Friends of Water aims to recognise, inspire and encourage community stewardship of the nation's water resources. If you care for water and take positive activity to educate others, any individual or organisation can be a Friend of Water by taking part in PUB's water supply.

Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park

Located at the northernmost tip of the island, Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park is a 152 ha urban park that opened in 2009.

A naturalised, meandering waterway right at the doorstep, a vibrant community space teeming with life and biodiversity, Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, the flagship project of PUB's Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters (ABC Waters) Programme, is a great place for families to have a fun day out. Park facilities include playgrounds, dog runs, open lawns, restaurants, community and allotment gardens, therapeutic garden, and tracks for cycling or jogging.

Design based on a flood plain concept, where water flow would be channelled to a stream in the middle of the river or dry weather days. The river banks are gently sloped, and park visitors can get closer to the water. When it rains, water channels the river will run and the park will come to life, creating a natural habitat for wildlife. Design techniques such as establishing biotope and reed beds help to retain water from the river and purify the water.

One of the largest urban parks in central Singapore, Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park is a great place for families to have a fun day out. Park facilities include playgrounds, dog runs, open lawns, restaurants, community and allotment gardens, therapeutic gardens, and tracks for cycling or jogging.

As a result of the biophysical enhancements done along the river, the riverbanks are now open to the public, and the river is no longer perceived as an alarming waterway for safety reasons. The water is now clean and safe for human consumption, and it is now possible to enjoy recreational activities such as kayaking and canoeing along the river.

The Flood Plain Concept

The naturalised river was designed based on a flood plain concept, where water flow would be channelled to a stream in the middle of the river or dry weather days. The river banks are gently sloped, and park visitors can get closer to the water. When it rains, water channels the river will run and the park will come to life, creating a natural habitat for wildlife. Design techniques such as establishing biotope and reed beds help to retain water from the river and purify the water.

The Water Playground uses recycled water from the pond; the Adventure Playground invites slightly older children to climb and explore while the Bubble Playground has been upgraded to an Inclusive Playground where children of different abilities can play together.

The Adventure Playground

The Adventure Playground, which is designed for older children, features a variety of climbing and play structures that encourage physical activity and development. The playground includes various obstacles such as ropes, ladders, and balance beams, which help to build strength, flexibility, and coordination.

The Inclusive Playground

The Inclusive Playground has been upgraded to provide accessible play equipment for children of all abilities. This includes ramps, swings, and play equipment that can be used by children with physical disabilities.

The Water Playground

The Water Playground features a variety of water activities such as fountains, splash pads, and water sprays. These activities provide a fun and safe environment for children to enjoy water play while developing their fine and gross motor skills.

The Naturalised River

The naturalised river was designed based on a flood plain concept, where water flow would be channelled to a stream in the middle of the river or dry weather days. The river banks are gently sloped, and park visitors can get closer to the water. When it rains, water channels the river will run and the park will come to life, creating a natural habitat for wildlife. Design techniques such as establishing biotope and reed beds help to retain water from the river and purify the water.

Soil Bio-engineering Techniques

Soil bio-engineering techniques involve a combination of natural material such as rocks, logs, and vegetation, and civil engineering techniques to stabilise the river banks and protect them from erosion.

These techniques are made of natural materials such as rocks and logs, which are left in situ and stabilised, forming natural habitats that encourage certain wildlife species to settle and multiply over time. This helps to contribute to the biodiversity of the park.

A testbed was constructed in 2009, prior to the commencement of the project, to test out 10 techniques. Following this, 7 most appropriate techniques were then applied along the main river. These include vegetation, gabions, and brush mattresses with fascines. The use of locally available plants that passed the rigorous tests were selected. The river, which was once a concrete canal, now features a variety of trees and plants that help to stabilise the river banks and create a natural habitat for wildlife.

The redesigned river now serves as a natural corridor for flora and fauna, creating a shared environment for all. This, in turn, helps to improve the biodiversity of the park and provide a place for people to connect with nature.

Conclusion

Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park is a great example of how nature can be preserved and enhanced in an urban environment. The park provides a variety of recreational activities for all ages, while also serving as a wildlife habitat and a symbol of the city's commitment to sustainability.
Kallang River at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park

Project Features

Biodiversity

The 12.9 kilometre-long concrete canal that now transforms into the River Plains was once a part of the Kallang River. Over time, the river was covered over with concrete to prevent flooding and provide a recreational space. The transformation of this 3.7 kilometre-long concrete canal into a 3 kilometre-long natural river at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park is one of Singapore’s largest river rejuvenation projects.

The river is now a habitat for dragonflies, damselflies, butterflies, and other insects. This transformation has led to an increase in biodiversity, with over 100 species of butterflies and 150 species of wildflowers recorded in the park.

Safety System

It is important to take care when having fun in the river. The river is linked to a network of drains and during heavy rain, the river undergoes changes. To ensure safety, safety nodes with warning lights and alarms are installed. In the event of emergencies, please call 995.

For your safety, please pay attention to the following:

1. Safety nodes with warning lights and alarms are installed. When the water level in the river rises, lights will be turned on, and an announcement will be made about the red markers.
2. When the water level in the river rises, you should move out of the river. This will prevent you from drowning or becoming injured.
3. Safety nodes with warning lights and alarms are installed. When the water level in the river rises, lights will be turned on, and an announcement will be made about the red markers.

Comprehensive Safety System

When the water level in the river rises, please move out of the river. Lights will be turned on, and an announcement will be made about the red markers.

For emergencies, life buoys are provided at each of the safety nodes.

River Plains

Palm Court

Lotus Garden

Adventure Playground

Landscape Pond

Activity Lawn

Mempat Green

Therapeutic Garden

Water Playground

Inclusive Playground

Promenade

Dog Run

Butterfly Habitat

Tecoma Green

Cleansing Biotope

Activity Lawn and Mempat Green) and 1 hard festoons and community gatherings. There are several lawns and open spaces that serve as a recreational space that doubles up as a floodplain during rain events.

The Cleansing Biotope serves to treat water from the Kallang River and landscape Pond. Treated water cascades into the Landscape Pond and is also channelled to the River Plains for further treatment.

Interspersed throughout Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park are 4 lawns (Ficus Green, Tecoma Green, Pond Garden, and Palm Court) for outdoor events such as festivals and community gatherings. There are several lawns and open spaces that serve as a recreational space that doubles up as a floodplain during rain events.

The little egret (Egretta garzetta) is the smallest white heron in Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park. It is also a common egret in Singapore. It has a white body with black legs and yellow feet. The little egret is the most colourful large heron in Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park. Its purple plumage is perfect for camouflage, but it will still present the next lawn.

The Common Scarlet (Crocothemis servilia) is one of Singapore’s most common dragonfly species. The mature males are bright red colour and black line on the abdomen. This species was one of the first to settle down in the new river at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park. The Common Scarlet is one of Singapore’s most common dragonfly species.

The Purple Heron (Ardea purpurea) is the most colourful large heron in Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park. Its purple plumage is perfect for camouflage, but it will still present the next lawn.

The Smooth-coated Otter (Lutrogale perspicillata) is the most abundant otter species in Singapore. It has a white underbody and black legs. This otter is the fastest-moving otter in the world! The Smooth-coated Otter can stay underwater for up to eight minutes! This species was one of the first to settle down in the new river at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park.

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