

1 dwellings

HARMONIOUS LIVING AT ITS BEST

ISSUE APR/ MAY 2022



Building with Care

Adopting a science-backed, consultative approach to development

Right in the Heart of Town

More opportunities to live close to city centre with the Prime Location Public Housing model

Homes Renewed

Continual rejuvenation ensures HDB homes remain cherished for generations

Meet the Dwellers

Photographer Dan Ng documents hidden wildlife of Pasir Ris town



a word

about this issue

Striking a Balance

Singapore strives to be one of the most liveable cities in the world, even though land scarcity presents a perennial challenge for sustainable development. A holistic and science-based approach has guided HDB's efforts in navigating the delicate balance between development and conservation. With housing demand steadily growing, areas such as Ulu Pandan, Mount Pleasant and Alexandra will be developed to offer more housing options for Singaporeans. In this issue of *Dwellings*, learn how HDB seeks to preserve heritage and greenery while maintaining a healthy public housing supply.

Through the decades, HDB has kept in step with evolving housing needs and aspirations. With more flats planned for prime areas such as Rochor and the Great Southern Waterfront, HDB launched the Prime Location Public Housing model to ensure that homes in these sought-after central locations remain affordable, accessible and inclusive, so more Singaporeans can get a chance to live near the city centre.

Even as HDB develops new and modern public housing, the renewal of older towns and estates through holistic upgrading still continues. From home improvements to town-wide rejuvenation, these upgrading efforts bring older flats closer to the standard of newer ones, and ensure that for many more years, an HDB home will continue to be highly liveable and green.

Many HDB residents across the island have access to extensive greenery at their doorstep. For Pasir Ris resident and wildlife filmmaker Dan Ng, the park near his home not only offers him rich biodiversity to train his lens upon, but also a place where he has forged long-lasting friendships with fellow wildlife spotters.

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About *Dwellings*

Dwellings is published by the Housing & Development Board (HDB), Singapore's public housing authority and a statutory board under the Ministry of National Development. For over 60 years, HDB has provided quality and affordable public housing for generations of Singaporeans. Currently, 8 in 10 resident households in Singapore call an HDB flat their home. Through *Dwellings*, we want to share how we create the kind of public housing that is uniquely different, and also uniquely Singapore.

Building with Care

Adopting a science-based, consultative approach to development has strengthened HDB's role as a responsible land steward, as it balances the provision of public housing with the conservation of nature and heritage.



(Right) Costa Grove in Pasir Ris will feature riverine landscapes and facilities inspired by nature

Even before the first shovel strikes the dirt in the development of a town, the intent for the area would have long been identified in the gazetted Master Plan that guides Singapore's development. Given how rapidly the country has urbanised since its independence, it would be hard-pressed to identify suitably sized sites to support future household formations and economic growth in land-scarce Singapore.

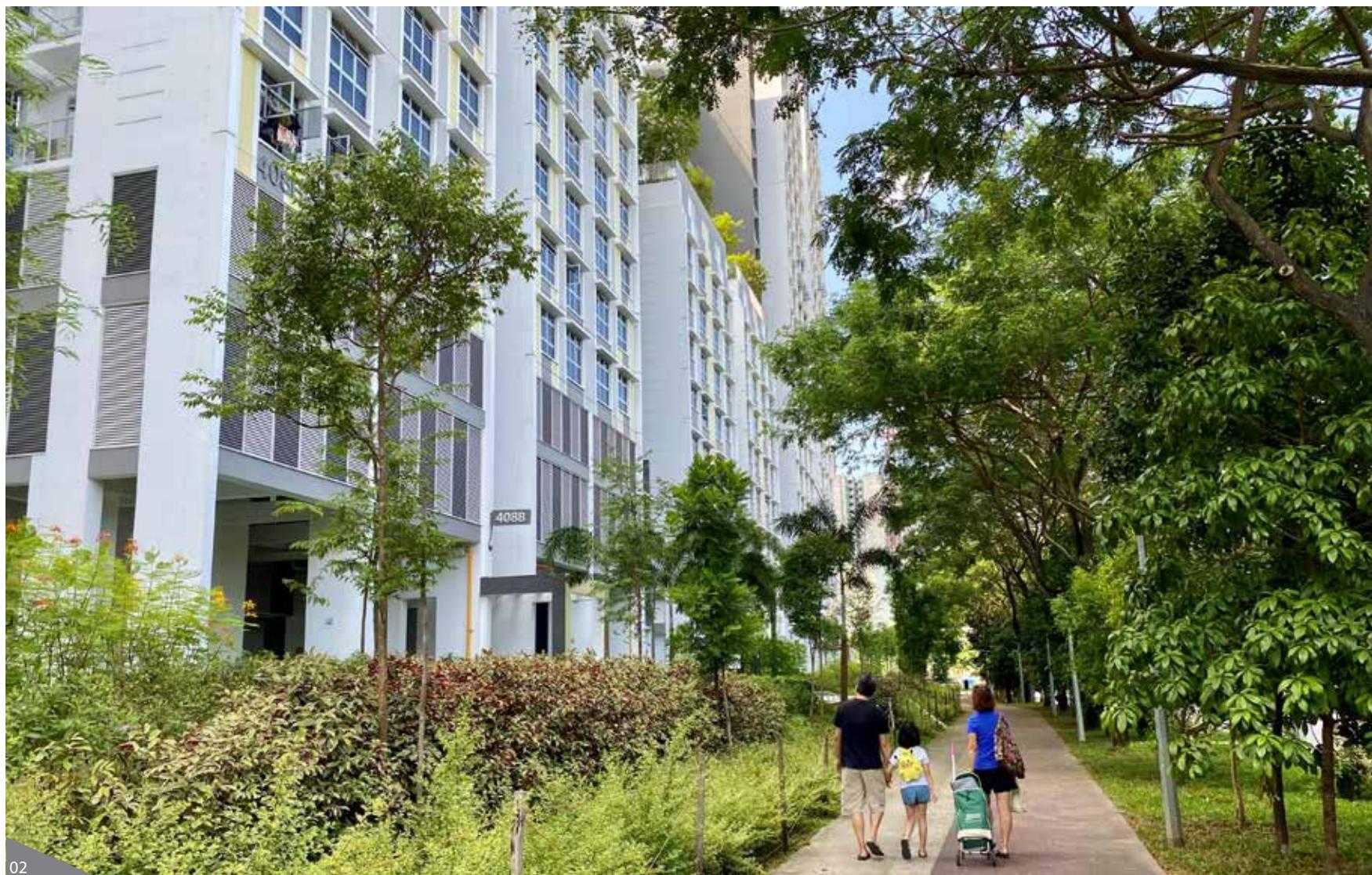
Meeting Housing Demand

The physical constraints and limited land resources are felt acutely in this city-state, even with the best urban planning strategies to maximise land use. As such, development could entail HDB and other agencies moving into natural green areas or where there are physical remnants of our past. After all, demand for housing remains strong with more families becoming nuclear households and singles aspiring for their own homes.

Guided by Science

In mitigating the trade-offs that inevitably come with development, HDB adopts a science-based approach to ensure that land clearing impacts the ecological and social balance in the most minimal of ways. In-depth environmental baseline and impact studies have been standard practice for many years. Consultants survey the area over time, taking stock of the terrestrial and hydrological habitats, and all that co-exist in the space.

Detailed observations of wildlife activity help establish whether the area is a primary habitat for its inhabitants, a site for seasonal nesting, or if it plays a more facilitative role in connecting wildlife between green stretches and to larger catchment areas. This information is valuable in determining the ecologically significant elements that should be preserved or catered for.



02

01 More marriages and family formation have contributed to rising demand for public housing

02 Green corridors in Punggol Northshore District maintain the ecological balance and promote biodiversity

For example, green corridors have been placed in Punggol Northshore to help maintain ecological balance and promote diversity. In Tengah, a planned green corridor aims to facilitate ecological connectivity from the Western to the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. Also, the biodiversity of Pasir Ris Park and mangroves will be safeguarded, even as a Build-To-Order project is being developed nearby.

"Such studies are a key part of our planning process to ensure that our projects are undertaken with great care while we safeguard Singapore's limited resources," says HDB's Group Director of Research & Planning, Chong Fook Loong.

"Only when we have full knowledge of the ins and outs of the site, can the trade-offs be determined in a well-considered manner across a wide variety of land-use needs, from housing to infrastructure and the provision of green spaces," he explains.

In Woodlands North, where HDB will be developing more public housing, an environmental study has revealed an area of over 4 hectares, or about 6 football fields, that is worthy of conservation. The area has an assemblage of rare and native plants as well as a freshwater stream. With this knowledge, development plans for the area could be decisively adjusted.



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03 At SkyParc @ Dawson, lush greenery can be found at various levels of the development

04 At SkyVille @ Dawson, mature trees were kept and incorporated into its landscape

As three-quarters of this core conservation area was already contained within the existing Admiralty Park, HDB planners decided to retain the remaining portion, thus forming an extension of Admiralty Park. This ensures that the conserved area is ecologically connected to the larger park and that wildlife has access to necessities such as food, water, and shelter. Plans for housing were subsequently adjusted, and a plot of managed vegetation outside the conservation area set aside.

Another area planned for residential use is in Yishun Miltonia Close. Taking into account

findings on a core biodiversity area and after extensive consultation with key stakeholders, HDB plans to retain a 6.4 hectare nature park that will be largely left in its natural state. This is about 2.5 times the original park area safeguarded in the Master Plan, and it will encompass a natural stream as well as a large proportion of significant flora species and large tree specimens. This required HDB and other agencies to identify alternative locations for other planned uses, such as a school site initially safeguarded in the Master Plan for development in the longer term.



Beyond the boundary of the nature park, plans to transplant and translocate affected flora and fauna species will be studied in greater detail. These efforts aim to protect the existing biodiversity and strengthen the ecological connectivity with the broader area while enhancing the living environment for residents.

Restoring Greenery

Providing green spaces, whether through restoration or landscaping, is essential to create a quality living environment for residents. For example, at the precinct level, every new HDB development must have a surrounding area of greenery that is 4.5 times the built-up area.

The hierarchy of greenery is evident in the Dawson estate, where gardens in the sky complement the 4,300 new trees from over 70 species planted on the ground, to provide shade and respite. This is also one of the functions of the 200m-long community eco-corridor along Margaret Drive, lined by 18 conserved mature trees, including the Rain Tree and Broad-Leafed Mahogany.

While these efforts may not immediately be an equal replacement for the natural elements that had to be let go along the way, it ensures that greenery will continue to be a key part of our towns and estates, and that HDB homes can be close to nature. Over time, the greenery will mature and flourish, along with the estate and its inhabitants.

Underpinned by Passion

Regular conversations with communities and individuals who share a passion for Singapore’s natural and built heritage have intensified in recent years. These sessions could also involve other agencies such as National Parks Board, Urban Redevelopment Authority and National Heritage Board, residents, and even nature enthusiasts and heritage groups.

At the close of such consultation exercises, HDB carefully examines the findings from the environmental studies and the feedback received, and then adjusts



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05 An engagement session about preserving the heritage of the Old Police Academy (OPA), where new public housing will be built on the site

06-07 Some blocks of the OPA will be adapted for reuse in the new Mount Pleasant housing estate, preserving the historic character of the site

development plans where feasible, while balancing competitive development and conservation needs.

For example, following intensive engagement with members of the public, such as nature enthusiasts, academics and students, HDB refined development plans for a site in Ulu Pandan, which had been zoned for residential use from as early as 2003. Only the eastern half of the site will be developed for public housing. The more biodiverse western half will be retained as a nature park in the medium term.

The collective expertise of another group of stakeholders — the police fraternity and heritage enthusiasts — were valuable when HDB and other Government agencies were working to safeguard the heritage of the

Old Police Academy (OPA) at Mount Pleasant, as a new public housing estate will be built on the site.

After completing engagements with stakeholders and an in-depth heritage study, HDB will retain and sensitively readapt four OPA buildings with heritage significance within the future estate, and possibly incorporate other historically significant elements there.

Cultivating and sustaining a candid relationship with its partners can help HDB navigate the healthy tension arising from a diversity of needs and voices, to strike an optimal balance between development and conservation, and shape a future Singapore that citizens can continue to love and thrive in. [d](#)



Dover Forest Debate

A stretch of greenery in Queenstown's Ulu Pandan Estate came under intense public scrutiny at the start of 2021. Dover Forest, once used as plantations but now overgrown with non-native trees, had been earmarked for residential use since 2003 and would be developed to provide public housing for Singaporeans. Following an environmental study and engagement with nature groups, HDB sought public feedback on its development plans for housing in the area.

Public debate on the future of Dover Forest was robust. Some wanted the entire forest preserved and requested that alternative sites for housing be considered instead. Other respondents were amenable to a balance of housing and greenery in the area and suggested retaining large trees of significance

- 08 Perspective of a Green Corridor that will be established along Ulu Pandan canal
- 09 Perspective of new housing blocks fronting the Ulu Pandan canal



and an existing stream. Several asked for the provision of recreational park space along the Ulu Pandan Canal.

HDB planners, including Director of Urban Design Lim Shu Ying, and a team of staff considered the public feedback as well as findings from scientific studies thoroughly, and conducted extensive consultations with various stakeholders.

"The engagement generated a lot of good conversations and provided space for different viewpoints. We took all feedback seriously, and these helped to shape the revised development plans for Ulu Pandan," says Shu Ying.

A sizeable nature park will be safeguarded on the more biodiverse western half of the forest, and this half will be left undeveloped in the medium term. To meet strong housing demand in mature estates, HDB flats will be developed in the eastern half of the site. Future and existing residents can look forward to new homes, amenities, and recreational spaces nestled in verdant greenery. The eventual development plans for Ulu Pandan are balanced against nature conservation and housing needs, so the area would not only be home to Singaporeans but also to existing flora and fauna.





Right in the Heart of Town

The new Prime Location Public Housing model is a balanced approach towards developing new homes at sought-after central locations while keeping public housing inclusive, affordable, and accessible to Singaporeans.

(Left) Perspective of River Peaks I and II, the first BTO projects under the new Prime Location Public Housing model



Downtown living brings to mind high-end apartments with sweeping city views; homes that can command top dollar for the convenience and prestige of a prime address. In the next few years, new HDB developments will be built in Singapore's Central Region. While these will come at a far friendlier price tag than private developments in the vicinity, they will be no less well-designed and well-built.

The building of public housing in prime locations will give more Singaporeans a chance to live close to the city centre. This is in step with evolving housing aspirations and strong demand, which is why HDB has launched more new flats in mature estates in recent years, offering prospective home buyers with a wide range of homes in various locations.

Renewed Purpose

Building new homes in older housing estates has been part of HDB's efforts to rejuvenate and renew its towns. Rising 50 storeys from Singapore's Central Business District, The Pinnacle@Duxton is an iconic development completed in 2009 and built where some of the oldest HDB blocks once stood. In Dawson, developed land was similarly recycled for even more efficient

use, as low-rise homes made way for HDB's new-generation public housing projects.

With limited land available in central areas, urban transformations are to be expected. For example, a public housing project launched in November 2021 in Rochor sits on the site of a once-sprawling flea market, and the Keppel Club site will be redeveloped for both public and private housing, as part of the Greater Southern Waterfront makeover.

Existing public housing within the Central Area have been highly sought after, due to its prime location. These translate to robust resale and rental transactions. Over time, these estates that are constantly in demand could become gentrified and only affordable to wealthier households. To ensure that public housing in prime central locations continue to reflect the diversity of our society, there was a need to develop a new model for public housing in prime locations.

(Above) Public housing can be found across Singapore, even forming part of the city skyline

(Right) The Greater Southern Waterfront stretches from Gardens by the Bay East to Pasir Panjang



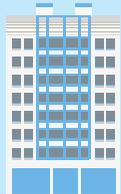
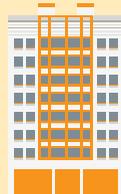
Prime Location Public Housing (PLH) model explained

Key features of the PLH Model

-  Priced with additional subsidies, which will be recovered when the flat is sold in the resale market
-  Priority allocation quota for Married Child Priority Scheme (MCPS) to be adjusted
-  Additional eligibility conditions for buyers of resale PLH flats
-  Longer Minimum Occupation Period (MOP) and tighter rental conditions
-  Integration of public rental flats, where feasible

Longer MOP and tighter rental conditions

To strengthen the owner-occupation intent of PLH flats, the **MOP will be extended to 10 years**, and owners are **not allowed to rent out the whole flat**, even after MOP.

CURRENT HOUSING MODEL	NEW PLH MODEL
	
5 Years MOP	10 Years MOP
Allowed to rent out whole flat after MOP	Not allowed to rent out whole flat throughout lease tenure

Additional eligibility conditions for buyers of resale PLH Flats

Buyers of resale PLH flats will have to **meet prevailing BTO eligibility conditions** for these flats. This will keep homes in prime locations inclusive and accessible over time.

	Typical Resale Flats	New/Resale Flats Under PLH Model ¹
Citizenship	At least one Singapore Citizen (SC) or Singapore Permanent Resident (SPR) applicant Household can comprise SPRs only	At least one SC applicant Household must comprise at least one SC and one SPR
Family nucleus	Must be an eligible family nucleus, or if single, must be aged 35 and above	Must be an eligible family nucleus, e.g. married couples
Income ceiling	Not applicable	Prevailing (currently \$14,000 ²)
Private property ownership	Allowed, but required to dispose of private property within six months of buying the resale flat	Must not own or have an interest in a private property, and have not disposed of any within the last 30 months

¹ Based on BTO eligibility conditions for 3-room and bigger flats
² Or \$21,000 if purchasing with extended/multi-generation family

(Left) The Prime Location Public Housing model aims to keep HDB flats in central locations affordable and accessible

Striking a Balance

The Prime Location Public Housing model (PLH) model aims to keep HDB flats in central locations affordable and accessible.

It was developed after extensive public engagement, where over 7,500 Singaporeans, including academics and industry experts, shared their views on the housing model. HDB, together with the Ministry of National Development, considered a variety of measures — each with their merits and trade-offs — to formulate the PLH model for new public housing projects in prime locations.

Given their attractive locations and attributes, the market prices of flats in prime areas would naturally be higher than the typical Build-To-Order (BTO) project. To keep these homes within reach of a larger group of Singaporeans, PLH flats will be priced with additional subsidies. To be fair to other BTO flat buyers who do not enjoy these additional subsidies, owners of PLH flats will need to return a percentage of the resale price, commensurate with the extent of additional subsidy provided, when they subsequently sell their flat.

The quota for flats set aside under a priority scheme, which helps a married child and the parents live close to each other, will also be adjusted. This allows public housing in prime central locations to be more inclusive, as it provides more opportunities to Singaporeans who do not have family members living near the area to also live in these neighbourhoods.

To ensure that the estates remain accessible to a broad group of subsequent flat buyers over time — beyond the initial purchase — tighter resale and rental conditions have been applied to PLH flats. For example, buyers of resale PLH flats have to meet the prevailing eligibility conditions for the purchase of a flat directly from HDB. A longer Minimum Occupation Period (MOP) of 10 years aims to safeguard these flats for Singaporeans with genuine housing needs and strengthen the owner-occupation intent. In addition, renting out of the whole PLH flat will not be allowed, even after MOP.

Towards the Future

The pilot PLH projects at Rochor received a healthy response when it was launched in November 2021. The most popular flat type was 4-room flats, with nearly 7,000 applicants vying for 680 units; the high demand signalling that PLH flats are a close match to home buyer aspirations.

PLH has bold intentions and is a new public housing model that will be refined over time. While flats sold under this model are expected to make up only a small proportion of the overall public housing supply, HDB plans to launch at least one PLH project per year to create a steady supply and allow more Singaporeans the opportunity to live in prime, central locations. [d](#)

Living in the City

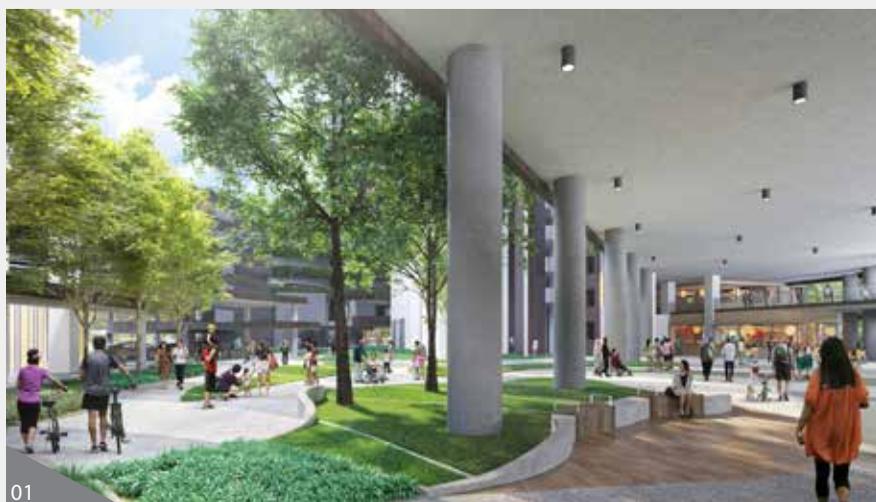
Located next to Jalan Besar MRT, River Peaks I and II are the first BTO projects to be launched under the PLH model. The two developments feature 6 high-rise residential towers soaring above the surrounding Rochor area. River Peaks I and II are envisioned as green oases with myriad facilities amidst green spaces. Residents can enjoy gardens, playgrounds, adult and elderly fitness stations around their home, while sky terraces will offer spectacular views of the city.

Just a short walk away is King George's Heights, the second PLH project that was launched in

February 2022. It is designed as an urban sanctuary and will include a landscaped trail that leads residents to the nearby Rochor canal for a stroll by the water.

Additionally, within River Peaks I and II, there will be a supermarket, food and beverage outlets, a Residents' Network centre, elderly facilities and a childcare centre.

The introduction of these BTO developments will undoubtedly bring about greater convenience to those who live and work in the Rochor area.



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01-02 River Peaks I and II will comprise 6 high-rise residential towers soaring above the surrounding Rochor area. There will also be amenities to meet residents' daily needs



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Homes Renewed

Even as HDB develops new and modern public housing, the continual renewal and rejuvenation of existing homes and towns are crucial to ensure they remain cherished homes for generations of Singaporeans.



(Right) Yishun Pond was rejuvenated under the Remaking Our Heartland programme



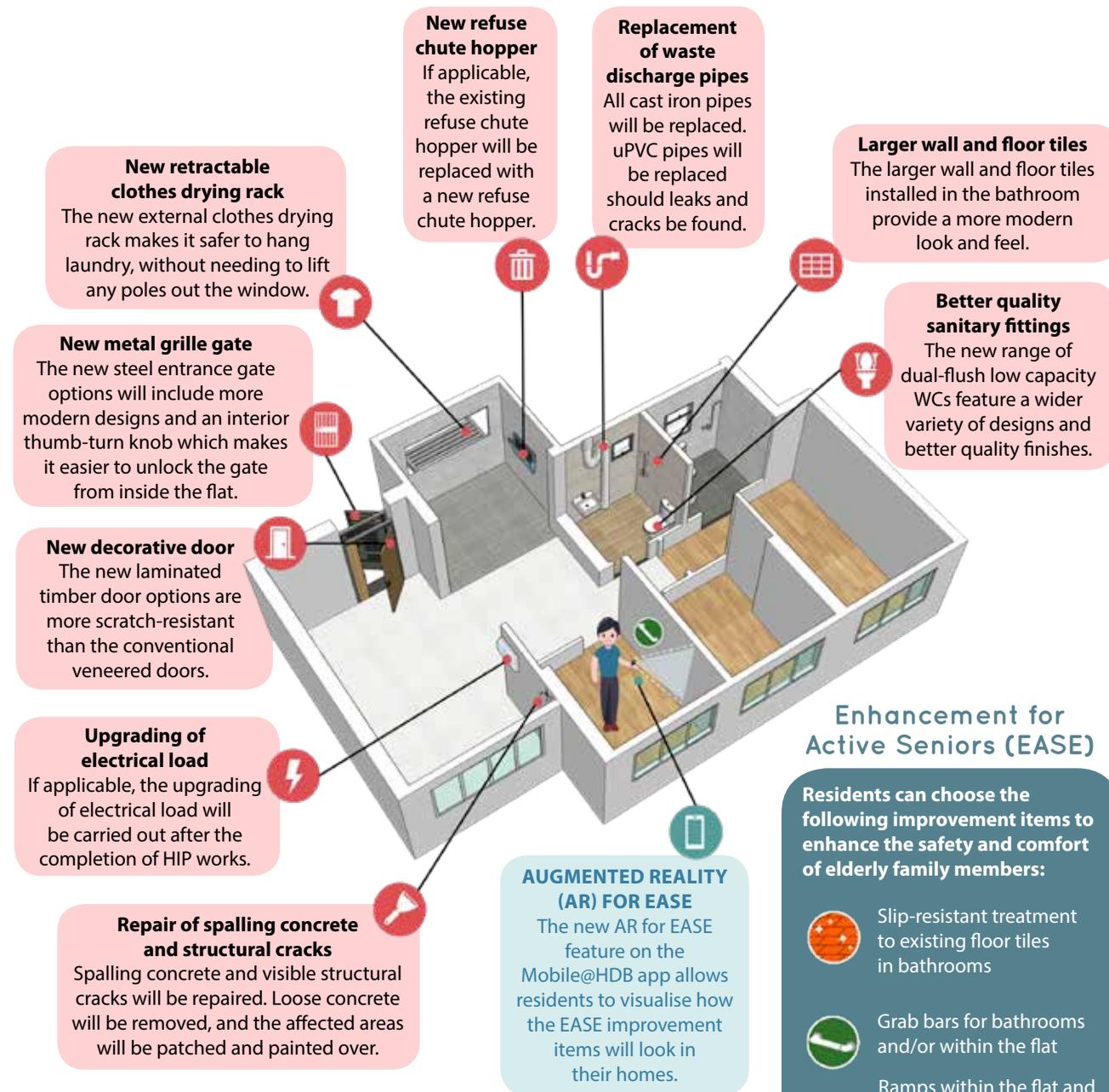
In the last decade, waves of change have swept across HDB heartlands. As a new generation of thoughtfully designed and sustainable homes started to take shape in new housing areas, the skyline in more established locales was also undergoing great transformation.

Much of this was a result of HDB's holistic upgrading efforts at the flat, block, precinct and town levels, to bring older towns and estates closer to the standard of newer ones. This ensures HDB residents can enjoy a high quality of life, regardless of where they live.

(Above) Eligible home owners will get a new clothes drying rack as part of the Home Improvement Programme (HIP)

(Right) The HIP includes the Enhancement for Active Seniors programme, which aims to make homes safer and more comfortable for the elderly

Better homes with the Home Improvement Programme (HIP)





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01-02 Residents like Mr Chua Soo Eng and his family (pictured above) have benefitted from enhancements such as a new main entrance gate and toilet upgrading as part of HIP

Homes for Different Life Stages

Maimunah Abu Bakar has lived in her Bedok North block since it was built almost 40 years ago. "I first moved into a flat on the 6th floor with my parents and siblings, before moving to another flat one floor above after getting married. That was where I raised my children, and forged lifelong friendships with my neighbours," she says.

Even after her children flew the nest to start their own families, Maimunah has chosen to enjoy her golden years in the flat she regards as her "home for life". Lingering concerns over whether she could live independently and safely were assuaged, when her block was offered HDB's Lift Upgrading Programme (LUP), followed by the Home Improvement Programme (HIP).

These programmes are highly subsidised. LUP provides lift access to every floor while HIP addresses common age-related maintenance problems in flats. As a senior, Maimunah could also choose items under the Enhancement for Active Seniors (EASE) programme to help her move around safely and easily at home, such as grab bars and slip-resistant tiles for bathrooms and toilets.

03 An upgraded community pavilion with rooftop greenery and a community garden in the Jurong Lake area

"More than anything, I am happy I can continue to live safely and comfortably in a home that I cherish so much, even as it grows old with me," says Maimunah.

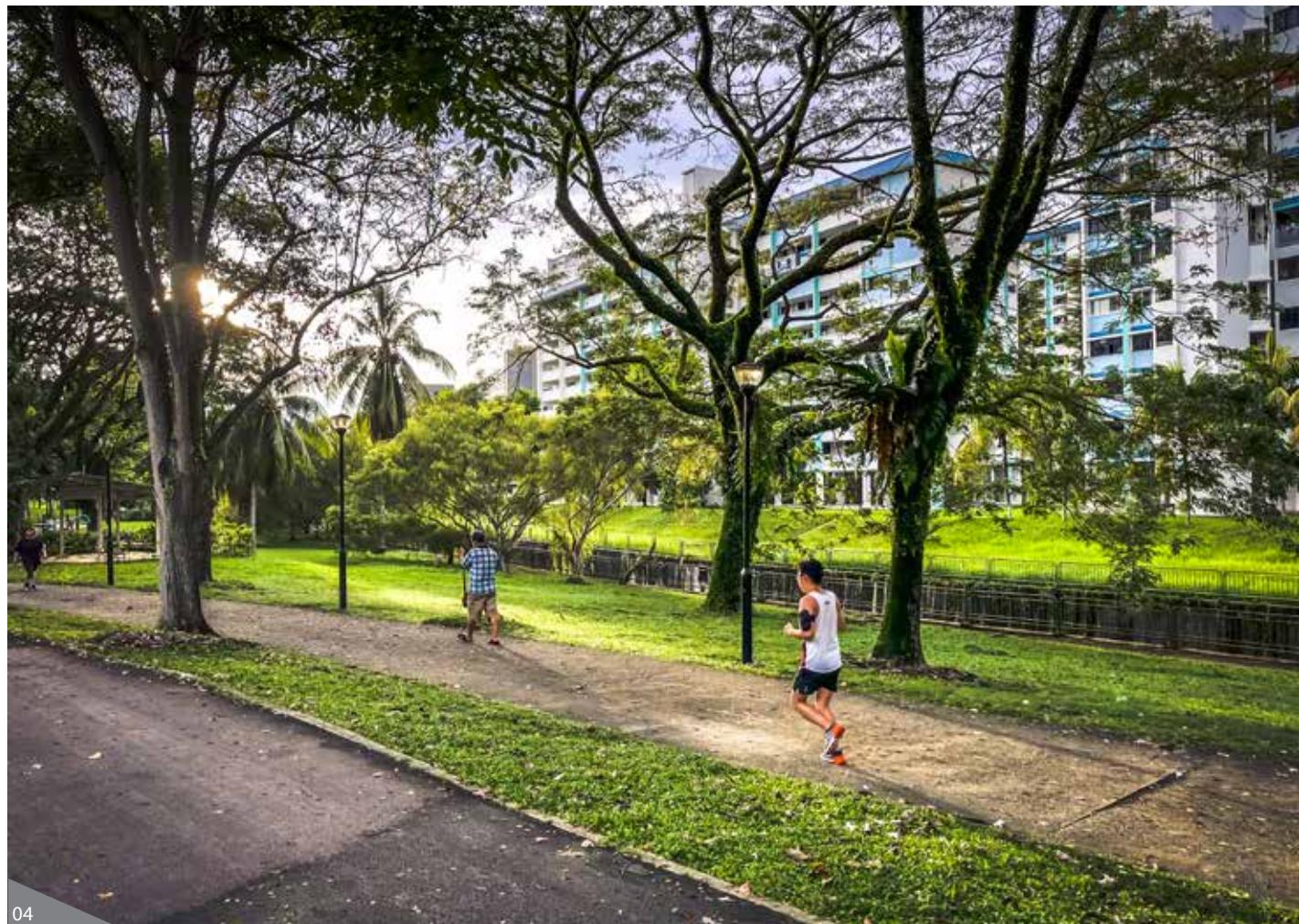
While HIP was previously offered only to flats built up to 1986, like Maimunah's, the programme is now being extended

to those built between 1987 and 1997 — with updated improvement items, such as modern retractable laundry racks and laminated timber doors, to ensure that even more flats can remain in good condition as they age.

Renewing Towns for All Generations

More than the four walls of the flat, the HDB home also extends into the wider precinct and town. Large-scale rejuvenation efforts, such as the Remaking Our Heartland (ROH) programme, help breathe new life into older areas to keep them up-to-date and vibrant for residents young and old. After a facelift, Bedok — a town developed in the 1970s — now boasts a modern integrated transport hub, new facilities at its Town Centre, and improved connectivity to recreational hotspots like Bedok Reservoir Park and East Coast Park.

04-05 The Outdoor Play Corridor, managed by NParks, was created at Bedok as part of the Remaking Our Heartland programme. It connects the town centre to Bedok Reservoir Park and East Coast Park



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ROH is into its fourth series, and with each new batch of towns identified for the programme, HDB has stepped up its consultation sessions to actively seek out residents' ideas and understand their aspirations for the living environment. The feedback will help shape features that are relevant to the community's needs. In Pasir Ris, one of the towns in the third series of ROH, residents were consulted on the community spaces they would like to have along a 5 kilometre-long cycling and walking path. Some suggestions that came

out of these consultation sessions included reading corners and community cafes. Easy access to more community spaces was also on their wish list, as working from home or hybrid working arrangements have become the new normal in a post-COVID world.

Long-time Pasir Ris resident Angela Chua is looking forward to a rejuvenated town. "Pasir Ris has so much to offer. Besides the usual amenities, there are recreational facilities, beautiful parks and the beach. I am excited to witness my town transform."

HDB Green Towns Programme

Making HDB Towns More Sustainable & Liveable

Reducing Energy Consumption

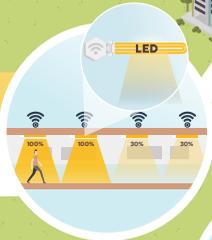
Solar Panels

Harnessing solar energy to power our HDB estates



Smart LED Lighting

Sensing and illuminating your path through smart technology



Recycling Rainwater



Urban Water Harvesting System

Conserving precious water through recycling rainwater



Cooling HDB Towns



Cool Coatings

Creating a cooler and more comfortable living environment



Greenery Intensification

Beautifying our estates and bringing the community together



Bringing Sustainable Living to the Heartlands

HDB has also made inroads to upgrade existing towns to be more sustainable and eco-friendly under the HDB Greenprint. In Yuhua and Teck Ghee, green technologies, such as solar panels and pneumatic waste conveyance system, have been deployed to provide residents with a cleaner, greener and more pleasant living environment.

Building on this, HDB announced a new Green Towns Programme in 2020 to make all its towns more sustainable by 2030, with a focus on 3 key areas — reducing energy consumption by adopting solar energy and smart LED lighting solutions; recycling rainwater for non-potable uses; and cooling

HDB towns via cool coatings applied to buildings as well as intensifying greenery around HDB estates.

These sustainability-focused upgrading programmes have struck a chord with green-conscious residents, who are keen to do their part to combat climate change. Nadrah Sadali says: "I make a conscious effort to live an eco-friendly and more sustainable lifestyle, such as bringing my own food containers when I buy takeaway food. I would love to live in a home that is sustainable too." ^d

(Above) The Green Towns Programme is a 10-year plan to make HDB towns more sustainable and liveable



Through the Eyes of a Wildlife Photographer

Behind the neat, ordered facades of HDB blocks are living compendium of lives, people and stories; some more colourful and compelling than others, but all unique and interesting in their own special way. Photographer Dan Ng hopes to inspire Singaporeans to rediscover nature in their backyard by documenting the hidden wildlife of Pasir Ris town.

Dan Ng cuts a patient figure in the early morning light, his still silhouette framed by the leafy trees of Pasir Ris Park. His eyes are peeled for movement, fingers at the ready to capture a magical wildlife moment.

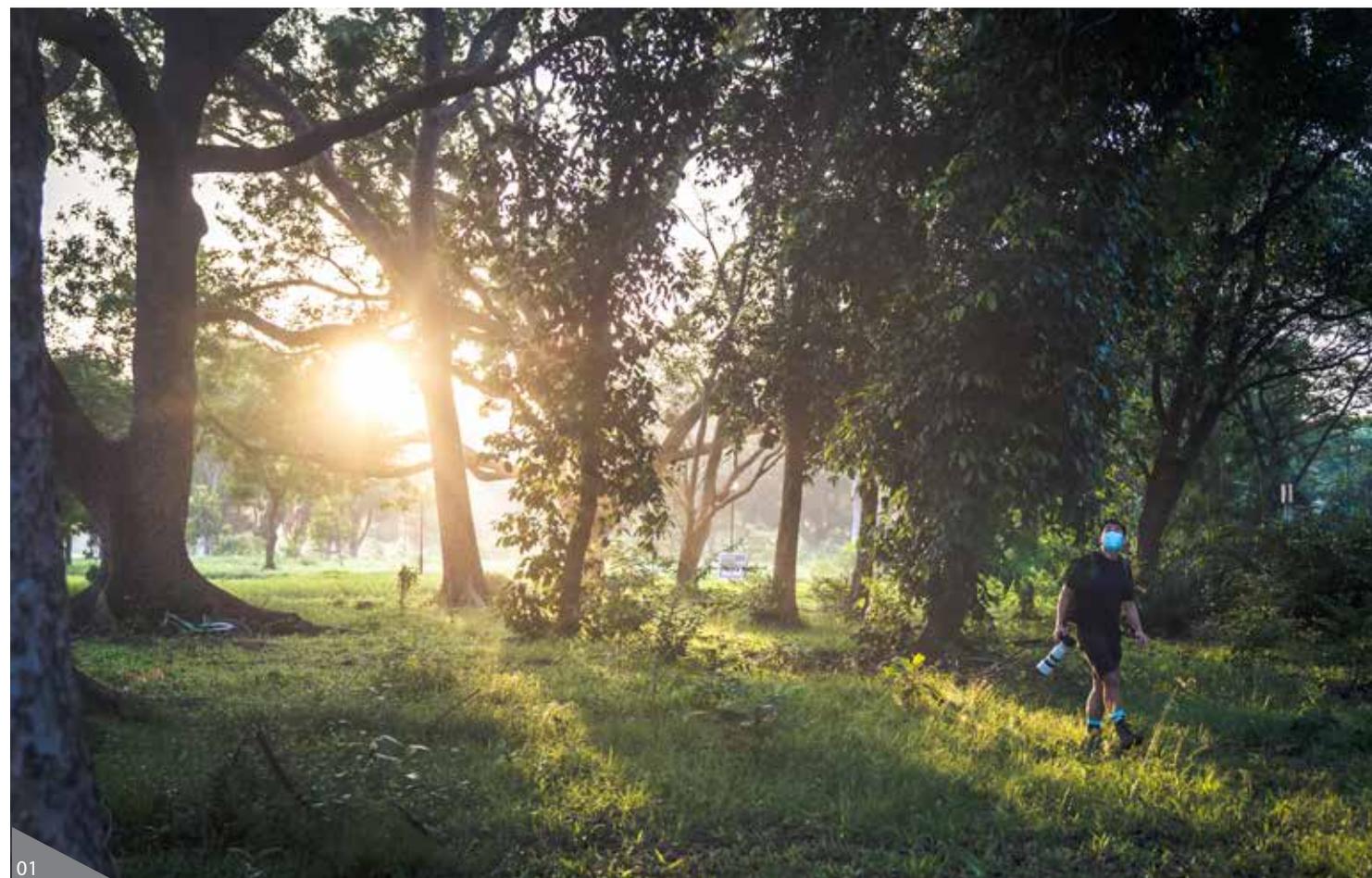
As a wildlife photographer, Dan is usually up and cycling to the park from his HDB flat before sunrise, in hopes of catching the animals in action at twilight. "It's convenient for me because I live nearby, and I'm always raring to visit because it's a different adventure every day."

Passion for Nature

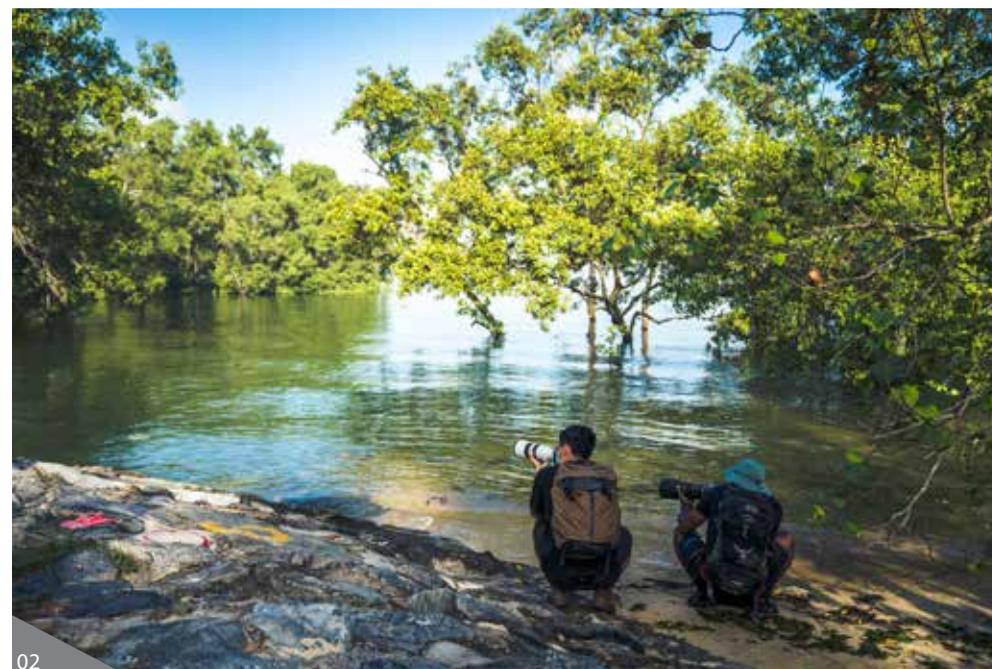
Armed with his camera, Dan spends his time on the multiple trails within the park, where various wild birds and animals may be spotted. One of his favourite spots to capture different wildlife is along the Mangrove Board Walk, where one can discover the quiet beauty of the 6-hectare mangrove forest.

"You'll be amazed by what you can find hidden within Pasir Ris Park and located right here in our backyard," he says.

Dan patiently points out snakes, mudskippers and crabs nestled amidst the mangroves, which are often less visible to the untrained eye. He wishes more visitors would learn about the unique biosystem and the creatures that call the mangroves home. Actively conserved for being a rich ecological habitat, the marshland is also an important site for migratory birds.



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01 Dan's photography sessions start before sunrise

02 Dan on a photoshoot with his co-producer Jayaprakash Bojan



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03 The duo recorded footage for months on end, documenting various animal species in Pasir Ris Park

The duo has since produced 2 films that cast a spotlight on the thriving biodiversity at Pasir Ris Park. While their first film was only 11 minutes in length, the second film is a 44-minute anthology of short stories celebrating the park's wild residents, from otters to owls.

"We wanted to help people fall in love with nature, which can be just a few steps away," Dan shares. "We also wanted to spotlight a side of Singapore which many may not be aware of."

Dan and Jayaprakash credit the close-knit resident community for playing a significant role in the filmmaking, such as offering timely tip-offs on WhatsApp group chats about wildlife sightings. "If we miss the photo opportunity, it can take a while to spot that particular species again, so it's important for us to be quick," Dan explains.

Even as he seeks out that perfect shot, Dan also stresses the importance of respecting nature. "Occasionally, we do notice that there are too many photographers crowding the animals, for instance, when the otters come ashore. We try to remind everyone to give our wild residents space, to avoid scaring them off."

Building Friendships

With HDB blocks located all around, Pasir Ris Park is easily accessible to those seeking to unwind in nature, and a popular stomping ground for the town's residents. Dan shares that there is a bustling community who is very into wildlife spotting. One such person is hobbyist photographer Jayaprakash Bojan, with whom Dan has struck a firm friendship.

"Jaya's like a superstar at Pasir Ris Park," Dan recalls with a smile, "I approached him for a photo together, and that was how we became friends." Having a mutual interest in wildlife videography, Dan and Jayaprakash embarked on a project to document the various unexpected animal species within the park, recording footage for months on end.



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Cycling and walking paths make it a breeze getting to nature parks from home

Finding the Silver Lining

For Dan, the pandemic has brought new perspective on what Singapore has to offer. He used to travel frequently as a content creator and being unable to go abroad freely was initially tough. However, he has come to treasure being a stone's throw away from nature, and says that cycling from his flat to Pasir Ris Park instantly boosts his mood as he soaks in the greenery and biodiversity around.

He recounts with a laugh, "Sometimes I don't even need to go to the park, birds would come by my window. When I was editing the films at home, I got confused with whether the parakeets' calls were coming from the video or from outside!"

Nurturing his craft in wildlife photography has motivated Dan to showcase more of Singapore's natural charms and inspire others to get close to nature by rediscovering where they live.

Sharing that he and his wife have recently collected keys to their BTO flat at Punggol, Dan is looking forward to exploring their new neighbourhood thoroughly: "I can't wait to check out what Punggol has to offer, and I'll be excited to make another documentary about the wildlife there too!"

Scan here to discover the residents of Pasir Ris Park with the wildlife filmmakers



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Special thanks to the following Groups

Building & Research Institute
Building Quality
Development & Procurement
Estate Administration & Property
Housing Management
Research & Planning

Published by



HDB Hub 480 Lorong 6 Toa Payoh
Singapore 310480
Tel: 6490-1111
www.hdb.gov.sg

Contributions

We envision *Dwellings* to be a platform for the sharing of ideas, works and projects that promote and advance quality and sustainable housing. We welcome written contributions from all who share a keen interest in housing and habitats, whether you are an academic, industry practitioner or professional.

Contact

For feedback and contributions, please email the *Dwellings* editorial team at dwellings@mailbox.hdb.gov.sg. Please also let us know if you wish to receive a print magazine.

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