

Singapore, our City in Nature

Today, Singapore is one of the world's greenest cities. We live in a city surrounded by nature and lush greenery. This is the result of decades of hard work dedicated to conserving our natural heritage and greening our urban landscape.

As Singapore progresses towards becoming a City in Nature, we continue to build on our earlier efforts in reducing the impacts of urbanisation and climate change. This will allow us to create a more liveable island home.



Aerial view of Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and its surroundings



Eskan-Ang The Sun Park

How does nature help us?

Nature provides us with a variety of benefits through healthy ecosystems. These benefits are known as ecosystem services, and can be grouped into four categories:



By coexisting with nature, we can tap on these ecosystem services to ensure that Singapore remains liveable in the face of climate change.

Climate change is a global challenge. Singapore, as a low-lying city state, is at risk of rising temperatures, changing weather patterns, and rising sea levels.



Recess Walk, Jurong Lake Gardens

From nature, we can find sustainable nature-based solutions to counter the effects of climate change and enhance everyone's well-being.



Pekin Quarry, Pulau Ubin

Apart from incorporating greenery into our urban landscape, we will also continue to strengthen connectivity between our green spaces and restore habitats. This will allow us to continue to develop in a sustainable way.

Did you know?

The City in Nature vision is one of the five pillars of the Singapore Green Plan 2030 – a national movement to chart Singapore's course for sustainable development. This ensures that Singapore can develop an economic growth model that does not compromise its environment.

Learn more about what a City in Nature means for you:



Share your love for nature and parks at #NParks #AnimalRescueSG

Our green city

Greening up our city is one of the key building blocks in our efforts to reduce the effects of climate change. Through photosynthesis, plants remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and use it for growth. The carbon is stored in their leaves, roots and stems, and also in the soil.



Labrador Nature Reserve

Singapore's different shades of green

Singapore's landscape features various types of vegetation. Do you know what the different shades of green in our island home are?

Grasslands

Consist mostly of grasses



Jongling Lake Gardens

Scrublands

Include grasses and shrubs



Seakow Island

Woodlands

Include trees and shrubs, but with a more open canopy than a forest



Coney Island Park

Forests

Our main native vegetation type is the tropical rainforest. It is dominated by trees and other plants of various shapes and sizes, forming different layers of vegetation.

Primary Rainforest

This is the most ecologically-diverse native vegetation in Singapore today.



Bukit Timah Nature Reserve

Native-Dominated Secondary Forests

These develop from rainforests that have been disturbed, whether by a natural event like a fire, or by humans, such as land clearance for agriculture. Tree cover and species richness tend to increase over time after the disturbance occurs as the forests regrow.

Young Secondary Forests

These are native-dominated forests at early stages of regrowth.



Western Catchment

Mature Secondary Forests

These are native-dominated forests at later stages of regrowth.



Central Catchment Nature Reserve

Exotic-Dominated Secondary Forests

These also develop from disturbed land but consist mostly of non-native plants that are usually highly invasive and crowd out native species. On their own, it is difficult for such forests to regenerate into native-dominated tropical rainforests.

Find out how we conserve our green spaces holistically:



Did you know?

Our trees store about 4.1 million tonnes of carbon, equivalent to almost five times the carbon emissions produced by households in Singapore annually. This helps us to reduce the effects of climate change on our city.

Find out more about the ways trees benefit us:



Conserving and restoring natural ecosystems

Singapore's natural capital is the primary provider of ecosystem services. Natural capital refers to natural assets, including habitats, living things, water, soil and air.

Our nature reserves safeguard primary rainforests and core habitats for native biodiversity. Nature parks, in turn, serve as complementary habitats and buffers for our core nature reserves. Our expanding Nature Park Networks also provide great spaces for nature-based recreational activities.



Chestnut Nature Park



Springbrook Nature Park



Malaya's Endemic Langur (*Presbytis leucogaster*) | Photo credit: James Lee



Lesser Maxwell's *Troglodytes* | Photo credit: Mac Xiao



Orchard Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albertus*)

Singapore has a rich biodiversity because of its geographical location. This biodiversity is important to maintain healthy, resilient ecosystems.

NParks conserves Singapore's flora and fauna through various species recovery programmes and research efforts.



Hawksbill Turtle Hatchlings

Turtle Hatchery at Sister's Islands Marine Park

Every year, critically endangered Hawksbill Turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) return to our shores to lay eggs. Rescued turtle eggs are brought to the turtle hatchery, where they are incubated in protected areas for them to hatch safely.

Singapore Botanic Gardens Seed Bank

We safeguard the region's plant biodiversity through conservation, research and education. The Seed Bank can store the seeds of up to 25,000 plant species, about half the estimated total number of species in Southeast Asia!



Dry Beans in Seed Bank

Did you know?

Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve is home to the largest mangrove forest in Singapore. It is also an important stopover site for migratory shorebirds like the Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*).

Mangroves provide us with many ecosystem services and are key in reducing the effects of climate change. They absorb the impact of strong waves and winds, which prevents coastal erosion. In addition, they absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide – around three times that of tropical rainforests!



Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve



Intensifying nature in gardens and parks



Learning Forest, Singapore Botanic Gardens

Singapore's gardens and parks will become more naturalised. Habitats will be enhanced or restored to create homes and spaces for native plants and animals, while bringing visitors closer to nature. There will also be more therapeutic landscapes that tap on nature's ability to heal and inspire.



Thomson Nature Park



Woolbar Nature Park



Ferris Gaming Park

Therapeutic gardens

are designed to provide visitors with a restorative environment to improve their overall well-being. Here, visitors can unwind, recharge and heal.

These gardens also feature an activities zone with facilities for therapeutic horticulture programmes or exercise. Through the use of plants and nature-related activities, people can experience relief of mental fatigue and reduced stress. In addition, these activities can help improve the health of people with conditions such as dementia.



Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park



Ponggol Waterway Park

Nature playgardens

are spaces where children can explore nature while playing in a natural habitat.

Here, our young visitors can engage in spontaneous and creative play, which builds up their self-confidence and independence, as they interact with the natural materials and curated play features.



Heron Play area, Aungmye Gardens



The Building Hut play area, HartPark

Did you know?

With climate change, rainfall in Singapore is expected to increase in volume and frequency, which leads to a higher risk of flooding. To cope with this, we will naturalise the concrete waterways and waterbodies in our parks where possible, to serve as floodplains which can better absorb rainfall, while also supporting more biodiversity and enriching our living environment.



Further restoring nature into the urban landscape



Forest Walk, Telok Ayer Stair Hill Park

Singapore's temperatures will continue to increase with climate change. This is worsened by the urban heat island effect, where urban surfaces such as buildings trap more heat.

A sustainable solution can be found in nature. Greenery provides shade and removes heat via evapotranspiration, cooling our urban areas. Planting more greenery also helps improve air quality and beautifies our city.



Sun Plaza Park | Photo credit: Singapore Environment Council



Jardin Nature Corridor

Through a multi-tiered planting scheme, in which trees and shrubs of varying heights are planted, we aim to transform every road into a Nature Way.



Berlin Nature Way

Did you know?

Nature Ways are routes planted to emulate our natural forest structure along our streetscape. Such naturalistic planting provides more habitats for native biodiversity in existing green spaces. They are also green corridors, allowing our biodiversity to move between green spaces.

Stronger island-wide ecological and recreational connectivity



Eco-LinkBike spans the Bukit Timah Expressway, connecting the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves

Ecological connectivity is the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth. It is needed to maintain healthy, resilient ecosystems.

Nature Ways promote ecological connectivity to facilitate the movement of biodiversity like butterflies and garden birds. These routes strengthen the connectivity of our green spaces, while bringing nature closer to Singaporeans.

The Park Connector Network is being expanded to enable easy access to nature. With this, all households will be within a 10-minute walk from a park. You can explore and enjoy our different nature areas, engage in recreational activities, as well as participate in fun programmes and events in green spaces near you.



Stroll at the Western Adventurers Loop through parks and greenways



Living with nature

In our City in Nature, we share our space with the diverse biodiversity – plants and animals that also call Singapore home.

We can continue to coexist harmoniously with wildlife and enjoy the benefits of living in a well-balanced ecosystem by:

- Observing wildlife from a safe distance and respecting their space. Many wild animals would much rather not encounter humans and would not attack unless provoked.
- Not feeding wildlife. They have sufficient food in their natural environment. Feeding wildlife alters their natural foraging behaviours. This may result in them moving out of their natural habitats to seek food.
- Keeping food and plastic bags out of sight from wildlife. Some animals that have been fed by humans have been conditioned to associate bags as food sources. Hence, they may instinctively grab these items.
- Staying on trails at our nature reserves and nature parks. Keep noise levels down. Nature reserves and nature parks are closed at night to allow native fauna, many of which are nocturnal, to feed and breed.
- Not keeping wildlife as pets. We may not be able to give them the care they need. Some wild animals may spread diseases. The collection of wildlife as pets can also lead to ecosystem imbalance and threaten the survival of the species.
- Reporting incidences of illegal exotic pets and poaching to NParks' Animal Response Centre at nparks.gov.sg/feedback or calling 1800 476 1600.



Here's what you can do when you encounter our native wildlife:



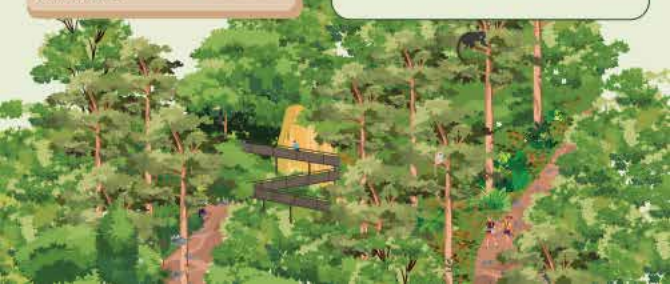
Learn more about the NParks Wildlife Management team's work on understanding our native biodiversity and how we can coexist harmoniously with wildlife:



- 1 Long-tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*)
- 2 Spotted Wood Owl (*Strix seloputo*)
- 3 Estuarine Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*)
- 4 Sunda Slow Loris (*Nycticebus coucang*)
- 5 Reticulated Python (*Malayopython reticulatus*)
- 6 Smooth-coated Otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*)
- 7 Sunda Pangolin (*Manis javanica*)

Photo credits:

Photos 1 & 7: Alan Nixon | Photo 2: Syarif Aziz | Photo 3: Greta Liu | Photo 4: Masha Sui



Play a part in our City in Nature

Check out our programmes! Together, we can transform Singapore into a City in Nature.

You can create a sustainable and climate-resilient Singapore by volunteering with us and becoming a steward of nature. Every effort counts and you can make a difference.



Everyone can play a part to realise our City in Nature vision



Conduct a wildlife survey to discover our urban biodiversity

Find out more:



Community in Nature

Join our community programmes to help conserve Singapore's nature (including students) in conserving Singapore's nature.

Join our community programmes to help conserve Singapore's nature (including students) in conserving Singapore's nature.



Step forward and be a steward of our natural heritage

Find out more:



Youth@SGNature

Join our youth programmes to help conserve Singapore's nature (including students) in conserving Singapore's nature.



Get involved in gardening and bring nature closer to your school

Find out more:



Community in Bloom

Join our community programmes to help conserve Singapore's nature (including students) in conserving Singapore's nature.

Join our community programmes to help conserve Singapore's nature (including students) in conserving Singapore's nature.



Play a part in creating a greener Singapore for all

Find out more:



One Million Trees movement

Join our community programmes to help conserve Singapore's nature (including students) in conserving Singapore's nature.

Join our community programmes to help conserve Singapore's nature (including students) in conserving Singapore's nature.



Join us in promoting active and responsible use of our parks

Find out more:



Friends of the Parks

Join our community programmes to help conserve Singapore's nature (including students) in conserving Singapore's nature.



Share your love for nature and animals at #NParkBus #AnimalBusSG