

Programmes

In FY08/09, over 5,900 events and activities were held in the parks, underlining the growing popularity of our green spaces as lifestyle destinations.

While we ensure that ample areas are set aside for those who seek the simple pleasure of a green hideaway, we are also enhancing the vibrancy of our parks by offering a host of recreational facilities and programmes.

To develop our parks into natural gravitational points for leisure, we try to create different thematic identities such as sports and wellness, arts and culture, and others.

Our ultimate aim is to provide 'A Park for Everyone'. Whatever the interests, we hope visitors will be able to find their favourite green spot within our parks.





Thrills and spills

East Coast Park's "Energy Zone" exhilarates with high-powered amenities like cable ski and extreme sports.

For those seeking an adrenalin rush, there are parks offering a myriad of exciting sports and rugged pursuits.

Go wild at the Forest Adventure in Bedok Reservoir Park. This aerial course gives participants the chance to manoeuvre among the trees and over water using swings, nets, trapezes and slides. Or zip round the lagoon at Singapore's first cable ski facility, Ski 360°, in East Coast Park.

The park connectors too have been a favourite among the active crowd. The Eastern Coastal PCN was the venue for Asia's first night ultra marathon, the Adidas Sundown Marathon, in May 2008. In August, skating enthusiasts gathered at East Coast Park for the first Park Connector Nightskate which covered the Siglap, Tampines and Pasir Ris park connectors.

Arts in the parks

Fort Canning Park is home to several well-known arts events including SingFest and Ballet Under The Stars.

Our parks continued to set the stage for Singapore's blooming arts scene.

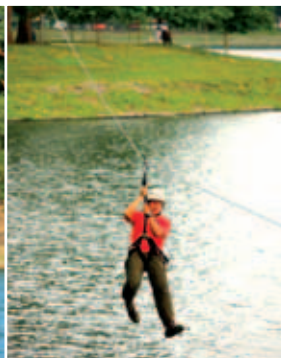
Some 16,000 music lovers attended SingFest 2008 at Fort Canning Park in August, grooving along with a star-studded line-up that included Grammy Award winner Alicia Keys and sensational pop group Pussycat Dolls.

Visitors to the Singapore Botanic Gardens were also treated to a number of performances and events including Opera in the Park and movie screenings.

In collaboration with arts group, Players Theatre, NParks kicked off the fifth series of PLAYing in the Park with a children's play based on bestseller "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie", which was staged at East Coast Park, Pasir Ris Park and West Coast Park.



Cable ski makes water sports fun and affordable



Release the inner Tarzan in you at Forest Adventure



A lyrical evening at the Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage in the Botanic Gardens

Community bonding

Community parks like Toa Payoh Town Park are also popular social gathering grounds.

Our public parks are ideal social spaces for community events and festive celebrations.

To commemorate World Mental Health Day in October 2008, the movie “Wizard of Oz” was screened outdoors at Fort Canning Park. East Coast Park was a popular venue for numerous carnivals including the “Family Fun Festival” in September and “Paws at the Beach” in celebration of World Animal Day in October.

Love was in the air at HortPark when more than 70 visitors celebrated Valentine’s Day at a workshop on growing the Sweetheart Hoya (*Hoya kerrii*).

Singapore Botanic Gardens ushered in the Lunar New Year with a talk on D.I.Y. floral arrangements. Also getting into the festive mood was Jacob Ballas Children’s Garden, which organised a series of workshops ranging from baking pandan cakes for Hari Raya to lighting up Deepavali with candles decorated with flowers.

Culture shiok!

Nutmeg and clove, which used to be cultivated extensively in the area, can be found in the Spice Garden.

Fort Canning Park’s historical past and proximity to the museums make it an apt locale for heritage programmes.

The park’s thriving Spice Garden has been playing an active role in connecting visitors with plants and culture. A month-long festival held in July 2008 showcased the heritage of Vietnam and the common ingredients in Vietnamese cuisine. In line with the theme on Traditional Chinese Medicine in October 2008, special tours were organised to introduce the various herbs used in the age-old therapy.

Life’s lessons

Coral reefs, seagrasses and moths were some of the topics covered in the Singapore Biodiversity Talk Series.

Being treasure troves of biodiversity, our parks and nature reserves act as living classrooms to create a greater appreciation for nature.

More than 80 people participated in the new bird-watching workshops at the Southern Ridges in December 2008. It was an eye-opening experience that left many fascinated by the amazing diversity of birds and wildlife in the area.

Nature talks were also held regularly. The “Singapore Biodiversity Talk Series” was organised by NParks’ Conservation Division to give the public an insight into Singapore’s natural heritage. Singapore Botanic Gardens continued to run “The Gardens’ Talk Series” which touches on fascinating plants like Rhododendrons, Begonias and Orchids.



Expressions of love on the Sweetheart Hoya



The Spice Garden in Fort Canning Park has over a hundred plant species



Chek Jawa Wetlands is home to six ecosystems

HortPark brings together gardening-related recreational, educational, research and retail activities.

Green inspiration

Since its launch in May 2008, HortPark has been abuzz with programmes to encourage a greater interest in gardening. Through creative themes and colourful displays, it has been constantly inspiring gardening buffs with new ideas.

Visitors were treated to a sensorial experience in March 2009 when a showcase of perfumery plants was put on display to let the public learn more about fragrant flora.

Talks spanning a wide range of topics were also held regularly, including one on vertical gardens and another on growing insect-eating carnivorous plants.

Growing years

Jacob Ballas Children's Garden is the first of its kind in Asia.

We continued to find new ways of captivating kids and cultivating a greater appreciation for nature among the younger generation.

Jacob Ballas Children's Garden introduced new drama workshops that spread the message of love for the environment through storytelling, songs, nursery rhymes and dramatisation.

Pasir Ris Park, too, had lots to offer besides its ever-popular playground. Kids were kept occupied during the school holidays with a string of activities like nature photography, paper-making workshops, and cooking demonstrations using fresh ingredients from the park's Kitchen Garden.

Free play

The Botanic Gardens offers guided tours conducted in English, Mandarin and Japanese.

Our parks and nature reserves offer an array of programmes that are friendly on the wallet.

Apart from being a popular venue for public events and performances, we also organise free guided walks regularly at various locations such as Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve.

Admiralty Park, which launched a 20-hectare nature area on 4 October 2008, has also introduced a new nature appreciation walk that takes visitors through the secondary rainforest and mangroves. The tour is held on the second Saturday of every month.



Learn to create your own terrarium or bottled garden



The Children's Garden caters to kids up to 12 years



HortPark's Butterfly Garden Tour is held once a month

Love blossoms

Fort Canning Park and HortPark are also favoured by couples as wedding venues.

For couples tying the knot, there is a selection of indoor and outdoor venues available in the parks. Whether it is a floating platform at Bedok Reservoir Park, a lookout deck at Labrador Nature Reserve or a beachfront lawn at Pasir Ris Park, our lush surroundings create a scenic backdrop for a romantic wedding.

Singapore Botanic Gardens also introduced a chauffeured buggy service for the convenience of couples taking their bridal photographs around its extensive grounds.

Surfing the parks

Now you can get the latest NParks buzz on Twitter!

NParks' website has also taken on a more lifestyle approach to complement the enhanced vibrancy in our parks.

The revamped site offers several new features such as "My Day Planner" which recommends suitable parks and activities based on the user's preference, and "Green Map" which offers a bird's eye view of all the parks, nature reserves and park connectors in Singapore.

Users can join the mailing list to receive updates on the latest happenings in the parks via the monthly e-mailer "NParks Buzz" and the quarterly e-newsletter "My Green Space".

To keep in touch with our users, we have also created a social networking group on Facebook called "Let's Make Singapore Our Garden".



A floating wedding at Bedok Reservoir Park



Get the latest news from NParks' website