

MEDIA FACTSHEET B – Friends of the Parks scheme

The Friends of the Parks scheme is a ground-led initiative to promote stewardship and responsible use of our Parks. The scheme is modelled after the successful Friends of Ubin Network (FUN) and was conceived during the SGFuture conversations held at the Future of Us Exhibition in Jan 2016, where there were calls by the participants for greater community ownership and stewardship of our parks.

The Friends of the Parks scheme consists of localised communities representing active stakeholders and volunteers in our parks. Each community consists of representatives of the various stakeholder groups within the park's ecosystem. Membership will be for two years. Through the formation of the Friends of the Parks community, members will be able to play a more active role in promoting active and responsible uses of our Parks through ground-led programmes and initiatives.

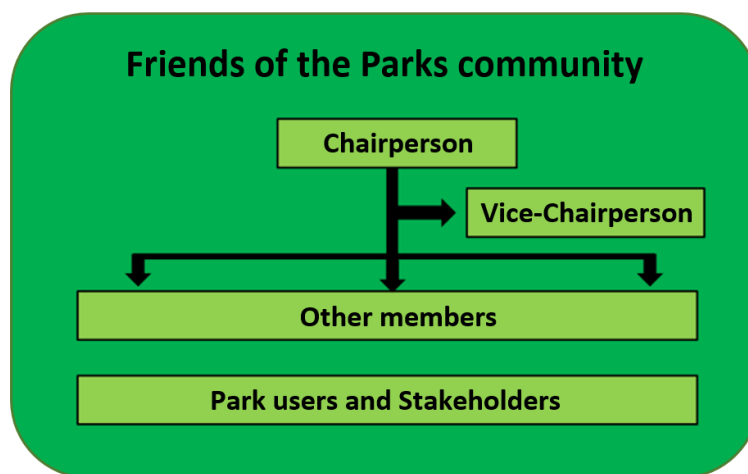


Figure 1: General structure of communities under the Friends of the Parks scheme

Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development Desmond Lee has taken on the role of adviser to the Friends of the Parks scheme.

In addition to existing NParks volunteers, stakeholders such as hikers, bikers, exercise groups, tenants, nature photographers, researchers and regular users of the park will be invited to join the Friends of the Parks community. By involving stakeholders, Friends of the Parks will better represent the composition of the park user community.

Examples of things that can be initiated:

- Ideas for projects relating to conservation, horticulture, events and amenities within the Parks. For example, educational and awareness campaigns could be organised to promote responsible behaviour and etiquette within the Parks. Interest groups such as photography, hiking or community gardening could also be formed. Friends could also organise and participate in activities to maintain the cleanliness of parks and the upkeep of their amenities.

Friends of the Parks Scheme

- Friends of Chestnut Nature Park, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Park Connector Network and Pulau Ubin were launched on 2 April 2016, Friends of Bukit Timah Nature Reserve was launched on 22 October 2016, and Friends of Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park and Marine Park were launched on 2 September 2017. Friends of Rail Corridor was launched on 21 October 2017. The chairpersons were chosen based on their dedication and passion in championing ground-up initiatives related to nature and greenery.

Community	Chairperson
Friends of Chestnut Nature Park	N Sivasothi, Senior Lecturer, National University of Singapore
Friends of Park Connector Network	Han Jok Kwang, Chief Information Officer, Venture Corporate Ltd
Friends of Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Tham Pui San, NParks volunteer
Friends of Bukit Timah Nature Reserve	Joseph Koh, Chairman, Nature Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee
Friends of Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park	Tian How Ming, NParks volunteer
Friends of Marine Park	Stephen Beng, Chairman, Marine Conservation Group, Nature Society of Singapore

- For Pulau Ubin, the existing Friends of Ubin Network comes under the Friends of the Parks scheme but will remain as it is without change to its community structure. Minister Desmond Lee will continue to host this group.
- Friends of Rail Corridor is a newly launched community. More details of the community structure will be announced later.
- Members of the public who are keen to find out more or volunteer at the respective parks can sign up at <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/contribute/volunteer>. Those who are interested to volunteer for the Rail Corridor may sign up as a Friend of Rail Corridor at <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/railcorridor/be-our-friend>.