

A city is not just bricks and mortar, it's people. It's the people that will make it sustainable and liveable; they are the real building blocks.

Dr Geh Min
Immediate Past President
Nature Society (Singapore)

GREEN COMMUNITY



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Engaging the 3P's – people, public sector agencies, and private companies – is a key pillar in our City in a Garden vision.

Within the people sector, nature interest groups and volunteers are strong and indispensable partners in many of our projects.

Within the public sector, the Garden City Action Committee ensures that development projects by government agencies are well-coordinated.

Within the private sector, there is a growing interest to support NParks' environmental programmes as part of corporate social responsibility.



It is a special kind of connection when you plant something living.

Mrs Kirtida Mekani (right)

Taking Root

Plant-A-Tree enables individuals and organisations to plant tree saplings at designated parks or nature reserves on the last Sunday of each month, or on special days like World Environment Day and Earth Day.

Tree-planting activities used to cater more for groups and organisations. Since the launch of Plant-A-Tree in November 2007, individuals can now play a part in greening Singapore.

Initiated by Mrs Kirtida Mekani, an active member of the Garden City Fund Management Committee, the programme is a collaboration between Garden City Fund and Singapore Environment Council.



Our Day Out
Kranji Secondary School:
Group of 1B students
We have tried to depict a family of three having a day out at the park. We used recycled materials for most of the elements in this collage.



She's Beautiful
Pei Tong Primary School:
Gan Jia Ai, Bai Yu Xin, Ng Yi Shien, Ho Pei Xuan
*When I lift my head,
I can see the clean
opalescent sky.
When I take a deep breath,
I inhale the clean pristine scent.
The Earth I stand on
Radiates serenity and beauty.*

Bringing the Classroom Outdoors

Community In Bloom promotes a gardening culture in Singapore. Since its inception in 2005, we have cultivated more than 250 gardening groups.

We took a leap forward in infusing gardening into the school curriculum with 'Community In Bloom Schools'. This new initiative encourages teachers and students to transform their school gardens into outdoor classrooms through the use of curriculum materials that they download from educational resource providers, ASK n Learn and Learning EDvantage (LEAD).

Our next step is to engage young children in gardening through 'Community In Bloom Kidz'.



Students of Jurong Primary School observing the plants in their garden

Our support of the Dipterocarp Arboretum stems from our company's founding values to conserve our natural resources. We are excited by this partnership's ability to protect the environment for the enjoyment of all.

Claire Chiang
Senior Vice President
Banyan Tree Holdings Limited



Raising the Forest Giants

Towering nearly 80 metres high, Dipterocarps are iconic trees that are unique to this region and form the backbone of the Indo-Malayan rainforests. However, many of these forests have diminished over the years.

To highlight the biodiversity of these majestic giants in an urban area, NParks set up Singapore's first Dipterocarp Arboretum in Yishun Park with the support of Banyan Tree Holdings Limited. Showcasing more than 800 trees of over 70 species, the Arboretum serves as a living gallery of trees for education and research.

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species of birds found in the Marsh Garden

Keeping Marshes Afloat

In a few years' time, visitors to West Coast Park will see more wildlife thriving at the regenerated Marsh Garden.

A partnership between NParks, Shell and Commonwealth Secondary School has given the one-hectare mangrove habitat a new lease of life by planting 200 saplings. The species of mangrove plants were proposed by students of Commonwealth Secondary School after they carried out research at the marshland, guided by Dr Shawn Lum, an expert in plant ecology.



A Commonwealth Secondary School student (third from left) sharing his plant knowledge with Dr Amy Khor, Mayor of South West District; Mr Pieter Eijsberg, General Manager of Shell Eastern Petrochemicals Complex; Prof Leo Tan, Chairman of Garden City Fund; and Mr Ng Lang, CEO of NParks.

Wireless in the Wetlands

A wireless learning trail, jointly developed by NParks, Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore, Ministry of Education, and iCELL Network Pte Ltd, allows students to discover the natural wonders of Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve in a new way.

By using a portable device to scan bar codes located along the Mangrove Boardwalk, students can listen to bird calls or learn about wildlife through videos streamed over the wireless network. They are also prompted with stimulating questions on what they can see along the trail. The content was created with the help of students from Kranji Secondary School.



The wireless learning trail received positive reviews at the 13th Annual Conference of the Consortium for School Networking in the US



Educating
and engaging
our younger
generation is key
to the future of
Singapore's
biodiversity.

Prof Peter Ng

Director of the Raffles Museum
of Biodiversity Research,
National University of Singapore

HortPark Goes Interactive

In another initiative drawing on technology for outreach, NParks partnered with Hewlett Packard (Singapore) to develop an educational e-learning tour of HortPark.

HortPark Mediascape encourages visitors to interact with the physical landscape through a GPS-enabled mobile device that provides interesting information, quizzes and games at specific hotspots in the park.



The Kolam Ayer ABC Waterfront reconnects the community to nature

City of Gardens & Water

NParks has been collaborating with PUB to transform river canals into water-based eco-habitats. In a pilot project, NParks provided ecological and recreational inputs to revitalise a stretch of the Kallang River and park connector in Kolam Ayer. The Kolam Ayer ABC Waterfront is a testimony to the success of this inter-agency partnership. Since the project completed in April 2008, wildlife has been sighted at the once concretised river corridor. Residents also use the place for exercise, leisure activities and community gatherings.

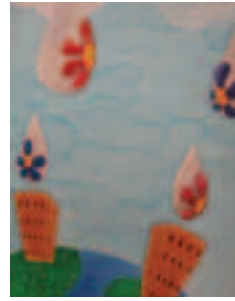


Nature's Opposites

Raffles Institution:

See Yong Xin, John Kee Jia Liang, Daniel Siew Jihan

This collage shows the negative and positive impacts of man on nature in Singapore. The positive side shows beautiful greenery and a lion drinking from the water while the reflection shows the negative side with a vandalised tree and sewage.



Nutrition

Pei Tong Primary School:

Ng Yi Shien, Bai Yu Xin, Gan Jia Ai, Ho Pei Xuan

With no acid rain, our Earth will grow healthier, so as to provide essential nutrition to all living things around her.

Banking on a Tree-filled Future

A partnership between NParks and the Singapore Land Authority has created more than 30 hectares of tree banks to meet the future demands for landscaping. In this joint initiative implemented in June 2007, four sites in Sungei Tengah and the West Coast area are being used to nurture over 11,000 trees comprising 72 different species. The trees will liven up Singapore's streets and add natural splendour to upcoming NParks projects such as Gardens by the Bay and the Streetscape Greenery Masterplan.

Online Resource for Nature Lovers

FloraWeb, an online plant reference system featuring more than 1,900 plants found in Singapore, was launched in January 2008. Created in response to the growing interest in nature among Singapore residents, FloraWeb is a source of reference for everyone from gardening enthusiasts to students to professionals in the horticultural and landscaping field.



Tree bank in Sungei Tengah

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Since the Landscape Industry Masterplan was unveiled in 2005, NParks has been working closely with industry partners to create a framework of strategic programmes aimed at advancing the level of professionalism in the horticulture and landscape industry.

The past year saw us gaining extensive ground in our efforts to raise the profile and standards of the industry, with the setting up of the Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology (CUGE) and NParks Campus.

At the same time, we have not forgotten our own people. Our commitment to staff development and well-being help to create a dynamic culture and a great workplace for all.



The role of the
landscape industry
has grown beyond
greening the island to
shaping Singapore's
urban living
environment.

Dick Toh
Managing Director
Toh Eng Hock Construction Pte Ltd