

Responses to unanswered Q&A questions

Q 16: “Interesting concepts on trying to measure the physiological effects of greenery. Is there any on-going any studies done specifically for healthcare institutions like nursing homes? Given SG's growing senior population being looked after by these healthcare services. Can the panel share their thoughts on how nursing homes can be located closer to nature ways and parks to perhaps create more positive effects on nursing home residents, staff and visitors.”

A. Angelia Sia, NParks: Our research shows that Therapeutic Horticulture brings a range of benefits to seniors with a range of physical and cognitive status. While we have not carried out specific research studies at healthcare institutions, we have been working with the Agency for Integrated Care and Grassroots Organisations, to train their staff and volunteers to conduct Therapeutic Horticulture in their premises.

A. Yam Yujian, URA: Recognising the therapeutic benefits of greenery, we have been working hard with NParks to increase the accessibility of greenery. As mentioned in my presentation, we target to have 100% of residents to be living within 400m of a park by 2030. Where possible, we will also apply this principle to the location of nursing homes as well. For example, the St. Andrew Nursing Home at Tampines is designed to better integrate with the adjacent public housing estates via shared gardens and therapeutic gardens. The newly opened Allium Care Suites is also located next to the Windsor Nature Park. However, even while we continue to pursue this approach, it is not always possible to do so. For example, as we also want to locate nursing homes within built-up housing estates with aging populations so that the elderly can age closer to home and in a neighbourhood that they are familiar with, there may not be site constraints that limit our ability to inject green spaces near to Nursing homes.

Q 26: What's URA plan to all the lands below road flyovers and MRT tracks?

A. Yam Yujian, URA: In land-scarce Singapore, it is crucial that land use is optimised and put to good use, as far as possible. This includes coming up with new and creative ways to activate normally sterile spaces such as land under viaducts and flyovers. For example, the land under Toa Payoh South Flyover has been transformed into a 1,911sqm community space comprising a dog run park and two hard courts, now known as “Our Space @ Tai Gin”. Other examples include Singapore’s first sheltered archery range under West Coast Flyover, and a multi-purpose recreational space comprising a futsal park under Thomson Flyover. Moving ahead, agencies will continue to work closely to explore innovative ways to activate these spaces for the benefit of the community. Do share with us your ideas if you have any!