







NATIONAL PARKS

IT'S IN OUR NATURE

ANNUAL REPORT

2012/2013

















IT'S IN OUR NATURE

The theme of this year's annual report – It's In Our Nature – highlights the qualities that are intrinsic to NParks as an organisation, as well as Nature, which is the focus of our work.

As Singapore transforms herself into a City in a Garden, NParks will continue to reach out to all residents to create a living environment where homes are surrounded by nature and biodiversity.

Over the past year, support for our greening initiatives has continued to grow, with Singaporeans contributing in various ways to build up our green infrastructure, raise awareness of our natural heritage and use nature as a bridge to connect communities.

This active involvement points to a growing sense of shared ownership and pride in the City in a Garden vision, and the willingness to come together as a community to make it happen. Going forward, the same spirit of commitment and collaboration will be key as we nurture our City in a Garden, cherish our biodiversity and share our passion, in order to bring out the best that is in our Nature.

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To mark 50 years since the start of Singapore's greening efforts on 16 June 1963, Mr Lee Kuan Yew planted a Rain Tree on 16 June 2013 at Holland Village Park.



Mrs Christina Ong
Chairman
National Parks Board

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Only with active participation and ownership from all sectors can we achieve and sustain our vision of a City in a Garden for future generations.

On 16 June 2013, Mr Lee Kuan Yew planted a Rain Tree at Holland Village Park, exactly 50 years after sowing the idea that greening our island should be a responsibility of all Singaporeans. To replace the trees felled by urban development, a concerted and collaborative effort by the government and the public was needed.

That first Tree-Planting campaign urged Singaporeans to purchase saplings from the Botanic Gardens for a dollar or less, and to plant them in their own communities. In the same vein, NParks worked with the Garden City Fund this year to plant 1963 trees to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the launch of Singapore's tree-planting campaign.

More than 6000 people and 60 organisations participated in this effort, raising almost half a million dollars for the Garden City Fund. These funds will help protect our natural heritage through biodiversity conservation, and support the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

Charged with the responsibility to develop our City in a Garden, NParks' strategy will evolve with the needs of Singapore and in response to global factors such as climate change. Strong community support and public partnership, however, are just as vital today as they were 50 years ago.

Today, some 600 gardening groups all over the island tend their plots through our Community in Bloom (CIB) programme. Residents, schools and corporations partner to build Singapore's green infrastructure. Volunteerism is strong in the Nature Cares programme, which connects the community, corporate partners and children through nature projects. The Biodiversity Roundtable of Singapore engages18 key representatives from across the nature community. And to reach out to children, we distributed over 40 000 seed-planting kits to primary school students so that they can appreciate the joy and wonder of nature.

I would like to thank everyone involved – NParks staff, sponsors and our partners within the community – for their commitment and support over the past year. I continue to be encouraged and inspired by the passion and creativity of Singaporeans from all walks of life. Only with active participation and ownership from all sectors can we achieve and sustain our vision of a City in a Garden for future generations.



Mrs Christina Ong
Chairman
National Parks Board

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

As of August 2013


Mrs Christina Ong


Mrs Deborah Ong


Poon Hong Yuen

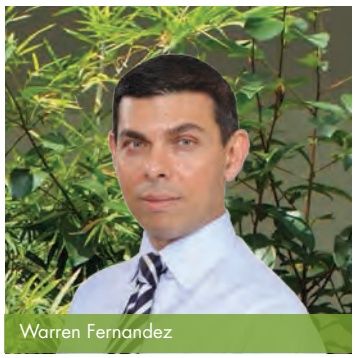

Mrs Koh-Lim Wen Gin


Dr Malone-Lee Lai Choo


Ngiam Shih Chun


Seah Kian Peng


Andreas Sohmen-Pao


Warren Fernandez


Dr Suriani Suratman

Mrs Christina Ong
Chairman

Mrs Ong is Managing Director of Club 21 Pte Ltd, a lifestyle retailer with more than 275 stores worldwide. A leading fashion entrepreneur, Mrs Ong is a recipient of The Italian Fashion Hall of Fame Award 1995 and the Italian Award of Cavaliere De Lavo. Mrs Ong is also a noted luxury hotelier, managing a stable of niche properties under the COMO Hotels & Resorts (Asia) Pte Ltd brand.

Mrs Deborah Ong
Deputy Chairman

Mrs Ong is a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers Singapore. She has more than 20 years of public accounting experience, providing audit and advisory services to a wide range of clients. Besides leading a portfolio of the firm's largest clients, Mrs Ong has been appointed as the firm's Risk & Quality Leader. She was previously the firm's Human Capital Leader.

Poon Hong Yuen
Board Member and
Chief Executive Officer, National Parks Board

As Chief Executive Officer of the National Parks Board (NParks), Mr Poon is leading efforts to make Singapore a City in a Garden, with pervasive greenery, rich biodiversity and a strong sense of community ownership. Prior to NParks, Mr Poon held various appointments across the Public Service, including the Ministry of Finance, the Economic Development Board and the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore. He also sits on the Board of Governors, Temasek Polytechnic. Mr Poon graduated with a Bachelor in Electronic Engineering (First Class Honours) from the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, United Kingdom, in 1993.

Mrs Koh-Lim Wen Gin
Board Member

Mrs Koh-Lim was the Chief Planner and Deputy Chief Executive of the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) from 2001 to 2008. Her career with URA spanned over three decades, during which she played a key role in the strategic planning and design of Singapore's city and urban landscape, and the conservation of Singapore's built heritage. She is currently a member of several statutory board advisory panels, Senior Advisor to several private firms and an Independent Director of Keppel Land Limited and Keppel Land China Limited. In 2009, Mrs Koh-Lim was conferred the Meritorious Service Award by the Government of Singapore.

Dr Malone-Lee Lai Choo
Board Member

Dr Malone-Lee is Director of the Centre for Sustainable Asian Cities, School of Design and Environment at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Prior to joining NUS, Dr Malone-Lee held senior positions in the civil service, working in the areas of strategic planning, planning policies and heritage conservation. Her current research interest is on urban planning policies and strategies for sustainable cities, focusing on benchmarking cities, densification, city liveability and resource optimisation.

Ngiam Shih Chun
Board Member

Mr Ngiam is the Deputy Secretary for Industry in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, where he oversees policies to develop Singapore's economy. He was formerly the Special Assistant to Emeritus Senior Minister in the Prime Minister's Office. Prior to that, he was the Director of Community Relations and Engagement at the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) where he promoted community bonding and racial and religious harmony, and helped to develop volunteerism and philanthropy. He was also concurrently the Director of the Social Sector Planning Unit. Mr Ngiam has also served in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Education.

Seah Kian Peng
Board Member

Deputy Speaker of Parliament and a Member of Parliament for the Marine Parade GRC, Mr Seah is also the Chief Executive Officer (Singapore) of NTUC Fairprice Co-operative Limited. In addition, he is the Chairman of the Government Parliamentary Committee for Social and Family Development, and also a board member of the International Co-operative Alliance, co-chair of the Social Enterprise Association of Singapore, and a board member of the Centre for Fathering and Health Promotion Board. Mr Seah has worked in both the public and private sectors, and serves in various public and community organisations.

Andreas Sohmen-Pao
Board Member

Mr Sohmen-Pao is the Chief Executive Officer of BW Maritime Pte Ltd, one of the world's leading maritime groups. He is a non-executive director of BW Offshore Limited, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd and The Esplanade Co. Ltd, and is also a member of the Singapore Sports Council and the Singapore Symphony Orchestra Council.

Mr Sohmen-Pao previously worked for Goldman Sachs International in London and served from 2006 to 2012 as a director of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. He holds an honours degree (BA Hons) from Oxford University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Warren Fernandez
Board Member

Mr Fernandez is the Editor of The Straits Times. He has been with the Singapore Press Holdings for almost two decades, during which he served in many roles including political correspondent, news editor, deputy political editor, foreign editor and deputy editor. Mr Fernandez has served on a number of public committees such as the Remaking Singapore Committee, the Singapore 21 Committee, Compass, and the Cost Review Committee and used to sit on the boards of the Civil Service College and National Environment Agency.

Dr Suriani Suratman
Board Member

Dr Suriani is Senior Lecturer at the Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore. She is trained as a social anthropologist. Her teaching and research covers areas on Malay culture and society. She has conducted research in Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines. She is currently Deputy Chairman of the Malay Heritage Foundation Board of Directors. She is also a board member of The National Art Gallery, Singapore. In addition, Dr Suriani is a potter and has done commissioned creative pieces for Temasek Holdings, The Sentosa Resort and Spa, National Heritage Board, Patron of the Year Award and Singapore International Foundation.





MANAGEMENT TEAM As of August 2013

TOP PICTURE

BAND STAND

LEFT TO RIGHT

Yong Fook Chyi
Director, Resource Management

Dr Lena Chan
Director, National Biodiversity Centre

Yeo Meng Tong
Director, Parks Development

Poon Hong Yuen
Chief Executive Officer

Ms Kartini Omar-Hor
Director, Parks Division 2

Dr Nigel Taylor
Director, Singapore Botanic Gardens

BOTTOM PICTURE

TEMBUSU TREE

LEFT TO RIGHT

Kong Yit San
Assistant Chief Executive Officer,
Park Management & Lifestyle Cluster

Tan Chong Lee
Assistant Chief Executive Officer,
Corporate Development & Services Cluster

Chia Seng Jiang
Director, Parks Division 1

Bin Hee Jum
Director, Finance & IT

Wong Tuan Wah
Director, Conservation

Teva Raj
Director, Industry/CUGE





The Management Team photos were taken at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. (See inside back cover for more details.)

TOP PICTURE

STEPS TO PLANT HOUSE

LEFT TO RIGHT

Ms Lee Pin Pin
Director, Communications & Community Engagement

Kenneth Er*
Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Projects and Chief Operating Officer Gardens by the Bay

Dr Leong Chee Chiew
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Professional Development & Services Cluster and Commissioner of Parks & Recreation

Oh Cheow Sheng
Director, Streetscape

Ms Adele Tan
Director, Corporate Development

BOTTOM PICTURE

SWAN LAKE GAZEBO

LEFT TO RIGHT

Ms Peggy Chong*
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Gardens by the Bay

Sim Cheng Hai
Director, Policy & Planning

Dr Kiat W Tan
Advisor to NParks

Ms Tan Lai Kheng
Deputy Director, Lifestyle Business

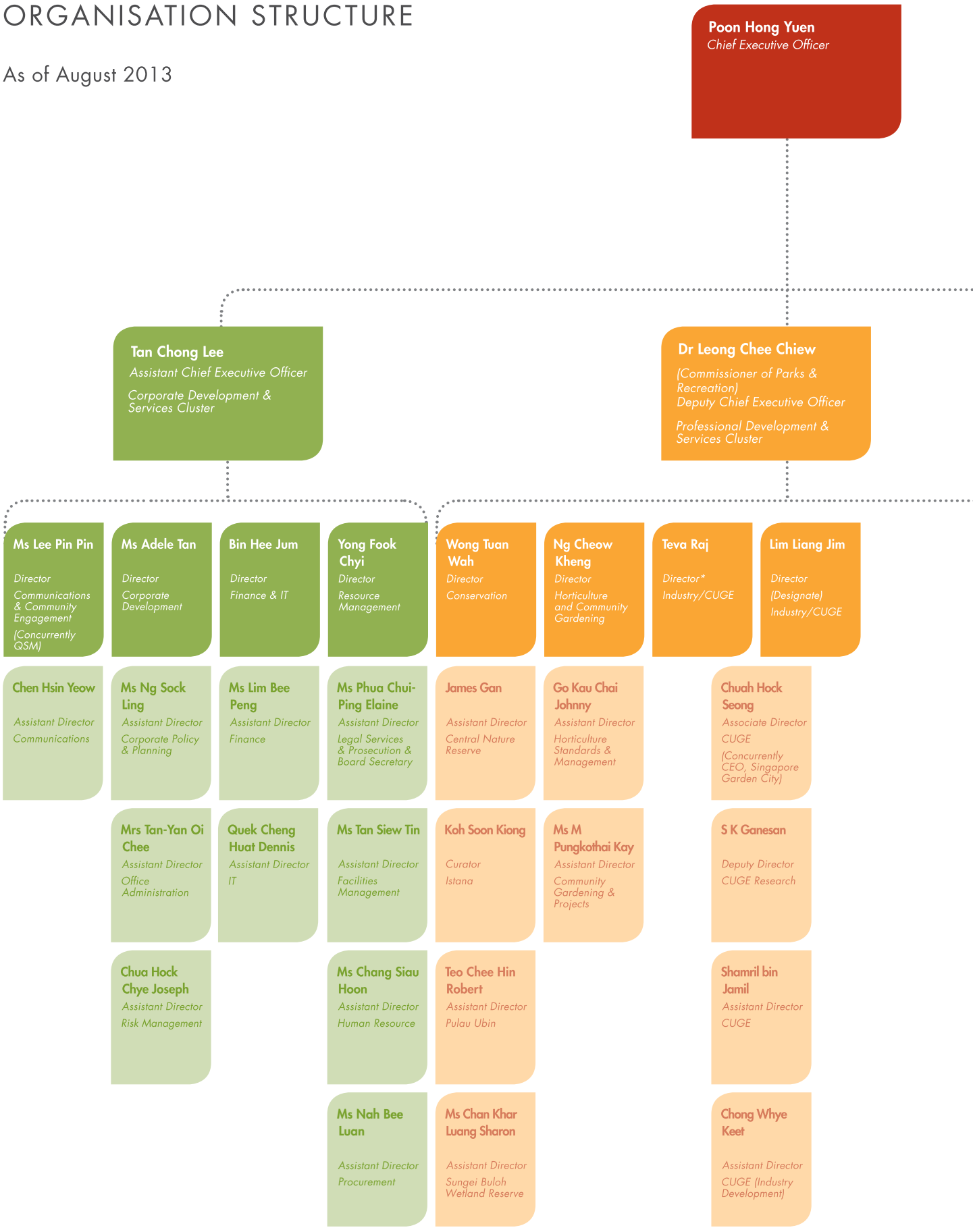
Ng Cheow Kheng
Director, Horticulture & Community Gardening

* Seconded to Gardens by the Bay till 30 June 2013.

Not in picture: Lim Liang Jim, Director (Designate), Industry/CUGE

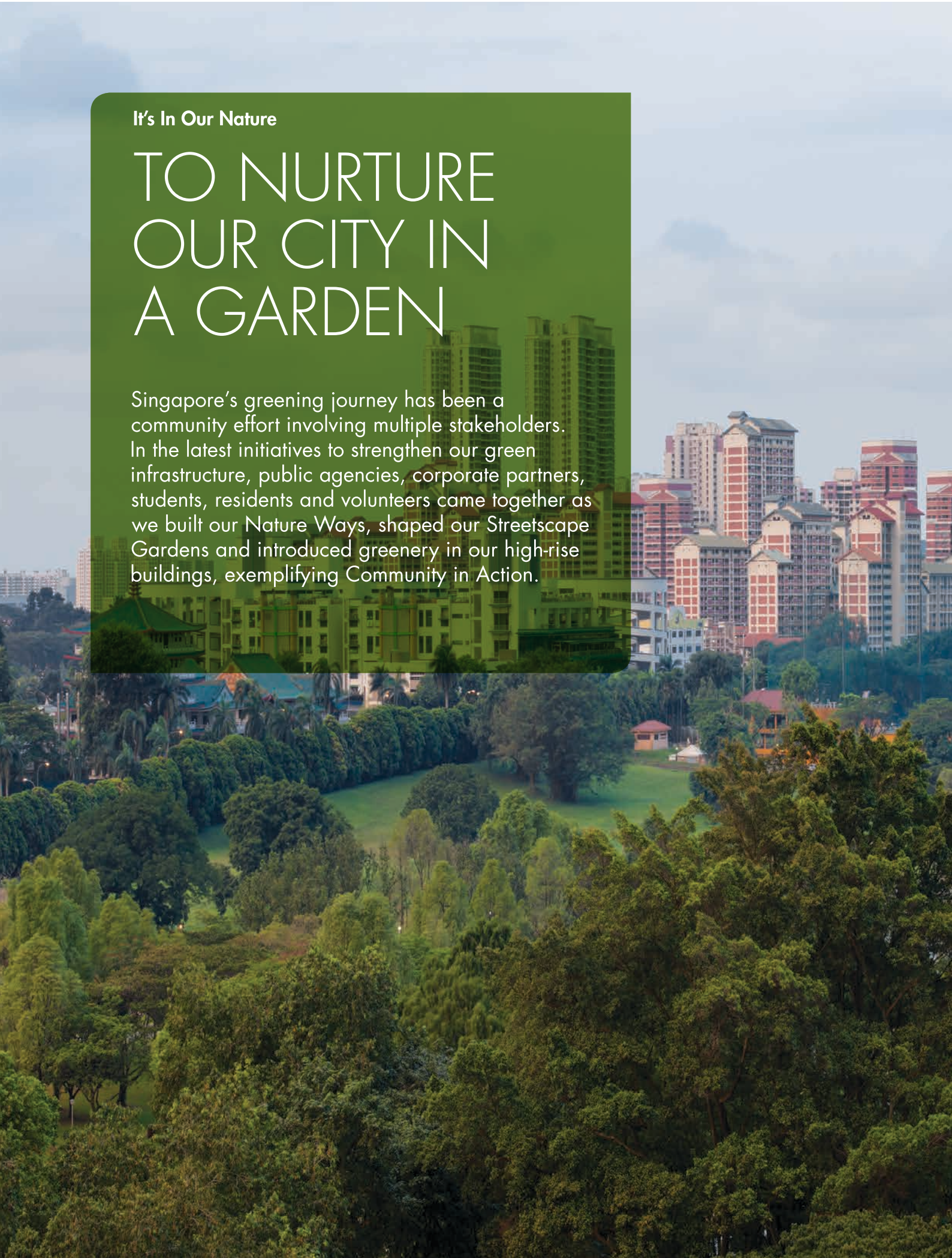
ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

As of August 2013



* Till 17 September 2013


Kong Yit San
Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Park Management & Lifestyle Cluster
Teva Raj
Director
Inspectorate & Review Unit
Dr Lena Chan
Director
National Biodiversity Centre
Sim Cheng Hai
Director
Policy & Planning
Dr Nigel Paul Taylor
Director
Singapore Botanic Gardens
Oh Cheow Sheng
Director
Streetscape
Chia Seng Jiang
Director
Parks 1
Ms Kartini Omar-Hor
Director
Parks 2
Yeo Meng Tong
Director
Parks Development
Ms Tan Lai Kheng
Deputy Director
Lifestyle Business
Ms Goh Mei Ee Linda
Assistant Director
Biodiversity Information & Policy
Ms Goh Shu Lan Kim
Deputy Director
Park Planning
Tan Chye Soon Alan
Deputy Director
Horticulture, Exhibitions & Events
Chuah Hock Seong
Deputy Director
Streetscape (East)
Ms Kalthom binte Abd Latiff
Assistant Director
Arts & Heritage Parks
Tay Boon Sin
Assistant Director
Community Parks
Tang Kok Fei Damian
Assistant Director
Design 1
Vacant
Assistant Director
Coastal & Marine
Cheong Kok Hwee
Assistant Director
Parks & Trees Regulatory
Ms Oh Boon Siang Terri Lena
Assistant Director
Education, Development & Administrative Support
Abdul Hamid bin Mohd
Assistant Director
Landscaping and Arboriculture
Koh Poo Kiong
Assistant Director
Coastal Parks
Yee Chung Yao Thomas
Assistant Director
Park Connector Network (Covering)
Tang Kok Fei Damian
Assistant Director
Design 2 (Covering)
Ms Yap Hwee Min Wendy
Assistant Director
International Relations
Vacant
Assistant Director
Research & Conservation and Keeper of Herbarium
Tee Swee Ping
Assistant Director
Streetscape (West)
Ms Seah Su Ling Wendy
Assistant Director
HortPark & Southern Ridges
Ms Ang Chiean Hong
Assistant Director
Riverine Parks
Ms Ng Yuin-Mae
Assistant Director
Development Management 1
Dr Davison Geoffrey William Hamilton
Assistant Director
Terrestrial
Lim Kiat Fong Dennis
Assistant Director
Singapore Garden Festival
Ms G Kannagi
Assistant Director
Development Management 2
Ms Wee Khee Li Evette
Assistant Director
Visitor Management, Security & Operations



It's In Our Nature

TO NURTURE OUR CITY IN A GARDEN

Singapore's greening journey has been a community effort involving multiple stakeholders. In the latest initiatives to strengthen our green infrastructure, public agencies, corporate partners, students, residents and volunteers came together as we built our Nature Ways, shaped our Streetscape Gardens and introduced greenery in our high-rise buildings, exemplifying Community in Action.

One of the key pillars of the City in a Garden vision is pervasive greenery. From nature reserves, parks and park connectors to tree-lined roads, this green network is what makes Singapore an endearing and liveable home.





Singapore Chinese Girls' School (SCGS) is one of the schools participating in the Community in Action for Kheam Hock initiative. At the launch event, Minister for National Development, Mr Khaw Boon Wan, was introduced to the various plants growing in the school nursery.

Bringing Together a Community in Action

The first event held to commemorate 50 years of the greening of Singapore was the unveiling of a community-led initiative involving NParks, Nature Society (Singapore) (NSS), corporate supporters, community gardening volunteers, residents and schools.

Launched on 2 February 2013, Community in Action for Kheam Hock aims to bring biodiversity closer to the neighbourhood by encouraging the community to grow bird- and butterfly-attracting plants in homes, along the roads and within buildings. The initiative got off to a strong start with individual households, private developments and schools participating in the effort. Corporate organisations also stepped forward to pledge support: City Developments Limited selected specific plants for its condominium which was undergoing construction to attract more biodiversity to the development, while UBS collaborated with residents to maintain the greenery in the neighbourhood.

Kheam Hock's location between two biodiversity-rich areas – the Central Catchment Nature Reserve and Singapore Botanic Gardens – made it an ideal candidate for NParks' Nature Ways programme, under which routes are planted with specific trees and shrubs to facilitate the movement of animals between green spaces.



A stretch of Bedok Reservoir Road, part of Tampines Nature Way, was planted with suitable shrubs to attract birds and butterflies.

Three other Nature Ways were also completed at Admiralty, Tampines and Yishun in FY2012. Pre-planting and post-planting surveys conducted by NSS along Tampines Nature Way and Kheam Hock Nature Way showed an increase in sightings of bird and butterfly species.

NParks is currently collaborating with NSS and schools along the Nature Ways to grow more plants and carry out biodiversity surveys. It is estimated that more than 60km of the Nature Ways will be planted up by 2015.

Creating an Unforgettable Garden Experience for our Visitors

Singapore Botanic Gardens won the inaugural International Garden Tourism – Garden of the Year Award presented by the Canadian Garden Tourism Council on 13 April 2012. The only Asian garden to be nominated for the award, it was lauded for its stunning verdant landscapes and for giving visitors an enjoyable and unforgettable garden experience.

In 2012, Singapore Botanic Gardens received more than 4.4 million visitors. New developments included the Fragrant Garden, which showcases fragrant plants such as the Chempaka and the Tembusu and the soon-to-be completed Foliage Garden, a sunken garden featuring plants with interesting leaf forms, shapes, textures and colours. Meanwhile, the National Orchid Garden continued to grow its collection with the creation of almost 800 new orchid hybrid crosses. To allow visitors to enjoy the beauty of the Gardens after nightfall, night lighting was introduced in selected areas, starting with the Visitor Centre in May 2012.

To broaden its engagement with children, NParks has announced plans to double the size of the Jacob Ballas Children's Garden to 4 hectares by 2014. The Children's Garden was opened in 2007 and attracts more than 200 000 visitors each year. To raise funds for the extension, a carnival was held during the fifth anniversary celebrations of the Children's Garden on 18 November 2012.

In December 2012, Singapore submitted its World Heritage Tentative List to UNESCO to indicate interest in inscribing the Singapore Botanic Gardens as a World Heritage Site.



Visitors to the Gardens were treated to the once-in-a-lifetime flowering of a stately *Corypha umbraculifera*, commonly known as the Talipot Palm, which had graced the lawn near Holttum Hall for years.



Researcher Vinita Gowda, who hails from India, is on a fellowship grant from the Singapore Botanic Gardens to study the pollination and dispersal biology of native gingers from Singapore.

Working with the Research Community

The Singapore Botanic Gardens continued to collaborate with the global research community in major studies in 2012. For example, the Singapore Herbarium is participating in the Global Plants Initiative (GPI), which seeks to create a platform for the sharing of taxonomic resources to support scientific research on plants and biodiversity. It is one of just six herbaria in Asia to participate in the GPI consortium. In October 2012, staff at the Herbarium began digitising its type specimen collections supported by a grant from the Mellon Foundation (USA). A batch of the images is now available on the JSTOR Plant Science website (http://plants.jstor.org).

When completed, all of the Herbarium's 8000 type specimens will be available online. This will greatly enhance the capacity of plant science researchers anywhere in the world to resolve queries about identification, taxonomy, and nomenclature, without the need to borrow these valuable collections or make a trip to Singapore to study them in person.

In continuing efforts to engage and support research partners, eight Research Fellowship Grants were also offered to botanists around the world to carry out studies at the Singapore Botanic Gardens in 2012 and 2013.

The154-year-old Singapore Botanic Gardens is Singapore's first nomination as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



I want to encourage other citizens to come forward, collaborate, and join hands to make our public facilities better for all to enjoy.

Han Jok Kwang
Cycling enthusiast and regular feedback contributor on the Park Connector Network



After five years of planning and construction, the Bay South Garden at Gardens by the Bay was officially opened to the public to experience unique features such as the vertical gardens of the Supertrees; the Flower Dome and Cloud Forest cooled conservatories; the Heritage Gardens and World of Plants; and the Dragonfly Lake.

With the opening of Gardens by the Bay, Singapore moved another step closer to realising its vision of a City in a Garden where communities, places and spaces are connected through parks, gardens, streetscapes and skyrise greenery.

Gardens by the Bay Opens its Doors

Five years of planning and construction culminated in the official opening of the iconic Gardens by the Bay on 28 June 2012, in a ceremony held at the Flower Dome conservatory.

The development of Gardens by the Bay was a collaborative effort by architects, designers, engineers, contractors and NParks, who worked together to create the Gardens' unique features and green innovations.

The Gardens also received strong corporate support with OCBC Bank sponsoring the Supertree aerial walkway and light and sound show; Far East Organization pledging S$10 million to develop a dedicated play area for children to interact with nature and the environment; ExxonMobil contributing S$2 million towards the development of educational resources around Dragonfly Lake for visitors; and Changi Airport Group and Woh Hup (Private) Limited donating S$2 million each to support the operations of the Flower Dome and the development of the Sun Pavilion (display house for succulents) respectively.

Commemorating 50 Years of Greening Singapore

Singapore's journey to become a City in a Garden would not have been possible without community support. As we commemorate our 50 years of greening in 2013, many organisations have come forward to continue their support for the greening efforts. Seen here and on the following pages are highlights of some of these partnerships.

Commemorative Memorabilia

In collaboration with Singapore Post, commemorative stamps portraying Singapore's vibrant urban landscape nestled within a thriving garden with plants and wildlife were issued in June 2013. The stamps come in biodegradable paper, with seeds of the *Portulaca grandiflora* affixed to them for everyone to plant.



Between mid-June and mid-July 2013, McDonald's highlighted Singapore's greening story on more than 3 million traymats. Their service staff also wore the "50 Years of Greening Singapore" commemorative badge.



For information on other partnerships, please visit www.nparks.gov.sg/50years.

Collaborating to Green the Heartlands and Skyrises

To extend Singapore's greenery into the residential heartlands, NParks continued to work closely with government agencies such as the Housing and Development Board, Land Transport Authority, People's Association and Town Councils, and grassroots volunteers to rejuvenate urban parks and enliven the streetscapes.

Works at the new Holland Village Park and the upgrading of Sembawang Park, Woodlands Town Park East and Yishun Park were completed. Streetscape Gardens were also created to enhance the greenery along Jurong East Central (Al-Mukminin Mosque), Bangkit Road and Geylang Lorong 36. Another two will be completed along Tampines Street 71 and Yishun Street 81 by the last quarter of 2013.

The Park Connector Network, a "go-to" venue for fitness buffs and families alike, continued to expand and link even more communities along its length. The completion of the Jalan Pelikat Park Connector, Tampines Loyang Park Connector and Pelton Canal Park Connector brought its total length to more than 210km as of March 2013.

The vertical greening of Singapore also continued to gain momentum, with up to 56.5 hectares of skyrise greenery implemented islandwide. An additional 29 buildings successfully applied for the Skyrise Greenery Incentive Scheme in FY2012. Since 2009, NParks has reached out to more than 25 schools, nine tertiary and four healthcare institution buildings to develop their rooftop gardens and vertical greenery projects.



Nanyang Polytechnic creatively transformed its grey concrete roof into a lush 720sq m eco-garden. This project was completed under NParks' Skyrise Greenery Incentive Scheme.



Good landscape and lush greenery are absolutely critical even as we build in a high rise and high density environment. Through our work with nature, I want to create a green and restful sanctuary and home for our residents.

Dr Cheong Koon Hean
CEO (HDB) & Deputy Secretary (Special Duties), MND
Housing & Development Board