

## MEDIA FACTSHEET B – Friends of Rail Corridor

From 2011 to 2016, URA had consulted the community widely on their aspirations for the Rail Corridor, and worked with design teams in a Request for Proposal exercise to develop the Concept Master Plan based on the community's contributions. In 2016, URA organised a series of community exhibitions and workshops and reached out to residents and stakeholders in neighbourhoods near the entire Rail Corridor to seek their views on how the proposals can best meet their needs.

Following these earlier efforts led by URA, Friends of Rail Corridor was officially formed in 2017 to cultivate active community stewardship towards the Rail Corridor as a shared community space.

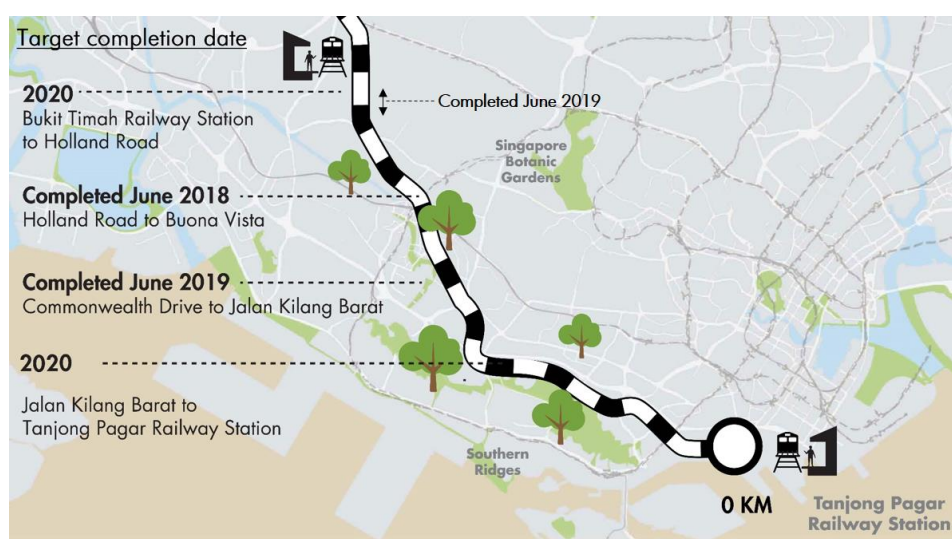
Open to all members of the public, the Friends of Rail Corridor community comprises passionate members from diverse backgrounds, such as nature, heritage and recreational groups, as well as academics, students and residents who live near the Rail Corridor. The community serves as a platform for ground-up initiatives and community-organised activities to activate spaces along the Rail Corridor. Friends of Rail Corridor also works closely with agencies to contribute to the development of community involvement, landscaping work, habitat enhancement, and designs and treatments for heritage structures.

The Friends of Rail Corridor community has come up with the following vision to guide their initiatives:

*The Rail Corridor is a natural and continuous green passage connecting our past and present, and a lifeline for people and wildlife. We have a collective responsibility to protect its unique character and promote its heritage for diverse communities.*

### Reopened stretches of the Rail Corridor

Several stretches of the southern half of the Rail Corridor have been reopened following the progressive completion of PUB's works to lay the Murnane Pipeline beneath the Rail Corridor. The remaining stretches will be progressively reopened by 2020, and bring more opportunities for community activities.



The reopened stretches have been enhanced with a new track and planting to provide shade, and are green spaces for the public to enjoy recreational activities. The Friends of Rail Corridor will be engaging the community on activating and enhancing these spaces, such as through events, community involvement and habitat enhancement works.

The previous earth trail along the Rail Corridor would become muddy after rain and collect stagnant water.

In reinstating public access after the pipe-laying works, a porous and natural earth-coloured material made up of bonded gravel aggregates was used because it will withstand heavy usage and yet allow rainwater to drain quickly.

This makes the trail safer for visitors to use even after rain.

More native trees and shrubs will be added to form a tiered forest structure and enhance connectivity for biodiversity, and to provide shade.



## Past Events

### **Remembering Rail Corridor**

On 22 June 2019, the Ulu Pandan Youth Executive Committee and Friends of Rail Corridor came together to co-organise the Remembering Rail Corridor event at the Bukit Timah Railway Station, reaching out to more than 350 participants.

The Friends of Rail Corridor took the lead in the Rail Corridor-themed programmes and activities for the event. This included 7 heritage bird and photography themed walks by NParks volunteers, Nature Society (Singapore) and Nature Photography Society Singapore that reached out to about 80 participants.

The Urban Sketchers organised a 'Sketchwalk' where members sketched the conserved buildings around the Bukit Timah Railway Station Node. Nature Society (Singapore), URA (Conservation Division), Hwa Chong Institution (College) and





NParks also set up various booths and station activities to share about the biodiversity and heritage along the Rail Corridor.



### **Habitat enhancement and stream restoration efforts**

In October 2018, the Friends of Rail Corridor led the first round of habitat enhancement and stream restoration efforts for Rail Corridor (Central). They planted semi-aquatic native species such as Aquatic Ginger (*Alpinia aquatica*), Spiny Lasia (*Lasia spinosa*) and the recently rediscovered *Lepironia articulata*, which had been presumed nationally extinct, and drove subsequent sessions at other sections along Rail Corridor (Central) with the support of NParks and URA.



### **The Rail Explorers at the Festival of Biodiversity (FOB)**

A group of secondary four students from Hwa Chong Institution set up a booth during this year's Festival of Biodiversity to educate the public on the Rail Corridor.

This was done using educational games and an audio tour application, as well as through a game board to reinforce learning through play. Posters were displayed to introduce the Rail Corridor, highlighting the nature and heritage of the area.



### **BioBlitz @ Rail Corridor (Central)**

In May 2018, Friends of Rail Corridor joined the nation-wide BioBlitz and conducted its first BioBlitz event at Rail Corridor (Central). The event was led by biodiversity experts and community leaders from Friends of Rail Corridor. Three surveys were conducted involving around 30 volunteers to document the wildlife along the 4 km Rail Corridor stretch from Hindhede Drive to Fuyong Park. A total of 73 species were sighted.



### **Rail Corridor Roving Exhibition**

Three exhibition events were held at the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Bukit Timah Railway Station, and Hillview Community Centre to update the public on the changes and refinements to the Rail Corridor Masterplan following URA's Community Engagements in 2016. The events also showcased the preliminary design for the 4 km stretch of the Rail Corridor, located between Bukit Timah Railway Station and Hillview, informing the public on the future works of the Rail Corridor.

