

where my *city* is

Our highly urban lifestyle means that we live a fast pace of life. Our aim at NParks is to add value to that lifestyle by providing a congenial environment. The vision is to have each Singapore resident experience living, working and playing in a garden, with the “garden feel” pervasive in every aspect of our lives.

Let's Make Singapore *Our Garden!*

Through the creation of an unparalleled green environment, NParks' vision is to enhance the quality of life and build community ties within Singapore – a home for our people and a global city of distinction.

We seek to contribute to the making of Singapore as a land of opportunity by providing and enhancing a Garden City environment for one and all to live, work and play in.

Putting our customers first, we offer quality facilities and amenities through creative planning and design, in consultation with our community.

We deepen our existing relationships with corporate and community partners, and seek new partnerships to initiate programmes and activities that can inspire a love for the environment, further enriching the life experiences of our communities and citizens.

To this end, we blend our existing expertise with new technologies to build a City in a Garden that is global yet close to our hearts.





Chairman's Statement

Contributing to the making of Singapore as a Land of Opportunity

Over the last several years, cities around the world have been reinventing themselves in the face of formidable global competition for talent, tourists and investments. Likewise, Singapore, has had to find its own way forward to not only maintain its position as a cosmopolitan hub of the region but to make Singapore a land of opportunity.

As we continue on the trajectory of challenge and change, it is evident that Singapore is at a seminal point in its transformation into a global city of distinction with new developments such as Marina Bay rapidly beginning to take shape. Marina Bay with its 24/7 live-work-play environment will forever transform our metropolitan landscape as well as present new possibilities of living. It is therefore gratifying to be able to participate in the

shaping of this new landscape through our efforts in developing the new gardens at Marina Bay, as well as to contribute to the making of Singapore into a land of opportunity by providing a congenial living environment.

Developing Singapore as a Centre for Horticultural Excellence

The new gardens at Marina Bay will feature a conservatory for cooler climate plants, broad sweeps of floral displays showcasing tropical horticulture at its best and areas for garden festivals. The cool house will be the first of its kind in the Tropics, and a study is currently being undertaken to understand and determine its technical requirements. Already, Singapore has won the bid to host the 20th World Orchid Conference – the largest and most significant event in the international orchid calendar – which will be staged at the new gardens in 2011. But even before that, preparations are underway for NParks to organise an

international garden show in 2006. It will bring together award-winning garden designers from around the world and, together with the new gardens at Marina Bay, position Singapore as a centre for horticultural excellence. At the same time, NParks is showcasing its horticultural expertise through platforms such as participation in regional and international flower shows with creditable results.

Upgrading the Horticultural Industry

Concomitantly, our efforts to upgrade the horticulture and landscape industry have gained momentum. A dynamic and well-developed industry with a skilled and professional workforce is integral to our strategic imperatives as we seek to hone our unique competitive edge as a premier tropical Garden City. Our Industry division has worked extensively with industry partners as well as the relevant agencies to address the issues of manpower

development and skills standards through National Skills Recognition System (NSRS) certification and job redesign for workers.

Enhancing Our Green Tapestry

Even as we put together plans to develop Singapore as a centre for horticultural excellence, our efforts to weave Singapore into a tapestry of pervasive greenery continue unabated. Building on our greening efforts over the last four decades, our vision is to envelope our city within lush greenery and overarching canopies of abundant trees – a City in a Garden. Towards this end, we have successfully carried out a demonstration project in Punggol for the Streetscape Greenery Master Plan which is aimed at intensifying our existing landscape. Plans are also underway to embark on a more comprehensive pilot programme involving selected expressways and major roads over the next two years.

By the same measure, we have made significant progress in our initiative to move greening upwards through skyrise greenery with the completion of the joint

pilot green roof project with the Housing and Development Board. The study highlighted the importance of green roofs in reducing ambient air and roof surface temperatures. As an early adopter of this greening approach in the region, we will continue to leverage on new technologies as well as research collaborations to advance this very exciting initiative.

Providing an Inspiring Green Setting

Of equal importance to our green mantle is our ever-growing network of parks which provides a setting for community bonding as well as for recreational opportunities that will help Singapore residents to achieve work-life harmony. The year saw the completion of developments such as the HSBC TreeTop Walk in MacRitchie and the Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage and Evolution Garden in the Botanic Gardens. As part of efforts to provide a quality living environment, several parks including Pasir Ris Park and East Coast Park are currently being upgraded. In the near future, Singapore residents can look forward to a diversity of recreational experiences with

the completion of developments such as the Horticulture Park, Sengkang Orchard Park and Jurong West Park.

The next several years will also see the Botanic Gardens strengthening its position as a key botanical institution for research and education with the completion of the new complex at the Tanglin Core. The new complex will house the herbarium, public reference centre, laboratories and classrooms for outreach programmes. The Gardens also marked a significant milestone with the return of 11.7 ha of land which was part of its original footprint. This will provide much-needed garden space to expand the Gardens' exposition of botanical efforts as well as cater to its increasing visitorship.

Nurturing a Gardening Culture

Beyond building on our green infrastructure, we need to foster an awareness that the greening of Singapore is a total effort. Towards this end, NParks has initiated a Community Gardening Programme to inculcate a passion in gardening and nurture a

vibrant community-centred culture attuned to the needs of our environment. A pilot programme launched last year to involve the community in gardening efforts within their residential estates has been well-received. The project involved some 60 households at Mayfair Park getting together weekly to plan and plant their gardens. Since then, 40 households at Novena Park have also collectively beautified their estate by gardening their frontages. To inspire greater interest in the programme and to spur residents on in their greening efforts, NParks has launched the inaugural "Community in Bloom" Awards. This is aimed at recognising the most creative and innovative gardens that showcase community participation as well as to encourage the sharing of creative ideas in the enhancement of gardens. To further promote community participation in gardening, NParks will be collaborating with public and residential estates, schools and other institutions to provide guidance and advice for their community gardens.

Partnering the Community

Integral to success in encouraging and promoting civic participation in greenery activities is a strong partnership with our corporate and community partners. In this respect, NParks continued to work with our partners to establish programmes and activities that will help to inspire a love for nature as well as enrich the lives of our community. At the same time, we continually seek to establish partnerships with other like-minded organisations and individuals.

Towards Organisational

Excellence Finally, to augment our efforts to pursue our City in a Garden vision, we have put in place quality management systems to ensure operational best practices and procedures. At the same time, we recognise that our staff are the cornerstone of our organisation and that our collective know-how and knowledge has to be harnessed to ensure that our core expertise is retained while we continue to nurture and attract the best talent. To this end, we seek to create a culture of innovation and

flexibility. We have also adopted practices and policies to help our staff achieve work-life harmony as well as to equip them with the necessary skills set to meet the challenges ahead.

As we look forward to realising our vision to provide a quality living environment that will help enhance Singapore's competitive edge as a premier global city, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board Members for their unstinting support and advice. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our partners, volunteers and staff for their time, efforts and commitment and seek their continued support for the year ahead.



Prof Leo Tan

Chairman, National Parks Board
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