

where my *home* is

NParks manages a network of more than 300 parks and nature areas, and is continually exploring new directions to bring about greenery everywhere. Whether you step out of your homes or look out onto the rooftops, greenery surrounds you. Our gardens are where your home is.







NParks' vision is to transform our Garden City into a City in a Garden where Singapore residents can live, work and play.

Providing New Recreational Facilities During the year, NParks continued in its commitment to provide inspiring settings to cater to the diverse recreational and leisure needs of Singapore residents. Among the new developments was a treetop walk that was launched on 5 November 2004. Located in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, this 250 m-long suspension bridge connects the two highest points in MacRitchie and offers a bird's eye view of the forest canopy. It also plays an important role in forest canopy research by allowing researchers access to a part of the forest not easily attained before. The completion of the HSBC TreeTop Walk marks the end of Phase One of the Nature Reserves Recreational Master Plan, which also included the development of other amenities such as the

MacRitchie Nature Trails and Jelutong Tower.

In Novena estate, residents can now enjoy recreational facilities like a foot reflexology path, fitness stations and play equipment at the 0.17-ha Novena Park. Singapore residents can also look forward to several new parks that are currently being developed throughout the island. This includes the Horticulture Park currently being built at the Pasir Panjang Nursery. Designed as a one-stop horticulture hub, this 19-ha park will showcase demonstration gardens and tropical plants. The park will allow visitors a glimpse into nursery operations and the cultivation of plants. When completed in end 2006, visitors can seek gardening advice as well as purchase potted plants and gardening equipment at the park.

Further afield, a new park in Sengkang will feature a large collection of fruit trees planted in plantation style amidst amenities such as a café, lake and boardwalk. Over in the west, a 10-ha regional park currently being developed at Boon Lay Way will provide a venue for bonding for residents in the area.

Bringing More Value to Existing Parks In addition to building new parks, enhancements to and the re-development of existing parks continued apace. The Singapore Botanic Gardens saw the launch of the Evolution Garden in early 2005. This horticultural attraction transports visitors back to the dawn of prehistory, tracing the emergence of our planet's plant life and its steady evolution during Earth's geologic history. Conceived as an educational feature centred on the message

Left The HSBC TreeTop Walk provides a unique perspective of the forest.

Right Novena Park serves as an ideal venue for community activities for residents in the area.





that plants are crucial to the survival of all life, the plant kingdom's emergence is told as visitors take a gently spiraling walk through the garden, with interpretive signages explaining the sometimes surreal, yet familiar landscape displays.

The year also saw the completion of the new Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, a popular and iconic venue among visitors to the park for its hosting of myriad cultural events and performances. The re-development was made possible by a generous donation

of \$1.5 million from the Shaw Foundation. Featuring a bigger stage area, improved stage lighting and back-of-house facilities to make it a more user-friendly performance venue, visitors to the Gardens will be able to enjoy a wider variety of performances. Just a short walk away, the much-loved Swan Lake and Bandstand are also being upgraded. This involved cleaning up and deepening the Swan Lake and Lily Pond, and improving the surrounding walkways and drainage.

Echoing the organic forms of flowers and leaves, the Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage features two overlapping petal-like forms growing out of a floral stem.

Meanwhile, the re-development of Tanglin Core is well underway. Slated for completion in March 2006, this centerpiece will house a new botanical library accessible to the public, a new herbarium, laboratories, entrance plaza, additional underground parking, as well as new food and beverage outlets. When completed, these enhanced facilities will further the Gardens' position as a leading tropical botanic garden and a renowned institution for research and education.