

History

01



The City of Tokyo(Tokyo-shi) first came into being during the Meiji period in 1889, with four villages (Setagaya, Komazawa, Matsuzawa and Tamagawa) becoming part of Tokyo Prefecture (Tokyo-fu) and another two local villages becoming part of Kanagawa Prefecture. In 1907, the Tamagawa Electric Railway began rail services in the area, and new lines (Keio, Odakyu, Oimachi and Inokashira) were added from the Taisho period through the early Showa period.

After the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923, many people moved from the heavily damaged downtown areas to outlying suburban areas with inexpensive land and convenient transportation. Setagaya's population surged as a result, transforming the areas along train lines into residential areas. Temples in central Tokyo affected by the earthquake also began moving to Setagaya as well; 26 temples relocated to Karasuyama district from 1923 through the Showa period, creating a "Tera-machi."

In 1932, the city of Tokyo expanded its wards. The towns of Setagaya and Komazawa, and the villages of Tamagawa and Matsuzawa became Setagaya Ward under the City of Tokyo. Four years later in 1936, the villages of Kinuta and Chitose were added. The geographic boundaries remain same as today, but the

population of Setagaya Ward at this time was approximately 210,000 people.

Although Setagaya suffered damage from air raids during World War II, as there was low amounts of damage compared with other areas many people moved into Setagaya after the war, and the population grew rapidly over the next three decades.

In the past, Setagaya City had two distinct administrative "faces": one as a large-scale administrative authority as a tokubetsu-ku (special ward of Tokyo) under the todofuken (metropolitan and prefectural) system and the other as a basic local authority at the city, taking care of everyday matters for its citizens at town and village level. However, reforms to the special ward system in 2000 turned Setagaya and Tokyo's other special wards into basic local authorities. The reforms clearly delineated the special wards as basic local authorities, and today Setagaya City handles all municipal matters carried out by local governments, with the exception of certain matters handled by the Tokyo Metropolitan government.

The FY 2015 national census showed that Setagaya is home to more than 900,000 people, and the number of residents is continuing to grow each year.

City's Structure

02

Executive Body

The Mayor

The mayor is elected directly by city residents, and he/she is the city's highest representative official. In implementing administrative affairs, the mayor organizes and directs subsidiary organs with deputy mayors.

Other duties include administrative work concerning Setagaya City government matters, as well as that dealing with the national and Tokyo Metropolitan governments (specifically delegated matters), according to national laws and ordinances of Tokyo Metropolitan Government.



Subsidiary Organs

To carry out the administrative work and projects that fall under the mayor's authority, deputy mayors are appointed and other staff (regular government employees) provided as subsidiary organs to the office of mayor.

The specially appointed staffs consist of two deputy mayors.

In order to appoint deputy mayors, the mayor must obtain approval from the city assembly. Their duties are to assist the mayor and help in determining mayor policies for the city, working as one with for the mayor. In the event that the mayor is absent for an extended period of time or is unable to carry out his duties for any reason, the deputy mayors will take over said duties as designated by law. Their terms of service are four years.

The regular government workers take orders from their managers and carry out administrative work and projects.

