

MEDIA FACTSHEET

Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve Masterplan: Phase 3

Work for phase 3 of the SBWR masterplan, previously announced in 2008, has begun. Phase 3 of the masterplan includes the enhancing of two areas: the western end of SBWR (including Cashin House), and Kranji Marshes.



(Map indicating SBWR, SBWR extension, western end of SBWR and Kranji Marshes)

Western end of SBWR

In the next few years, the western end of SBWR, including Cashin House, will be sensitively enhanced to serve as a low activity learning area. By end-2017, nature trails will link the current Reserve to Cashin House, which could serve as a facility for organised groups, researchers and volunteers. Nature appreciation of coastal habitats, education and outreach will take centre stage at the 6.16ha western end of SBWR.

Relevant conservation authorities and experts will be consulted so as to maintain the integrity of the historical heritage of Cashin House, and the building will retain its existing architectural structure.

About Cashin House



Disused since 2009, Cashin House is a colonial-era bungalow that was once part of a rubber plantation estate and the property of the Cashin family, who were originally from Ireland. It stands vacant at the end of a jetty in Lim Chu Kang, which was used to transport rubber before Lim Chu Kang Road was built. Occupied by the Japanese in 1942 during the Second World War, the Cashin House holds historical significance as it may have been the Japanese's first landing point in Singapore.

Kranji Marshes



The Kranji Marshes is an approximately 56 ha freshwater marshland along the north-western shore of Kranji Reservoir. It is home to unique biodiversity and is especially rich in marsh birds. To protect its unique biodiversity, NParks has been working closely with URA and Nature Society Singapore (NSS) to enhance the Marshes as a natural habitat and to enable the public to enjoy its flora and fauna. A design approach that is sensitive to nature, and which will contribute to its growth and enhancement will be adopted.

Kranji Marshes is currently closed to the public to prepare for these enhancement works, which include the removal of overgrown vegetation — clearing the ponds of weed to provide much needed water surface needed to attract marshbirds and allow for them to use the area. Other enhancements include re-planting to attract more marsh birds like the Purple Swamphen, as well as the incorporation of shelters and trails for better visitor access. These works commenced a few months ago and is targeted to complete by mid-2016.

With the completion of Phase 3 of the SBWR masterplan, the visitors will be able to experience and learn about different wetland habitats, like mangrove swamplands and freshwater marshes.

About the SBWR masterplan

Unveiled in 2008, the SBWR masterplan was conceptualized together with key stakeholders and partners to strengthen the conservation of the area's biodiversity, while allowing more visitors to experience the wonders of a wetland habitat.

To balance visitor and human impact on the rich biodiversity of the reserve, the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve was zoned into activity areas (high, medium, and low activity zones), with programmes to cater to different groups of visitors, from beginners all the way to the expert level. This facilitates experiential and lifelong learning and to encourage repeat visits to Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. The SBWR extension is zoned as a high activity zone, while the western end of SBWR and Kranji Marshes were zoned as low and medium activity zones respectively.