

MEDIA FACTSHEET



Chestnut Nature Park



The landscape of the Chestnut Avenue area has seen many changes over the years. In the 1840s, the site was used to grow gambier and pepper. In the 1910s, the land was used for rubber plantations to support the growth of the rubber industry in Singapore.

In the 1940s, the rubber plantations were abandoned, and secondary forest species began to regenerate in the area. Due to its close proximity to the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, the Chestnut Nature Park has a variety of flora and fauna. The park is home to more than 80 species of plants and 100 species of animals. *(Examples of flora and fauna found in Chestnut Nature Park are appended)*

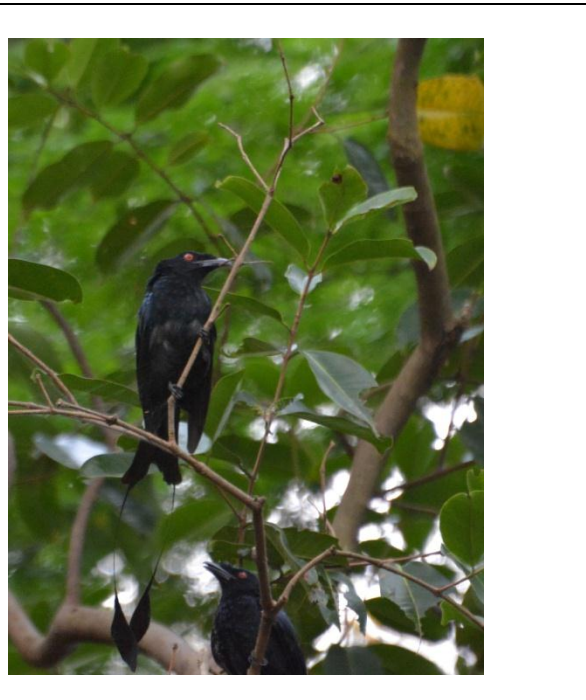
The 80-hectare park will feature a seven-storey observation tower that will offer visitors panoramic views of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. Other park amenities include shelters, toilets, an information kiosk, hiking and biking trails, and interpretive signage for visitors to learn about the park's rich biodiversity. The park will be completed by the third quarter of 2016.





Flora

1		<p>Flora Common Mahang <i>(Macaranga bancana)</i></p> <p>This plant has a symbiotic relationship with ants of the <i>Crematogaster</i> genus. The plant produces food for the ants, and the ants protect the plant from herbivores.</p>
2		<p>Simpoh Air <i>(Dillenia suffruticosa)</i></p> <p>This shrub is used in products such as shampoo and medicine. It is frequently used as an ingredient in cooking, and its leaves are used to wrap "tempeh" or "rojak".</p>

3		<p>Fishtail Palm (<i>Caryota mitis</i>)</p> <p>This palm is easily identified by its leaflets, which resemble fishtails. Its purplish-red fruits are a food source for the Common Palm Civet.</p>
4		<p>Common Tree-Vine (<i>Leea indica</i>)</p> <p>The ripe dark purple fruits are eaten by birds, especially bulbuls. Its flowers also attract many butterfly species such as the Common Bluebottle and Tailed Jay.</p>

Fauna

1		<p>Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>)</p> <p>This bird has a glossy black plumage with prominent tail feathers. It gives a wide range of calls, including good imitations of many other birds.</p>
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2		<p>Striped Tit-babbler (<i>Macronous gularis</i>)</p> <p>This bird has a yellowish throat with brown streaks. It is commonly seen in secondary growth, forest edges, occasionally in mangrove forests.</p>
3		<p>Crimson Sunbird (<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>)</p> <p>The first person to collect, describe and publish an article on this species was Sir Stamford Raffles. Informally labelled as the national bird of Singapore, it feeds mostly on nectar.</p>
4		<p>Plantain Squirrel (<i>Callosciurus notatus</i>)</p> <p>This squirrel is commonly found in parks and mangroves. It is differentiated from the Slender Squirrel by its size, as it can grow up to 22 cm (measuring from head to body).</p>
5		<p>Grenadier (<i>Agrionoptera insignis</i>)</p> <p>The abdomen of the Grenadier is mostly red, except for its last two segments which is coloured black. The thorax is mottled yellow, but becomes darker as it matures. The Grenadier is usually found in drains and sluggish forest streams.</p>

Other fauna

1. The Branded Imperial (*Eooxylides tharis distanti*)

This butterfly, identified by its 'long tail', can be found near shaded shrubs. Its bright orange wings stand out as it flies from perch to perch.