

# New Developments

The design and management of parks have evolved over time to cater to the changing needs of the population. In the early years, parks were designed essentially as 'green lungs' for people to escape the hustle and bustle of the city.

In the 70's and 80's, basic amenities were introduced, such as playgrounds to cater to families with children. Today, as the population grows increasingly sophisticated, we are expanding the range of amenities to fulfil a wide range of lifestyle preferences.

Looking ahead, parks in the future will take on a more holistic and sustainable approach, bringing people closer to nature and enhancing the whole living environment for both recreation and conservation.





Henderson Waves at the Southern Ridges

## Bridging the Southern Ridges

**Henderson Waves is the highest pedestrian bridge in Singapore.**

A new recreational green space has emerged in the south of Singapore.

Collectively known as the Southern Ridges, the rolling hills of Mount Faber Park, Telok Blangah Hill Park and Kent Ridge Park were previously separated by roads and wooded vegetation. Today, they are connected by two pedestrian bridges – Henderson Waves and Alexandra Arch – and gardening hub HortPark. The project is a collaboration between the Urban Redevelopment Authority and NParks.

Since the launch by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on 10 May 2008, a new guided tour has been introduced. Plans are also underway to enhance the biodiversity of the Southern Ridges by introducing more forest trees and fauna-attracting plants.

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## A milestone in wetland conservation

**Sungei Buloh was gazetted as a nature reserve on 1 January 2002.**

Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve celebrated its 15th Anniversary on 6 December 2008 with new proposals to transform the Reserve into a centre for wetland conservation and education.

Under the Draft Sungei Buloh Master Plan unveiled by Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, the Reserve will be zoned into four activity areas, with the core of the wetlands retained for conservation and research while the fringes will be enhanced for different levels of recreational use.

Pockets of nature around Sungei Buloh, like the Lim Chu Kang mangroves, Kranji Reservoir Park and Kranji Marshes, will also be linked to form a natural corridor for more strategic mangrove and wildlife conservation.

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## All geared up

**The mountain biking fraternity played an active role in conceptualising the design of the park.**

Singapore's first world-class mountain bike park opened on Pulau Ubin on 17 May 2008.

Launched by Senior Minister of State for National Development and Education, Ms Grace Fu, Ketam Mountain Bike Park meets the international standards for mountain biking competitions. Its 10 km trails offer three levels of difficulty to cater to leisure cyclists and competitive bikers.

Located around the fringe of a disused quarry devoid of greenery, the park had to be re-landscaped with over 1,000 trees and shrubs. Today, it is a habitat for a large number of wildlife and an example of how a recreational activity like mountain biking can co-exist with nature in land-scarce Singapore.



Henderson Waves illuminates with a soft glow at night



SM Goh Chok Tong looking at the Draft Sungei Buloh Master Plan with (from left) Mr Ng Lang, Ms Grace Fu, Mr Mah Bow Tan and Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman



Hentam Ketam 2008 – the first race held in Ketam Mountain Bike Park

### Where play comes to life

**When mature, the trees in the park will provide visitors with the experience of playing in a jungle setting.**

New Jurong Central Park goes big on play with life-sized models of children's favourite board-games.

The Snakes and Ladders Playground and Ludo Garden in the park add a new dimension to the play experience through the ingenious use of greenery, sculpted terrains and play equipment.

Also located in the 8-hectare park at Jurong West is an existing wetland that has been retained as a habitat for wildlife and a tranquil space where visitors can relax.

### Fruitful experience

**Sengkang Riverside Park will provide an idyllic setting for water-based recreation in the adjacent Sungei Punggol.**

Mango Hilltop, Citrus Grove and Pineapple Valley are some of the highlights that visitors can look forward to in future at the new Sengkang Riverside Park.

The 21-hectare park abutting Sungei Punggol features about 80 species of fruit trees including mangosteen, longan, dragonfruit, rambutan, duku langsung and jambu merah. Designed to bring out the undulating terrain of the area, its curved paths meander through the fruit plots, engaging visitors on a fun learning journey.

### Gateway to arts and culture

**Situated on what was once the "Forbidden Hill", Fort Canning Park is today an accessible green oasis in the city.**

Stamford Green is a 0.3-hectare green space linking Fort Canning Park to the nearby National Museum of Singapore and Singapore Management University. Connecting visitors from the Stamford Road and Bras Basah area, it serves as the Eastern Gateway to Fort Canning Park, enhancing the area as a vibrant arts and cultural hub.

Interpretative storyboards along the way highlight the rich legacy of Fort Canning while an outdoor escalator makes the hilly terrain more accessible to visitors.



The red dice tower in Jurong Central Park prompts the player's next move



PM Lee Hsien Loong planting a mangosteen tree in Sengkang Riverside Park



The open lawn at Stamford Green is ideal for outdoor events

## Getting the star treatment

Visitors can look forward to new botanical features like Healing Garden and Learning Forest in future.

Singapore Botanic Gardens joined the ranks of famous attractions like the Eiffel Tower in Paris and Empire State Building in New York when it was awarded the Michelin 3-star rating in the first Singapore edition of Michelin Green Guide. It was assessed according to the renowned travel guide's star-rating system, with 3 stars being the highest accolade.

Living up to its status as a world-class attraction, the Gardens continued to enhance its amenities. An improved entry precinct leading to the Visitor Centre now sees smoother traffic flow and more parking space, while a wireless taxi-calling system at the Botany Centre provides greater convenience to visitors.

Building on its botanical assets, the Gardens also expanded its living collection with over 1,480 new species and added more than 1,980 specimens to the Herbarium.

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## Green shoots

Gardens by the Bay will apply cutting-edge innovations in sustainable development.

Construction at Gardens by the Bay is well under way, with key infrastructural works near completion.

Due to open in phases from end-2011, the Gardens received a commendation at the international MIPIM Architectural Review Future Awards 2009, for its role in transforming Singapore from a Garden City to a City in a Garden. It was recognised under the category of "Regeneration and Masterplanning" which honours projects that contribute to the social, environmental and economical regeneration of cities.

When completed, the Gardens will provide a pervasive garden ambience and quality living environment that will boost Singapore's attractiveness as a place to live, work and play.

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## Coast to coast

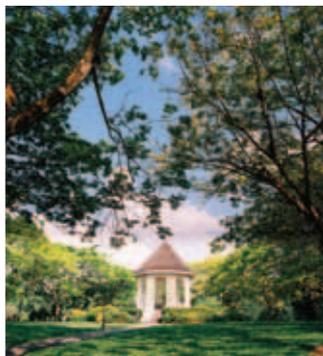
Pasir Ris Park and Changi Boardwalk are also popular among those who enjoy the sun, sand and sea.

Our coastal parks remain popular destinations for recreation.

The beaches along East Coast Park were enhanced to cater to seaside activities like beach volleyball and soccer. Other facilities like the Bedok Jetty and Angsana Green event lawn were upgraded and new fitness equipment added.

Further east, upgrading works are being carried out at Changi Beach Park, including the refurbishment of BBQ pits, widening of footpaths and cycling tracks, and provision of new shelters.

On the other side of the island, a new exercise garden, inter-generational fitness corner and lookout deck by the sea have transformed West Coast Park into a wellness haven.



The Bandstand is a landmark in the Botanic Gardens



Supertrees ... vertical gardens 9 to 16 storeys high at Gardens by the Bay



East Coast Park ... Singapore's largest park

### On the fast track

**The Eastern Coastal PCN is the longest of seven loops planned.**

NParks is accelerating the implementation of the Park Connector Network (PCN), with another 42km of park connectors to be completed in FY2009.

To date, about 112km of park connectors have been constructed. Our aim is to develop a 300km island-wide network of green corridors by FY2015. With the acceleration, the Western Loop which will link regional parks in the west is targeted for completion by end 2009.

The Northern Loop, which will bring users to several parks in the north, is expected to be ready in end-2010. The Eastern Loop, also known as Eastern Coastal PCN, was completed in 2007. For the convenience of PCN users, seven bicycle rental kiosks or 'PCN Pitstops' have been set up in five parks along the way so that users can rent and return bicycles without having to backtrack.

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### Journey of green

**NParks maintains over 800,000 roadside trees island-wide**

Complementing our parks and park connectors and providing a sense of continuity is the extensive roadside greenery that forms the backbone of our City in a Garden.

The Streetscape Greenery Master Plan that is in progress has already brought about visible aesthetic and biodiversity enhancements to our tree-lined avenues. One focus will be to further improve the streetscape along East Coast Parkway given its important function as the gateway to Singapore.

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Park-hopping is a breeze with the PCN



Flowering trees and shrubs add a burst of colour