

Donor Impact Report 2022

NURTURING A GREENER
TOMORROW TOGETHER



Message from the Chairman



Our Mission

To create the best living environment through excellence in nature conservation, greenery and recreation, and veterinary care, in partnership with the community

Our Vision

Let's make Singapore our City in Nature

Singapore's transformation into a City in Nature is made possible by the contributions of all who play a part in safeguarding our natural heritage, fostering stronger ownership of our local flora and fauna and providing opportunities for many to connect with nature.

The evolving Covid-19 situation presented new challenges to us, but we remain grateful for the strong backing of our partners and the opportunities to engage with individuals and corporations through various platforms. Our donors, in particular, have made possible countless species recovery projects; new parks, gardens and facilities; outreach programmes and forest restoration efforts.

Support remains strong for the Plant-A-Tree programme, which underpins the OneMillionTrees movement. Since its inception in 2007, over 740 corporations and some 3,900 individuals have come together, as environmental stewards, to plant more than 55,000 trees, creating a living legacy for all to enjoy. Over the years, our partners have also stepped forward to help in our park enhancement efforts such as the OCBC Arboretum, SPH Walk of Giants and COMO Adventure Grove. These efforts not only provide recreational spaces for visitors but also enable the care and protection of our natural heritage for our future generations.

I am encouraged to note an increased interest in marine conservation among corporates and individuals who contributed generously

to the research and restoration of corals under NParks' Plant-A-Coral, Seed-A-Reef Programme. New partnerships established with Marine Stewards, Aramco Asia and many others not only helped to conserve marine biodiversity, but also enabled education and outreach opportunities for the community.

The role of individuals in furthering the City in Nature vision should not be undermined. I would like to highlight the contributions of Mr Leslie Tan to support conservation, research and outreach work at the Singapore Botanic Gardens and Mr Tan KH who serves as a Singapore Botanic Gardens Ambassador and has donated to various projects under NParks.

We will be embarking on projects including the development of more Therapeutic Gardens for more people to experience the healing benefits of nature; creation of nature-based solutions to combat climate change; research on the benefits of nature-based interventions on park visitors; and new initiatives to encourage responsible pet ownership and promote harmonious living between animals and the community.

I invite all of you to work alongside the Garden City Fund as we continue on our journey to shape and transform our City in Nature.

Professor Leo Tan

Chairman, Garden City Fund

Combating Climate Change

WITH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Part of our City in Nature vision includes working with our community to bring to fruition nature-based solutions to safeguard our natural legacy for future generations of Singaporeans.

A project was conceptualised in 2021 to protect Labrador Nature Reserve's rich coastal habitat by strengthening the shoreline to help mitigate potential threats like rising sea water due to climate change. With **Keppel Corporation's** timely support, a coastal beach forest will be restored. With the addition of a new Keppel Coastal Trail, this project will help safeguard core habitats and critically endangered native species in the nature reserve and provide more nature recreation opportunities for visitors.

“Through these projects, we hope to help preserve biodiversity at the nature reserve and contribute to nature-based solutions to combat climate change.

Ho Tong Yen,
Chief Sustainability Officer,
Keppel Corporation

“Keppel and its staff feel a natural affinity with Keppel Bay and its surrounding environment as this was the birthplace of the Keppel Group, more than five decades ago,” said Ho Tong Yen, Chief Sustainability Officer of Keppel Corporation.

Keppel is not new to such projects as the organisation has, over the years, partnered the Garden City Fund to bring similar projects to benefit the community. These include contributing some 10,000 trees to the OneMillionTrees movement to mitigate the urban heat island effect, and conserve native plant species; enabling the establishment of the Keppel Discovery Wetlands in the Singapore Botanic Gardens to allow the community to learn more about the flora and fauna found in this habitat; and taking part in research to provide science-based knowledge to facilitate conservation of our local biodiversity.

“Through these projects, we hope to help preserve biodiversity at the nature reserve and contribute to nature-based solutions to combat climate change,” said Tong Yen.

“At HSBC, we recognise that urgent and lasting action needs to be taken to protect our natural environment ... and one way of doing this is through engaging our community in conservation efforts.

Wong Kee Joo,
Chief Executive Officer,
HSBC Singapore

Enabling Community Participation

IN NATURE CONSERVATION

Since the start of Singapore's greening journey some 60 years ago, the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew had always pushed for a garden city for the people. He believed in the restorative power of nature and wanted to bring nature and people closer together.

Complementing this vision, NParks partners with organisations to create opportunities for community engagement. An example would be **HSBC**, a long-time partner of the Garden City Fund that has enabled projects and programmes to connect people of all ages with nature. Whether it be enabling young families to explore the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve with Coco and Friends, or supporting sea turtle conservation and outreach programmes at Sisters' Islands Marine Park, the company has taken great care to ensure that the projects they support touch the lives of those who take part in them.

“At HSBC, we recognise that urgent and lasting action needs to be taken to protect our natural environment from the damaging consequences of climate change and we believe that one way of doing this is through engaging our community in conservation efforts,” said Wong Kee Joo, Chief Executive Officer, HSBC Singapore.

HSBC's latest contribution is in supporting NParks' Forest Restoration Action Plan through the setting up of two community nurseries in Dairy Farm Nature Park and Rifle Range Nature Park. Kee Joo noted that the nurseries provide opportunities for the communities to experience nurturing of native plants from its infancy stage to trees ready for planting, and serve as training venues for best practices in forest restoration. They also play an important role in the propagation and conservation of native plants which will help improve habitats for native biodiversity in the Rifle Range Nature Park, a buffer to Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. The nurseries bring together committed volunteers including HSBC staff to support the Singapore Green Plan 2030 and OneMillionTrees movement and enable Singapore to advance in its journey to become a City in Nature.

“Every small step counts in environmental protection,” said Kee Joo, “The efforts of our team members are testament to HSBC's commitment to protect our natural resources and to do our part in raising environmental awareness.”

As part of NParks' annual Biodiversity Week for Schools, HSBC has made possible learning resources which focus on the importance of Singapore's forests and the flora and fauna within. As a staunch supporter of school programmes, Kee Joo commented, “By shaping young minds early, we hope to plant the seeds of environmental consciousness and responsibility, which will bloom into constructive environmental actions.”

Keppel Discovery Wetlands at the Learning Forest,
Singapore Botanic Gardens

Harnessing Technology

TO ENHANCE NATURE-BASED RECREATION

Singapore's journey to become a City in Nature seeks to bring people closer to nature to enjoy the many benefits that it brings to our physical and mental well-being. In recent years, technology has also become a critical asset in enabling this connection with nature.

One significant project in this area is the development of the Water Lily Pond at Jurong Lake Gardens. Backed by **Micron Technology**, it supports the Gardens' efforts to serve as a test bed for smart technology and a showcase of sustainable features in nature-based recreation facilities.

A key feature of the project is the development of a water pump and filtration system that utilises natural vegetation and soil microbes to clean and restore the water within the Water Lily Pond and the larger Japanese Garden within Jurong Lake Gardens.

The system supports important water conservation efforts that benefit the community and enables NParks to monitor water quality parameters in real time to ensure optimal plant growth conditions.

"Through this initiative, we hope to support Jurong Lake Gardens' sustainability aspiration and its objective of connecting people with nature. We believe that visitors and students will benefit from the nature-based recreation activities," said Chen Kok Sing, Micron's Corporate Vice President and Singapore Country Manager.

Micron's commitment to sustainable development also extends to its support of NParks' Plant-A-Tree programme. Its staff have contributed both in terms of donations through the company's matching programme and their time participating in tree planting activities.

The company exceeded its goal to plant 500 trees, and it is looking to continue this for the next few years in line with NParks' OneMillionTrees goal to restore nature into our urban landscape.

"We hope our commitment to sustainable business practices and to our communities will make lasting progress as we work towards building a better world together," said Kok Sing.

Through this initiative, we hope to support Jurong Lake Gardens' sustainability aspiration and its objective of connecting people with nature.

Chen Kok Sing,
Corporate Vice President and
Singapore Country Manager,
Micron



Rasau Walk in Jurong Lake Gardens, Singapore's first national gardens in the heartlands



The Garden is a living, lively place to be enjoyed with hope for future generations as Singapore works toward its vision of becoming a City in Nature.

Dr Rosslyn Leong

Nature play at Jacob Ballas Children's Garden, Singapore Botanic Gardens

Encouraging Nature Play

FOR CHILDREN

Living in a City in Nature, we all have a part to play in ensuring the sustainability of Singapore's green vision by cultivating a sense of environmental stewardship among our young ones. This will also inspire our future generations to learn and care for our natural world.

One particular project geared towards educating and instilling a love for nature in children is the establishment of the Jacob Ballas Children's Garden. Named after philanthropist and community leader Jacob Ballas, the attraction was opened at the Singapore Botanic Gardens on 1 October 2007, with gastroenterologist

Dr Rosslyn Leong as one of its long-term supporters, having donated to its development in 2004, and continuing to do so regularly since then.

Designed to be an immersive nature-learning environment, the Jacob Ballas Children's Garden introduces children to the ecology of plants and our environment through play and exploration.

The Garden also features a sculpture "Mystree" by Zadok Ben-David, which was donated by Rosslyn. With its leaves made up of over 500 little figurines, the sculpture aims to capture the imagination of children who visit the Garden and provide them with an endless source of fun.

"The Garden is a living, lively place to be enjoyed with hope for future generations as Singapore works toward its vision of becoming a City in Nature and as it becomes clear how much our world needs plants and trees to counter climate change," said Rosslyn.

Nature Heals

ENHANCING PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING THROUGH THERAPEUTIC GARDENS



Therapeutic Garden at Jurong Lake Gardens, launched in October 2021

Evidence-based research shows that urban nature contributes positively to the health and well-being of residents. Over the years, NParks and its partners, comprising researchers, donors, horticulture experts and special needs groups, have collaborated to establish therapeutic gardens to further extend the benefits of Singapore's City in Nature to help our local community.

Surrounded by lush greenery, these are outdoor gardens that incorporate design principles derived from science-based evidence and are designed to meet the physical, psychological and social needs of park users. There are now nine therapeutic gardens developed through the generosity of partners such as **Tote Board** through the Garden City Fund, including the two that opened at Pasir Ris Park and Bedok Reservoir Park in early 2022.

Professor Kua Ee Heok, who is the Tan Geok Yin Professor in the Psychiatry and Neuroscience Department of Psychological Medicine, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, said therapeutic gardens have tremendous benefits in Singapore, not just in social but also in physical and mental aspects.

A key study conducted by his department between 2018 and 2021 found that clinically depressed individuals experienced benefits from passive exposure to

therapeutic gardens. "Therapeutic horticulture programmes allow people to build mental resilience through contact with greenery, such as gardening," said Prof Kua.

The use of therapeutic gardens also resulted in improvements to the immune system. "The benefits of therapeutic gardens come through walking in the natural environment, studying the beauty of nature around us and consciously connecting with the surrounding. All these promote healing and boost the immune system, providing drug-free therapy which can improve one's well-being and health."

Users of therapeutic gardens also benefit from therapeutic horticulture programmes, which are customised and conducted regularly in partnership with eldercare centres and senior activity centres in the vicinity of each therapeutic garden. These programmes, involving plants and nature, help stimulate participants' senses and memories through interaction with nature as well as

to encourage motor and hand-eye coordination.

With the positive feedback from the community and partners, NParks plans to work with the community to expand this project further and establish some 30 therapeutic gardens by 2030. This will be a living legacy that will benefit many generations of people living in Singapore and provide them with access to nature-based therapy for overall well-being.

Visitors' feedback after visiting a therapeutic garden

"Meaningful use of time, I learnt new things.

"The air is refreshing. Good resting and walking atmosphere.

"I like this place. I feel rested, and relaxed.

Project Rehab

TRANSITING FROM STRAYS TO PET LIFE



NParks Centre for Animal Rehabilitation

It is through projects like the behavioural rehabilitation programme at the Centre for Animal Rehabilitation that have given stray animals a better chance to transit successfully into pet life. Opened in end-March 2022, this initiative is co-supported by NParks and our generous donor, **Dr Tan Hwa Luck**.

Project Rehab aims to promote harmonious living between animals and the community as Singapore progresses towards becoming a City in Nature. This is possible through helping stray dogs integrate successfully into pet life. As home living is a new and unfamiliar environment for strays, the transition could be stressful and if not managed properly, could create undesirable behaviours that might prevent a stray from transiting into pet life.

With the support of the community, NParks has developed a successful programme and space to provide a low stress, predictable and familiar living environment. The Centre mimics a typical Singaporean home, helping the dogs to become familiar with a home environment and introducing them to common household items like the vacuum cleaner and TV. They are also taught appropriate behaviours in a home setting like being calm around the dinner table or being comfortable with visitors at the door.

"With the increased interest in pet ownership and animal welfare, the set-up of Centre for Animal Rehabilitation is timely as it will increase the chances of animals being rehomed and help integrate them well with the community.

Dr Tan Hwa Luck,
Retired veterinarian

Other purpose-built features at the Centre include compartmentalised kennels which allow dogs to exercise control over their living environment; and large dog runs where they not only get their exercise but also learn to walk on a leash, engage in social play and interact with handlers. These are all important interactions that the strays need to be introduced to in order to integrate into a home-based environment.

Dr Tan Hwa Luck's contribution went towards the setting up of the Centre by providing clinic equipment, grooming tools, behavioural training equipment, general furniture as well as food and treats for the animals as part of their training.

Its opening marked a key milestone in the science-based efforts of the Animal & Veterinary Service, a cluster under NParks, to manage the stray animal population in Singapore, and to rehome as many trapped and sterilised stray dogs as possible.

More than 70 stray dogs have been successfully rehabilitated since the start of Project Rehab. This has benefited both strays and the families that adopt them.



Thank You
TO ALL OUR DONORS

Your partnership in our journey towards transforming Singapore into a City in Nature has enabled us to connect others to nature and create a sustainable tomorrow for future generations of people living in Singapore. Here are some of the projects made possible by your generosity:



Photo credit: Gwendolyn Chow 1

FEATURES & ENHANCEMENTS IN PARKS & GARDENS

- 5 COMO Adventure Grove
- 6 Pasir Panjang Park
- 7 Therapeutic Gardens



5



6



7 Photo credit: Tote Board

CONSERVATION & RESEARCH

- 1 Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey
- 2 OCBC Arboretum
- 3 Singapore Botanic Gardens Seed Bank
- 4 Species Recovery Programme



2



3



4 Photo credit: Goh Pei Shuan



8

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

- 8 Every Child A Seed
- 9 NParks Concert Series in the Park: Rockestra



9 Photo credit: LJCP Photography

Events & Donations



GREATER ACCESS TO NATURE AND ITS HEALING BENEFITS

Developing our Green Spaces

NParks continued to develop and expand Singapore's green spaces with the support of corporations and individuals. This allows residents to benefit from greater access to nature and its associated benefits to physical and mental health and well-being.

PSA contributed S\$3.5 million towards the development of the new Pasir Panjang Park while Keppel Corporation pledged S\$1 million to develop the new Keppel Coastal Trail under the Forest Restoration Action Plan for Labrador Nature Reserve. Keppel also donated S\$3 million to plant 10,000 trees, half of which will be at Labrador Nature Reserve to help restore the coastal beach forest.

At the Jurong Lake Gardens, a donation of S\$1 million from Micron Technology went towards the implementation of a smart water management system for the Water Lily Pond. Micron also contributed S\$175,500 to plant 585 trees under the Plant-A-Tree programme.

To support enhancement efforts at the National Orchid Garden, a S\$10 million contribution was made by Sembcorp Industries, alongside donations by the families of the late **Lady Yuen Peng McNeice** and the late **Tan Hoon Siang**.

Therapeutic and Wellness Gardens

Three new therapeutic gardens were set up in the past year with the support of **Landscape Engineering Pte Ltd** and **CT-Art Creation Pte Ltd** as well as contributions from various donors including **Mr Peter Lim**, with matching donations from the Tote Board.

The largest therapeutic garden is located at Jurong Lake Gardens, whilst the other two are at Pasir Ris Park and Bedok Reservoir Park. A first-of-its-kind inclusive multi-generational Wellness Garden is also being developed in East Coast Park, with support from **KPMG Singapore**.



(Top) Members of the community give two horn bollards, once used at the Tanjong Pagar Terminal, a fresh coat of paint. The opening of Pasir Panjang Park marked the launch of NParks' citizen park programme, where the community comes together to develop, design and manage new parks.

(Bottom) Labrador Nature Reserve is home to Singapore's last rocky shore habitat and rare species in its coastal beach forest. Habitat enhancement will strengthen Singapore's ecological resilience. Visitors will get to enjoy new recreational facilities and learn about unique habitats through educational signboards.



The therapeutic garden at Bedok Reservoir Park features scenic views of the reservoir and an interactive rock garden.

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY WITH OUR NATURAL HERITAGE

Give to the Gardens Programme

At the Singapore Botanic Gardens, more than S\$174,000 was raised through the Trees of the World 2021 initiative where individuals, corporations, embassies, schools, hospitals and non-profit organisations decorated native trees in the Gardens with inspirational messages. All funds raised went to the Give to the Gardens programme to support the Gardens' work in conservation, research and outreach.

Singapore Garden Festival Horticulture Show

Strong support was also received for the Singapore Garden Festival Horticulture Show which provides opportunities for the community to cultivate their love for greening and nurture their interest in horticulture. **Qian Hu Corporation Limited** was presenting sponsor for the Nano Tank Aquascaping Competition while other companies like **Fishy Business Elements** and **Oriental Aquarium Pte Ltd** provided donations in kind.

Preserving our Botanical Heritage

The support of individuals also plays a significant role in enabling connection of the community with our natural heritage. Individuals such as **Mr Leslie Tan** and the estate of the late **Mrs Gertrude Mary Looi** have collectively contributed more than S\$1 million to the cataloguing, digitisation and restoration of the Singapore Botanic Gardens' Library of Botany and Horticulture, founded in 1875 and one of the oldest specialised libraries in Southeast Asia. Their support would enable greater accessibility to some 80,000 archived items with significant heritage value, not just for research but also for outreach to present and future generations in Singapore.

SAFEGUARDING OUR BIODIVERSITY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Marine Conservation

In a boost for marine conservation, **Aramco Asia** contributed US\$150,000 towards habitat enhancement efforts under the Plant-A-Coral, Seed-A-Reef Programme and another US\$50,000 towards a new educational programme. This collaboration provides opportunity for co-development of solutions to raise awareness and ensure the conservation of local marine biodiversity for the next generation.

GREATER ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY TO GROW OUR CITY IN NATURE TOGETHER

Plant-A-Tree Programme

Since the inception of the Plant-A-Tree (PAT) programme in 2007, over 55,000 trees have been donated by more than 740 corporations and some 3,900 individuals.

In the largest contribution to the PAT programme to date, **AIA** pledged S\$5 million to plant 16,666 trees over five years to mark the company's 90th anniversary in Singapore.



Trees of the World returned to the Singapore Botanic Gardens, bringing festive cheer to all. The fundraiser supports conservation and research at the Gardens, as well as the nationwide OneMillionTrees movement.

New partnerships were also forged with retailers such as **C2C Plus**, **GreenDot** and **OVOL Singapore**, as well as online shopping platform **Shopee** and event platform **Space Bib** to raise funds for the programme.

Other supporters included **Raffles Institution** which pledged to raise funds for 1,823 trees to mark its founding in 1823; and **Great Eastern** which raised funds for more than 1,400 trees in conjunction with its 113th anniversary.

These native trees, planted across parks, nature parks, streetscapes and park connectors provide shade for pedestrians and food and habitats for our native wildlife. In the long run, these trees also build up Singapore's climate resilience by mitigating the urban heat island effect and absorbing greenhouse gases.



Photo credit: AIA Singapore

AIA Singapore staff planting trees as part of its \$5 million pledge to support the Plant-A-Tree programme and OneMillionTrees movement.

Inspiring and nurturing our next generation

For two consecutive years in 2021 and 2022, **GIC** supported Every Child a Seed, a programme which gives Primary 3 students across Singapore the opportunity to grow their own plants and appreciate the role they can play in their city in nature. In addition, GIC donated micro greens grow kit bags to encourage students to submit photo reflections of their plants.

LOOKING AHEAD

GCF remains committed to working with corporations and individuals to support nature-based solutions to combat climate change; development of Singapore's green spaces to enable more to appreciate nature's benefits; nature and animal welfare-related community activities and programmes; conservation and research efforts; as well as outreach and educational programmes like the Plant-A-Tree Programme.

Through these efforts, GCF strives to strengthen corporate and citizen involvement and encourage greater ownership of our City in Nature.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Visit www.gardencityfund.gov.sg for more information.

As of 31 March 2022
Plant-A-Tree Programme



More than **55,000 trees** have been planted by more than 740 companies and 3,900 individuals since the programme started in 2007. More than 82,000 participants have taken part in the planting of trees.

Plant-A-Coral, Seed-A-Reef Programme



More than **700 corals** planted and 10 reef enhancing units installed through the support of more than 740 donors since the programme started in 2016.

We need your continued support and partnership so that we can continue to make an impact to our City in Nature and enable a sustainable environment for our future generations.

Giving.sg
Scan to view and donate to our ongoing projects



Alternatively, donations may also be made via:

Cheque
Made payable to Garden City Fund and mailed to:

Garden City Fund
c/o National Parks Board HQ
1 Cluny Road Singapore 259569

Bank Transfer
PayNOW to UEN T02CC1634C
(Please indicate your IC/Fin number or company UEN under Reference)

Contact garden_city_fund@nparks.gov.sg to find out more about partnership opportunities.

All donations to Garden City Fund are eligible for 2.5 times tax deduction, with a valid NRIC/FIN number (individual) or local UEN/Business Registration Number (organisation). We will provide your details to IRAS. Tax-deduction for your donation will automatically be included in your tax assessment.



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