

# Chairman's Message



Every Singaporean matters  
in our City in a Garden.

The main responsibility of the National Parks Board is to create vibrant, green living environments for all Singaporeans. This involves infrastructure development, biodiversity conservation and enhancing greenery. Above all, the needs of Singaporeans remain the core motivation of our work.

Conceptualised in partnership with other agencies and the public, the vision of Singapore as a "City in a Garden" is a natural evolution of Singapore's Garden City story. By integrating homes and workplaces into an island-wide network of exciting parks, nature areas, streetscapes and park connectors, nature can become part of everyday life for all Singaporeans.

Community and public partnership is vital to us achieving this goal. In 2011, NParks launched a public engagement effort to involve Singaporeans across the island. We organised mobile exhibitions and focus group discussions, and used social media to reach out to the digital community. We were very encouraged by the response, receiving more than 4,000 suggestions to help us better understand the needs of different groups of park users and nature lovers.

Our engagement and outreach in 2011 build on ongoing collaborative efforts with the community, which include the flourishing Community in Bloom programme. This programme is a wonderful example of how residents, corporate employees and school groups can work together to bring nature into our daily lives. The value of publicly-sourced feedback and ideas can also be seen in the North Eastern Riverine Loop, Community in Nature programme and the upcoming Destination Parks and Round Island Route. We also worked closely with the community for the 20<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference, the opening of the Labrador Nature & Coastal Walk, and the designation of 2011 as the International Year of Forests.

NParks also has wonderful supporters in the corporate community. For example, the year-long City in a Garden photography competition was made possible by partnership with the Photographic Society of Singapore, Clarins, City Developments Limited, Panasonic and Grand Hyatt Singapore. The Healing Garden at the Singapore Botanic Gardens benefitted from the support of Thong Chai Medical Association and Makino Botanical Garden. The Garden City Fund's Plant-A-Tree programme has also proved popular, with organisations such as ST Engineering and Young NTUC contributing time and effort. Since 2007, over 11,000 trees have been planted.

NParks also benefits from working closely with government agencies and citizen groups. The Ministry of Education and 160 schools have included eco-awareness and nature themes into their curricula and activities, inspiring a love of nature and a sense of environmental awareness in school children. Many public agencies have worked with us to shape our infrastructure projects. Nature groups and the online community continue to provide us with invaluable feedback.

I would like to thank all of NParks' staff, partners, sponsors and friends for your unflagging commitment and support over the past year. The board and management of NParks look forward to working with you to make our City in a Garden a reality for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Ong', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Christina Ong  
Chairman  
National Parks Board