

## MEDIA FACTSHEET – Enhancements and new features in Marsiling Park



- |                        |                         |                                 |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Viewing Tower | <b>4</b> Activity Plaza | <b>7</b> Adventure Play         | <b>10</b> Mangrove Area |
| <b>2</b> Amphitheatre  | <b>5</b> Fun Play       | <b>8</b> Ribbonscape            | <b>11</b> Carpark       |
| <b>3</b> Toilet        | <b>6</b> Fitness Area   | <b>9</b> Food & Beverage outlet |                         |

Park layout (Credit: NParks)

## Habitat enhancement of mangrove forest

The mangrove forest was previously blocked from public view by a dense layer of Sea Hibiscus plants, which also prevented the new mangrove saplings from establishing. The plants were removed during the habitat enhancement works and replaced with over 1000 saplings of mangrove species such as Api Api (*Avicennia alba*), White Teruntum (*Lumnitzera racemosa*), Mangrove Cannonball Tree (*Xylocarpus granatum*), Bakau Putih (*Bruguiera cylindrica*) and Bakau Minyak (*Rhizophora apiculata*). Native mangrove species that are critically endangered locally, such as the Berembang (*Sonneratia caseolaris*), have also been reintroduced to boost the biodiversity and ecological resilience of the mangrove.

Other works to enhance the mangrove forest include the installation of flotsam gratings to prevent accumulation of flotsam and widening the stream channel at the freshwater zone to improve water flow downstream. Trenches were also created throughout the mangrove forest to encourage saline input into the brackish water zone upstream, and to allow for diversion of freshwater flow to the small islets at the freshwater zone downstream.

Enhancement of mangrove habitat	<p><b>Before</b> Mangrove forest mainly dominated by Sea Hibiscus vegetation and blocked from view. Soil erosion observed at certain sections.</p> 
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**After**

Mangrove habitat enhanced and opened up. New educational interpretive boards help public to learn about the different sections of the mangrove.



(Photo credit: NParks)



Flora and fauna that can be found in mangrove forest

**Berembang (*Sonneratia caseolaris*)**

Critically endangered locally, the Berembang is usually one of the first mangrove species to colonize riverbanks and mudflats in new habitats.



(Photo credit: NParks)



(Photo credit: NParks)

**White Teruntum (*Lumnitzera racemosa*)**

This native species is endangered locally and is a local food plant for caterpillars of the Common Tit butterfly (*Hypolycaena erylusteatus*) and the moth *Trabala vishnou*.



(Photo credit: NParks)

**Mangrove Dwarf (*Raphismia bispina*)**

This dragonfly, which is uncommon locally, is among the few species able to live and breed in the saline conditions of mangrove forests. In Singapore, its habitat is restricted to our remaining mangrove forests, such as this patch in Marsiling Park.



(Photo credit: Mendis Tan, NParks)

**Mangrove Helmet Shell (*Pythia plicata*)**

This native thick-shelled snail is sometimes seen on the leaves and trunks of mangrove trees or in the mud. It grazes on algae and lichen growing on mangrove trees and debris.



(Photo credit: Cai Yixiong)

Varied experiences between day and night

In line with feedback received from the residents that they would like to enjoy the park even in the evenings, there are now new amenities and activity areas to engage visitors of all ages, at different times of the day. In the day, visitors can enjoy the unique view created by thematic planting around the lake. More trees with bright red and orange coloured foliage have been added in clusters along the banks of the pond. In the evening, visitors can look forward to the lighting that is curated to leverage on reflections on the water body to create a special illumination effect. Light installations are also directed upwards at the tree canopy and the façades of the iconic Chinese pavilions to open up the view towards the sky for a different experience. Activity areas are well-lit as well to allow facilities to be used in the evenings.



Views

Day



Evening



(Photo credit: NParks)

## Enhancing existing landscape elements

Elements of water and stone, such as the pond, rocky embankment and stone bridge, were key to the character of the original park design. Efforts were made to retain and enhance such elements to create new garden elements and interest.

Building on the focal theme of rocks, the iconic stone bridge in the park has been retained and the design of various park elements incorporates and highlights rock and stone textures. For example, a cascading rain garden has been added to the viewing tower, another landmark in the park. The garden, landscaped with rocks and boulders, ferns, and drought-tolerant plants, spirals down the steps and softens the hardscape of the tower. On rainy days, the cascading plants help to reduce surface water runoff. The hardscape of the amphitheatre is also softened with the addition of a rain garden and trellis with climbers, and boulders that were found during the redevelopment of the park have been added as landscape features around the park.







(Photo credit: NParks)

Amphitheatre

**Before**



**After**



(Photo credit: NParks)

## Diverse activity areas and facilities

As requested by residents during the consultation exercises, new activity areas have been added in the park for visitors of all ages. Near the park entrance, a ribbon playscape that doubles up as resting spaces weaves through the shrubs and trees, capitalising on the undulating terrain of the park. A playground in the form of a butterfly, the only one of its kind in Singapore, encourages children to climb and explore. Complementing the butterfly-shaped playground are butterfly-attracting plants and educational interpretive boards that have been introduced around the playground. At another play area, equipment that makes musical sounds when played with adds a new dimension to the play experience. Park visitors of all ages can exercise together using the 3G fitness equipment situated near these play areas and refresh themselves at the new food and beverage outlet that is open round the clock.

### Adventure Play area

This playground provides children between 5 and 12 years old with a challenging play experience in the form of a giant rope butterfly and a series of climbing ropes.



(Photo credit: NParks)

### Flora and fauna around the playground

#### **Common Lantana (*Lantana camara*)**

A host plant for the Pygmy Grass Blue, its flowers are multi-coloured, change colour over time and after pollination. These are held in showy clusters that attract butterflies, and its leaves emit a pungent scent when crushed or rubbed.





(Photo credit: Arthur Ng, NParks Flora&FaunaWeb)

**Common Asystasia (*Asystasia gangetica* ssp. *micrantha*)**

A free-flowering and fast-growing creeping groundcover species, it is commonly found growing as a weed and has small, white flowers that attract a variety of butterflies. It is the host plant of the Blue Pansy caterpillar.



(Photo credit: Keneric Ng, NParks Flora&FaunaWeb)

**Blue Pansy (*Hypolimnas orithya wallacei*)**

This species is frequently observed in open grassy areas. The male is more attractive than the female, with bright blue hindwings lined with fake eye spots to deceive predators.



(Photo credit: NParks)

**Common Rose (*Pachliopta aristolochiae asteris*)**

This species is generally observed among the understorey of wooded areas. Its bright red body and red spots on its hindwings are warning signs to predators that it tastes awful.



(Photo credit: NParks)

Fun Play area

This playground provides children between 2 and 5 years old with an interactive play experience through a variety of playground activities and musical elements incorporated into the play equipment.





(Photo credit: NParks)

Ribbonscape

The playscape is suitable for all age groups and doubles up as resting spaces as it weaves through the shrubs and trees.



(Photo credit: NParks)

Food and beverage outlet

The dining outlet, Mr Teh Tarik Cartel, offers a range of local delights in a family-friendly environment. It is open round the clock, catering to park visitors at all times.



(Photo credit: NParks)