

NP 1.7.60.1

19th Jul 2005

(Please see distribution list)

DID: 6471 7826

Dear Sirs

SECURING OF GREEN BUFFER, 2M WIDE PERIPHERAL PLANTING VERGES AND PLANTING PROVISION AT AT-GRADE OPEN SURFACE PARKING AREAS WITHIN PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (DC) APPLICATION SUBMISSION

1. This is to inform all that the new Parks & Trees Act 2004 (“the new Act”) will commence operation on **1st Aug 2005**.
2. The provisions of the new Act, in the form of the Parks and Trees Bill 2005 passed by Parliament on 25 January 2005, can be viewed at the Legislation section of the website of Parliament at <http://www.parliament.gov.sg>. For easy reference, the provisions relevant to development proposals are listed at Annex A. Qualified Persons may visit NParks’ website or Corenet e-Info to refer to the guidelines and checklists for DC submission, which will be made available on the date of commencement of the Act.
3. As mentioned in NParks’ circular of 17 May 2005 (attached as Annex B for easy reference), in conjunction with the commencement of the new Act, NParks will also be commencing walk-in pre-consultation clinics with effect from the commencement date of the new Act, to assist and facilitate QPs’ submission of applications for NParks’ DC clearances under the provisions of the new Act. The operation days and times of these clinics will be Mondays to Fridays between 9:00 am to 12:30pm.
4. For any queries, please contact Miss Ho Peng at Tel: 64717829. This circular can also be found at <http://www.corenet.gov.sg>.

Yours faithfully,

SIM CHENG HAI
DIRECTOR (POLICY & PLANNING)
for COMMISSIONER OF PARKS & RECREATION
NATIONAL PARKS BOARD

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Annex A

Section in Parks & Trees Act	Title of the Section
Interpretation	Definition of Vacant Land
14	Tree Conservation Areas (TCA) and Vacant Land
15	Tree Conservation Notice
16	Heritage Road Green Buffers
17	Maintenance of Heritage Road Green Buffers
18 & 19	Conservation of Heritage Road Green Buffers
20	Approval for Cutting Trees (TCA) & Heritage Road Green Buffers
22 - 24	Provision of Planting Areas within a Development
25	Duty to Maintain Planting Areas within a Development
26	Non-Interference with Planting Areas within a Development
27	Notice to Plant/Replant within a Development
28	Open Space Set Aside as a Public Park
29	Vesting in Government of Open Space Set Aside as a Public Park
30	Greenery Provision along New Public Road(s)
31	Greenery Provision along Existing Public Road(s)
32	Submission & Approval of Development Plans
33	Issuance of Compliance Certificate
34	Power to Issue Specifications
35	Duties of Qualified Persons
36	Liabilities of Plans or Documents
39	Investigation Powers
40	Power of Entry
46	Default in Compliance With Notice/Conditions

NP3.6.2.25

17 May 05

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Dear Sirs

**SECURING OF GREEN BUFFER, 2M WIDE PERIPHERAL PLANTING
VERGES AND PLANTING PROVISION AT AT-GRADE OPEN SURFACE
PARKING AREAS WITHIN PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE
OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL APPLICATION SUBMISSION (DC)**

1. Currently, Qualified Persons (QPs) are required to obtain DC clearances from NParks only for private developments that are within the gazetted Tree Conservation Areas (TCA) or on vacant lands.
2. The new Parks & Trees Act (“the Act”) is targeted to come into operation in the next few weeks, on a date to be announced (“the commencement date”).¹ With the coming into operation of the Act, QPs will be required to also obtain DC clearances from NParks instead of URA for private developments that are not within TCA or vacant lands. For submissions for Written Permission made by QPs up to and including the date immediately before the commencement date, QPs will continue to seek approvals on green buffer/peripheral planting verges from URA as part of their application for development.
3. A subsequent circular to this will be sent to inform professional bodies regarding the commencement date of the Act about 2 weeks before the commencement date. We would like to highlight that the process under the Act will involve only procedural changes and there will be no change to existing guidelines/requirements pertaining to greenery provision within development boundary. QPs may visit NParks website or Corenet e-Info to refer to the guidelines and checklist for DC submissions.
4. After the commencement date of the Act, for applications for waivers regarding minimum widths of green buffer or 2m wide peripheral planting verges or for cases where the applicant wishes to apply the objective based guidelines, QPs are required to submit NParks’ prior clearance to URA along with QPs’ submissions for Written Permission.
5. Separate submission of lodgment plans for proposed at-grade open surface car/lorry parks to NParks will not be required if the proposed car/lorry park is included as part of the development proposal submitted for NParks’ DC clearance.
6. There will be no change to NParks’ current processing of development proposals and applications for public developments and buildings.

¹ The commencement date is not confirmed as at the date of this circular.

7. To facilitate the expeditious issuing of DC clearances by NParks, we would strongly recommend that QPs consult NParks in advance regarding any anticipated or potential non-compliance with the requirements and guidelines, before formally submitting DC submissions to NParks. QPs may either write in to NParks or pre-consult NParks through our walk-in Pre-Consultation Clinic. Details will be announced in the aforementioned subsequent circular.

8. Please contact Miss Ho Peng at Tel: 6471 7829 if you have any enquiry. This circular can also be found at <http://www.corenet.gov.sg>.

Yours faithfully

SIM CHENG HAI
DIRECTOR (POLICY & PLANNING)
for COMMISSIONER OF PARKS & RECREATION
NATIONAL PARKS BOARD