



**Mrs Christina Ong**

Chairman  
National Parks Board

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.

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

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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 engages 18 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.

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