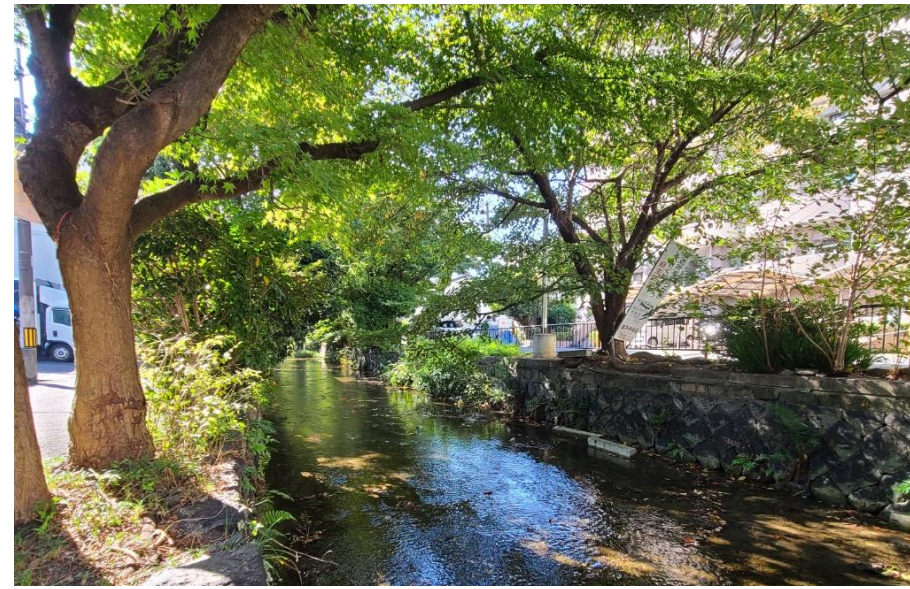
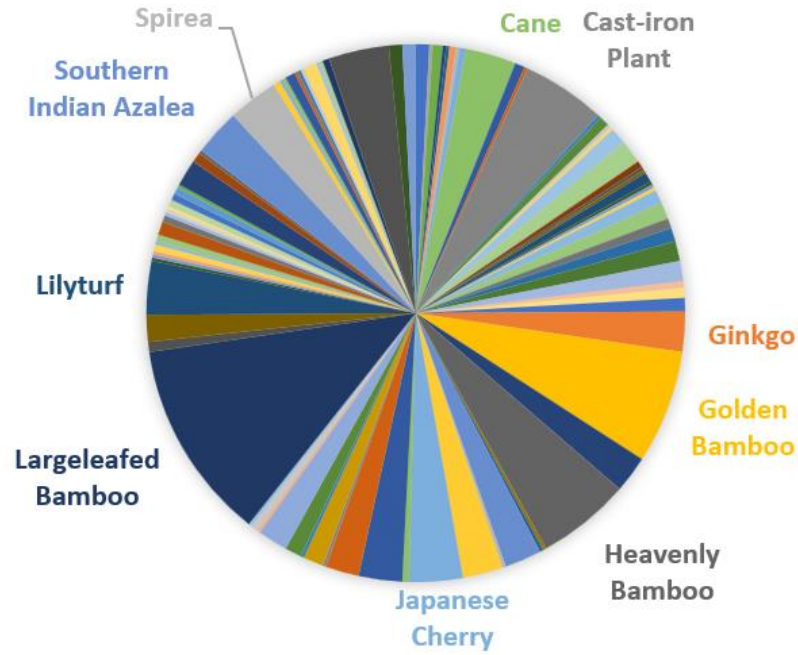


Important Metrics	
Biodiversity	★☆☆☆☆
Edibility	★★☆☆☆
Potted Plants	☆☆☆☆☆

Shijo St.

Region 2

REGION 3 SIGHTINGS



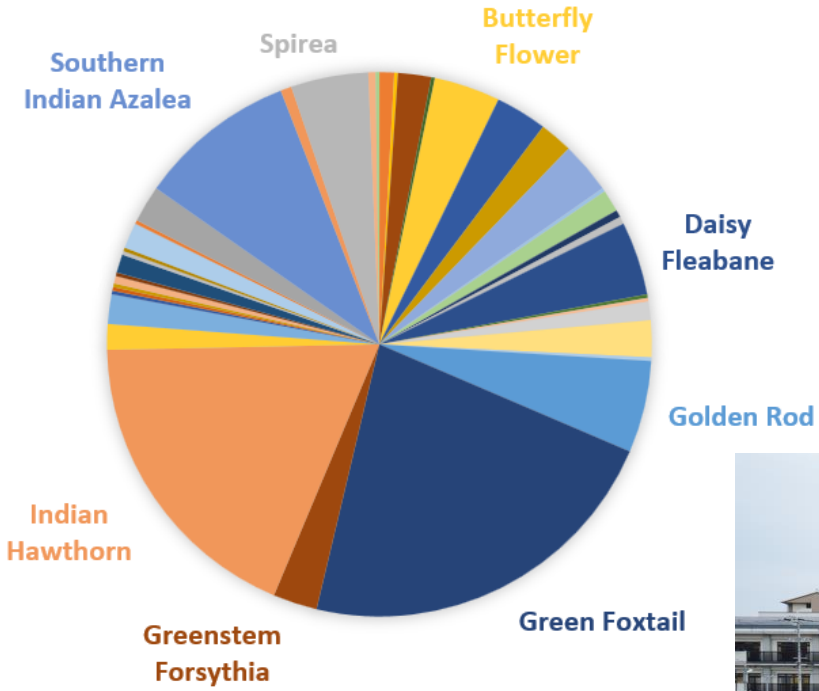
Gojo St.

Important Metrics



Region 3

REGION 4 SIGHTINGS



Important Metrics

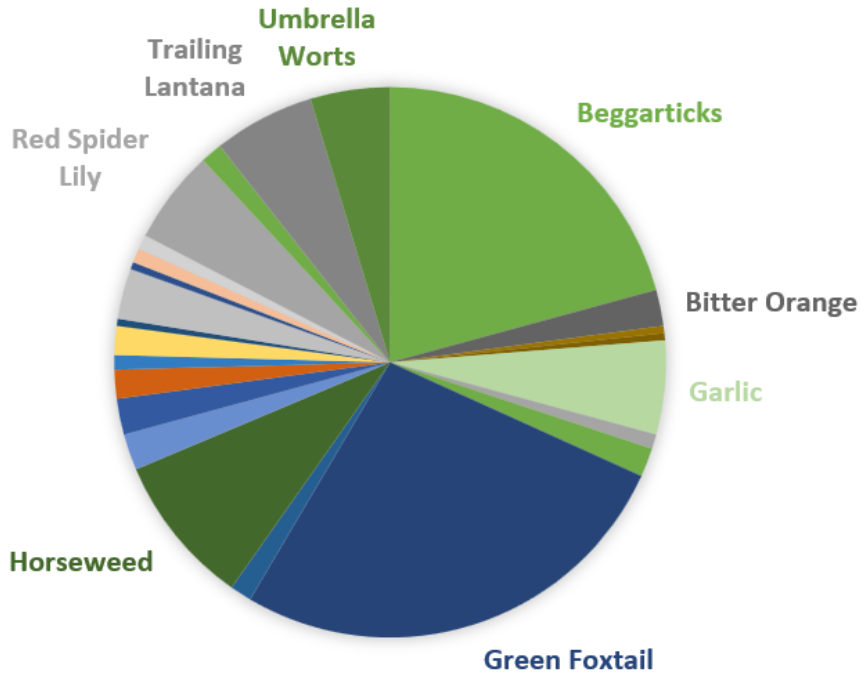
Biodiversity	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
Edibility	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆
Potted Plants	★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆



Shichijo St.

Region 4

REGION 5 SIGHTINGS



Important Metrics

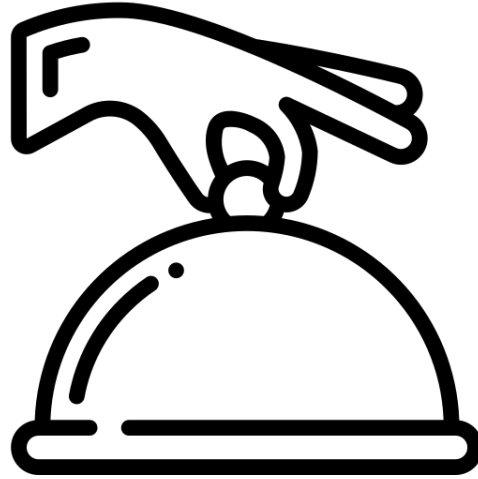
Biodiversity ★★★★★

Edibility ★★☆☆☆

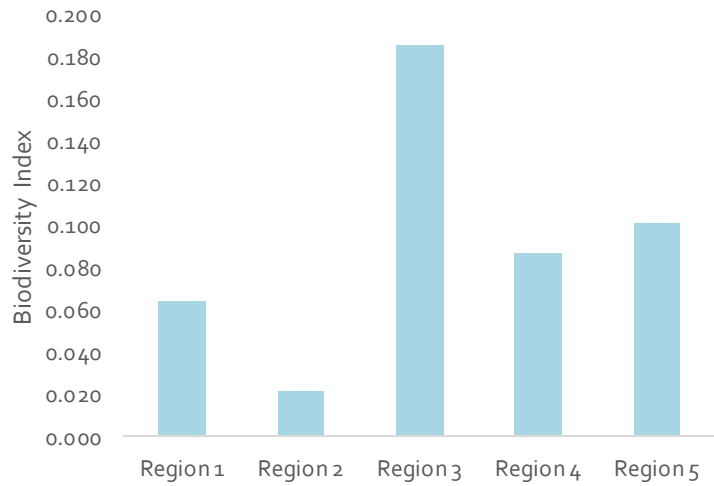
Potted Plants ★★★★★

Kujo-dori St.

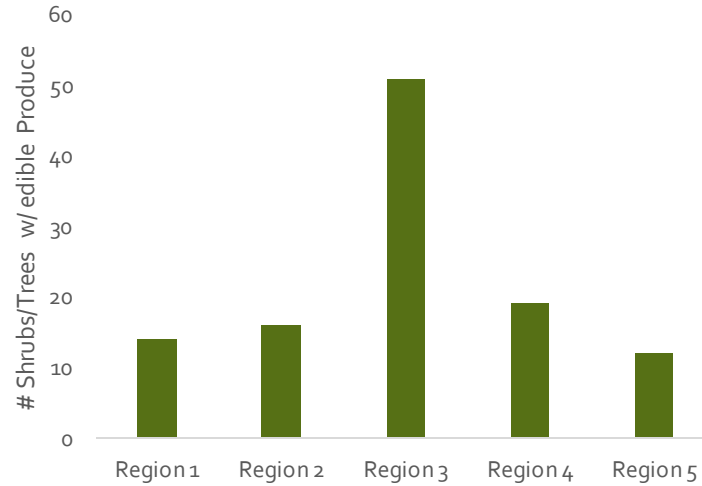
Region 5



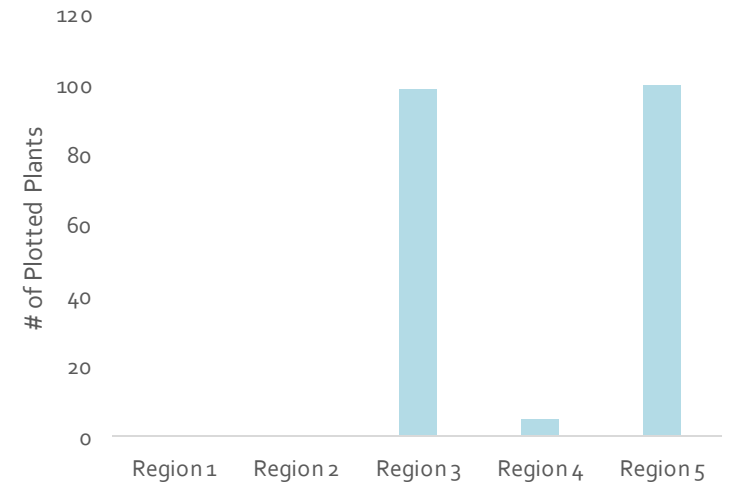
Vegetation Biodiversity on the Takase



Shrubs/Trees with Edible Produce



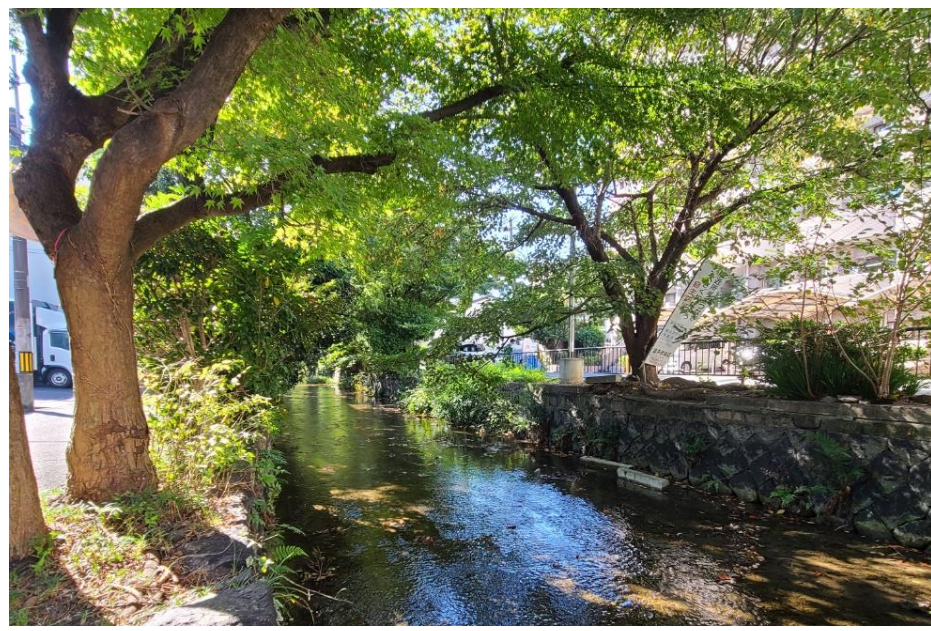
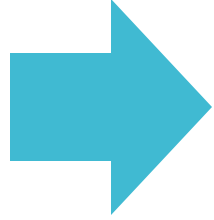
Usage of Potted Plants on the Takase



Region 1



Region 2

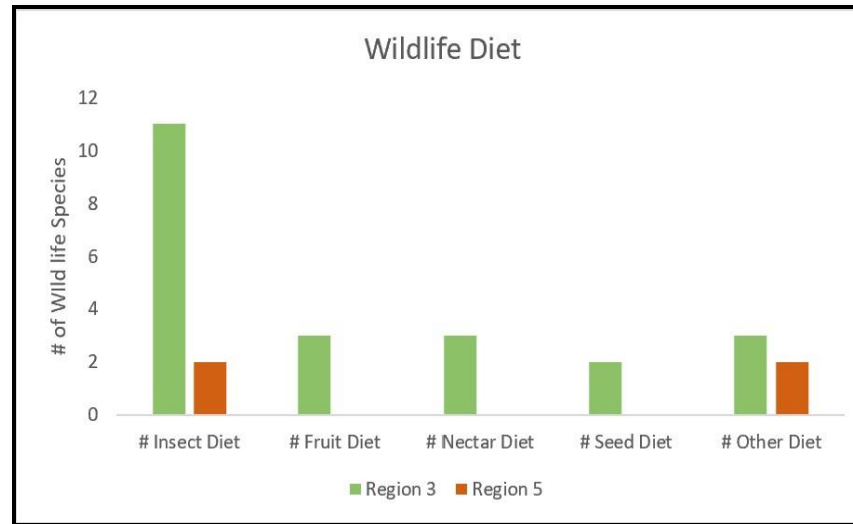
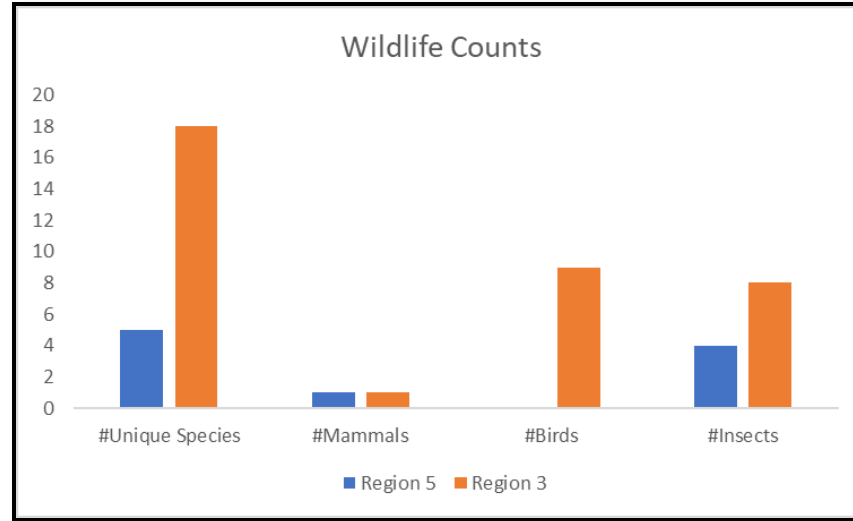


Region 3



Region 5

Wildlife Analysis



Social Aspects



- Understand public opinion regarding the river
- Make people aware of the project
- Let the locals say what they want instead of imposing ideas onto them

Interview Analysis

Revealed that the community has a general distaste for the removal of trees by the city contractors.

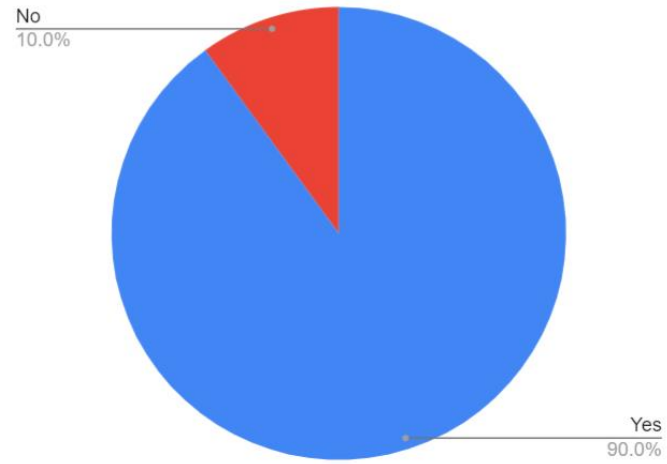
Aesthetic is a common worry among interviewees

Few community members voiced out the risk of trees causing damage to structures and harming citizens.

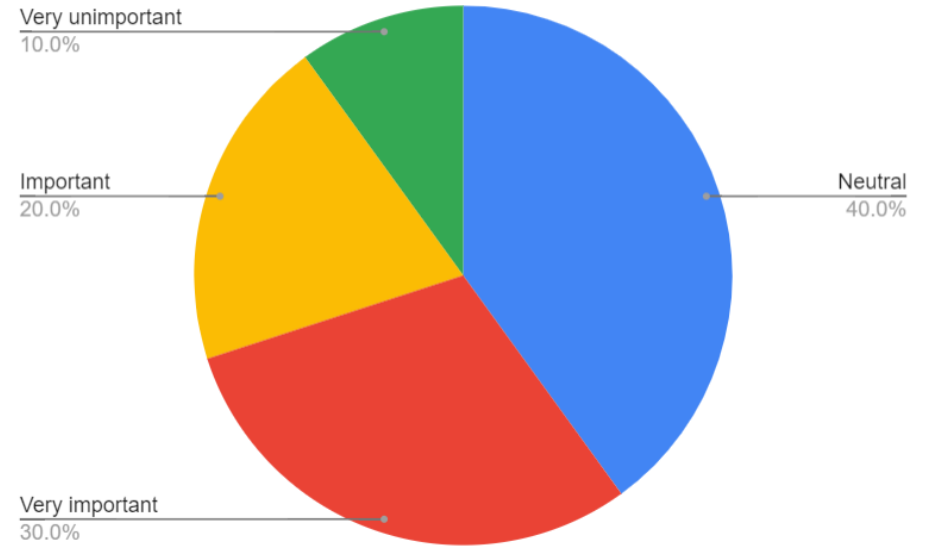


Survey Analysis

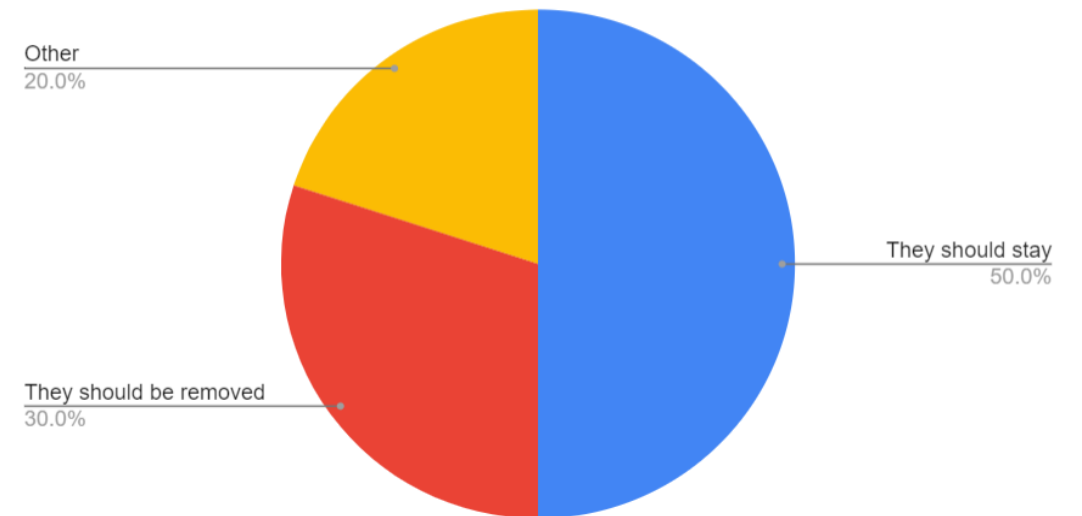
Are you aware that some of the plants/trees along the Takase River produce edible fruit?



How important is the Takase River in your life?



What do you think should happen to the plants and trees along Takase River?



- The data does not indicate that there is one clear answer
- Low response rate

LOCATIONS OF WILDLIFE IN REGIONS 3 & 5

Region 3

Birds
Asian Brown Flycatcher
Autumn Darter
Brown-eared Bulbul
Crow
Grey Wagtail
Japanese Leaf Warbler
Japanese Wagtail
Rock Dove
Rock Sandpiper

Mammals
Domestic Cat

Insect
Ant
Blue Ash Aphid
Cloudless Sulphur
Common Green Bottle Fly
Hornet
Mosquito
Syrphid Fly
Water Striders

Region 5

Birds
None that were seen

Mammals
Domestic Cat

Insect
Ant
Dragonfly
Mosquito
Water Striders

THE PERCENTAGE OF EDIBLE VEGETATION WITHIN THE FIVE REGIONS



Region 1 40%

Region 2 59%

Region 3 55%

Region 4 48%

Region 5 50%

Region 1 Nakagyo Ward: Oshikoji-dori - Shijo st.

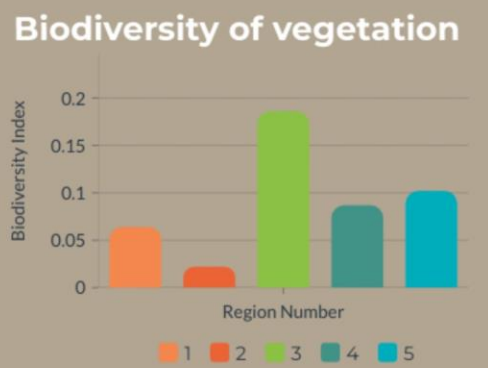
Region 2 Shimogyo Ward: Shiijo st.- Gojo st.

Region 3 Shimogyo Ward: Gojo st.- Shichijo st.

Region 4 Shimogyo Ward: Shichijo st.- Shinbashi st.


Region 5 Minami Ward: Shinbashi st. - Higashikujo Yanaginoshitacho

Edible plants within shrubs and trees




Edible plants found in along the Takase Canal

Region 1 Nakagyo Ward




- Japanese Cherry 44%
- Myrtle 30%
- Hydrangea 7%
- Japanese Camellia 5%
- Other 14%

Region 2 Shimogyo Ward




- Japanese Cherry 37%
- Indian Hawthorn 27%
- Japanese Kerria 17%
- Sweet Cherry 7%
- Other 13%

Region 3 Shimogyo Ward




- Golden Bamboo 12%
- Woodsorrels 6%
- Japanese Cherry 6%
- Cane 5%
- Other 70%

Region 4 Shimogyo Ward



- Green Foxtail 42%
- Indian Hawthorn 35%
- Chinaberry tree 6%
- Chameleon plant 4%
- Other 13%

Region 5 Minami Ward



- Green Foxtail 61%
- Garlic 12%
- Hydrangea 5%
- Japanese Persimmon 4%
- Other 18%

Conclusions

1. This neighborhood has been overlooked
2. Fruit trees affected the ecosystem of the canal
3. Upstream canal maintenance changed ecosystem
4. There was a lack of consideration from the government
5. Community split on value of trees



Recommendations



More research needs to be done before anything is implemented



Establish a community presence through social media



Improve survey data collection methods



Increase scope of community project research



Acknowledgments

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Team 2 Canal Restoration

Thank You
for
Listening!

