



MEDIA FACTSHEET

Annex C

RIFLE RANGE NATURE PARK

On 12 November 2022, National Parks Board (NParks) opened Rifle Range Nature Park, a 66-hectare nature park located to the south of Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. It serves as a green buffer to protect the Nature Reserve from edge effects and abutting developments, while enhancing ecological connectivity and providing complementary habitats for the Nature Reserve's biodiversity. At the same time, Rifle Range Nature Park reduces visitorship pressure on the Nature Reserve by providing the public with alternative nature-based recreation options. This includes a freshwater wetland converted from a former quarry, a viewing deck that looks out from 31 metres above the wetland, and over 7 kilometres of trails and boardwalks – the longest out of all the nature parks in the Central Nature Park Network. The opening of Rifle Range Nature Park completes the Central Nature Park Network around Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. It also completes more than 370 ha of nature parks within the network and over 30 kilometres of walking trails within these nature parks, providing important habitats for our biodiversity and more opportunities for Singaporeans to experience nature.

Guided tours presented by NParks and WWF-Singapore (World Wide Fund for Nature Singapore)

To learn more about Rifle Range Nature Park, members of the public can register for early access to free guided tours presented by NParks and WWF-Singapore (World Wide Fund for Nature Singapore), offered in conjunction with Clean and Green Singapore 2022. The tours will be conducted on 10 December 2022 and include visits to Gliders Boardwalk to view animal crossing features such as rope bridges and colugo poles, Waterhen Hide, and the Quarry Wetland which is transformed from the former Sin Seng Quarry. Registration is open at <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/activities/events-and-workshops/2022/12/cn-rifle-range-nature-park-guided-tour>.

From January 2023 onwards, members of the public can also register for free monthly guided tours organised by WWF-Singapore (World Wide Fund for Nature Singapore). The public can sign up for the guided tours via the WWF-Singapore and NParks websites.

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Enhancement of Rifle Range Nature Park

Rifle Range Nature Park is located where the former Sin Seng Quarry was, which ceased operations in 1998. Since then, natural regeneration had taken place, facilitated by the abundance of native species in the adjacent Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. Today, over 400 species of flora and over 300 species of fauna have been recorded within the site, including species that can be found in the adjacent Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and nature parks, such as the globally critically endangered Straw-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*). To ensure that the park continues to act as a buffer and complementary habitat for the nature reserve along with the other parks in the Central Nature Park Network, habitat restoration and enhancements have been the key focus for Rifle Range Nature Park. To guide restoration efforts, a biodiversity baseline study was carried out to identify areas and species of conservation significance. The results of the study informed the design and planning of works to ensure that they were implemented sensitively and sustainably. As part of NParks' Forest Restoration Action Plan, native species that will assist with forest regeneration were planted. Crossing aids such as rope bridges were also installed across Rifle Range Road to enhance ecological connectivity for tree-dwelling animals.

In addition to these enhancements, Rifle Range Nature Park is Singapore's first net positive energy nature park, with the energy harvested from the photovoltaic solar panels installed around the nature park exceeding the expected annual operational energy consumption of the site. This push for sustainability aligns with the Singapore Green Plan 2030, a nationwide movement that charts Singapore's sustainable development.