

## Enhancing Tianjin Eco-City into a “Garden City”

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Parks Board of Singapore (NParks) and the People’s Republic of China’s Tianjin Eco-City Administrative Committee (ECAC) to jointly enhance Tianjin Eco-City into a “Garden City” has been signed on 29 December 2021. The signatories of the MOU are Mr Kenneth Er, Chief Executive Officer of NParks, and Mr Wang Guoliang, Director-General of ECAC.

2 NParks has been working closely with ECAC over the years on the Tianjin Eco-City project. Under this MOU, both parties will embark on a project to further enhance the Eco-City by jointly making it into a greener and more attractive “Garden City”, for example, through the planning, design and development of greenery-related infrastructure, as well as the curation of programmes to promote awareness of such developments. Examples of such developments include the following:

### Green Belt

The Green Belt is a 27-hectare linear park that lies along 3.8 km of the river bank of the Ji Canal River.

Habitat enhancement will be carried out along the Ji Canal River, and recreational spaces along the waterfront will be provided.

This will enhance the scenery of Northern District and promote arts and culture in the district, and encourage further development of the area.



Layout of the Green Belt  
(Credit: Tianjin Eco-City Administrative Committee)



Artist’s impression of the Green Belt  
(Credit: Tianjin Eco-City Administrative Committee)

### Park connector network

The proposed park connector network (PCN) will enhance accessibility, and provide recreational opportunities and common spaces for community bonding.

It will consist of approximately 18 km of park connectors that connect the city's green spaces, including Eco-Valley and the China-Singapore Friendship Garden.



Map of the proposed park connector network  
(Credit: Tianjin Eco-City Administrative Committee)



Artist's impression of a park connector  
(Credit: Tianjin Eco-City Administrative Committee)

### Pocket parks

One strategy under the Garden City vision is the optimisation of urban spaces and infrastructure for greenery and recreation.

Hence, pocket parks will be introduced at street corners in the central area of the Eco-City. This will make better use of the small plots of underutilised land at street corners to create parks that showcase the Eco-City's culture, innovations and biodiversity.



Artist's impression of pocket parks  
(Credit: Tianjin Eco-City Administrative Committee)

3 Singapore's Garden City vision was aimed at creating a city within a garden environment consisting of parks, gardens and open spaces linked by tree-lined roads and park connectors. This formed the foundation for Singapore's greening strategies and transformation, which NParks has continued to build on over the years. Similarly, the project in Tianjin Eco-City aims to enhance the overall well-being of its residents by bringing greenery closer to them, and by encouraging them to be stewards of their environment.

4 The signing of the MOU reaffirms the close working relationship between both parties. It also demonstrates the strong commitment to further develop strategies that will enhance the living environment of the Eco-City, and the lessons learnt from the project can subsequently be shared with other cities in China as well.