

MEDIA FACTSHEET

ANNEX D

TRANSFORMING SINGAPORE INTO A CITY IN NATURE

Over the years, the National Parks Board (NParks) has created a green network comprising roadside plantings and a Park Connector Network that links up parks and other green spaces. Skyrise greenery dot developments while biophilic design has been adopted in restoring habitats. NParks has also been engaging the community in our efforts to sustain our greening efforts. Through these efforts, NParks has safeguarded more than 7,800 hectares of green spaces – nature reserves, gardens, and parks, linked by some 340km of park connectors – across Singapore, and has integrated greenery throughout the city.

Key Challenges

As Singapore continues to urbanise, the growing infrastructure will put increasing pressure on the established green cover. This, coupled with climate change and more extreme weather conditions, will result in higher urban temperatures and increased risks of localised flooding events. Therefore, the city needs to be developed in a way that continues to provide a high-quality living environment for Singaporeans, while ensuring that Singapore remains a distinctive global city that instils pride in our people. It should also continue to be competitive, and attract talent, investment, and visitors.

Becoming a City in Nature

Singapore will be transformed into a City in Nature by:

1. Extending Singapore's natural capital
2. Intensifying nature in gardens and parks
3. Restoring nature into the urban landscape
4. Strengthening connectivity between Singapore's green spaces

1. Extending Singapore's natural capital

Singapore's four nature reserves (Bukit Timah, Central Catchment, Labrador, and Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve) safeguard primary and secondary rainforests and are core habitats for native biodiversity. They are also primary providers of ecosystem services like clean air and water.

NParks has converted more than 350 hectares of forested areas surrounding the nature reserves into nature parks to safeguard the nature reserves. These nature parks serve as complementary habitats and buffers to protect the nature reserves against the impact of urbanisation and human activities. They also provide expanded habitats for Singapore's native flora and fauna to thrive beyond the nature reserves.

The nature parks enable visitors to enjoy nature-based activities such as hiking, mountain biking and bird watching with minimal disturbance to the nature reserves. NParks will continue to grow the Nature Park Network and aims to have at least an additional 200 hectares of nature parks by 2030.

One such nature park will be at Khatib Bongsu, a rich mangrove and mudflat habitat on the northeastern coast of Singapore. The upcoming 40-hectare nature park will be an important stopover for migratory shorebirds, and complements the Mandai Mangrove and Mudflat and Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve.

2. *Intensifying nature in gardens and parks*

Beyond expanding Singapore's Nature Park Network, NParks will curate the landscapes in gardens and parks to make them more natural. This will enable Singaporeans to benefit from the positive effects of nature on their health and well-being and appreciate a wider range of biodiversity near their homes.

First, NParks will incorporate natural designs and planting in new and redeveloped parks and gardens. A wider variety of planting schemes will be incorporated, which will recreate the look and feel of Singapore's natural forests and bring visitors closer to nature. Singaporeans can look forward to about 140 hectares of such gardens and parks over the next five years.

Second, NParks will incorporate more therapeutic landscapes in gardens and parks. NParks has started developing therapeutic gardens specially designed and programmed for seniors. Moving forward, NParks will develop more garden typologies to cater to diverse conditions such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dementia, stroke, heart, and mood disorders.

There will be 30 therapeutic gardens across Singapore to meet different needs by 2030.

Note: There are currently four therapeutic gardens in Singapore, at HortPark, Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, Choa Chu Kang Park, and Tiong Bahru Park.

Singapore's network of nature playgardens will also be expanded, enabling children to play outdoors in specially-curated nature play areas and enjoy the benefits of connecting with nature.

Third, NParks will naturalise the waterways and waterbodies in gardens and parks. Concrete canals will be transformed into natural rivers, and reservoirs will serve as natural lakes that function as floodplains to protect nearby homes and properties from flooding while supporting rich biodiversity.

This has been done successfully at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park and the recently launched Lakeside Garden at Jurong Lake Gardens. This nature-based solution will be incorporated in all coastal and riverine parks to help build resilience against sea-level rise and inland flooding.

Fourth, NParks will conserve more native plant and animal species over the next 10 years. Singapore is home to a wide range of biodiversity despite being highly urbanised. Ongoing habitat restoration and species recovery efforts have enabled Singaporeans to encounter and enjoy once rare species, such as the Singapore Kopsia and Tiger Orchid in the gardens, parks, and streetscapes. Birds and butterflies like the Oriental Pied Hornbill and Common Birdwing can now be seen around the city.

Over the next 10 years, NParks will implement species recovery plans for over 70 more native plant and animal species, restore 30 hectares of forest, marine, and coastal habitats, and enhance habitats in at least 50% of Singapore's gardens, parks, and streetscapes.

Note: NParks has implemented species recovery plans for more than 50 species to date. We are targeting to implement recovery plans for a total of 90 species of plants and 40 species of animals in total by 2030.

3. *Restoring nature into the urban landscape*

Nature will be restored into the built environment, and greenery will be brought closer to Singaporeans' everyday lives. This will beautify the urban environment and bring the therapeutic effects of greenery directly to homes and workplaces.

To do so, a concerted effort will be made to intensify the greening of Singapore's streetscapes through the implementation of multi-tiered planting to create a forest-like structure along our roads. Roads with such planting are known as Nature Ways. This will make Singapore's streets cooler and more comfortable for pedestrians, and more resilient to the effects of urbanisation. In the medium term, NParks aims to have an additional 185km of Nature Ways by 2030. Over the long term, NParks aspires to make every road a Nature Way.

Note: There are currently 115km of Nature Ways, and NParks aims to develop 300km by 2030.

At the same time, NParks will increase the implementation of skyrise greenery in Singapore's buildings and infrastructure. Skyrise greenery, such as vertical green walls, green roofs, and rooftop gardens, enables developers and building owners to implement more greenery within Singapore's limited space. NParks aims to have 200 hectares of skyrise greenery by 2030, an increase from the current 120 hectares. This will cool the buildings and make them more comfortable to live, work and play in, while further softening their appearance and advancing Singapore's status as a world leader in vertical greening.

NParks will also focus on greening Singapore's industrial estates, which are currently among the hotter areas in Singapore. NParks will plant around 170,000 trees in industrial estates over the next 10 years. This intensified greenery will cool the industrial estates, help to improve air quality, and beautify their surroundings. For example, NParks is currently working with JTC and Jurong Island stakeholders to plant more than 30,000 trees on the island.

4. Strengthening connectivity between Singapore's green spaces

To sustain a healthy natural ecosystem, NParks will strengthen the ecological connectivity between our green spaces. With this, the greenery in gardens, parks and along the roads will mimic the multi-tiered structure of the forest through Nature Ways. This will make Singapore's streets cooler and more comfortable for pedestrians.

In tandem, NParks will continue to expand the Park Connector Network to ensure that more communities can access nature easily. Singapore will have an additional 160km of park connectors by 2030. With this, all households will be within a 10-minute walk from a park.

Note: There are currently 340km of park connectors, and NParks aims to have 500km by 2030. The additional 160km will include the upcoming Rail Corridor, and the remainder of the Round Island Route.

Enhancing stewardship of our greenery and biodiversity

A City in Nature will enable the community to forge closer bonds through active stewardship of the environment. NParks will be expanding its outreach programmes to reach out to communities, schools, and individuals to encourage them to become stewards of greenery and biodiversity.

Communities can participate in the design, building, management and programming of more than 50 parks in their estates over the next five years. This is an extension of NParks' Friends of the Parks initiative, which aims to promote greater community stewardship in the management of our green spaces. The community can join NParks in the building and management of these parks, such as designing park signage or promoting park etiquette, or partnering the gardeners for landscape planting.

NParks will be launching a new movement to plant a million trees across Singapore over the next 10 years. The "One Million Trees" movement will take place throughout the island, including streetscapes, gardens, parks and park connectors, nature reserves, and nature parks.

The community is key to the success of this movement. Thus far, some 100 individuals and more than 100 groups and organisations have already pledged their support. This includes the Friends of the Park communities, Community in Nature schools, Community in Bloom gardening groups, NParks volunteers, and nature groups.

Keppel Corporation has pledged to donate \$3 million for some 10,000 trees to be planted over the next five years in our parks and nature reserves. This is the single largest donation pledged for tree planting to date. NUS has also committed to plant 80,000 trees on its campus over the next 10 years, while JTC and its stakeholders will plant more than 30,000 trees on Jurong Island. In addition, individuals and organisations like OCBC, Shimizu and their contractors, UPS, and many others have also committed to come on board to support this movement.

NParks will expand the Community in Bloom programme through the provision of more allotment gardens and encouraging the planting of edibles. NParks will also build up the Community in Nature initiative by involving more schools and partners in reforestation efforts and citizen science projects, such as biodiversity surveys.

Note: The Community in Bloom programme currently has over 1,600 community gardens across Singapore, with more than 40,000 gardening enthusiasts.

The Community in Nature initiative is a national movement to connect and engage different groups in the community to conserve Singapore's natural heritage. It brings together all of NParks' nature-related events, activities and programmes to better reach out to the community.

Through these efforts, NParks is looking to grow its volunteer base from the current 48,000 to 70,000 by 2030. With the support of volunteers and corporate partners, NParks hopes to galvanise constructive community action towards caring for Singapore's living environment.

Promoting harmonious living with nature

Aside from working together to transform Singapore into a City in Nature, NParks will step up its efforts to build awareness amongst Singaporeans so that they can live harmoniously with and alongside nature.

NParks hopes that such public education efforts will engender a new way of living with and alongside nature, and in doing so, foster a more gracious and caring society.