

FACT SHEET: COMMUNITY IN BLOOM AMBASSADORS

NParks' Community in Bloom (CIB) programme aims to promote a gardening culture among Singapore residents by encouraging and facilitating gardening efforts by the community. It is part of a larger effort to bring greenery and nature closer to the community which goes towards achieving NParks vision of creating a 'City in Nature'.

Through grounds up collaboration with gardening interest groups, CIB provides opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds to come together and garden with their neighbours, friends and colleagues. While enhancing interactions and strengthening bonds as a community, it also allows people to enjoy gardening and share gardening knowledge and tips. The programme facilitates the creation of self-help networks among residents, schools and organisations as well as individuals.

There are currently more than 1700 community gardens under the CIB programme. Started in 2008, we now have 89 Community in Bloom Ambassadors. More details can be found at www.nparks.gov.sg/cib

Community in Bloom Ambassadors Awards 2021

The Community in Bloom (CIB) Ambassadors Awards recognise exceptional garden volunteers who promote the love for gardening amongst members of the community.

CIB Ambassadors are volunteers who go the extra mile to help others enjoy gardening and nature related activities. They contribute time, effort and resources selflessly to engage the community, and facilitate gardening-based initiatives.

Ambassadors were selected by a panel of judges comprising representatives from the People's Association (PA), National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC), Singapore Environment Council (SEC), and the National Parks Board (NParks).

The selection process was based on the following judging criteria:

Promote love for gardening

- **Organised initiatives that resulted in greater awareness towards the benefits of gardening**
- **Engaged the public on gardening during physical and virtual events**

Spread gardening knowledge to the community

- **Organised or facilitated physical/virtual gardening seminars, talks or sharing sessions**
- **Provided gardening tips through digital platforms; webinars, articles, videos, etc. web-based gardening blogs or forums, opening up of community gardens for learning, etc.**
- **Conducted or hosted learning visits to gardens, connected community gardening groups, etc.**

Facilitate gardening-based community projects

- **Helped community groups in housing estates, schools and organisations to set up their gardening projects by providing guidance, resources, materials, etc.**

Positive conduct

- **Conducted themselves in a manner that resulted in a sustained positive impact on the gardening movement.**

These judging criteria were aligned with the following three main objectives set by NParks for the programme:

1. **Creates more opportunities for gardening** – individuals who are able to explore and establish new areas for growth in gardening including residential developments, places of worship, VWOs, Allied Healthcare Centres, Pre-Schools, and Corporations among others.
2. **Sustains gardening efforts** – individuals who have good gardening and networking skills, creativity and a love for nature.

3. **Facilitates greater involvement among youth and children** – individuals who are able to form partnerships with schools & educators and heighten the profile of gardening among youth and children.

Recipients of the CIB Ambassadors Awards 2021

The following six ambassadors have been appointed in 2021 as part of Clean and Green Singapore celebrations:

- (i) Angie Wong Chiew Shiar
- (ii) Joanora Ng Siew Lan
- (iii) Joshua Liang
- (iv) Norasikin Bte Supelan
- (v) Kevin Tan
- (vi) Prakash Jethwa

Profile of CIB Ambassadors for 2021

Angie Wong Chiew Shiar / Garden Leader @ The Rainforest Garden



Angie's passion is gardening and giving back to the community. She is the garden leader at the Rainforest Garden located within her condominium. In addition, she is also a member at Choa Chu Kang Park community garden where she leads the gardeners to come together to organise Gardeners' Get-Together to celebrate their bountiful harvest which is donated to social organisations that are providing frontline services to the community twice a year. Each time, the gardeners have been able to donate more than 200kg of their edible harvest to social organisations such as Bethany Nursing Home, SASCO Eldercare Centre and childcare centres. Encouraged by the success of this garden's give back initiative, she partnered the nearby My First Skool pre-school to share edibles grown in the garden with the children who participated in decorating garden containers.

Joanora Ng Siew Lan / Senior Lead Trainer @ APSN Delta Senior School



Joanora is a senior trainer in horticulture at the Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN) Delta Senior School. She has designed and conceptualised many internal and external greenery projects within the school compound to benefit students in horticulture programmes at APSN. Together with her students, Joanora reconceptualised and redesigned an existing garden within the school into a sensory garden. This involved introducing therapeutic elements into the garden to enable students with special needs to calm themselves, enjoy a relaxing environment and take time out from their lessons. Joanora has been instrumental in organising many horticultural events and activities for the benefit of her students. For instance, she had organised a five-week long after school sessions on therapeutic horticulture and mindfulness for students. The aim of these sessions was to assist students with their development needs and to enhance their ability to focus in class.

Joshua Liang / Garden Member @ Bukit Batok Zone 2 RC – Cosy Garden



Joshua, at the age of 18, is our youngest Ambassador. He is studying Landscape Design and Horticulture at Ngee Ann Polytechnic where he is also the President of the Horticulture Club. He gardens actively in the edible garden at Cosy Garden and leads in producing educational posters and digital materials to engage residents and youths. He has been overseeing new projects such as edible garden, foliage garden, butterfly garden, orchid garden and green walls and manages the garden members for weekly gardening activities. Joshua has been also curating events to attract more youth to gardening and horticulture. He recently led the corridor gardening sessions at Boon Lay Constituency as one of the speakers on propagating and growing edible plants at home. He regularly hosts tours of Cosy Garden for school children and teaches them about the benefits of gardening and use of orange peel to produce food enzyme which helps to reduce food wastage. He also regularly participates in tree planting events under NParks' OneMillionTrees movement and projects for Youth Steward for Nature Programme.

Norasikin Bte Supelan / Garden Member @ Al-Mukminin Mosque



Norasikin is a garden member at the Al-Mukminin Mosque where she guides the gardening team to maintain their edible garden. She has been instrumental in providing gardening advice and guidance to the garden volunteers on the types of plants and edibles to introduce into the garden. Since the start of the Covid - 19 pandemic, she has been sharing horticulture techniques with the garden volunteers via the online platform. With her friendly and cheerful personality, she was able to motivate and lead a group of volunteers to set up an edible garden for Madrasah Al-Arabiah Green Club. She has been actively supporting NParks for events such as corridor gardening in housing estates and Community Garden Edible Gardens Competition. She also shares her gardening interest on Facebook and reaches out to members of the public to educate them on plant propagation and provides tips on gardening.

Kevin Tan / Garden Leader @ ActiveSg Community Garden



Kevin is the gregarious garden leader at the ActiveSg Community Garden Urban Farm in Woodlands Sports Centre. Kevin and his team initiated the first edible garden within a sports centre in Singapore. From a humble handful of three volunteers, he has grown his pool of volunteers to over 20 active gardeners who not only partake in sports but also engage in gardening to keep themselves healthy. Together with his team, they have engaged over 900 students. He has also worked with charity organisations like Metta Homes, and senior care homes to provide advice on growing edibles. Kevin leads his team to actively reach out to help schools, pre-schools and other sports centres to set up their own gardens by providing advice on design and plant choices and they have helped to set up new gardens in Yio Chu Kang Sports Centre, Toa Payoh Sports Centre, Marsiling Secondary School and Canberra Secondary School. Recently, Kevin led his gardening volunteers in Woodlands Sports Centre to clinch the Garden of the Year Award in CIB Awards 2021.

Prakash Jethwa / Garden Leader @ Waterview NC Veggie Garden



Prakash is a garden leader at Waterview NC Veggie Garden and has been gardening for over five years. He spearheaded the initial planning, set up and implementation of the Waterview NC Veggie Garden and encouraged more residents to join the garden and make it a success. Prakash regularly arranges seedlings, fertilisers and tools for the gardeners to use. He invested time in teaching the gardeners on how to do vertical gardening in a sustainable way. This involved optimising the existing garden set up, making feasible changes, adding boxed planter areas for planting, plumbing for irrigation and support structures for fruiting plants. Prakash started a 'Garden-To-Plate' photo initiative on a WhatsApp chat group where members could show their harvest and the interesting culinary dishes they created with them. Through these activities, Prakash has engendered strong community bonds among residents.