

The Park Connector Network
takes me from home to work.

Adrian Mok

Organiser of Adidas Sundown Marathon at Eastern Coastal PCN

GREEN LIVING



1

The plan: To evolve into a City in a Garden – a bustling metropolis nestled in a lush mantle of tropical greenery, where gardens, parks and nature reserves are woven by a park connector network into a floral tapestry.

The challenge: Achieving this in a city-state with a land area of only 700 sq km and a population of 4.6 million (and growing).

To date, we have enjoyed some success in resourceful development. Despite the scarcity of land, Singapore has been able to commit 10% of its total land area to parks and nature reserves. In 2007, we made good progress in our efforts to energise our green space further, to accentuate the heartbeat, vibrancy and soul of our thriving city.



6

**ecosystems
within 1 sq km**

Mr Mah Bow Tan,
Minister for National
Development, at
the launch of Chek
Jawa Wetlands.

Exploring Chek Jawa with Care

Located on Pulau Ubin, Chek Jawa Wetlands is a unique coastal haven with six ecosystems – coastal forest, sandy beach, rocky beach, mangrove, seagrass lagoon, and coral rubble – packed within an area of about one square kilometre.

After it was discovered in 2000, visitors flocked there to enjoy the natural heritage, unaware of the damage they were inflicting as they trampled across the wetlands. To protect the fragile ecosystems, NParks worked with the Nature Society (Singapore), Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research and Singapore Environment Council to develop a long-term sustainable visitor management plan.

In July 2007, new amenities including a boardwalk spanning more than 1 km and a 20-metre viewing tower were launched to enable visitors to explore this treasure trove with minimal impact on the habitats.

Learning Garden for the Young

Jacob Ballas Children's Garden opened its doors in October 2007 as Asia's first children's garden.

Located at the Bukit Timah Core of the Singapore Botanic Gardens, it is a unique and interactive garden that encourages a sense of wonder for the natural world. Children learn about botanical processes such as photosynthesis and discover how plants provide for their daily needs. Among the highlights of the Children's Garden are the Fantastic Forest with its Tree House and Mushroom Shelter, the Sensory Garden and Potting Garden.



Renowned environmentalist Dr Jane Goodall at Jacob Ballas Children's Garden for the 'Singapore Wildlife Stampede' in November 2007.



1st **cooled conservatory in the tropics to feature plants from the Tropical Highlands and Mediterranean regions.**

Setting New Standards

Comprising three gardens fanned out across inter-connected waterways around Marina Bay, Gardens by the Bay will feature the best of garden craftsmanship, horticultural displays and plant-based edutainment.

Under Phase One, the largest of the three gardens, Gardens at Marina South, is scheduled to open in 2011. Highlights of the garden include the Cooled Conservatories and SuperTrees.

The Cooled Conservatories – a world's first in the tropics – will utilise energy efficient technologies to create a cool environment suitable for plants from the Tropical Highlands and Mediterranean regions.

The SuperTrees, a collection of spectacular vertical gardens towering nine to 16 storeys high, will captivate visitors with the display of flowering climbers and ferns.



Nature at the Doorstep

Admiralty Park, which opened in October 2007, is the largest park in the northwest.

Serving as a recreational stop for the Woodlands community, it offers accessible forested areas and mangrove habitats. The mangrove swamp was carefully conserved with minimal disturbance to the existing flora and fauna for nature appreciation and education.



Irony of Life

Zhang De Primary School:
Sandy Toh, Patricia Lim,
Chee Jia Yi, Teo Jing Yi

A lady takes great care of her garden yet the real world is dying. She seems to be someone who loves nature but on the other hand owns a car that contributes to air pollution. This is the irony of life. Do we see her in ourselves?



Singapore River

Pei Tong Primary School:
Gan Jia Ai, Ho Pei Xuan, Ng
Yi Shien, Bai Yu Xin

We wish the river in Singapore will stay clean and clear forever, and Singapore will be able to sustain its reputation as the Garden City. We also hope that global warming will not affect Singapore.

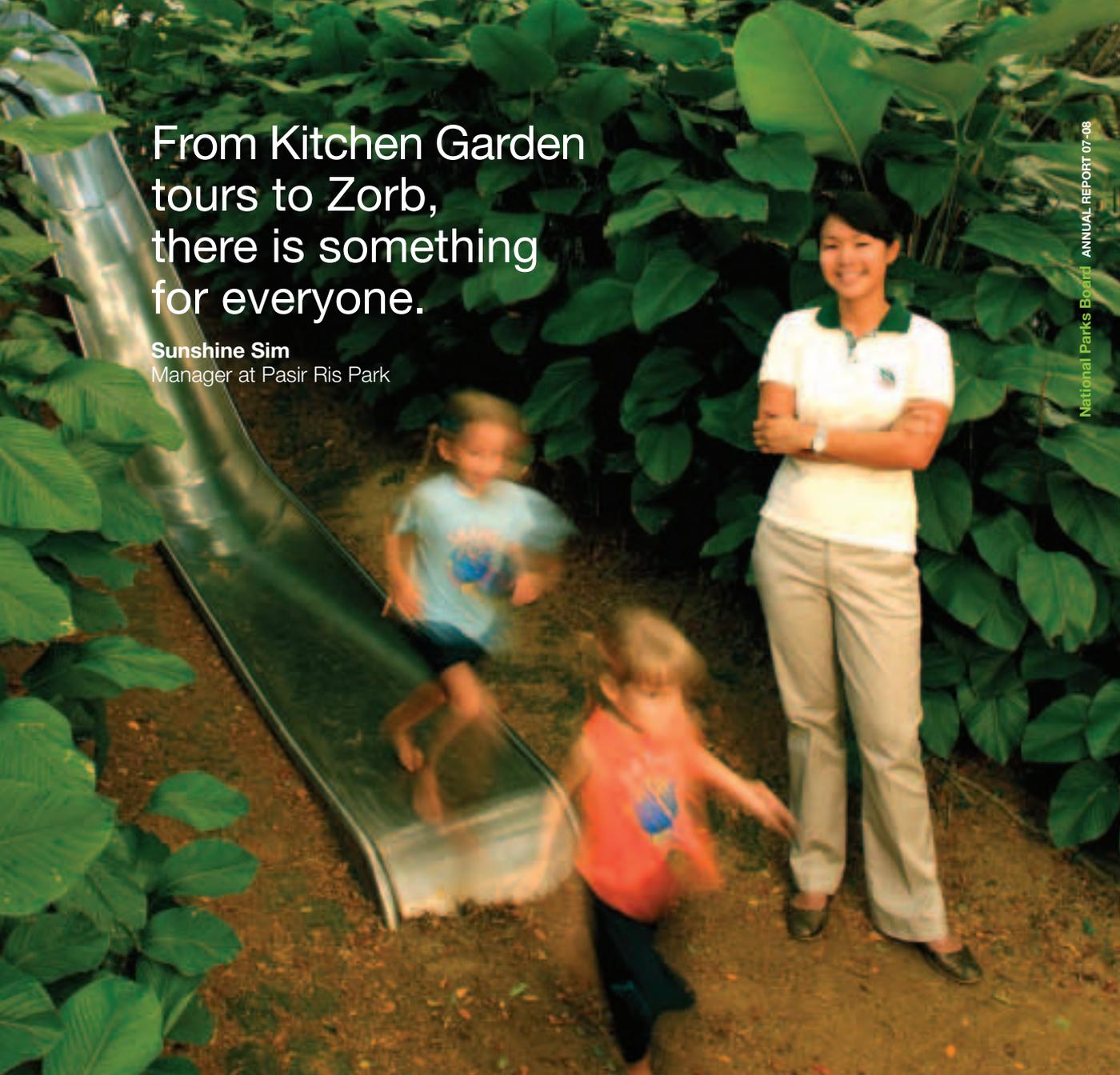
A Hub for Gardening Enthusiasts

HortPark is the first gardening and lifestyle hub in SE Asia to bring together gardening-related recreational, educational, research and retail activities. The park is a showground for garden displays, with 20 theme gardens and 40 plots featuring the latest products and services in the landscape and horticulture industry.

Nestled in the Southern Ridges, HortPark connects to the rolling hills of Kent Ridge Park, Telok Blangah Hill Park and Mount Faber Park via elevated walkways and bridges. It soft-opened in December 2007 and was officially launched in May 2008.



The Seed Garden in HortPark features an assortment of seeds and the different methods of dispersal.

A photograph of Sunshine Sim, Manager at Pasir Ris Park, standing in a lush green garden. She is wearing a white polo shirt with a green collar and light-colored trousers. Two children are playing on a silver slide in the foreground. The background is filled with large green leaves.

From Kitchen Garden
tours to Zorb,
there is something
for everyone.

Sunshine Sim
Manager at Pasir Ris Park

More Nature-based Recreation

The extension of Pasir Ris Park now brings nature closer to the community. Linking the park to the Pasir Ris MRT and bus interchange, the extended area features an expanded mangrove boardwalk and eco pond.

Elsewhere in the park, new features provide more recreational options. The playground now has different zones including a sonic playground, challenge corner and toddler station. There is even a maze accessible to people on wheelchairs. A new Kitchen Garden offers guided tours and workshops for visitors wanting to find out more about herbs, spices and vegetables.



“Best Urban Jungle” – Singapore Botanic Gardens

Time magazine's Best of Asia 2008

Getting the Green Thumbs Up

Singapore Botanic Gardens bagged the title of *Best Urban Jungle* in Time magazine's *Best of Asia 2008*. This is the first time that our flagship garden has been featured in Time's annual list, which ranks the rich experiences, unforgettable places and cultural quirks in the region.

The Gardens' commitment to providing visitors with new experiences while retaining its unique character garnered recognition when it was presented the *Best Reinvented Attraction Award 2008* by the Association of Singapore Attractions.

The next few years will see the development of new amenities and gardens such as Healing Garden and Fragrant Garden to meet the diverse needs of visitors and to strengthen the Gardens' role as a botanical institution.



Beautiful Gardens make Beautiful Homes
Zhang De Primary School:
Chee Jia Yi, Teo Jing Yi,
Sandy Toh, Patricia Lim

In this piece, we are trying to portray a Garden City. Everywhere we go, we are bound to come across beautiful flowers and trees. We love the idea of having nature so close to us. This makes Singapore our lovely home.



Mona Lisa
Catholic High School:
Pang Si Lian, Brendan,
Poh Kai Jie

The branches have withered and dried. The cobwebs symbolise the passing of time, the inevitability of all things to succumb to their ravages. Our artwork warns the viewer of the dangers of neglecting our environment.

Staying Connected

The Eastern Coastal Park Connector Network (PCN) enables users to walk, jog, cycle or roller-blade through idyllic coastal areas and popular parks in the east, such as East Coast Park, Changi Beach Park and Bedok Reservoir Park.

The launch of this 42-km PCN brings the total length of park connectors built to date to 100km. By 2015, we aim to develop a 300km island-wide network of green corridors that will link major parks and nature areas in Singapore.



The Eastern Coastal PCN connects users to eastern parks like East Coast Park

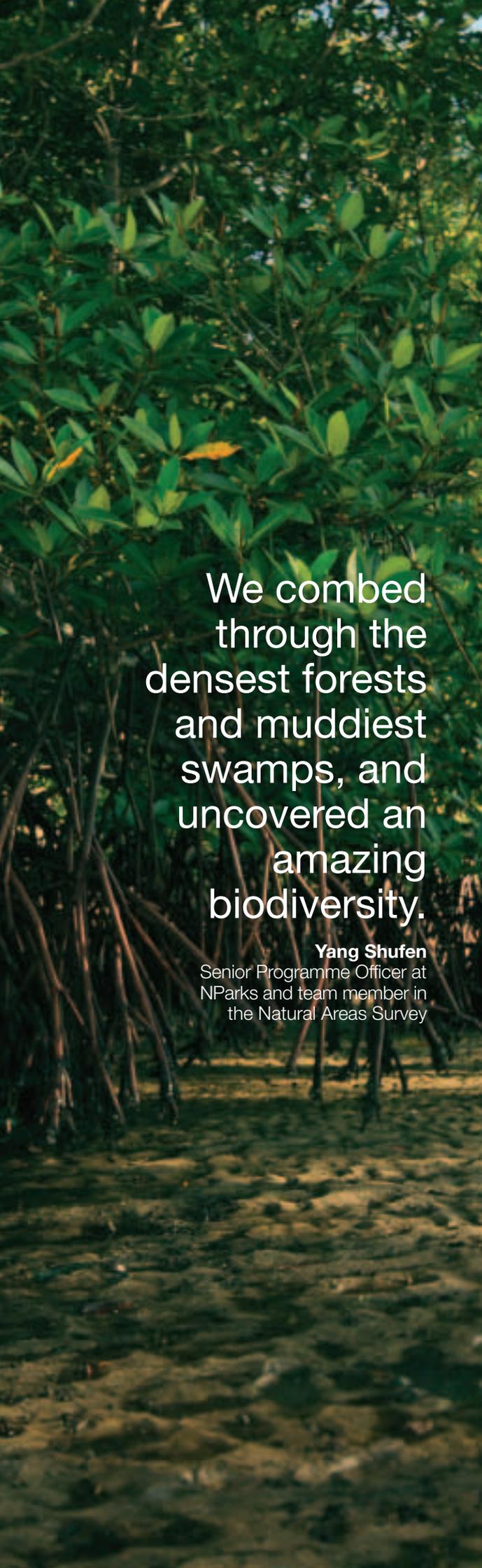
2

The impression that most people have of Singapore is that it is a highly urbanised city. Yet Singapore boasts a rich biodiversity.

A survey of our natural areas unearthed 37 new records of species never before seen in Singapore. Another six species thought to be extinct locally were rediscovered.

Despite our small land area and urbanisation, we have managed to conserve a diversity of flora and fauna across key indigenous ecosystems such as lowland dipterocarp forest, mangroves, freshwater swamp forest and coastal hill forest.

As a party to the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity, we continue to explore unique solutions to balance biodiversity conservation with development.



We combed through the densest forests and muddiest swamps, and uncovered an amazing biodiversity.

Yang Shufen

Senior Programme Officer at NParks and team member in the Natural Areas Survey