



threading green into the blueprint

As Singapore maps and rolls out its plans for tomorrow, NParks is working in tandem, to provide the best environment to enhance the quality of life for Singaporeans and help create a vibrant distinctive city for global talent to live, work and play in. As the city and nation grows, so does our effort to weave Singapore into a City in a Garden. Our beautiful gardens and streetscapes interwoven with our urban environment, are our pride and joy, and the scenic setting of our tomorrows.

Sprouting New Recreational Amenities

During the year in review, we furthered our efforts to enhance our hierarchy of parks and gardens. We also launched initiatives to bring new recreational activities and experiences in our green space.

The year saw the completion of the redevelopment of Tanglin Core at the Botanic Gardens. The complex houses a new public reference centre, herbarium, library, research laboratories, underground parking, education outreach facilities, food garden and an entrance pavilion with a pitched green roof. Even before it was officially opened, the complex was awarded the Building and Construction Authority's (BCA) Green Mark Gold for the effort taken in greening the environment and conserving the surrounding trees during its construction. Inside the Gardens, new attractions include a bonsai house featuring our botanically diverse collection and a sun garden featuring arid-zone plants from around the world. The development of the Jacob Ballas Children's Garden continues smoothly with its opening targeted for mid-2007. It will be a "living" classroom designed for fun and education, complemented by programmes and workshops that will bring plants and nature closer to children of all ages.

Visitors to the Botanic Gardens have also been enjoying the upgraded Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage which was re-opened in May 2005. This enhancement was made possible through a donation of \$1.5 million from the Shaw Foundation.

Over in the West, JTC Corporation (JTC) and NParks jointly launched the first three hectares of one-north Park located at North Buona Vista Road near Biopolis. This 16-ha park consists of 13 land parcels spanning across the entire length of one-north. When fully completed, it will serve as a seamless link connecting the key developments such as Biopolis, Fusionpolis, educational institutions and MRT stations. The park will also be a showcase of new technologies and innovations. For instance, the park has a wireless mesh technology service, making it the first park in Singapore to allow wireless internet connections at every corner of the park.

Top

Taking centrestage at the redeveloped Tanglin Core is the Botany Centre.

Bottom Left

The new Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage – beckoning visitors with its beautiful petal-like structure.

Bottom Right

one-north Park will be a showcase of new technologies and innovations.





Top

Artist's impression of the shelter along the coastal boardwalk at Chek Jawa, Pulau Ubin.

Bottom

Artist's impression of the cooled conservatory in the 54-ha Garden at Marina South, Gardens by the Bay.

In the year under review, work has also begun on several exciting parks that will be opened to the public in 2007. Among them is the 27-ha Admiralty Park in Woodlands. This unique park will start off as an urban park – with an amphitheatre and activity plaza – adjoining Republic Polytechnic. It will be linked by boardwalks and trails to a 20-ha wood-and-mangrove park. Over in Sengkang, the 21-ha Sengkang Fruit Park will showcase a variety of fruit trees including those seldom seen in Singapore, such as the dragon fruit, longan, avocado and mandarin oranges.

Residents in Jurong West will also have a 10-ha regional park – complete with a green outdoor stage, games huts and lookout platforms – to look forward to. This park will serve as a much-needed green lung in a highly built-up area.

Singaporeans and Singapore residents can also look forward to a new experience at Pasir Panjang. Developed as a one-stop horticulture hub, the 19-ha Horticulture Park (HortPark) is aimed at educating the public on plants and their uses in everyday life, and promoting gardening as a hobby. The park will showcase demonstration gardens, tropical plants, garden furniture and equipment in partnership with horticulture industry partners, community groups and schools.

In April 2005, the Minister for National Development, Mr Mah Bow Tan, launched the Pulau Ubin Conservation and Management Plans – a series of initiatives to enhance the Ubin Experience while making more areas on the island accessible for recreation.

Over at Chek Jawa, work has begun on boardwalks, lookout platforms and shelters. Slated for completion in 2007, this precious natural hideaway will soon also have a Visitor Centre which will house interpretative displays, a seminar room and field research facilities.

The centerpiece of our park development programme is the Gardens by the Bay, three world-class gardens fanning out across interconnected waterways around Marina Bay. Situated at the heart of Singapore's next phase of development as a global city, the Gardens is an integral part of Singapore's City in a Garden vision. It will provide a new dimension in colour, vibrancy and space through garden craftsmanship, horticultural displays and plant-based edutainment.

Each of the three gardens will have its own distinctive design and character. The 54-ha Garden at Marina South will feature floral displays, tropical blooms and coloured foliage. Its recreational amenities include an outdoor concert and events area, and a flower fairground that will be home to the Singapore Garden Festival. The unique feature of this garden will be a cooled conservatory complex which will allow visitors to enjoy flowers from cooler environments such as the Tropical Montane and Mediterranean regions. The 30-ha Garden at Marina East will be themed for aquatic sports, while the 10-ha Garden at Marina Centre will be an urban connector garden, linking the two Gardens, and providing access to The Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. An international competition was launched in January 2006 to seek design ideas for the three distinctive waterfront gardens.

Grooming Existing Parks

Announced in November 2005, the East Coast Park (ECP) Concept Plan will introduce enhancements to accessibility and circulation along East Coast Park. The highly popular seaside stretch, which enjoys 7 million visits annually, will also see improvements in the form of a Bougainvillea Garden and skatepark. At the same time, interim upgrading of the ECP has been ongoing. During the year in review, the upgrading of the highly popular Seafood Centre was completed. Most sections of the cycling tracks and footpaths running along the ECP have been widened as well. In addition, Singapore's first cable ski amenity, Ski 360°, opened in early 2006 at East Coast Lagoon, to offer yet another leisure-time option for water-sport enthusiasts.

Redevelopment of Pasir Ris Park began in early 2004, and was completed in the third quarter of 2005. Now, a haven for nature lovers in the east, the Park offers visitors boardwalks, newly re-aligned cycling tracks and footpaths, as well as improved lighting for evening strollers. In all, the park is now a more accessible and enjoyable place for relaxation and play.

Germinating New Experiences

A first in Singapore, Castle Beach was selected by NParks to develop a sandcastle building centre at the ECP. Launched in October 2005, Castle Beach provides sandcastle-building activities for families and children from under-privileged backgrounds, high-risk families, and also for physically-challenged children. The activities are aimed at fostering social values like family bonding and communal harmony.

Right in the city centre, a new dining experience greeted visitors to the Istana Park with the opening of the Giraffe Restaurant in March 2006. At Bishan Park, a new lifestyle and wellness centre provides residents and visitors of the area with a green and restful haven to seek holistic wellness and spa treatments.

Bringing our Parks Closer to Us

Increasingly popular as a venue for social and recreational activities, our Park Connector Network continues to grow island-wide, serving as lush, green alternative routes to park amenities. As of March 2006, another 11.4 km of park connectors were built, the latest additions being along Sungei Sembawang and in the Hillview, Alexandra and Tampines estates. The Hillview park connector links Bukit Batok Nature Park and Bukit Batok Town Park with Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. In Alexandra, the park connector connects Tanglin to Zion Road.

Together, with the completion of two overhead bridges at Bedok and Siglap park connectors, the 2.9-km connector in Tampines marked the completion of the 10-km coast-to-coast connector. This provides a recreational linkage that stretches from Pasir Ris Park, all the way to East Coast Park. By 2015, Singaporeans and Singapore residents will be able to enjoy 170 km of park connectors that will provide a core network of park connectors across the island.

Top

Ski 360° at East Coast Park is Singapore's first cable ski amenity.

Middle Left

The new boardwalk at Pasir Ris Park brings visitors closer to nature.

Middle Right

Giraffe Restaurant – providing a new dining experience.

Bottom Left

Aramsa – The Garden Spa at Bishan Park is part of efforts to cater to the diverse recreational needs of our community.

Bottom Right

Leisure activities along park connectors.







Propagating an Exquisite Ambience

During the year, NParks continued to enhance and build on Singapore's green ambience. Our comprehensive greening programme saw the planting of some 8,000 new trees island-wide.

Meanwhile, Singapore residents can look forward to a seamless green mantle as we intensify our streetscape greenery through the Streetscape Greenery Master Plan (SGMP). A blueprint for optimising available green space along roads for lush, densely planted landscape treatments, SGMP is integral to our efforts to realise our City in a Garden vision. As a pilot implementation, several roads in Punggol have been planted intensively with layered and clustered trees which give a distinctive feel to the area. We will extend the pilot project for other selected roads in 2006.

Flowering Trumpet Trees (Tabebuia rosea) create a "cherry-blossom" effect along our roads.



Top Left

Dendrobium Wendy Levene was among 26 hybrids created at Botanic Gardens.

Top Right

Arcadia Road is one of five roads that have been gazetted as Heritage Roads.

Bottom

The first of its kind in Singapore, the pitched green roof is one of the features that helped the Botany Centre at Botanic Gardens clinch BCA's Green Mark Gold Award.

At the heart of operations that maintain our Garden City ambience is the Pasir Panjang Nursery and Plant Introduction Unit (PIU). At Pasir Panjang Nursery, some 340,000 plants were propagated for our use. Newer, less common, and more colourful and attractive species of plants were also chosen for planting and landscaping in locations such as the Istana, Bukit Timah Road and Kampong Bahru Road.

Based at the Singapore Botanic Gardens, PIU brought in 379 new species in the year under review. Some noteworthy inclusions are the orange-red flowering climber *Bauhinia sirindhorniae* from Thailand, the *Artocarpus kemando* tree from Borneo, the *Posoqueria latifolia* (which is also known as the Tree Jasmine), and the *Caryopteris divaricata*, a Japanese shrub with light blue flowers featuring curly stamens.

In addition, 26 new orchid hybrids were created and flowered over the year. Thirteen of the new hybrids were named after visiting dignitaries, and registered with the Royal Horticultural Society.

Grand Old Trees, Great Old Roads

Complementing our streetscape greenery is the Heritage Road Scheme, where beautiful, matured streetscapes are conserved. To this end, five roads – Mandai Road, South Buona Vista Road, Lim Chu Kang Road, Mount Pleasant Road and Arcadia Road – have been gazetted as Heritage Roads. Meanwhile, the “Nominate-A-Heritage-Tree” campaign continues to be well-received with some 360 nominations to-date and 161 trees endorsed by the Heritage Trees Panel.

Reaching for Green Skies

As part of an integrated approach towards creating a City in a Garden, NParks continues to promote skyrise greenery by providing advice to organisations interested in incorporating skyrise greenery into their developments. For instance, we worked with Housing and Development Board and Singapore Land Authority for the installation of green roofs on buildings under their care. As the lead agency for the promotion of skyrise greenery, NParks continues to implement skyrise greenery in its own buildings to raise awareness and popularise the concept. For instance, green roofs have been installed on the roofs of toilets and other buildings in Pasir Ris Park and Marina Promenade. The redeveloped Tanglin Core at the Botanic Gardens also features a rooftop garden, a vertical green wall, as well as a pitched green roof, which is the first of its kind in Singapore. Looking ahead, NParks will continue to leverage on new technology and research to promote the use of vertical greening in Singapore.