MEDIA FACTSHEET A

Thomson Nature Park

The site of Thomson Nature Park was the former settlement place of the Hainanese people. An established village with roads and infrastructure, it was established in the 1800s. Various plantations could be found at the site during the 1800s to 1900 including pepper, gambier and rubber.

In 1936, a famous Hainanese named Mr Han Wai Toon bought a piece of land along Upper Thomson Road where he build a garden named “Silly Fun Garden (Yu Gu Yuan)”. The garden was subsequently converted to a Rambutan plantation. Remnants of this plantation can still be found at the site today. The Hainan village was abandoned in 1975 when the government issued plans for the future development of the area.

A secondary forest regenerated within the abandoned agriculture land. Due to its close proximity to the reserve, rich biodiversity can be found within the forest.

To allow park visitors to experience the rich natural and cultural history of the site, trails and interpretative signs will be developed that take members of the public through the abandoned Hainan village ruins. All existing mature trees, some more than 50 years old, will also be conserved adding to the heritage value of the site.
Artists' Impressions

Artist Impressions Courtesy of National Parks Board
Walking Trail

Artist ImpressionCourtesy of National Parks Board
**Fauna at Thomson Nature Park**

| Photo Courtesy of National Parks Board | Raffles’ Banded Langur  
*Presbytis femoralis femoralis*  
First described from Singapore in 1838, this subspecies of the Banded Leaf Monkey was once widely distributed in Singapore, but the population declined rapidly due to habitat loss. It is currently only found in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. In 2010, population surveys recorded at least 40 individuals, including the first documented evidence of breeding females. However, due to its small population size and a restricted distribution, the Raffles’ Banded Langur is listed as nationally critically endangered. |
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| Photo Courtesy of National Parks Board | Malayan Porcupine  
*Hystrix brachyuran*  
The Malayan Porcupine was thought to be extinct in Singapore until it was photographed on Pulau Tekong in late 2005. It has since been recorded in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Pulau Ubin and recently at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. This species is nocturnal and forages on the forest floor in search of plant matter such as fallen fruit and tubers. When threatened, the Malayan Porcupine adopts a defensive stance, raising its spines and moves backwards towards “predators”. |
| Photo Courtesy of National Parks Board | Sunda Pangolin  
*(Manis javanica)*  
Its other common name is Scaly Anteater. It feeds mainly on ants and termites, which it locates using its strong sense of smell. It possesses thick, powerful claws that can dig into the soil in search of ant nests or tear into termite mounds.  
The Sunda pangolin plays a very important role in controlling ants and termite populations in our forest. It is a critically endangered animal and faces a very high risk of extinction in the wild. |
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| Photo Courtesy of National Parks Board | Samba Deer  
*(Rusa unicolor)*  
The sambar deer mostly inhabits wooded habitats from dense rainforest to open deciduous forest and secondary forest. It is most active at dusk and at night, resting in the day among thick vegetation.  
The Sambar Deer’s diet consist of a wide variety of vegetation, including grasses, leafy foliage, fruits, water plants, and a great variety of shrubs and trees. Deer lives in small herds and usually communicate by scent marking and foot stamping. |
Leopard Cat
(*Prionailurus bengalensis*)

This is the most frequently encountered wild cat in South east Asia. It is mainly nocturnal, hunting small vertebrates, including frogs, lizards, birds and small mammals.

Leopard Cat is a critically endangered, small native wild cat in Singapore. They spend the day resting and are active in the night to hunt. They are capable predators that are good in both climbing and swimming. Their prey mainly includes small vertebrates such as rodents, lizards and amphibians and large insects. They are solitary, except during breeding season, and they scent mark their territory with urine, faecal matter and head rubbing.

Straw-headed Bulbul
(*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*)

This species is the largest of the Southeast Asian bulbuls and like most of its related species, is arboreal and omnivorous. It inhabits habitats bordering land and water such as riverine and coastal forests.

It is an endangered species and faces a risk of extinction in the wild.
| Photo Courtesy of National Parks Board | Spotted Tree Frog  
(Nyctixalus pictus) |
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<td>This native frog has long and slender limbs with the tip of its feet flattened to digits. It has a brown or reddish brown body with white or yellowish spots on its body and limbs with a paler underside. The adult frog lays its eggs in tree cavities where the tadpoles will develop. The calls of males, a soft &quot;poop&quot; call, can be heard in the evening. This species is currently confined to the nature reserves in Singapore and is considered a vulnerable species due to the limited range of habitats left.</td>
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### Flora at Thomson Nature Park

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<th><strong>Common Pulai (Alstonia angustiloba)</strong></th>
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<td>The Common Pulai is a native tree in Singapore that can be found in Primary Rainforest, Secondary Rainforest and Freshwater Swamp Forest. It can grow up to 40 m tall and has a pagoda-shaped crown with tiered branching when matured. It has creamy white flowers that are fragrant and are pollenated by insects. It is also a caterpillar food plant for some species of moths.</td>
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<th><strong>Angsana (Pterocarpus indicus)</strong></th>
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<td>The Angsana is a common road-side tree in Singapore and was widely planted during the 1960s and 70s. It is a tall tree that can grow up to 35 m. An individual tree in Thomson Nature Park grew to a girth of 8 m. Matured tree has a rounded, weeping crown and it produces wind-dispersed fruits that are disc-like pods with papery wings. It has yellow flowers that are faintly fragrant.</td>
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| Photos Courtesy of National Parks Board | Malayan Banyan (*Ficus microcarpa*)
The Malayan Banyan is a native tree in Singapore that can be found in both urban and suburban areas. It can grow up to 30 m tall and 30 m wide due to its side-spreading nature. It can have a flattened or rounded crown and aerial roots hang from the branches. It produces syconia (inverted flowers with fleshy parts) that are food to many of our native animals and birds. |
| Photo Courtesy of National Parks Board | Indian Rubber Tree (*Ficus elastica*)
The Indian Rubber Tree can grow up to 30 m. It also has the side-spreading nature like that of the Malayan Banyan. This tree produces aerial roots. It is non-native to Singapore but nonetheless produces syconia that native animals, birds and insects feed on. |
Common Red-stem Fig (*Ficus variegata*)

The Common Red-stem Fig is a common, native tree in Singapore. It can grow up to 40 m tall and has a conical crown when matured. It has conspicuous and spreading buttresses developing from its trunk. The plant is easy to identify when it bears syconia. The Latin word *variegata* means irregularly coloured, referring to the ripening figs that are green with rose-red streaks.