

HIGHLIGHTS OF “A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT” EXHIBITION

a) Activating the waterfront and bolstering Kallang Basin as a vibrant sports and recreational destination

Under the Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters (ABC Waters) Programme, projects have been implemented at several stretches along Kallang River, bringing vitality back to the waterfront. Works are underway for an ABC Waters and drainage upgrading project between Bishan Road and Braddell Road. When completed by 4Q2018, this 1.8km stretch of the river will see a meandering stream complemented with planter islands and cascading waters within the canal, adding variety to the waterscape. A rain garden which cleanses rainwater runoff before discharging it into the river is also part of the design. Residents and visitors can also get closer to the waters from cantilevered decks, which will be integrated with the upgraded park connectors along the waterfront.

In addition, Kallang Basin is home to the Sports Hub and many sporting activities and events. Together with the old Kallang Airport and Kampong Bugis, Kallang Basin is envisaged as a waterfront precinct for lifestyle, recreation and work.

There are plans to develop the area around the Sports Hub into an inclusive sports and recreational venue with facilities catering to people with different interests, ages and abilities. In a collaborative effort by agencies, the area along Jalan Benaan Kapal will be transformed into an inclusive community space that inspires Singaporeans to celebrate active living. The area will be enhanced with greenery, running trails and better connectivity towards Kallang Basin. Facilities planned include play areas, event spaces for programming and activities, a new football hub, and a green and sustainable sports experience centre with free-to-play courts for the community. Park connectors will enhance connectivity to the Sports Hub and nearby estates at Mountbatten and Kampong Arang.

b) Injecting new waterfront housing developments and renewing old industrial estates

Kallang River is lined on both sides by residential and industrial estates. These estates have potential for renewal to inject new communities and meet the needs of new industries.

Kampong Bugis

Located a stone's throw away from the Lavender and Kallang MRT stations, Kampong Bugis will be developed into an attractive residential precinct that is car-lite, people-centric, and sustainable. New developments within the precincts will be nestled in a park-like environment, with seamless pedestrian and cyclist connectivity to nearby amenities and communal spaces. They will also incorporate ABC Waters design concept (akin to water sensitive urban design) to treat rainwater runoff before it is channeled into the Kallang Basin. There is potential for the government to collaborate with the private sector, for a master developer to master plan and oversee the implementation of developments in Kampong Bugis.

Kallang Distripark

Kallang Distripark is a private industrial estate near the future Geylang Bahru MRT station. Given the attractive waterfront location, there is potential for its redevelopment to housing. The waterfront can also include park and recreational spaces that form part of the larger network of green community spaces along Kallang River.

Kallang Industrial Estate

Kallang Industrial Estate comprises several smaller industrial estates at Kallang Basin, Kallang Bahru and Kallang Avenue. The entire estate will be gradually transformed into a vibrant mixed-use precinct with opportunities for new industrial developments to be introduced that would cater to the evolving needs of the future economy. The estate will also be closely integrated with future residential developments along the waterfront and parks, bringing jobs closer to home. A comprehensive pedestrian and cycling network will be implemented to enhance walkability within the estate and connectivity to the river.

c) Enhanced accessibility through a seamless active mobility route from Bishan to city

The Kallang Park Connector is interrupted by major roads and expressways between Bishan and the city centre. At various points, users need to use traffic crossings or overhead bridges to get to the next uninterrupted stretch of the park connector. URA is studying possible new connections at these junctions to give users seamless connectivity, which would spur the surrounding developments.

Improving the Central Expressway (CTE) crossing

The existing CTE crossing could be widened and deepened to create a more conducive environment for users of the PCN. This enhanced underpass could also function as a gathering space or an activity node in the future.

Across the Pan Island Expressway (PIE)

The existing park connector along PIE is narrow, shared by cyclists, pedestrians and joggers. Cyclists also need to carry their bicycles up a pedestrian overhead bridge. A cycling bridge that allows cyclists and joggers to cross PIE conveniently could overcome this. The bridge could have cyclist-friendly spiral ramps over Kallang River, a link-bridge across PIE and an underpass beneath the Central Expressway slip roads.

Kallang Bahru and Upper Boon Keng Road underpass

Presently, users of the park connector at Geylang Bahru Ville towards Kallang Basin have to cross Kallang Bahru Road via a traffic crossing, before continuing down a narrow flight of stairs on the other end at Kallang Distripark. A similar situation exists at Upper Boon Keng Road. Underpasses across both Kallang Bahru Road and Upper Boon Keng Road would provide a seamless and barrier-free access for all users.

Sims Ave underpass

Commuters currently have to take a detour and use the traffic junction at Lorong 1 Geylang to cross Sims Avenue. A new underpass below Sims Ave would help to provide seamless connectivity along the waterfront all the way towards the Sports Hub.

d) Enriching the biodiversity of Kallang River

Building upon habitats already present in Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park and Gardens by the Bay, Kallang River can be transformed into a corridor teeming with biodiversity. There is potential for other stretches of the waterway to be naturalised or with wider green setbacks put in place along the riverfront. Other possibilities include the development of more parks, or enhanced greenery along the river banks.

The Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park is a wonderful example of how the revitalisation of Kallang River can transform the landscape, strengthen community bonds and enrich biodiversity. Previously a concrete canal, the waterway running through the park has been transformed into a lush meandering natural river that not only functions as a floodplain, but is also an attractive place for people to enjoy and wildlife to thrive. Since its completion in 2012, biodiversity in the park has increased by almost 50% with more than 150 different species of fauna recorded. Rare fauna such as the Crested Goshawk and Common Rose Butterfly have also been spotted at the park.

e) Celebrating and incorporating the rich heritage of the river

Kallang River has witnessed the development and progress of Singapore from its pre-colonial days. Over the years, it has been home to many communities and industries. When revitalising Kallang River, the government will invite the public to help capture its heritage and memories.