

Bishan- Ang Mo Kio Park

INFORMATION BOOKLET



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Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park

INTRODUCTION

First opened in 1988, the 62-hectare Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park is located between the two housing estates of Bishan and Ang Mo Kio, in the central area of the island. It is situated west of the local central catchment reserves. Marymount Road bisects the 3-km-long park, with Pond Gardens to the east and River Plains to the west.

HISTORY

Bishan Park and the surrounding area were originally known as Soon Hock Village and Kampong San Theng. An exclusively

Chinese village with a predominance of Hokkiens, Soon Hock Village was renowned for its production of sesame oil and noodles, while Kampong San Theng was a quiet and rural area. Preceding the 1960s, the area also housed Peck San Theng, a cemetery that mainly served the Cantonese and Hakka communities of Singapore. In 1964, the graves were exhumed to make way for residential and commercial developments. Completed by the Housing & Development Board in December 1988, Bishan Park was handed over to the former Parks and Recreation



Department (PRD) in August 1989. In March 2012, at its official opening after redevelopment, the park was renamed **Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park**.

VISITORSHIP

Hosting an average of 80 organised public events each year and used regularly by various interest groups, the park is very popular, attracting over four million visitors annually.

OPENING HOURS

The park is open 24 hours (lights are switched on from 7 pm to 7 am); entry is free.

HOW TO GET THERE

The park is located along Bishan Road and Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1.

From Ang Mo Kio Bus Interchange, it can be reached by bus services 132, 133, 136, 165, 166, 169 and 262.

From opposite Bishan MRT station (bus stop 53239), it can be reached by services 50, 53, 55, 58, 71, 156 and 162.

ACCESSIBILITY

Wheelchair-friendly



NEAREST PARK CONNECTORS

Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park is connected to Ang Mo Kio Town Garden West through the **Kallang Park Connector** and **Ang Mo Kio Park Connector**. It lets joggers and cyclists enjoy a seamless journey that is accompanied by scenic greenery and waterscapes.

CARPARK

- **Carpark A**
1 drop-off point
Parking lots: 130 (car), 30 (motorcycle), 2 (handicapped).
- **Carpark B**
1 drop-off point
Parking lots: 55 (car), 2 (handicapped).
- **Carpark C**
Parking lots:
78 (car, and including 10 season parking lots), 19 (motorcycle), 1 (handicapped).

Parking fees apply to all parking lots.

ACTIVITIES

Foot reflexology, jogging, tai chi, yoga, photography, picnic, dining, cycling, butterfly- and bird-watching

AMENITIES/FACILITIES



48 bicycle racks



Dog run



3 drinking fountains



Foot reflexology footpath



Jogging path/running track



18 shelters



3 toilet blocks



3 playgrounds – Inclusive Playground, Water Playground, and Adventure Playground



4 fitness corners



5 food and lifestyle outlets



5 event venues – Tecoma Green, Ficus Green, Promenade, Mempat Green, and Activity Lawn

EVENT SPACES

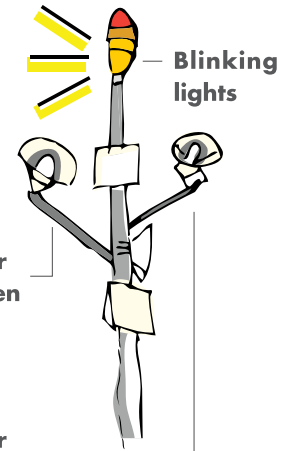
There are five open spaces throughout Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park which are available to the public for booking. The two event lawns in Pond Gardens have a combined area of more than 28,000 square metres (sqm) while the combined area of the three event lawns in River Plains is more than 40,000 sqm. To book a venue, visit www.nparks.gov.sg/activities/book-a-venue.



Kallang River



Event Lawn



Speakers for warning siren

Speakers for announcements

A diagram showing a safety node, part of the river monitoring system

KALLANG RIVER

The main highlight of the park is the lush and meandering Kallang River. Transformed from a concrete canal which used to be confined to the southern edges of the park, the naturalised river now merges seamlessly with the park's greenery. The river water flows in a west-to-east direction, starting from Lower Peirce Reservoir and then down to Marina Barrage. During dry weather, water comes from the surrounding catchment, where surface runoff from Upper Thomson, Ang Mo Kio and Bishan estates merges with ground water seepage from the area, into the river.

SAFETY FEATURES

At Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, there are stepping stones at some places for park visitors to cross the river. These stones

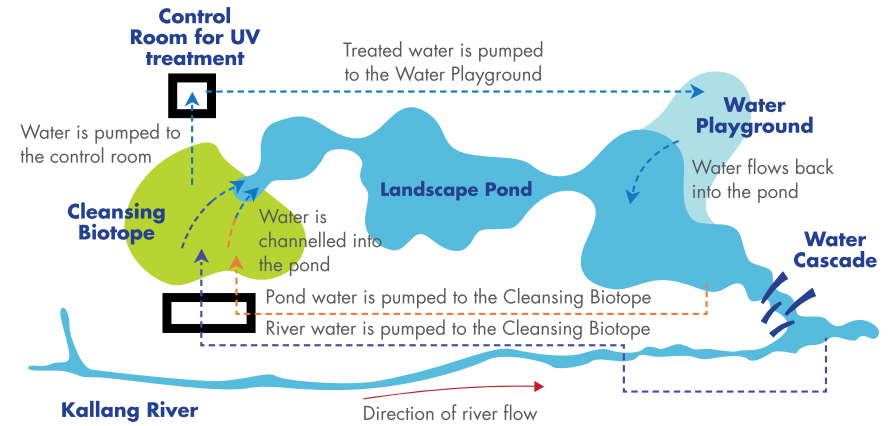
are exposed during dry weather, when the water depth is about 10 to 50 cm. However, during heavy rain, the water level can rise to 3 m high.

A river monitoring system with water level sensors is in place to provide early warning in the event of impending heavy rain or rising water levels. Warning signs, red markers, life buoys and CCTVs have also been put up along the river.

When there is heavy rain, the system will trigger warning lights, sirens and audio announcements at safety nodes to alert park users to move away from the river banks to above the high-water mark indicated by the red markers. There are 11 safety nodes in the park, each with a comprehensive information board that tells park users what to do when the lights and sirens go off.



Cleansing Biotope
(Photo credit: GovTech)



A diagram showing the flow of river and pond water between the water sources, the Cleansing Biotope and Water Playground

CLEANSING BIOTOPE

The Cleansing Biotope is a series of specially engineered wetland cells that offers the effective treatment of river and pond water while maintaining a beautiful and natural-looking environment. The wetland cells consist of nutrient-poor substrates on which plants known for their natural water cleansing properties are grown. These specially selected wetland and aquatic plants can filter pollutants and absorb nutrients from the water, thus

maintaining water quality without the use of chemicals. Water from the Kallang River and Landscape Pond is filtered through the layers of substrate.

Part of the filtered water from the Cleansing Biotope flows into the control room for further UV treatment; this treated water is used in the Water Playground. The rest of the filtered water is recirculated into the Landscape Pond.



Water Playground

INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

The Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park inclusive playground is a collaboration between the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) and the National Parks Board (NParks). It is one of a number of inclusive playgrounds to be built across Singapore. Among these, five (including the one at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park) were made possible under the Care & Share Movement. This playground was sponsored by Community Chest's corporate partners and individual donors, such as Shaw Foundation, SMRT Corporation Ltd, Variety, the Children's Charity and a matching grant from the government. It was officially opened on 22 August 2015.

The playground was specially designed after consultation and discussion sessions with therapists and children from six

voluntary welfare organisations. The inclusive playground is meant for children of all abilities, including able-bodied ones, to have fun together and understand each other better.



Inclusive playground



Sandplay at the inclusive playground

BUTTERFLY HABITAT

In 2012, two Raffles Institution students approached NParks with a proposal to enhance the butterfly population in the park. With the help of residents and volunteers, they created the Butterfly Habitat by planting a variety of butterfly-attracting plants.

On 24 July 2015, 100 young environmentalists from Southeast Asia, Singapore students, and representatives from APRIL Group and NParks enhanced the Butterfly Habitat. This butterfly habitat enhancement project is part of APRIL Group's five-year sponsorship of S\$100,000. The size of the habitat was increased from 260 sqm to 500 sqm after enhancement. The Butterfly Habitat is currently maintained by volunteers.



A Plain Tiger butterfly (*Danaus chrysippus*) visiting the Butterfly Habitat



Volunteers doing weeding and pruning



Volunteers at the Butterfly Habitat



The riverside at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park



Recycle Hill

RECYCLE HILL

Recycle Hill provides a good vantage point to view the entire park, and serves as a reminder of what the park used to be like. In line with green efforts, the foundation of this hill is made of concrete slabs salvaged from the old Kallang canal. At the top of Recycle Hill sits a steel sculpture by Kelvin Lim named 'An Enclosure for a Swing'. This art installation won the 2009 City Developments Limited Singapore Sculpture Award.



Tea Tree (*Melaleuca cajuputi*) along the riverside

COMMON BIODIVERSITY

Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park is a haven for biodiversity. Park visitors can look out for a variety of flora and fauna. Some of the common species that can be seen in the park include:



Trees

Trumpet Tree (*Tabebuia rosea*), Tembusu (*Cyrtophyllum fragrans*), Tea Tree (*Melaleuca cajuputi*), and Mempat (*Cratoxylum formosum*)



Birds

Over 90 species, including Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*), Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*), Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), and White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenocurus*)



Dragonflies

Over 30 species, including Variable Wisp (*Agriocnemis femina*), and Common Scarlet (*Crocothemis servilia*)



Butterflies

Over 30 species, including Plain Tiger (*Danaus chrysippus*), Peacock Pansy (*Junonia almana*), and Tawny Coster (*Acraea terpsicore*)



Wildflowers

Bachelor's Button (*Centaurea cyanus*), Water Spinach (*Ipomoea aquatica*), Creeping Ruellia (*Ruellia repens*), and Love Grass (*Chrysopogon aciculatus*)

In 2015, a family of Smooth-coated Otters (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) started appearing in the park. They can be sighted in the park occasionally, travelling upstream to Lower Peirce Reservoir Park and downstream to Marina Barrage. They are usually seen feeding at the Landscape Pond in the Pond Gardens.



Otters along the pond
(Photo credit: Shirley Ng)



Overhead view of the Allotment Garden
(Photo credit: GovTech)

ALLOTMENT GARDEN

The Allotment Garden is located at the Pond Gardens near Carpark C along Sin Ming Avenue. It was opened on 1 March 2018 with 70 gardening plots. Individuals wishing to have their own space to garden can rent a plot for three years to grow and maintain their own plants.

THERAPEUTIC GARDEN

The 900-sqm Therapeutic Garden at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park has design elements and user-friendly features to meet the needs of

the elderly, including those with conditions such as dementia. It provides respite for visitors of all ages. The garden was opened on 19 September 2017.

Woh Hup (Private) Limited, one of Singapore's largest private construction groups, donated S\$500,000 through the Garden City Fund for the development of this Therapeutic Garden and its programmes.



Therapeutic Garden

While the garden has a clear layout, it is also kept interesting with a rich variety of plants arranged in zones to evoke visitors' senses as they move along the pathway.

- Fragrance Zone: Flowers with cool colours and scented plants
- Edibles and Medicinal Zone: Edible plants, including herbs and spices
- Colours and Textures Zone: Plants with vibrant colours and interesting textures
- Biodiversity Zone: Butterfly- and bird-attracting plants

There is an outdoor activity area in the Therapeutic Garden where therapeutic horticulture programmes can be carried out. The programmes use plants and plant-related activities to improve the well-being of individuals. Facilitated by NParks' trained guides, they aim to enhance participants' physical, mental and social well-being.



Herb Garden



Community Garden

COMMUNITY & HERB GARDENS

Spanning a total of 0.3 hectares, the Community and Herb Gardens at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park were established more than 20 years ago. They house many types of edible, ornamental plants and herbs with traditional and medicinal uses. Situated just a stone's throw away from Bishan Road, they are maintained by passionate volunteer gardeners. Since 2014, the gardeners of the Herb Garden have participated in the biennial NParks' Community in Bloom Awards, and the Herb Garden received a Gold Award in 2018.



Ecolife Tour participants looking out for butterflies
(Photo credit: Claire Khok)

ECOLIFE TOUR

Organised by NParks, this tour allows families to learn about Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park and its biodiversity through the use of interactive exploration themes and activities. While on the tour, families work together to answer questions on worksheets, conduct surveys and photo hunts, and engage in other activities. Registration is required for these tours, which are held on Saturdays during school holidays.



Friends of Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park

FRIENDS OF BISHAN-ANG MO KIO PARK

Established in 2016, the Friends of Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park is a ground-led initiative to promote stewardship and responsible use of our parks and nature reserves. The group consists of active stakeholders and park volunteers. The members play an active role in developing programmes and initiatives, and promoting good park etiquette. They serve as ambassadors of NParks to the general public and also provide a channel for public feedback to NParks on issues regarding the development, management and programmes within the park.



Volunteer programme

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

The volunteer programme at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park was established in March 2015. Volunteers help keep the greenery of the park neat and healthy. They assist in horticulture maintenance such as weeding, planting and mulching.