

Enhancing connectivity between Singapore's green spaces

The Rail Corridor (Central)'s proximity to several green spaces provides NParks with the opportunity to enhance the ecological connection along this stretch, connecting fragmented green spaces while strengthening our ecological resilience.

Animals that have been observed using the Rail Corridor include the Malayan Colugo, the Sunda Pangolin and the Greater Racket-tailed Drongo. The naturalised stream is also home to a variety of aquatic fauna, including the Spine-tufted Skimmer, the Black-eyed Litter Frog and the Lowland Freshwater Crab.

A belt of native forest has been restored as part of efforts to rewild Rail Corridor (Central). This includes gradually removing non-native plant species that lined the Rail Corridor (Central) due to spontaneous vegetation over the years to allow native plant species to be reintroduced. These non-native species, which include the Albizia (*Falcataria moluccana*), have been carefully assessed and evaluated so that their removal and enhancement planting will be done in a way to ensure minimal impact to the overall biodiversity and ecosystem along Rail Corridor (Central).

More native trees and shrubs – such as *Leea rubra*, *Melastoma malabathricum*, *Streblus elongatus*, *Sterculia macrophylla*, *Bhesa robusta* – have been planted in the area as well to rewild the corridor.

Red Tree Shrub (*Leea rubra* Blume)

Growing up to 3m high, the shrub typically grows tropical and sub-tropical climates, such as dry monsoon forests and primary and secondary forests, making it suitable for planting along streetscapes, parks and gardens. It can be recognised by its attractive bright red flowers, which are pollinated by insects and butterflies.



Credit: Ang Wee Foong, NParks Flora&Fauna Web

Common Senduduk (*Melastoma malabathricum*)

Growing up to 5m high, the shrub or small tree is a pioneer species that is frequently found in secondary forests. The Common Senduduk was planted along the Rail Corridor (Central) as it attracts a variety of wildlife, including Pearly-banded bees, Dwarf Carpenter bees, butterflies and birds.



Credit: Boo Chih Min, NParks Flora&Fauna Web

Tampines Tree (*Streblus elongatus*)

Growing up to 35m high, the Tampines Tree is vulnerable, and typically grows in primary and secondary lowland and hill forests. It occurs locally in Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Pulau Tekong, Pulau Ubin and Sentosa Island. It also has an attractive round crown that provides shade.



Credit: Boo Chih Min, NParks Flora&Fauna Web

Sterculia macrophylla

Growing up to 40m high, the deciduous tree is critically endangered, and typically grows in both primary and secondary lowland forests, as well as swamp forests. In Singapore, it can be found in Nee Soon Swamp Forest. It can tolerate roadside conditions, as well as waterlogged soils, making it suitable for planting along the stream at Rail Corridor (Central). It also has an attractive tiered shape crown, spectacular pink inflorescences and stunning red fruits.



Credit: Jessica Teo, NParks Flora&Fauna Web

Bhesa robusta

Growing up to 40m high, the tree is vulnerable, and typically grows in primary lowland forests on clay-rich soil. This makes it suitable for planting along Rail Corridor (Central), with its similar soil type. Its flowers are pollinated by insects and its fruits eaten by birds.



Credit: Ang Wee Foong, NParks Flora&Fauna Web