



From recreational pursuits to cultural activities, NParks aims to provide a diverse range of activities to cater to the lifestyle needs of Singapore residents.



Recreational activities are an important component of the software that complements our green infrastructure. From world-class performances for the masses to community activities and events, NParks' diverse offering of activities and entertainment options is aimed at creating memorable experiences in our parks. For the year in review, over 2,800 performances and events delighted visitors to our many parks.

One of the highlights of the year was the National Day Celebrations @ Parks, which were held in different locations across the island. The diverse activities saw parks like Ang Mo Kio Town Garden West hosting the 10th National Day Merbok Singing Competition that attracted 700 local and Malaysian participants.

At Bishan Park, park adopter Mayflower Secondary School organised its second National Day Observance Ceremony cum Jogathon, where students also treated park visitors to a musical performance by the school band. Further afield, some 3,000 participants attended the Bukit Gombak grassroots organisation's National Day Celebrations at Bukit Batok Nature Park, which included a carnival as well as guided walks conducted by NParks staff.

A perennial favourite, WOMAD 2004 was held at Fort Canning Park for the seventh year with an all new line-up of artists from 15 countries. Acts as diverse as the UK's Temple of Sound, India's Sultan Khan and Israel's Yasmin Levy joined performers from the region to provide some 16,000

Left Fort Canning Park continues to play host to the annual WOMAD.

Right A dazzling line-up of some 30 Christmas trees were on display at the Gardens during the Fiesta in the Gardens event.

participants with an enthralling musical experience. The Ballet Under The Stars event also returned to Fort Canning Park and ran for six days in October 2004, attracting some 5,000 fans. This year's event saw the inaugural staging of a new work by homegrown choreographer, Jeffrey Tan.

At the Singapore Botanic Gardens, the popular Fiesta in the Gardens was held again over the year-end festive season. Over two days in December, the Gardens was transformed into a festive wonderland with guided tours, workshops and storytelling sessions for children. The event also featured a dazzling display of over 30 Christmas trees specially decorated by the various embassies and partners of the Gardens.

Another well-received series of events was the PLAYing in the Park series of performances based on children's favourite stories such as Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast and Hansel & Gretel. Aimed at making theatre more accessible to the community as well as providing opportunities for families to bond in the parks, this inaugural collaboration between NParks and Wayang Warehouse was staged at Bishan Park, East Coast Park, SunPlaza Park and West Coast Park.

Esplanade Park was transformed into an outdoor "art gallery" featuring the works of renowned artist and sculptor, Fernando Botero.

Meanwhile, Bukit Batok Town Park's "Little Guilin" provided a beautiful backdrop for performances of a musical titled "Liu San Jie". Based on a 1960s hit movie about a peasant girl who helped the poor with her gift of music, "Liu San Jie" has attracted residents from the nearby estates, creating a lively atmosphere at the park.

In addition to these familiar and much-loved events, our parks also hosted several new landmark events to generate greater diversity and choice of recreation for

park goers. For example, Bedok Reservoir Park hosted a watersports event in late October 2004 with the first HSBC Wakeboard World Cup. This event attracted international athletes as well as some 8,000 spectators. In the city, Esplanade Park was the setting for an exhibition featuring works of acclaimed artist and sculptor, Fernando Botero. Visitors to the park were entranced and intrigued by his whimsical animal sculptures and voluptuous human forms.

