

Yishun Greenwalk and Nature Park: Connecting Residents to the Outdoors

Text by ONG&ONG

Images by Bai Jiwen

Additional images as credited

Project Credits

Location Singapore Client Housing and Development Board Completion Date 2014 (housing precinct), 2015 (nature park)
Civil & Structural Engineer Meinhardt (Singapore) Pte Ltd Mechanical & Electrical Engineer Rankine & Hill (S) Pte Ltd Quantity Surveyor KPK Quantity Surveyors (S) Pte Ltd Landscape Design ONG&ONG Pte Ltd Site Area 58,731m² (housing precinct), 10,000m² (nature park)





Completed in 2014, Yishun Greenwalk is a public housing development located by a park connector that runs along the nearby Sungei Khatib Bongsu. One of the unique features of the landscape project is the creation of a neighbourhood park at the south end of the precinct, in addition to the landscape design within the development. The site is bounded by Yishun Ring Road, Yishun Avenue 6, and Yishun Avenue 9.

Yishun Greenwalk was named in reference to the park connector that runs along Sungei Khatib Bongsu. As the development is set within numerous nature spots, it uses this reference to nature as an inspiration for its concept. Greenwalk is envisioned as the “stem of life”, and is conceptualised as the main artery that synergises the area. It acts as a link from Yishun Park to the new neighbourhood park and Sungei Khatib Bongsu.

The conceptual motif of the “Tree of Life” is used throughout the landscape strategy of the development. The residential blocks are orientated in a north-south direction for views of the internal landscape and Sungei Khatib Bongsu. A pedestrian spine runs through the entire site, starting from the drop-off area at the northern end and culminating at the neighbourhood park at the southern end.

Five gardens intersect this spine, which leads to the existing park connector and neighbourhood park. Each green garden signifies the leaves that branch out from the main stem that is the park connector. All paths lead to the new neighbourhood park, which signifies the roots of the tree. Each garden is uniquely designed to cater to different

ambiences and types of activities. They range from hardscape to softscape; from tall trees to low shrubs and hedges. Two of the gardens are designated to house the children’s playground, adult fitness station, and elderly fitness corner. The garden areas and apartment blocks are well integrated and spread evenly in the green landscaped terrain.

The neighbourhood park, christened Yishun Nature Park, aims to be a place for the community to learn about nature. Completed in May 2015, it was designed using the best principles of sustainability and eco-friendly practices. Visitors of all ages can interact with flora and fauna in the park and learn about nature and biodiversity. As part of the educational facilities, a large rain tree provides shade for an outdoor classroom space, which leads to a nature trail that meanders around the perimeter of the park. The trail highlights the special plants and wildlife, such as tropical birds, butterflies and amphibians, found in the park. Most of the trees and shrubs are native to Singapore and are labelled to indicate their scientific and common names.

1. Yishun Greenwalk is a public housing development designed to connect residents to nature.

2. The master plan of Yishun Nature Park. The park features an amphitheatre, multipurpose courts, shelter pavilions, and fitness amenities.
(Image: ONG&ONG)

3. Within the site, landscaped gardens and amenities like a children’s playground, adult fitness station, and elderly fitness corner are included.

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Together with the neighbourhood park, Yishun Greenwalk is designed to energise residents with its landscaped greenery within the precinct and easy access to nature spots like Yishun Pond, Yishun Park, and Lower Seletar Reservoir Park.



4. The master plan of Yishun Greenwalk and Nature Park. A pedestrian spine runs through the entire site, starting from the drop-off area at the northern end and culminating at the neighbourhood park at the southern end (Image: ONG&ONG).
 5. The park is designed to be a place where the community can interact with and learn about nature.
 6. The paths within the housing precinct lead to the neighbourhood park.

The park also features 16 bio-retention basins and vegetated swale systems, which allow rainwater runoff to be filtered by native plants and local wildlife, reducing pollution and improving water quality. Signboards located at the rain gardens provide visitors with information about their special function in the sustainability of Singapore's landscape. These rain gardens are certified by the Public Utilities Board to be compliant with their Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters programme, and they serve to help flora and fauna to establish healthy communities more quickly.

The existing mature trees are conserved and enhanced with new infill trees to provide shade and help cool down the whole development passively. Landscape management-wise, more than half the new trees and shrubs are sourced from local and Malaysian nurseries, and soil tests were done to ascertain soil quality. Proper access routes were provided to ensure that the park is well serviced and plants with similar watering needs are clustered to minimise maintenance costs and effort.

Designed with sustainability in mind, "green" concrete made from recycled aggregates is used in the park, reducing its carbon footprint. All the



balau hardwood timber used in the construction of the shelters and the trellis come from sustainable forests. Singapore Green Label Scheme products are used wherever possible to ensure that environmental friendly procedures are followed in the facilities used for the park.

There is also ample opportunity for community bonding. The central area of the park has been designed as an events area with a multipurpose court and amphitheatre. Adjacent to the central area are shelter pavilions, children play spaces, as well as adult fitness amenities. Plots for communal gardens are also allocated for residents to actively participate in landscape creation. The development also features a three metres high green wall to provide a strong green statement for residents to enjoy, as well as rain gardens and flowering trees. Gardens are also included on the 7th, 12th, and 17th floor of the condominium where sky terraces and outdoor dining spaces are located, so that greenery is never far from the homeowners.

Together with the neighbourhood park, Yishun Greenwalk is designed to energise residents with its landscaped greenery within the precinct and easy access to nature spots like Yishun Pond, Yishun Park, and Lower Seletar Reservoir Park. The landscape project offers homeowners the enjoyment of being connected to the great outdoors through the thoughtful use of space and diverse flora. 