

Two New Green Spaces Across Singapore

Get in touch with your inner child at two new green spaces! Indulge your curiosity and go on journeys of discovery at Lakeside Garden in Jurong Lake Gardens and the historical gardens at Fort Canning Park.

Singapore's First National Gardens in the Heartlands

Lakeside Garden, the 53-hectare western section of the Jurong Lake Gardens, was opened in April by the National Parks Board, Singapore's lead agency for greenery and biodiversity conservation. The opening was officiated by Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister for National Development and Chairman of the Jurong Lake District Steering Committee.

Mr Wong, who is also Second Minister for Finance, was joined by Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Advisor to Jurong GRC and then-Deputy Prime Minister, as well as Advisors from the Jurong, Yuhua, West Coast, and Bukit Batok constituencies.

Lakeside Garden is the first phase of development for Singapore's third national garden, and the first national garden in the heartlands. Based on the themes of nature, play, and community, the garden has been developed sensitively to maintain the serenity of the area while incorporating spaces for community and recreational needs. Lakeside Garden is ready for all to enjoy themselves amid nature, greenery, and lakeside views.



(From left) Gracing the opening of Lakeside Garden were Sport Singapore CEO Mr Lim Teck Yin, Urban Redevelopment Authority CEO Mr Lim Eng Hwee, Garden City Fund Chairman Prof Leo Tan, Dr Tan Wu Meng, Ms Foo Mee Har, Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister Desmond Lee, Guest-of-Honour Minister Lawrence Wong, Minister Grace Fu, Mr Ang Wei Neng, Mr Murali Pillai, NParks CEO Mr Kenneth Er, People's Association Deputy Chief Executive Mr Lim Hock Yu, and NParks Group Director of Jurong Lake Gardens Ms Kartini Omar. They were at the Grasslands, which contains various species of grass and forms an important habitat for grass-seed-eating bird species.



Children aged 5–12 will enjoy the 2.3-hectare Forest Ramble, the largest nature playgarden in the heartlands. The Forest Ramble contains 13 different adventure stations.



Located at the northern part of Lakeside Garden, Clusia Cove features a closed-loop circulation system in which water is cleansed through a natural plant filtration system before cascading into a shallow tidal pool and sand-based ripple pool, providing a fun space for children and families to play in



Rasau Walk, a meandering boardwalk along the western part of Jurong Lake, takes visitors through a restored freshwater swamp forest which has been enhanced with some 50 species of plants.



Originally a 300m-long concrete drain, the Neram Streams have been transformed into 1.3km of naturalised waterways. The banks have been planted with tree species commonly found in tropical riverine forests.

Visitors to Lakeside Garden will be able to enjoy concerts, movie screenings, festivals and other events at the open multi-purpose lawns of Lakeside Field and The Oval. They will also be able to picnic with families and friends in these open spaces. Pet lovers will be pleased with the 2,200 m² dog run, with play mounds for dogs to explore. For sports enthusiasts, PAssion WaVe @ Jurong Lake Gardens offers integrated lifestyle activities at the first waterfront facility in the West by the People's Association. Sport Singapore's ActiveSG Park @ Jurong Lake Gardens also includes a swimming pool and gym.

Discover Singapore's history anew at Fort Canning Park's new gardens

On 27 May, nine historical gardens at Fort Canning Park were opened. These were Pancur Larangan, Artisan's Garden, Sang Nila Utama Garden, Jubilee Park, Raffles Garden, First Botanic Garden, Farquhar Garden, Spice Garden and Armenian Street Park.

As Fort Canning Park is deeply rooted in history, from the time of the 14th century kings to the founding of modern Singapore in the 19th and 20th centuries, NParks referenced historical texts to restore and curate these gardens.



Featuring a mural wall detailing life in Fort Canning Park from the 14th to 19th centuries, Pancur Larangan marks where a freshwater spring used to flow, serving as a bathing place for noble ladies of the royal court of Singapura.



Sited on the western slope of Fort Canning Park, Jubilee Park is a family-friendly node where children can play on the swings, see-saws, logs and slides hugging the hill slope.



Named after Sir Stamford Raffles (1781–1826), the founder of modern Singapore and an avid naturalist, Raffles Garden showcases the diverse plant species that Raffles encountered in Southeast Asia.



Sang Nila Utama Garden is named after the first ancient king of Singapore. It reimagines Southeast Asian gardens of old.



Named after Major-General William Farquhar, the first British Resident and Commandant of Singapore and a keen naturalist, Farquhar Garden features plant species that Farquhar found noteworthy, including guava, jujube, taro, and gambier.



The Spice Garden represents Raffles' experiments in spice cultivation by showcasing spice-inspired plantings in a series of cascading terraces and re-created plantations.



Armenian Street Park showcases plants in mobile planter boxes which represent aspects of Peranakan culture.

In collaboration with the National Heritage Board, NParks also launched the augmented reality trail BALIKSG: Fort Canning Trail, experienced through the free BALIKSG smartphone app. The trail brings visitors on an interactive journey through Fort Canning Park, with eight checkpoints which include the various gardens sited throughout the park.

The existing 14th century and 19th century heritage trails at Fort Canning Park have been refreshed and re-curated to interpret the rich history of the park. BALIKSG complements both these trails, offering park visitors an interactive and educational experience.

Together with the new gardens, NParks is introducing a wider range of programmes throughout the year to appeal to people with different interests, including signature events such as Ballet Under the Stars and Shakespeare in the Park, as well as curated offerings like archaeology workshops at the Artisan's Garden that will bring Fort Canning Hill's rich history to life.

Access to and within Fort Canning Park has been improved, with the addition of covered escalators and a platform lift. Families with young children, seniors, and the disabled will now find it easier to reach Fort Canning Centre via Jubilee Park and Fort Canning Park from Farquhar Garden.

So bring your family and friends down to Lakeside Garden and Fort Canning Park, and get ready to have a fun time together!