

OUR TOWN, ANG MO KIO

TOWN DESIGN GUIDE



Completed 2024

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Preamble

This HDB Town Design Guide serves as a reference for consultants, town councils, and government agencies, to guide developments within our towns.

Each HDB town is distinctive, with unique history, natural features, built environment, characteristics and communities that provide a sense of identity and belonging for the residents.

Since the 2010s, HDB has planned and built new-generation public housing that is well-designed, community-centric, sustainable, and smart. To keep pace with new needs, HDB launched the Designing for Life roadmap in 2020, which is supported by 3 pillars – 'Live Well', 'Live Green', and 'Live Connected'. The roadmap will centre on the overall health and well-being of residents, to provide them with a better living environment at all stages of their lives. Careful planning backed by science and data will guide HDB's efforts in biophilic design and development of smart and sustainable solutions to help residents live more comfortably with greater convenience. HDB will also find more ways for people to foster social connections and a greater sense of place.

Today, many agencies and town councils make further enhancements and improvements to the towns. HDB wants to provide these partners with a good understanding of the vision and the development history for each town, so that they can further enhance the distinctiveness of the town, and maintain the town identity.

We have provided illustrations and ideas as a Guide to achieve this vision, and HDB welcomes creative ideas and solutions to strengthen the town identity.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following organisations and government agencies for their valuable suggestions and input:

Ang Mo Kio Town Council
Jurong Town Corporation
Land Transport Authority
National Heritage Board
National Parks Board
People's Association
Sport Singapore
Urban Redevelopment Authority

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User Guide

The HDB Town Design Guide establishes the planning, urban and architectural design considerations for the town/ estate at 3 scales.

Town Scale Layers

1. Read to understand the overall theme, historical and physical context of the town

Town scale layers give the general context of the town so that the developments can be aligned with HDB's overall vision of the town.

Neighbourhood Scale Layers

2. Understand the sub-theme to apply relevant planning and design guidelines in your project

Neighbourhood scale layers set out distinctive sub-themes and concepts, to reinforce the town scale layers.

Precinct Scale Layers

3. Apply the design ideas and principles in your project

Precinct scale layers guide the detailed design of projects, allowing flexibility in the micro design elements for a unique precinct identity while aligning with the district themes.

The Guide* should be used for:

New HDB Developments

At design reviews with HDB, design consultants would need to demonstrate how their proposals have addressed the design layers.

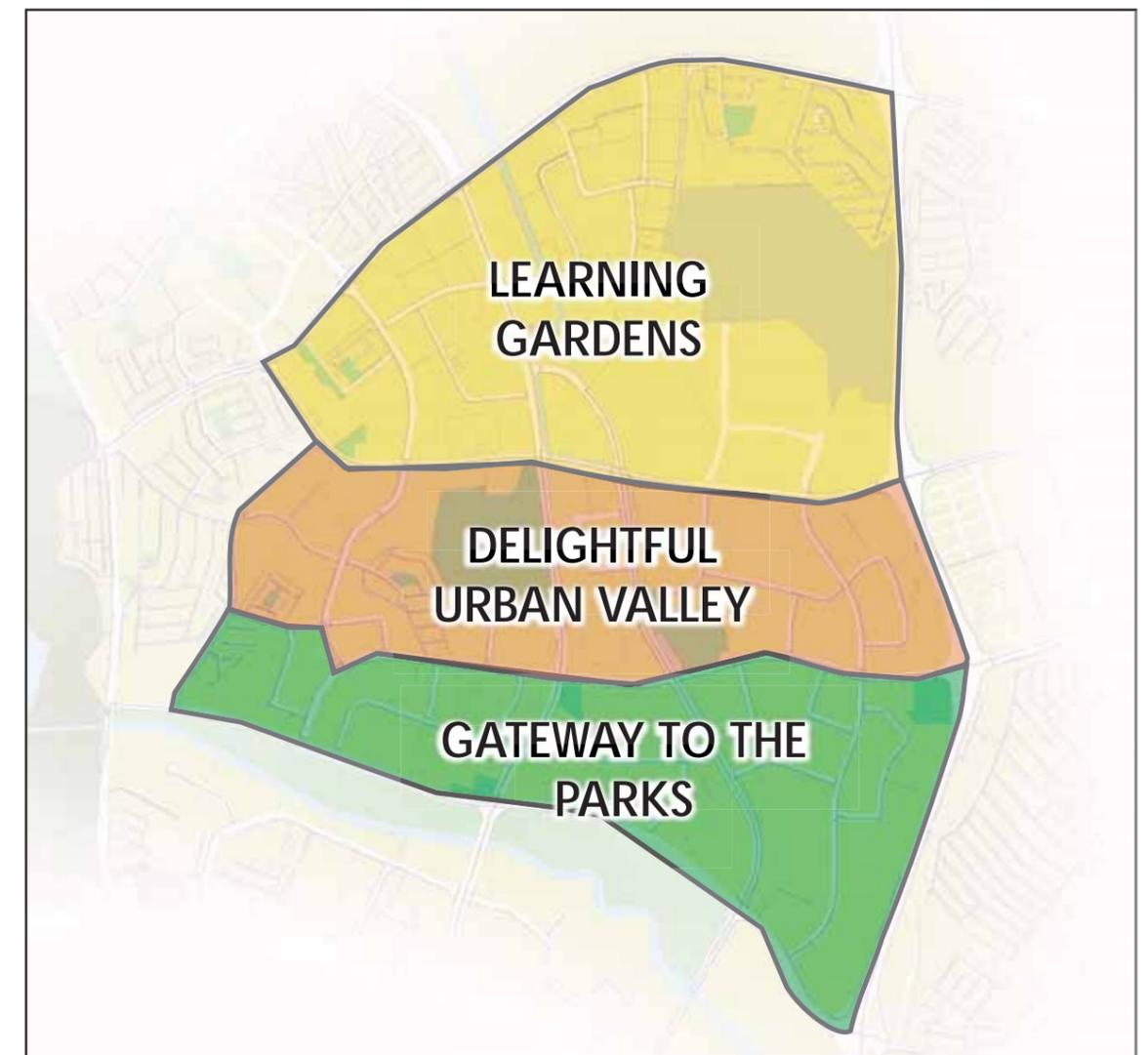
Upgrading and Improvement Projects by HDB or Town Councils

Similarly, design consultants would need to demonstrate how their proposals have responded to the design layers.

Developments by Government Agencies

Government agencies may also use the Guide as part of the design brief/ requirements for their design consultants.

**It is intended to accompany the detailed Urban Design Guidelines of specific developments, where applicable.*



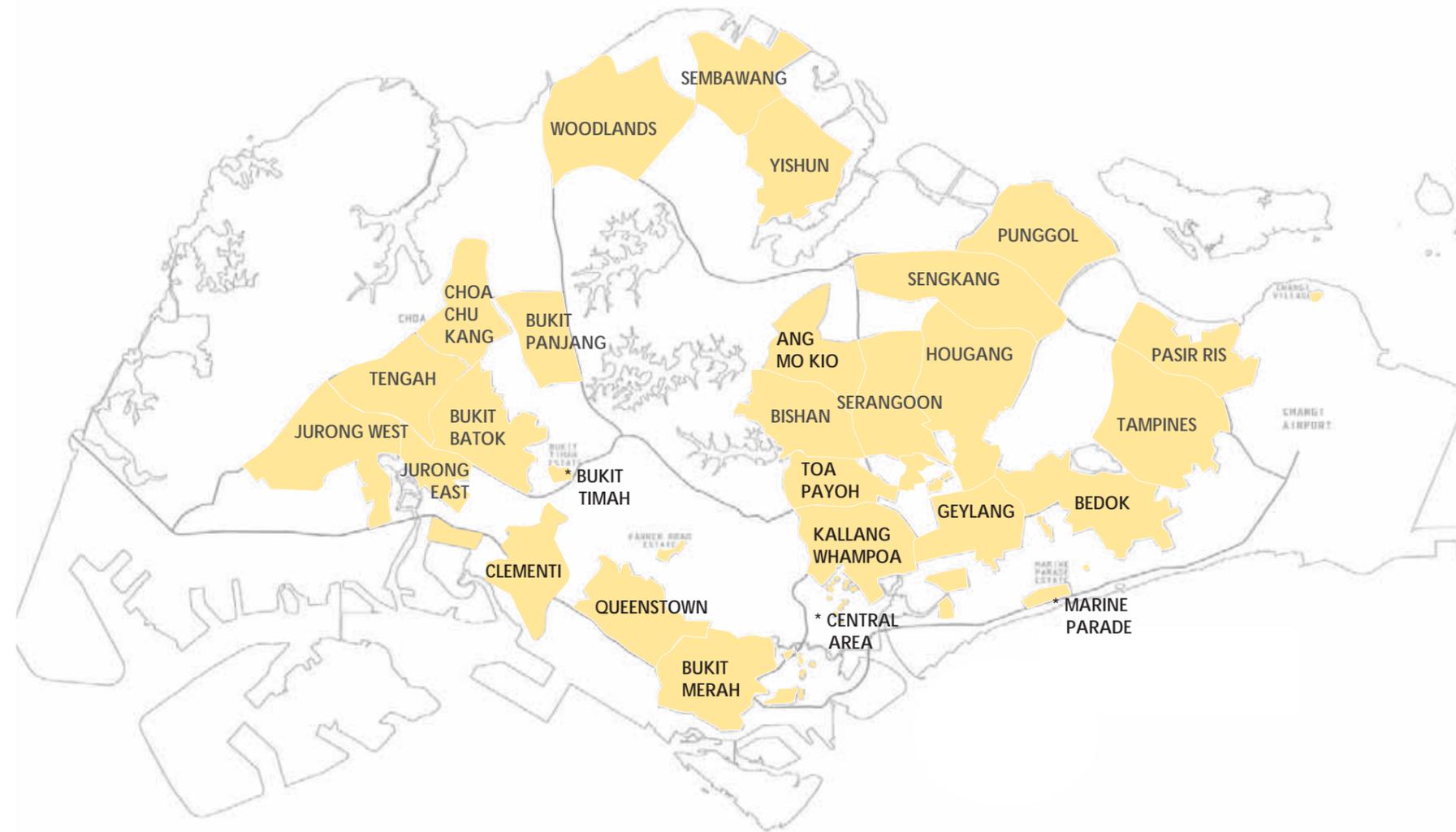
Sub-themes in Ang Mo Kio

Introduction

HDB Towns and Estates

HDB carries out comprehensive town planning and design for 24 towns and 3 estates*, and strives towards achieving a clear vision and unique identity for the communities.

*Bukit Timah, Central Area and Marine Parade



Frameworks

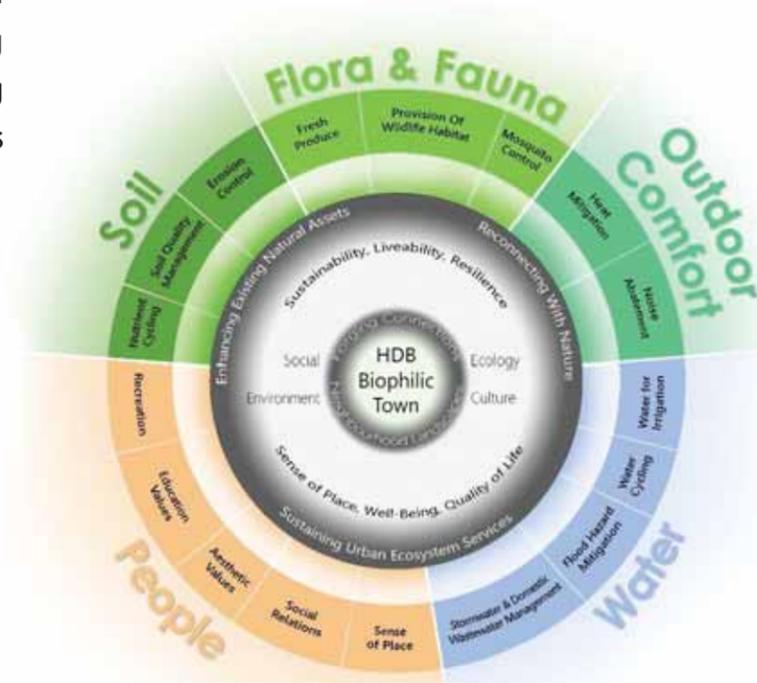
Over the years, HDB has also introduced several frameworks to continuously improve our towns. The principles within the frameworks underpin the planning and design of new public housing developments and the rejuvenation of existing estates. These frameworks have been guided by HDB's Roadmap to Better Living introduced in 2011, and HDB's new Designing for Life Roadmap which was launched in 2020.



2020 and beyond

Well-being Framework

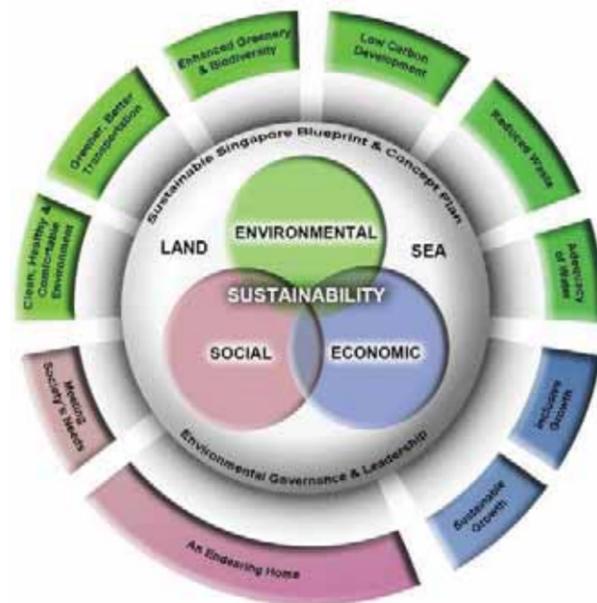
- Create 'Healthy Towns for All Ages'
- Meet holistic needs across different life cycle stages to enhance physical, mental and social well-being
- More choices for residents to lead healthy lifestyles, keep active minds and build community bonds



2018

Biophilic Town Framework

- Promote a greater sense of place, better well-being and enhanced quality of life for residents
- Create nature-centric neighbourhood landscapes that consider the aspects of soil, water, flora and fauna, outdoor comfort, and people



2011

Sustainable Development Framework

- Deploy sustainability initiatives focusing on 10 key desired outcomes across the dimensions of environmental, social and economic sustainability
- Create sustainable, liveable and more pleasant living environments for residents



2014

Smart Town Framework

- Deploy smart initiatives and technology across the dimensions of planning, environment, estate, living, and community
- Create more liveable, efficient, sustainable, safe, inclusive, empowering and resilient towns
- Supported by infrastructure and connectivity enablers including sensors, communications and a data hub

HDB Roadmap to Better Living (2011)



Contents

Town Scale

- Context and History
- Planning Principles
- Town Theme and Concept
- Pedestrian and Cycling Connectivity
- Parks and Waterbodies
- Key Corridors
- Key Nodes and Junctions
- Heritage Elements
- Art Elements
- Broad Landscape Theme

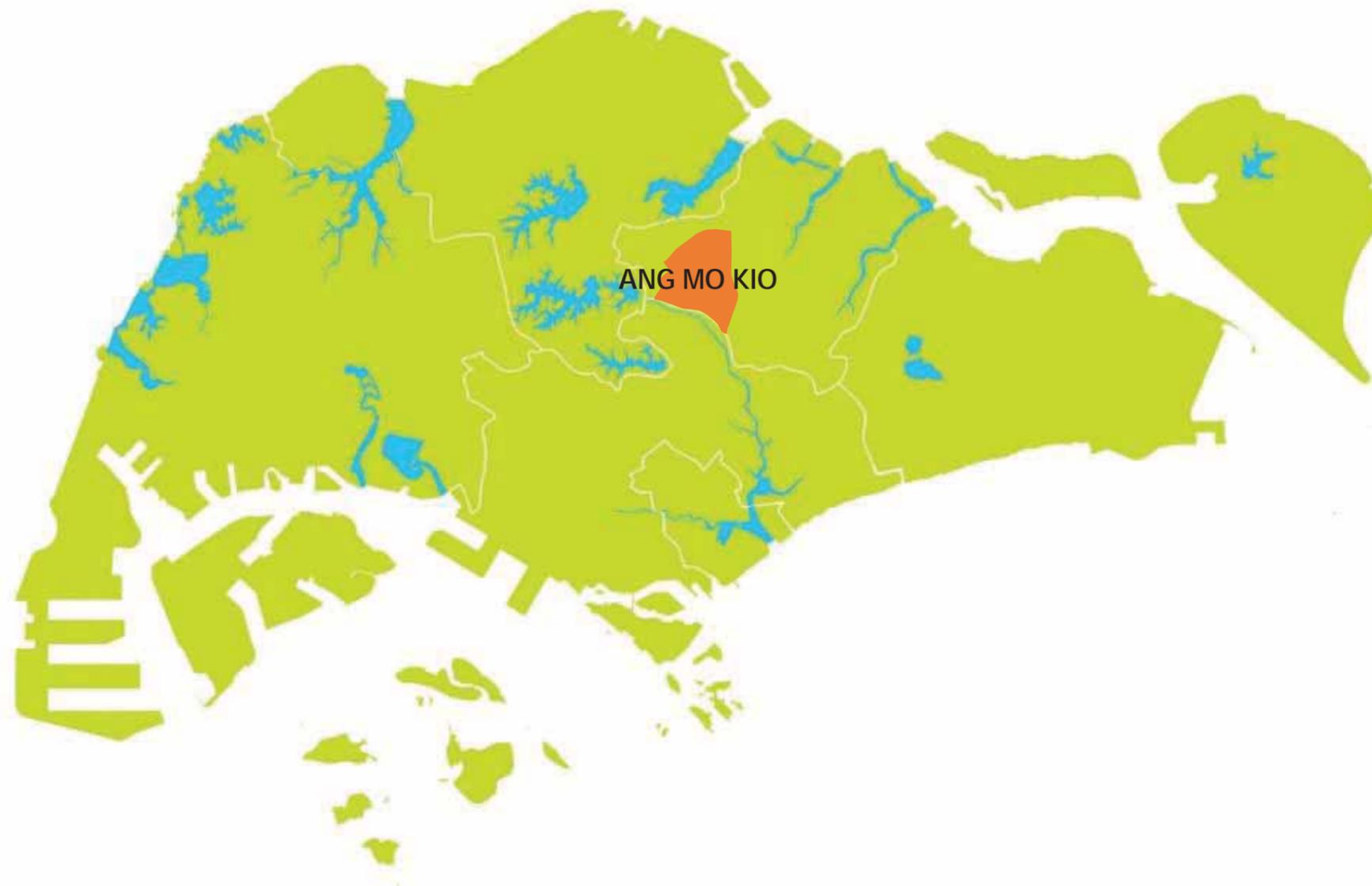
Neighbourhood Scale

- Sub-themes and Concepts
 - Form and Massing
 - Public Spaces
 - Streetscape and Urban Edge
 - Colour Palette
 - Facade and Roofscape
 - Landscape Approach

Precinct Scale

- Precinct Facilities
- Playgrounds
- Street Furniture
- Wayfinding
- Covered Linkway Design

Context and History

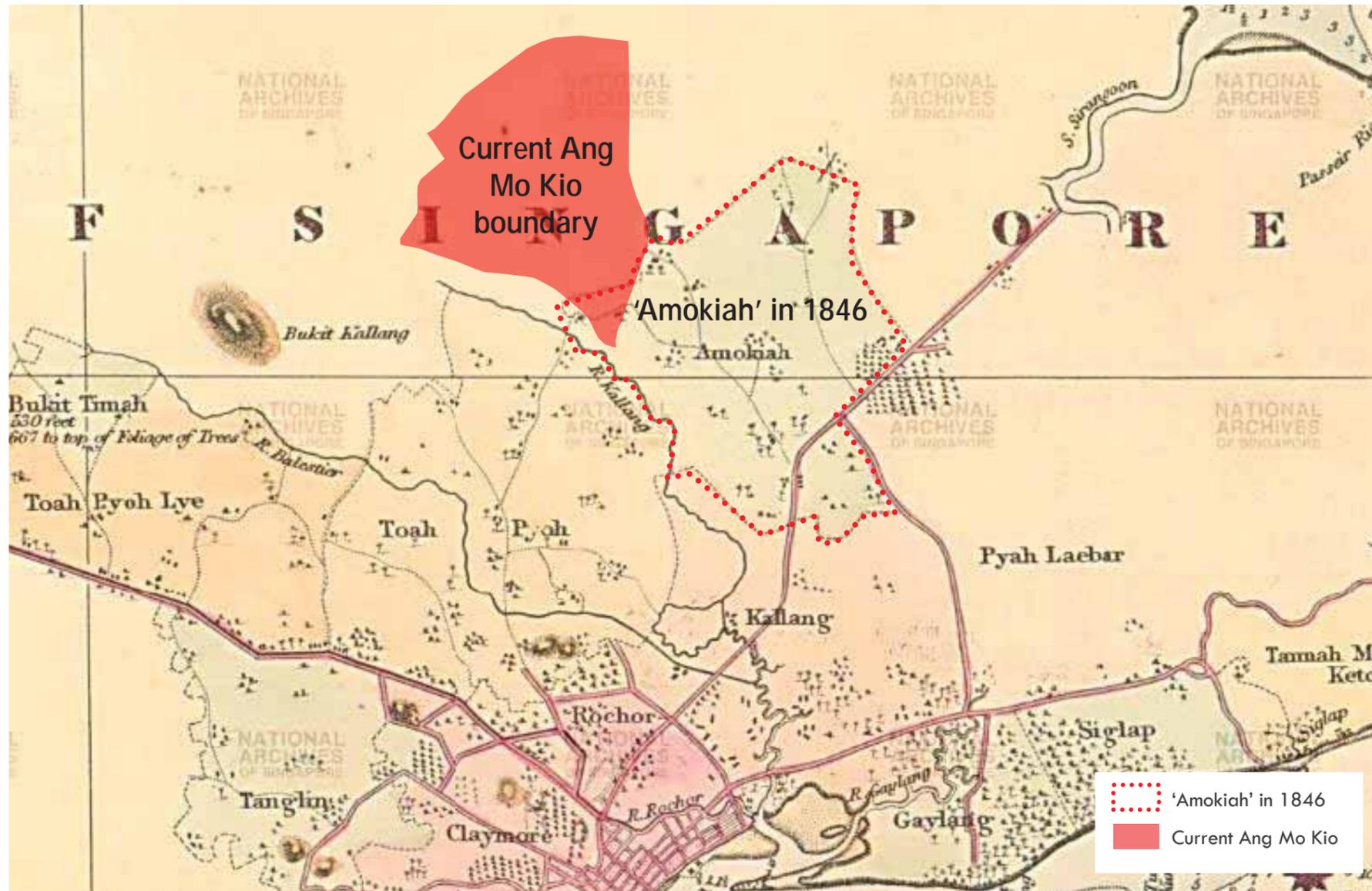


Ang Mo Kio is a residential town located in the North-East Region of Singapore. The name 'Ang Mo Kio' in Hokkien literally translates to “red-haired man’s bridge”.

The development of Ang Mo Kio Town began in 1973. Within a decade, Ang Mo Kio was transformed into a well-planned town with commercial offices, as well as cultural and community facilities. It also boasts one of the largest town centres (29 ha) that was built in an elongated valley. The mid-1970s and 1980s saw the rise of neighbourhood start-up businesses, that remain prominent in the Town Centre today.

Today, Ang Mo Kio is well-loved and known by Singaporeans as one of the popular residential locations in Singapore given its mature neighbourhoods which offers good hawker fare, a strong presence of local mom-and-pop shops, a neighbourly *kampung* spirit, as well as modern facilities such as AMK Hub. Served by a total of 6 MRT stations, there is opportunity for the town to continue to evolve. Large tracts of vacant land towards the north also allow the town to continue to grow, offering more housing, leisure and retail options for existing and future residents.

Context and History



Current Ang Mo Kio boundary (in red) overlaid with a 1855 map of 'Amokiah' district

Historical Background

Up to 1960s

Ang Mo Kio first appeared as 'Amokiah' district in J.T. Thomson's map of 1846, titled 'This survey of the Straits of Singapore'. Gambier plantations largely occupied Amokiah during its early days, until the fruit and vegetable cultivations started in 1880s.

Around 1885, 'Amokiah' was changed to 'Ang Mo Kio' in the 1885 'Map of the Island of Singapore and its Dependencies'. At the turn of the 20th century, the farms or husbandry practiced in Ang Mo Kio were gradually replaced by rubber plantations and factories, which continued until 1960s.



Gambier Plantation in 1890s

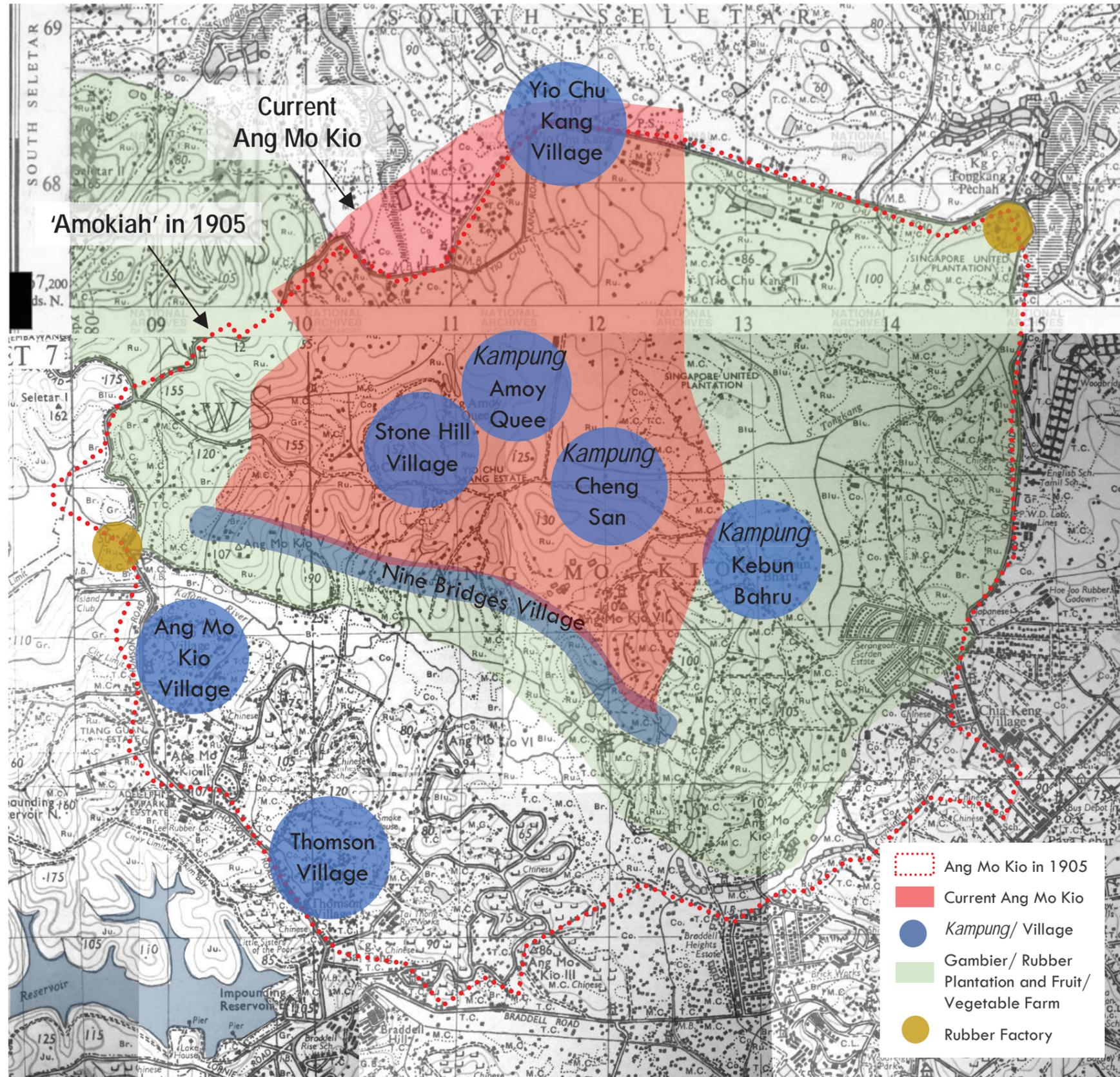


Vegetable Farming in 1900s



A large area of the town was used as rubber plantations

Context and History



Historical Background

Up to 1970s

The current Ang Mo Kio New Town was once a huge rubber plantation where immigrant Chinese, mostly of Hokkien descent, engaged in rubber planting and tapping. The 1922 and 1932 world slump in rubber prices made many tappers and labourers turn to pig and poultry farming or market gardening. During World War II, more people moved to Ang Mo Kio to take up farming.



Various kampungs known by locals as Cheng Sua Lai, Jio Sua and Kow Tiow Kio, were scattered around the area. *Kampung Amoy Quee* is pictured on the right.

Context and History

Evolution of Ang Mo Kio



1. First slab blocks built in 1973



2. Neighbourhood 2 and 3



3. Ang Mo Kio Town Centre in the 1980s



4. Blk 259, 'Clover Block'



5. Revitalised Town Centre



6. Teck Ghee Vista

Pre-1980s
 Ang Mo Kio was developed as the 7th HDB Town in 1973. The first groups of flats were built as slab blocks in Neighbourhood 2 and 3.

1980s onwards
 By early 1980s, a 29 hectare town centre was introduced, making it one of the largest HDB town centres built. In 1981, Blk 259, HDB's only block using circular floor plans was built.

1990s onwards
 In 2007, AMK Hub was opened and more shops, F&B and entertainment options were introduced to revitalize the Town Centre.

After 2000s, public housing styles also evolved into distinct high-rise blocks that stand out against the relatively uniform fabric of the 1970s and 1980s slab blocks.

Context and History



Locations of the marked heritage sites in Ang Mo Kio, as part of NHB's Ang Mo Kio Heritage Trail that NHB is in the midst of refreshing



Kebun Baru Bird Singing Club



The Ang Mo Kio Town Centre is a key commercial and community hub which once served residents living in Bishan back in 1970s when there were no major shopping or entertainment facilities then.



Town Garden West, where original vegetation and terrain from the area and paths from the former Cheng San Road had been retained

Heritage and Identity

Our heritage connects us to our past, enriching our sense of place, belonging and identity. The stories from Ang Mo Kio's rich history is told today through various wall murals, a heritage trail, conserved buildings and other heritage elements.

Some of the key heritage elements that strengthen the identity of Ang Mo Kio Town are:

- Ang Mo Kio Town Centre – one of the largest town centres in Singapore built in an elongated valley, flanked by two hillocks – the east and west town gardens.
- Town Garden West was the largest town garden project by HDB in the 1980s when it was developed. Efforts were made to retain the park's original vegetation and terrain, and incorporate part of the former Cheng San Road into the paths.
- Kebun Baru Bird Singing Club is one of the last few remaining bird singing corners left in Singapore.
- The refreshed Ang Mo Kio Heritage Trail by the National Heritage Board (NHB) captures the history and stories of the communities, local landmarks and sites of Ang Mo Kio. Discover more about heritage of the neighbourhood by searching for Ang Mo Kio Heritage Trail at Roots.gov.sg.

Context and History



Rejuvenating the Heart of Ang Mo Kio

- Town Centre Rejuvenation
- Garden Loop
- Redevelopment of Town Garden West
- Enhancements to Town Garden East



Every Neighbourhood A Destination

- Upgrading of Neighbourhood 6 Open Space
- Art and Murals
- Lively Places Challenge
- Heritage Trail Refresh



Everywhere is Easily Accessible

- Delightful Travel around the Town
- Bringing Nature Closer to Residents
- Enhanced Rail Network
- Future North-South Corridor along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6
- Activating Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8 Linear Park



Growing Our Community

- New Housing Developments



Remaking Our Heartland 4 Ang Mo Kio

The Remaking Our Heartland 4 (ROH 4) plans for Ang Mo Kio will focus on 4 key strategies:

- 1) Rejuvenating the Town Centre and Town Gardens
- 2) Upgrading the neighbourhoods
- 3) Enhancing accessibility and connectivity within the town
- 4) Activating new housing areas

These rejuvenation plans were formulated based on the residents' feedback obtained from the Focus Group Discussions held in 2020 and 2021.

Context and History



Public engagement with residents during the 1st and 2nd FGDs for Ang Mo Kio ROH

Summary of aspects liked about Ang Mo Kio Town from E-Survey findings

Ang Mo Kio ROH

Findings from E-Survey and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

The E-Survey conducted in March to April 2020 sought to find out residents' perception of Ang Mo Kio today and in the future, their living and travel habits within the town, and aspects they liked about the town.

5 broad themes (greenery, facilities and amenities, heritage and memories, sustainability, accessibility and connectivity) were discussed during the 1st FGDs in Dec 2020. In-depth discussions with residents on preliminary proposals and ideas to rejuvenate the public spaces at the Town Centre and Neighbourhood Centres were subsequently held during the 2nd FGDs in Dec 2021.

Ang Mo Kio is well-loved by residents who described it as an accessible town with unique heritage elements and strong neighbourly bonds.

Residents were happy to be able to share their views on Ang Mo Kio and the ROH proposals.

Context and History

Overview of Remaking Our Heartland 4 Proposals – Ang Mo Kio



1 Rejuvenating the Heart of Ang Mo Kio

-  Upgrading of Pedestrian Mall at the Town Centre; Creation of Garden Loop
-  Upgrading of Town Garden West

2 Every Neighbourhood a Destination

-  Neighbourhood 6 Open Space Upgrading
-  Neighbourhood Centre Upgrading (ROH)
-  Neighbourhood Centre Upgrading (NRP)
-  Art Murals
-  Heritage Trail Markers

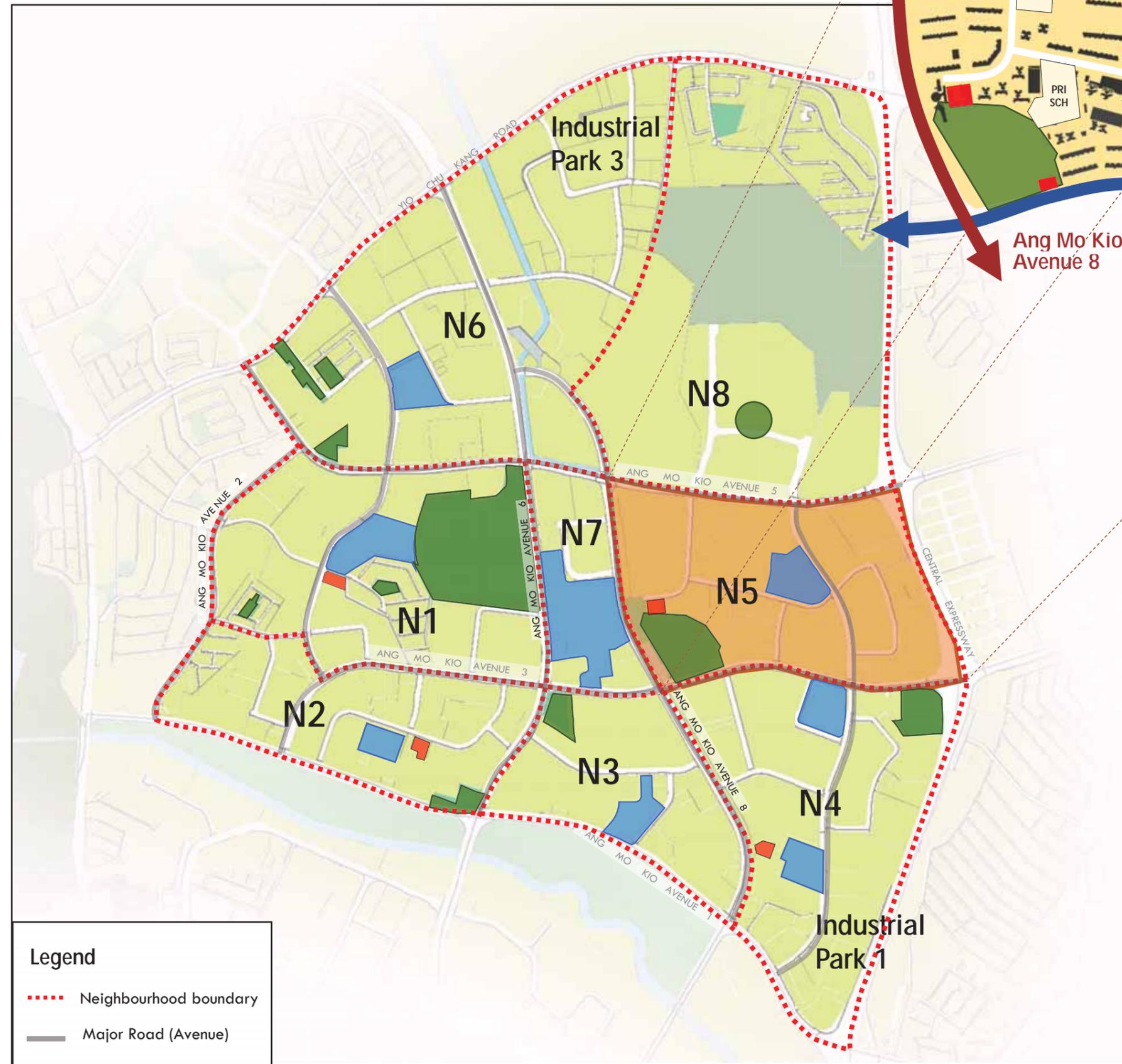
3 Everywhere is Easily Accessible

-  MRT Stations
-  New Walking and Cycling Bridges
-  North-South Corridor
-  Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8 Linear Park
-  Gateway Enhancement
-  Friendly Streets at Ang Mo Kio Street 31

4 Growing Our Community

-  New Housing Developments

Planning Principles



Neighbourhood Concept

Ang Mo Kio was comprehensively planned based on the neighbourhood concept – to create a self-sufficient environment conducive for living, working, playing, and learning.

There are a total of 8 neighbourhoods planned within Ang Mo Kio Town. Each of them are well-served by their Neighbourhood Centres and a large Town Centre spanning over a 29 hectare site.

Apart from residential developments, land is also used and planned for a full range of complementary developments. This includes commercial, educational, recreational, institutional and industrial developments.

Did You Know?

Blocks are numbered according to the neighbourhood. The first digit denotes its neighbourhood number, while the second and third digits — and where necessary, a letter from the alphabet — denote the block. For example in Neighbourhood 5, the block numbering starts from 501 to 596.

Planning Principles



Transport Network

Ang Mo Kio town is well served by the North-South and Thomson-East Coast MRT Lines, as well as Bus Interchanges at Neighbourhood 3 and 6, which allows residents to stay well connected to the surrounding areas.

As the town develops, new MRT stations along the Cross Island Line will be opened to add greater connectivity to the town.

Transport network and facilities are also planned on a hierarchical basis. At the town level, the road system follows a clear hierarchy, where major roads are referred to as 'Avenues', and local-access roads as 'Streets' or 'Drives'.

The local roads within the town connect to major arterial roads and expressways. For instance, Ang Mo Kio is served by expressways, such as Central Expressway (CTE), and the neighbourhoods in Ang Mo Kio are served by Avenues. Avenues running East-West are odd-numbered, and Avenues running North-South are even-numbered. Lastly, the precincts and blocks in Ang Mo Kio are served by Streets or Drives.

Town Theme and Concept



View of Ang Mo Kio Town Garden West



Artist's impression of a new walking and cycling bridge across Marymount Road to improve connectivity of Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park



Aerial view of Ang Mo Kio Neighbourhood 2 area with Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park on the left

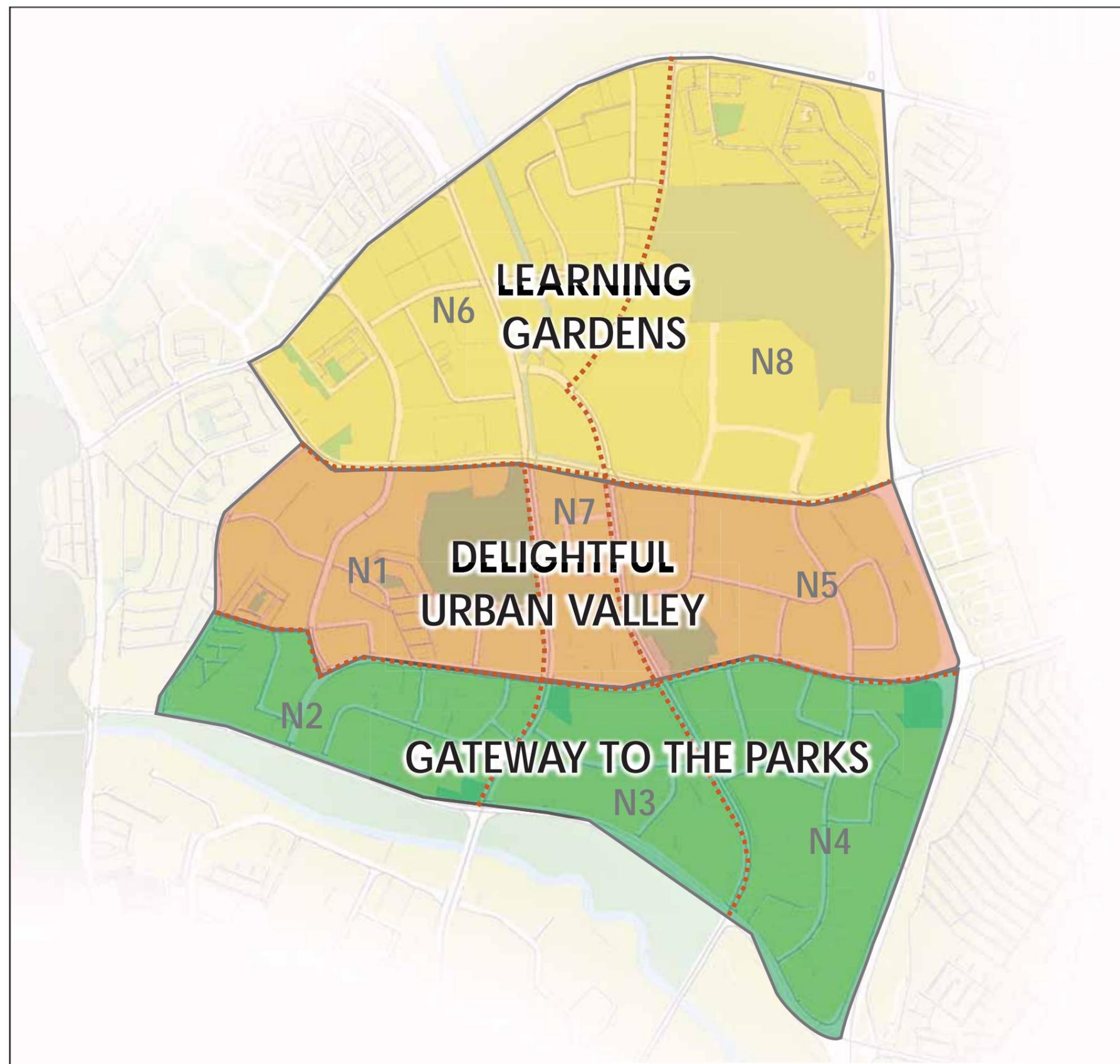
'Kio' means bridge in Chinese. The idea of a bridge can be expressed in terms of architectural style, materials or structural.

Given the town's close proximity to large tracts of green spaces — Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, as well as the two town gardens flanking the Town Centre — the developments in the town aim to capitalise on its green assets to create a town that is always bustling with activity, and yet only a stone's throw or a 'bridge's crossing' away from nature.

Town Theme: *Bridging Nature and Communities*

Concept and design considerations for Ang Mo Kio are inspired by *bridges, nature and connecting communities*.

Town Theme and Concept



Sub-themes by Area

Ang Mo Kio is divided into 3 different areas, and their sub-themes are identified based on existing context, such as social and physical features, that are prevalent within the different areas.

Ang Mo Kio (Central) – Delightful Urban Valley

- The heart of the town is envisioned as a vibrant, urban environment with a variety of public spaces interspersed between the contrasting high-low built forms which creates a ‘valley’.
- Reference is also made to the existing topography of the town, where the Town Centre is built in between two prominent hillocks.

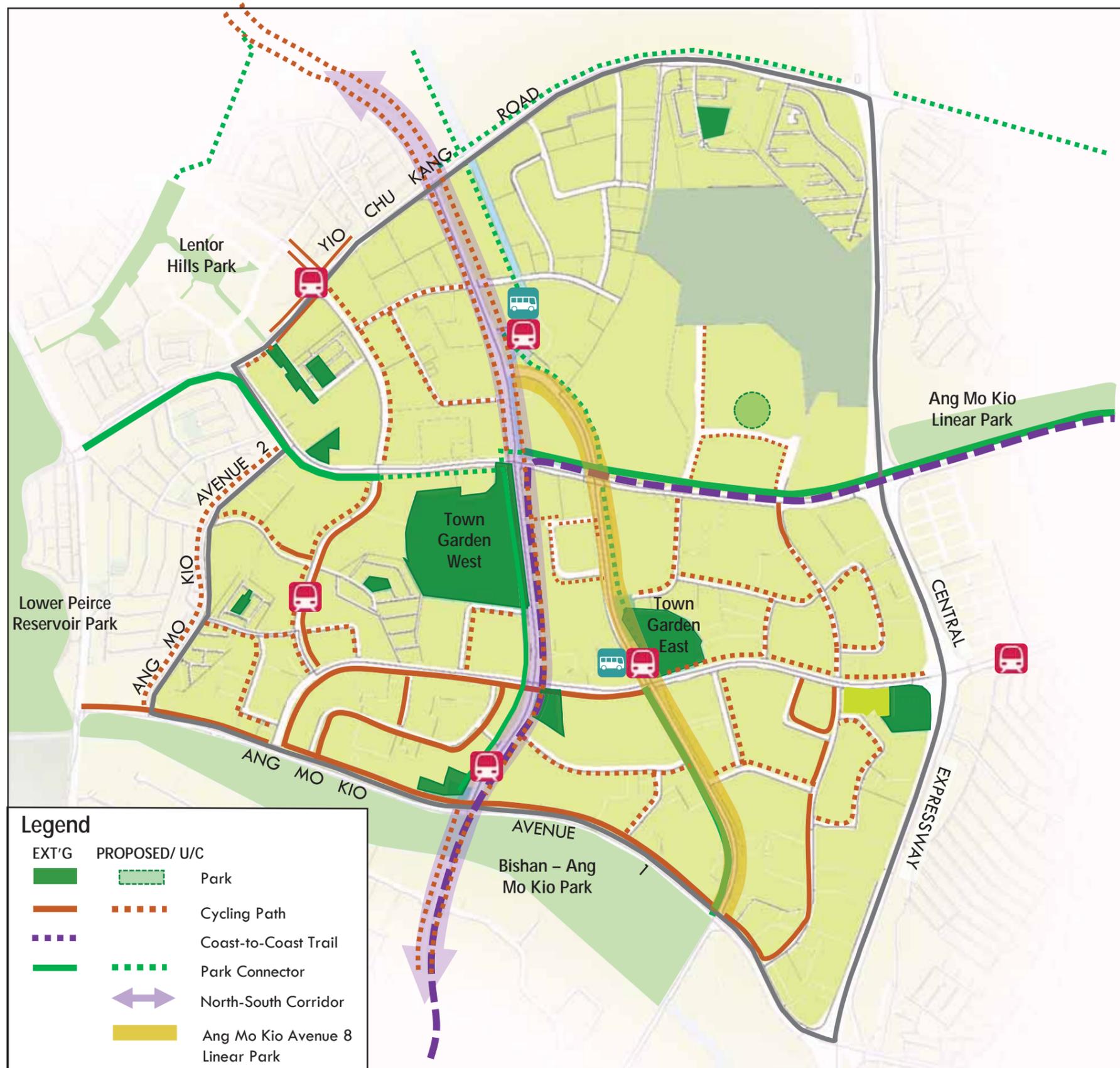
Ang Mo Kio (South) – Gateway to the Parks

- Surrounded by large tracts of greenery e.g. Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, Lower Peirce Reservoir Park and close proximity to Central Catchment Nature Reserve.
- More organic, fluid forms to mirror the soft edges of greenery and nature.

Ang Mo Kio (North) – Learning Gardens

- Consists of industrial estates and educational institutions such as ITE Central and Nanyang Polytechnic.
- Takes reference from gambier and rubber plantations in the past, and how agriculture has evolved into opportunities for potential industry-academia collaboration.

Pedestrian and Cycling Connectivity



A comprehensive network of existing park connectors and cycling paths has been planned.

This map provides a useful reference when planning pedestrian connectivity and accessibility to local key nodes such as commercial centres and transport facilities.

Future developments should consider how to respond to the planned network, and opportunistically address gaps in pedestrian and cycling connectivity.

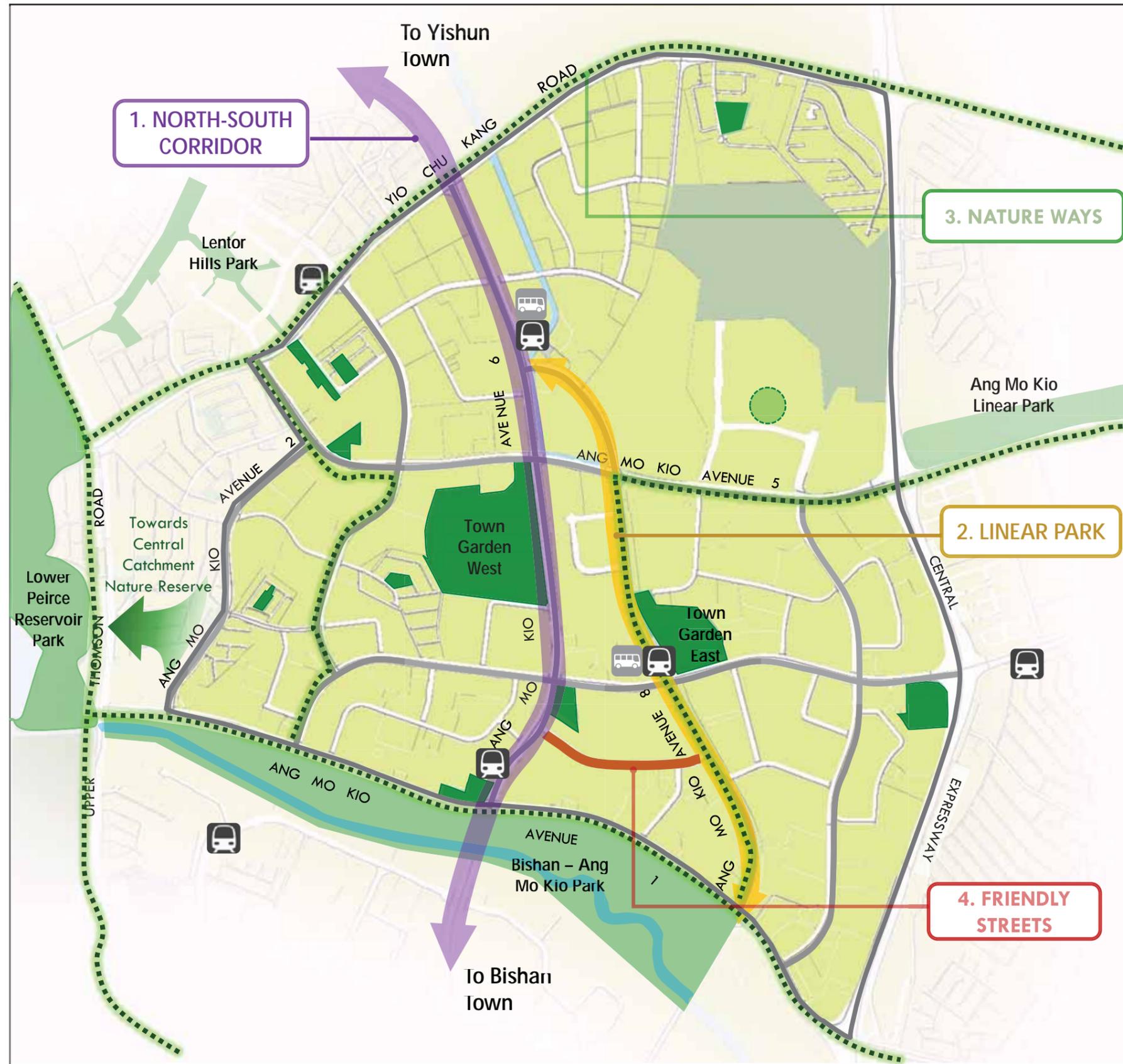
Parks and Waterbodies



There is a hierarchy of parks and open spaces planned for Ang Mo Kio that range from regional parks (Bishan – Ang Mo Kio Park), town parks (Town Garden West), neighbourhood parks (Cheng San Town Park) to precinct greens. Each neighbourhood is served by a neighbourhood park (based on the neighbourhood concept) which is within easy reach for the residents.

These spaces are valuable green assets of the town and future developments are encouraged to respond in a sensitive manner.

Key Corridors



This map depicts the following key corridors in the town:

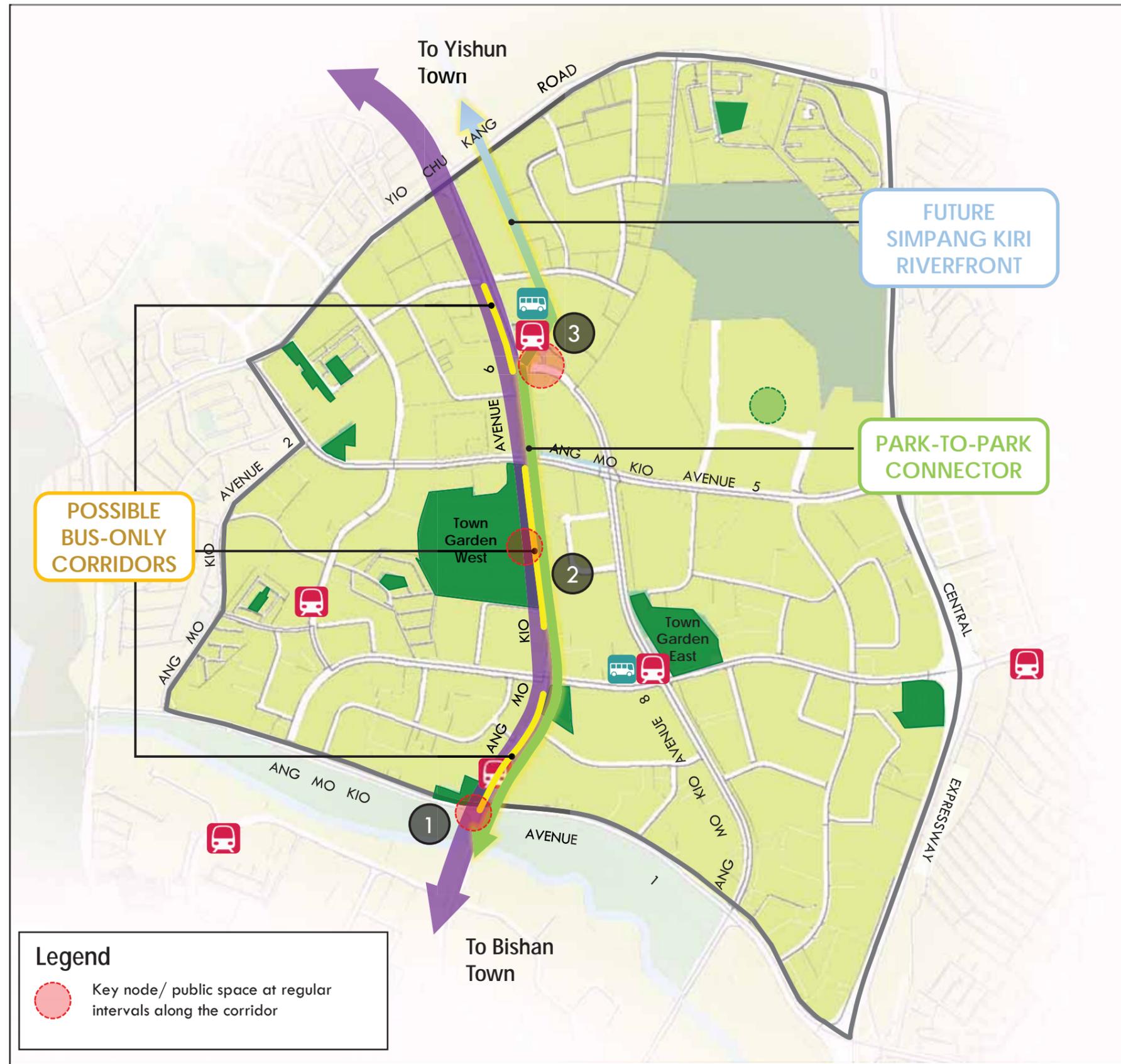
1. **North-South Corridor** that provides direct connection to Yishun and Bishan;
2. **Linear Park along Avenue 8** with facilities and a cycling path connecting the northern and southern parts of Ang Mo Kio;
3. **Nature Ways** along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1, Avenue 5 and Yio Chu Kang Road with thematic landscaping;
4. **Friendly Streets along Ang Mo Kio Street 31** that make the road safer and more people-friendly for all road users in their daily commute.

Key Corridors are distinctive corridors that contribute to way-finding, orientation and imageable identity for the town. They typically serve vehicular circulation, encourage active mobility and have high walkability, as part of the ongoing move towards being car-lite.

Corridors can also be planned as Transit Priority Corridors (TPC), which typically consist of bus lanes, wider footpaths and dedicated cycling or shared paths.

Adjacent developments can consider using the design strategies to respond, connect or engage with the key corridors, to strengthen the corridor's character and enhance connectivity in the town.

Key Corridor: North-South Corridor at Avenue 6



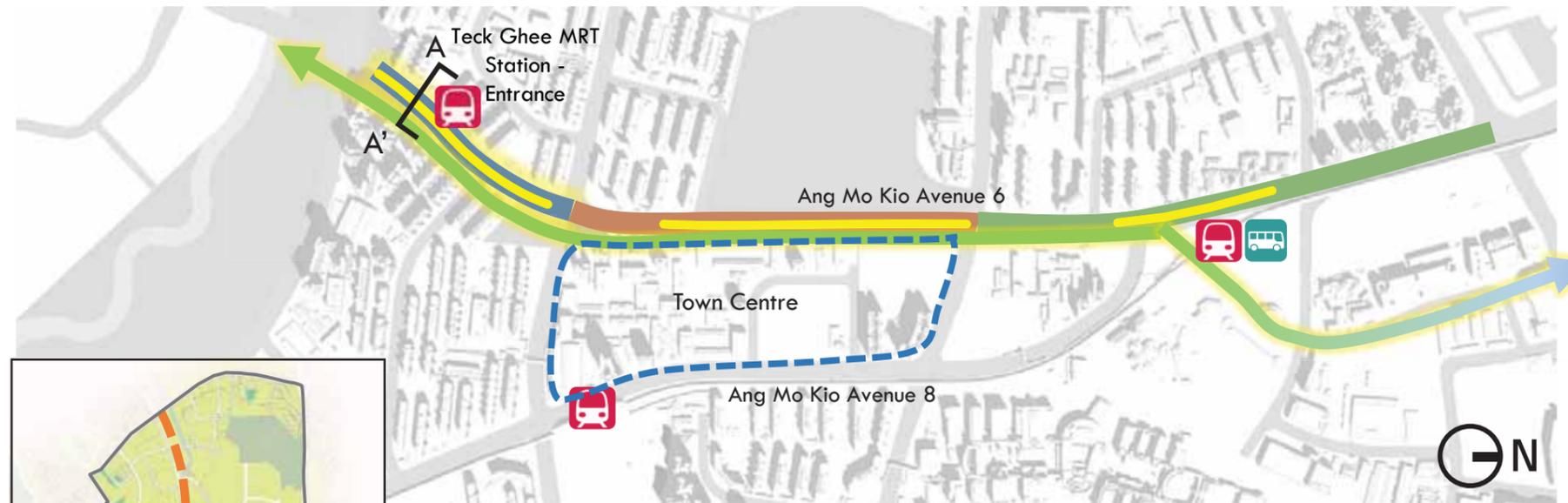
The North-South Corridor (NSC) will enhance connectivity between the North and the city. The NSC comprises the NSC Expressway (Viaduct and Tunnel) and the NSC ground-level streets. With vehicular traffic diverted to the NSC viaduct and tunnel, ground-level road carriageway can be right-sized and the repurposed road space can be used for wider footpaths, dedicated cycling paths, bus priority measures, as well as more communal and green spaces.

The NSC will also connect to existing parks and park connectors in the region, providing more opportunities for recreation. The freed-up surface spaces also give us an opportunity to work with stakeholders to co-create features and amenities such as play/rest areas, greenery and community event spaces.



Artist impression of the North-South Corridor (NSC) along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6

Key Corridor: North-South Corridor at Avenue 6

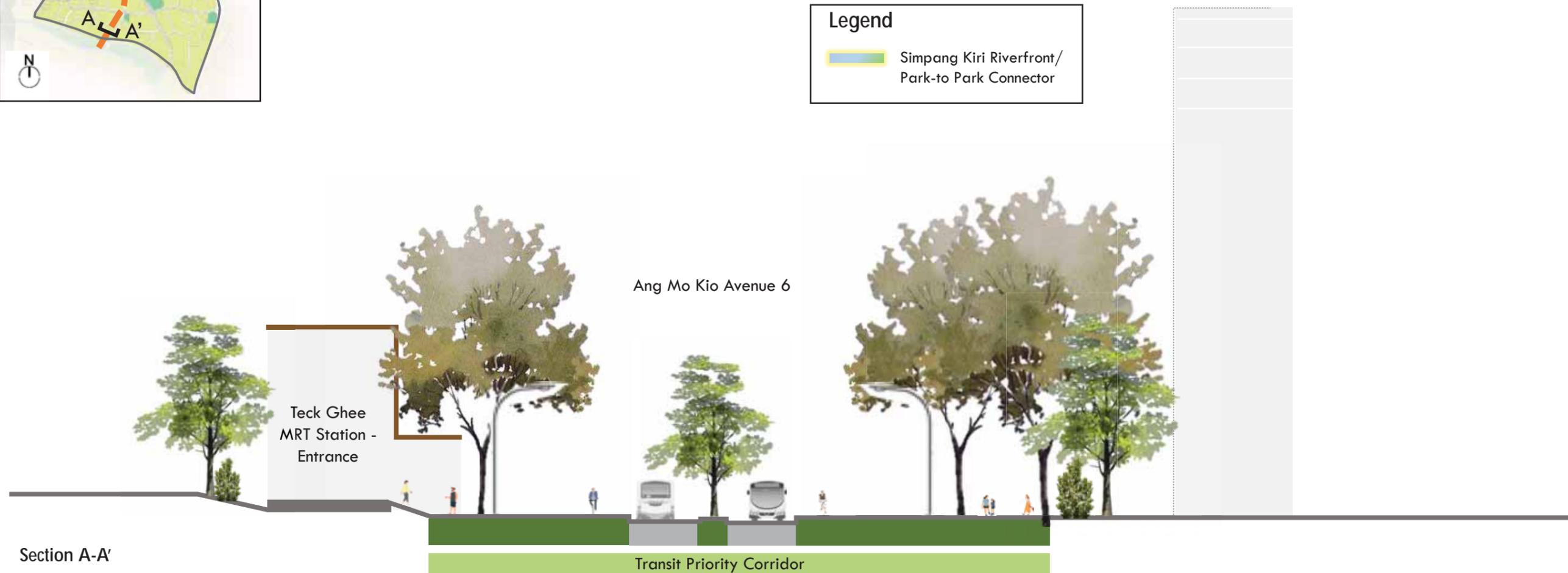


Legend

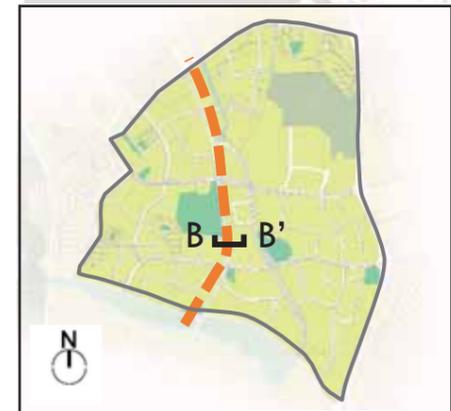
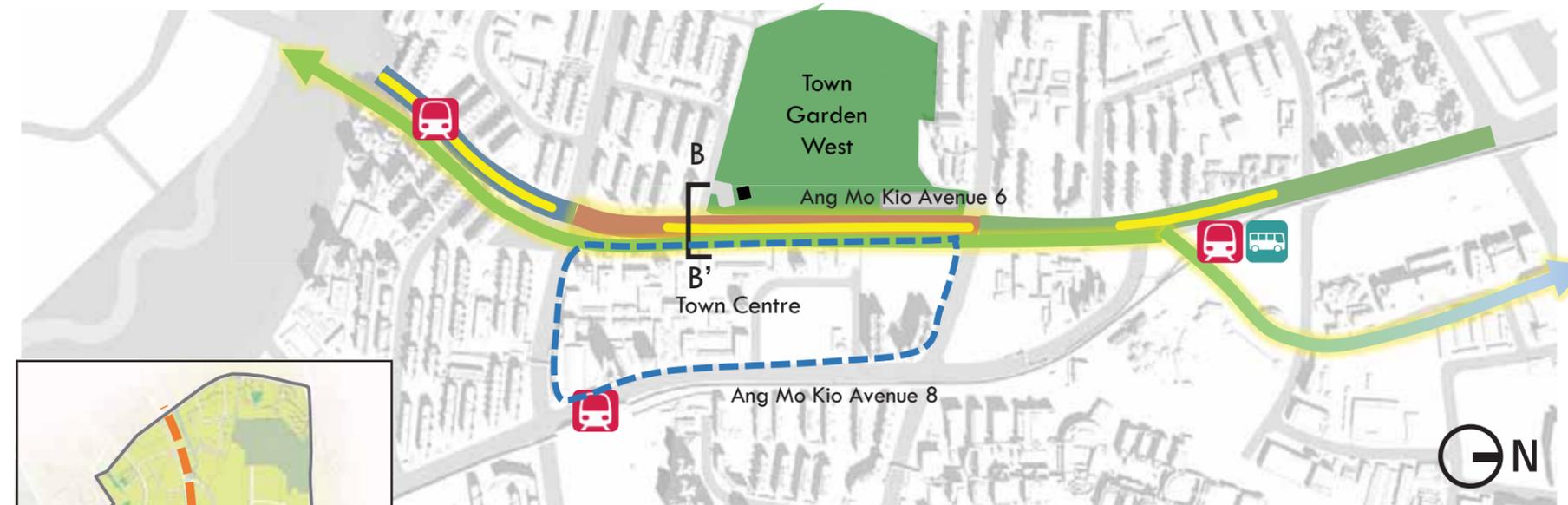
- Simpang Kiri Riverfront/ Park-to Park Connector

1 Activation of 1.5km recreation spine at residential developments

Residents can come together to enjoy the greenery and forge new ties with their neighbours. With various community activities and pocket spaces along the way, a dynamic park-to-park connector at the eastern side of the North-South Corridor will be created for tree-planting and social nodes.



Key Corridor: North-South Corridor at Avenue 6



Legend

- — Simpang Kiri Riverfront/
Park-to Park Connector

2 Activation of 1.5km recreation spine at Town Centre

At the Ang Mo Kio Town Centre, the park-to-park connector would serve the town's diverse user groups and generations of residents. The Town Centre is also conceived as a key pitstop for cyclists traveling from the North to South of Singapore.



Artist's impression of the new play corridor at Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6



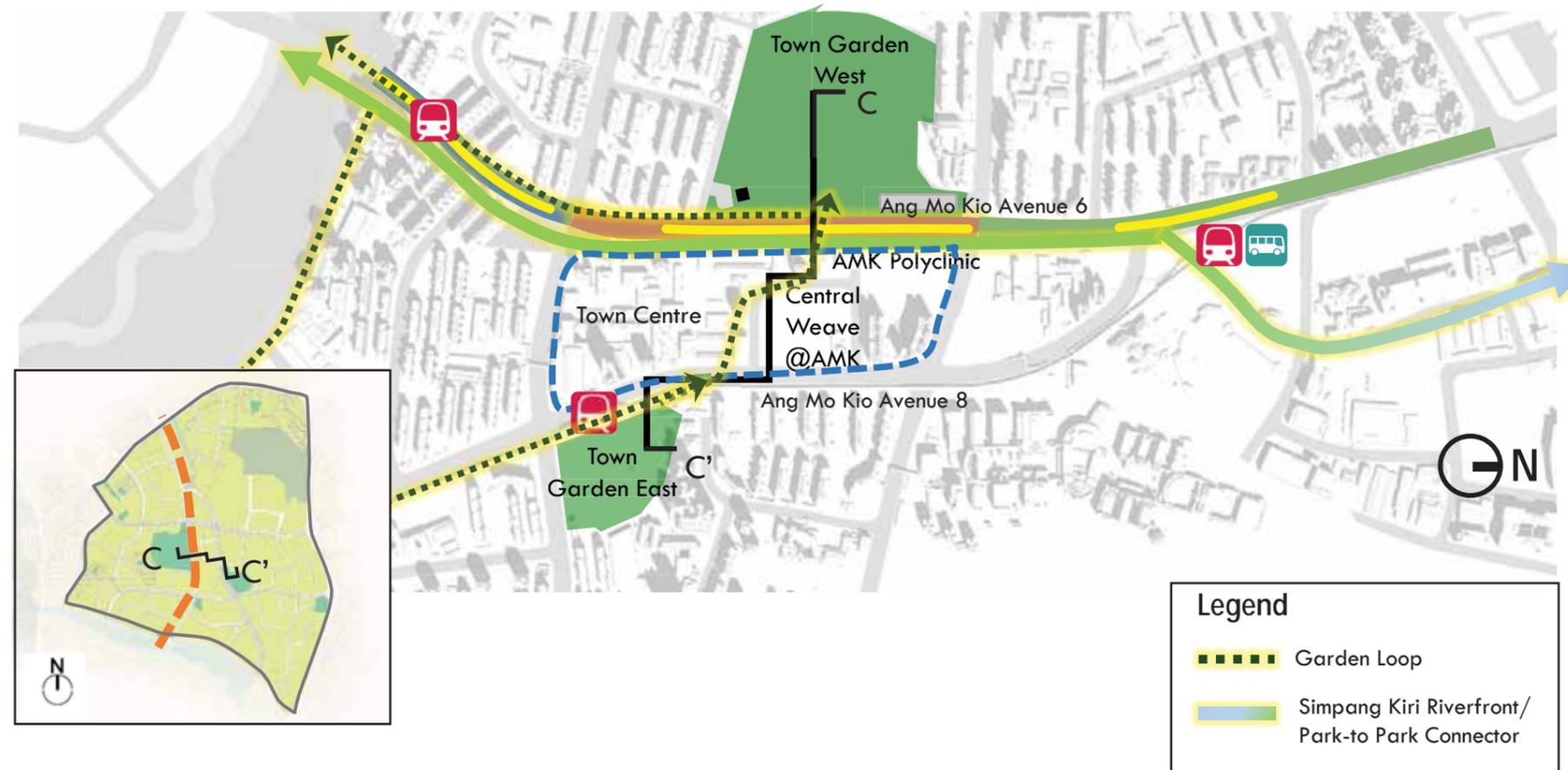
Section B-B'

Transit Priority Corridor

ROH works

Broadway Plaza

Key Corridor: North-South Corridor at Avenue 6



2 Activation of 1.5km recreation spine at Town Centre

The upgrading of the Town Garden West and Town Garden East would encourage active lifestyle and bring communities together. A variety of activity nodes will be sensitively introduced, to create spaces for residents to interact and form stronger bonds among the community.

A new recreational Garden Loop will connect the town gardens and Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, through the town centre. The route will tap on the North-South Corridor along Ang Mo Kio Ave 6 and the linear park along Ang Mo Kio Ave 8.

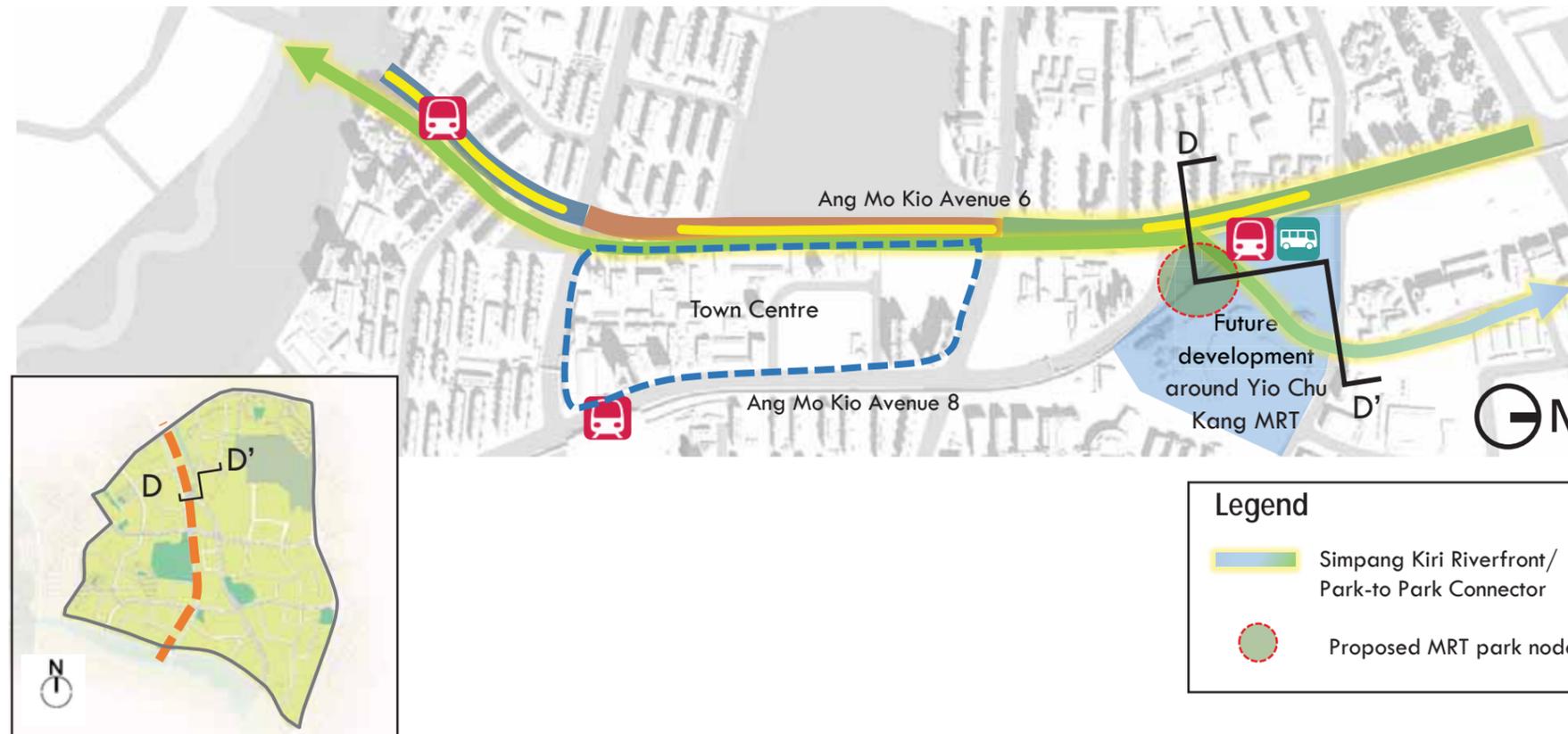


Artist's impression of the activity nodes at the peak of the hill at Town Garden West



Section C-C'

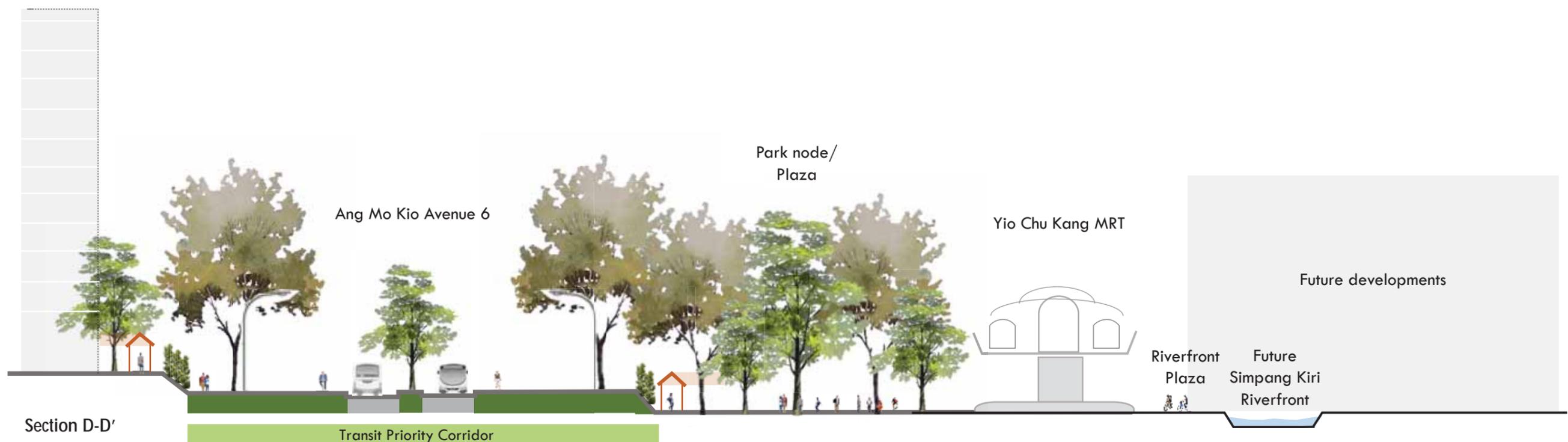
Key Corridor: North-South Corridor at Avenue 6



3 Integration of future uses around wellness concept

A vibrant node with exciting new developments around Yio Chu Kang MRT will focus on the wellness concept, to integrate future uses such as hospital, sports/recreation and the riverfront.

Agencies are exploring ways to enhance the pedestrian experience in the area with more direct connections between the MRT park node and future developments.



Key Corridors: Avenue 8 Linear Park and Nature Ways



Existing cycling path under MRT viaduct along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8



Nature Way along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5

Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8 Linear Park will be part of the Ang Mo Kio Walking and Cycling Town. When completed, it will connect users from Yio Chu Kang MRT station to Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park. It will also include several activity nodes along the linear park, such as a play and fitness area and commercial spaces.

New developments should maintain a high degree of porosity towards the Linear Park and adopt terraced building forms to break up wall-like massing where possible.

Landscaped public spaces could be introduced along the housing blocks fronting Linear Park and other Nature Ways to enhance the greenery and contribute to the recreational use of the corridor.

Soft street edges with lush planting can complement the mature shade giving road side trees, and contribute to the Linear Park and other Nature Ways.



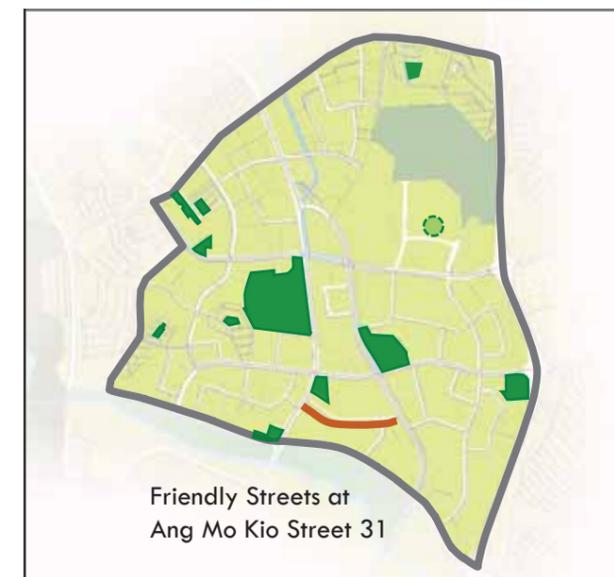
Key Corridor: Friendly Streets in Ang Mo Kio



Artist's impression of wider and barrier-free paths and crossings for a more pleasant environment

Ang Mo Kio Street 31 is one of the 5 Friendly Streets pilots by Land Transport Authority to make it more inclusive and pedestrian-friendly for residents to move about their neighbourhood. Residents can expect features such as a raised zebra crossing, quicker green man activation, longer green man time, narrowed roads and traffic-calming measures to slow cars down.

These will benefit residents including seniors, persons with disabilities and families with young children by creating safer, more convenient and comfortable journeys to key amenities in their neighbourhood, thus improving overall accessibility.



Key Nodes and Junctions



1 AMK Hub



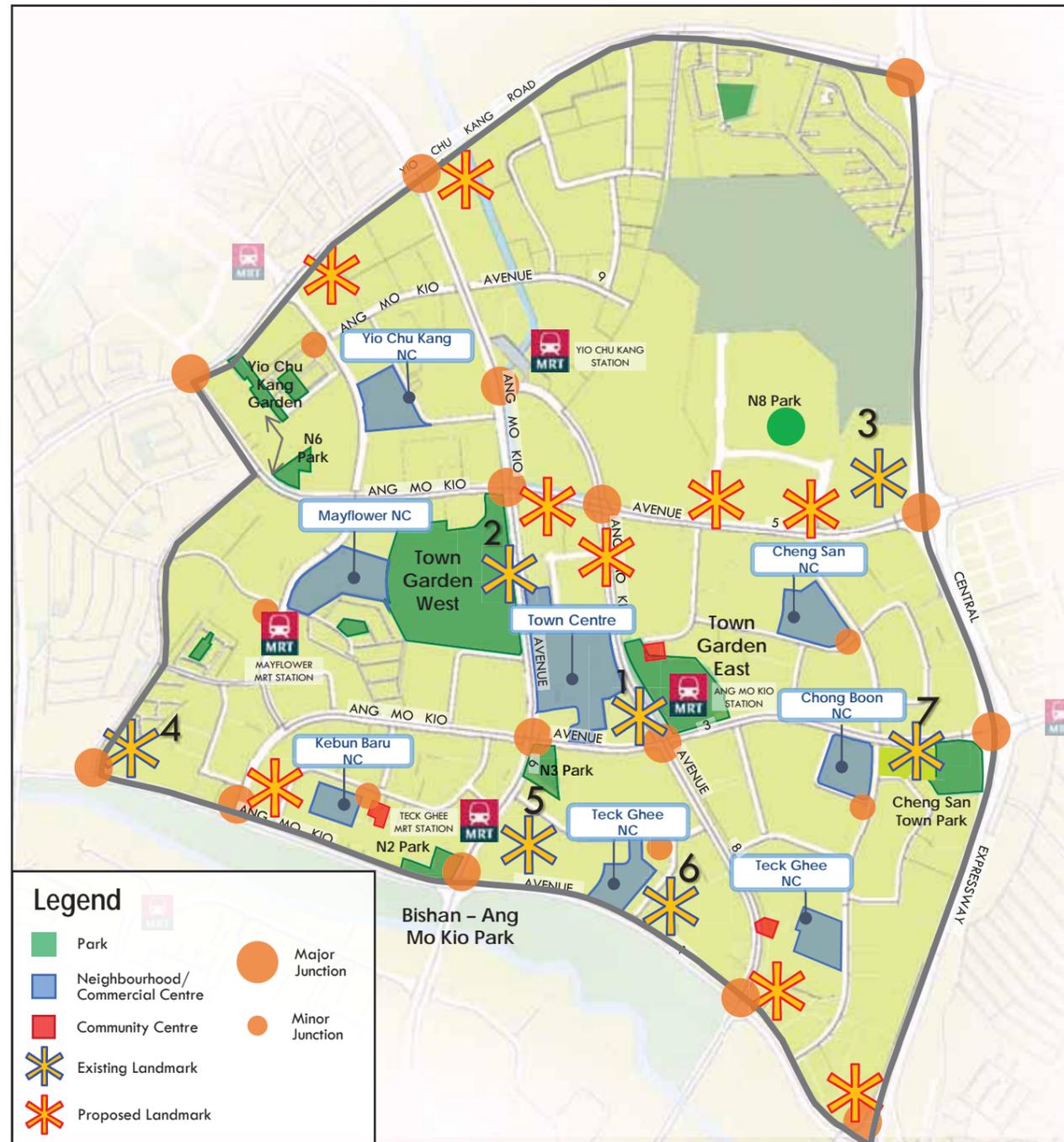
2 Town Garden West



3 ITE College Central



4 Blk 259 (Clover Block)



5 Teck Ghee Vista



6 AMK Swimming Complex



7 Teck Ghee Parkview

Key nodes are areas that have community-related spaces and/ or commercial facilities that attract users, such as parks, commercial centres and community centres.

Some key nodes are also landmarks that residents feel strongly represent Ang Mo Kio, such as Ang Mo Kio Town Centre, Town Gardens West and East. There will also be future landmark developments introduced as part of the ROH programme. These spaces contribute to a sense of town identity and new developments should respond to these nodes through strategies such as visual and pedestrian connectivity and architectural approach etc.

Key junctions mark major navigational points and gateways between neighbourhoods and near key nodes. Adjacent developments can adopt corner treatments to further define these junctions as visual reference points in the town.

Heritage Elements



Kebun Baru Bird Singing Club is one of the last few remaining bird singing corners left in Singapore



Town Garden West was designed to accommodate the original vegetation and terrain from the area, with paths from the former Cheng San Road being retained



URA's 'Do It Right Guide for Heritage Interpretation'

Heritage Interpretation

Heritage interpretation is a means through which the unique history of the site can be communicated and brought alive for different audiences.

These elements should be designed with the following considerations:

- Visually delightful and engaging, giving new life to historical narratives
- Well integrated within the development and prominently located along key pedestrian routes, nodal spaces or within the precinct green.
- Easily appreciated by different age groups
- Accompanied by short text descriptors or captions to explain the historical inspiration

Examples of heritage interpretation elements could include, but are not limited to:

- Murals
- Photo walls
- Thematic playgrounds
- Street furniture
- Wayfinding elements
- Architectural design of the building form, facade or interior spaces

Refer to [URA's 'Do It Right Guide for Heritage Interpretation'](#) for more examples.

Art Elements



Local rendition of the *Mona Lisa* eating durians, at the Town Centre



Tomato sculptures at Ang Mo Kio Central Heights

Art elements add delight and help to foster a sense of belonging. To strengthen the identity and memorability of the town, art elements can take reference from the context of the town and site, e.g. history, environment and town/ sub-themes, where applicable, and consider engaging residents and local artists to create the artworks.

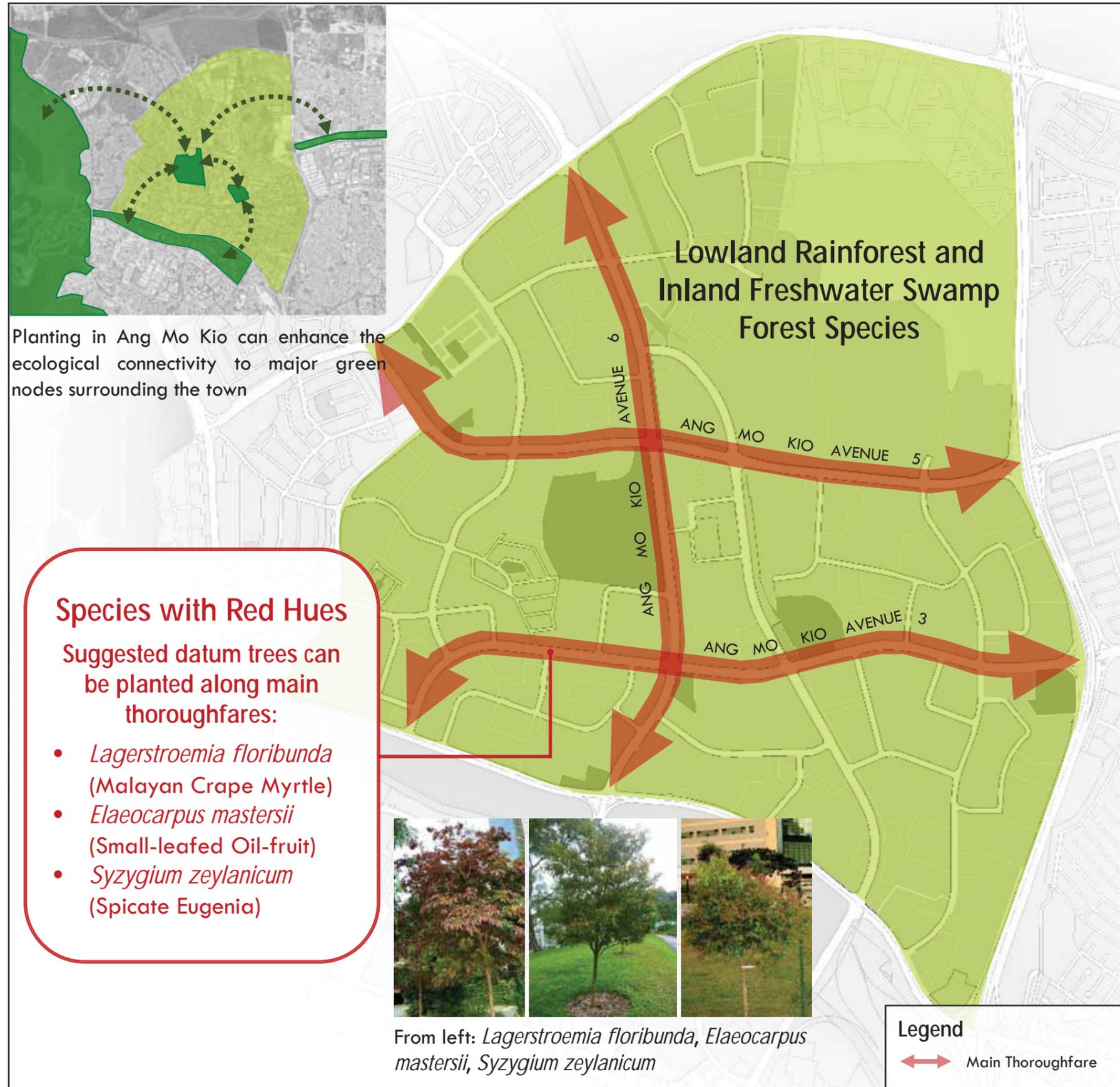


Mural at the Ang Mo Kio Town Centre by Merchants Association



Mural at the Ang Mo Kio Town Centre with references to tomatoes and bird singing

Broad Landscape Theme



NParks' landscape concept for Ang Mo Kio seeks to bring out a native and naturalistic quality, and enhance the ecological connectivity to surrounding green nodes. A mix of lowland rainforest and inland freshwater swamp forest habitats will provide potential linkages to existing habitats in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve and Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park. The multi-tiered streetscape planting concept can also be extended into the periphery of housing estates.

Main thoroughfares (Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3, Avenue 5 and Avenue 6) through the town are also identified with specific landscaping that will strengthen the identity of the town. Adoption of species with flowers and foliage with reddish hues will create a sense of entry and enrich the streetscape. The plants' red hues will also reflect the literal translation of 'Ang' in Ang Mo Kio. Stakeholders are encouraged to extend this feature into the green buffer of adjacent developments.



Artist's impression of proposed streetscape planting along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3

Contents

Town Scale

- Context and History
- Planning Principles
- Town Theme and Concept
- Pedestrian and Cycling Connectivity
- Parks and Waterbodies
- Key Corridors
- Key Nodes and Junctions
- Heritage Elements
- Art Elements
- Broad Landscape Theme

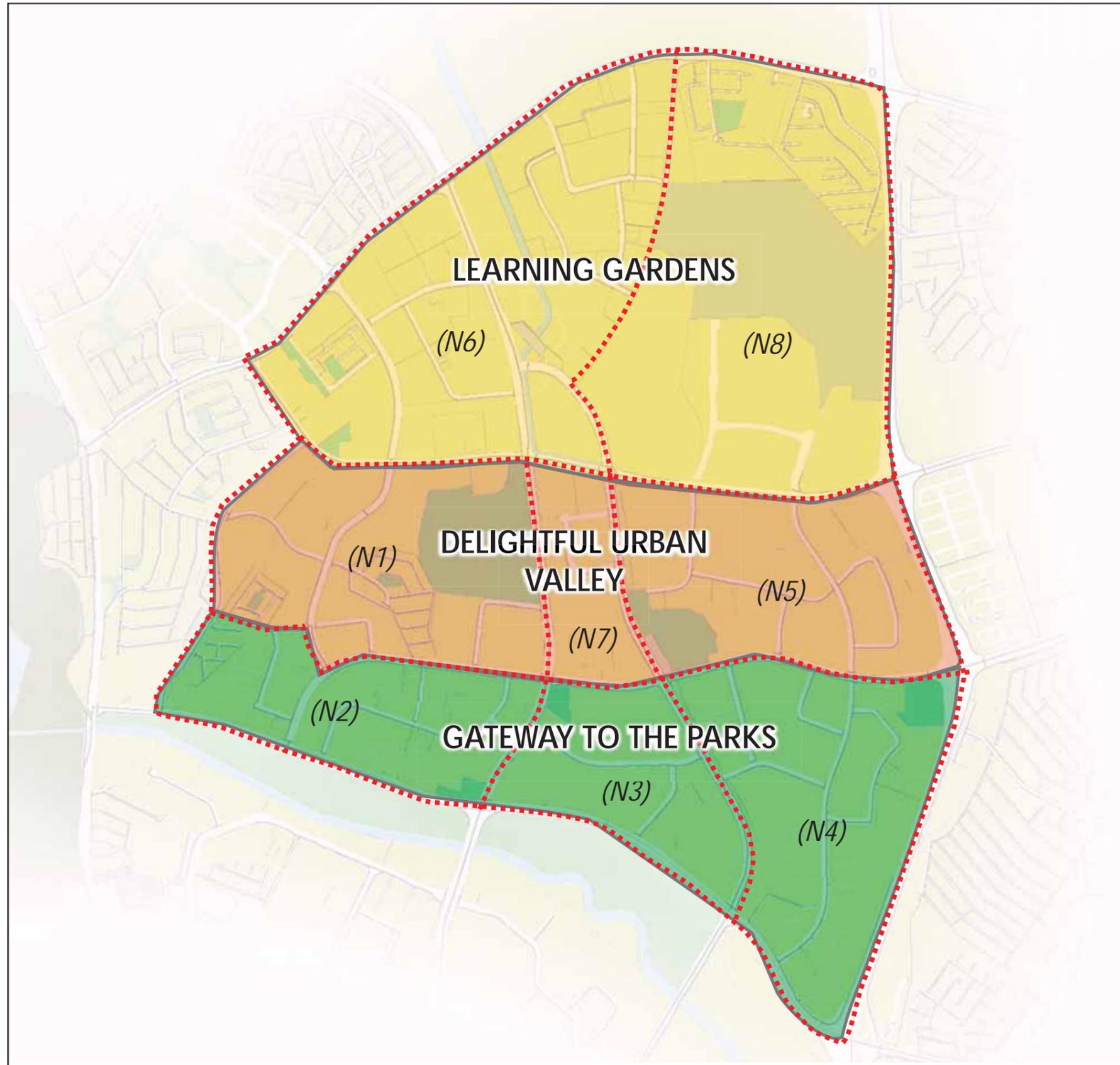
Neighbourhood Scale

- Sub-themes and Concepts
 - Form and Massing
 - Public Spaces
 - Streetscape and Urban Edge
 - Colour Palette
 - Facade and Roofscape
 - Landscape Approach

Precinct Scale

- Precinct Facilities
- Playgrounds
- Street Furniture
- Wayfinding
- Covered Linkway Design

Sub-themes and Concepts



Sub-themes are based on existing context, such as social and physical features, that are prevalent within the different areas.

3 Distinct Areas

Based on the prevalent characteristics, the 3 areas are given specific sub-themes which also relate to the overall Ang Mo Kio town theme of 'Bridging Nature and Communities'.

Developments in each area can take reference from both the Ang Mo Kio town theme and the corresponding sub-theme in their concept and design. This will help to strengthen the identity of each area:

- **Delightful Urban Valley:** Neighbourhoods 1, 5, 7 (Town Centre)
- **Gateway to the Parks:** Neighbourhoods 2, 3, 4
- **Learning Gardens:** Neighbourhoods 6, 8

Neighbourhood Scale Layers

Each of the neighbourhood scale layers should take into consideration the respective sub-themes, in order to create a strong and coherent identity for each area.

Form and Massing

Form and massing can be designed based on the sub-themes and site context to create urban landscapes and landmarks.

Streetscape and Urban Edge

Paying careful attention to the design and treatment of the streetscape can enhance the experience of the users moving along a street or through a space.

Examples of streetscape treatment:

- Forms that front the street
- Street level activities
- Landscaping and shelters
- Pocket spaces along the street
- Pedestrian-friendly connections

Facade and Roofscape

The facade and roofscape of a development are distinct elements of its architectural design. When different developments in an area take reference from the sub-theme, it can contribute to the identity of the area.

Public Spaces

To encourage social interaction and community bonding, public spaces can be designed to be welcoming and vibrant. Such spaces include community plazas, and areas with facilities.

Landscape Approach

The use of plants, as defined by planting concepts and strategies, strengthens the identity of a precinct and neighbourhood. The shape, form and colour of plants can also assist in defining a space through repetition and scale.

As each thematic area is made up of varying extents of vacant land and existing developments, the Neighbourhood Scale Layers will be customised to suit the needs of each area.

Where there are sizeable areas with the opportunity for development, all the neighbourhood scale layers will apply.

Where areas are predominantly made up of existing developments, the emphasis can be in the design of public spaces.

Neighbourhood Scale Layers

Colour Palette

Colours can greatly enhance identity. Used consistently across precincts, colour palettes can help to reinforce the identity of an area. The suggested colour palette for each area in a town draws reference from its sub-theme. It consists of:

- **Primary Colours**
Unify the identity of the town, and form the main base of the colour scheme (55–70% of painted area)
- **Secondary Colours**
Complement the primary colours (20–30% of painted area)
- **Accent Colours**
Highlight certain architectural features on facades (such as fins, ledges, canopies, spandrels, selected parts of gable end walls, etc.) and precinct facilities (10–15% of painted area)

Application of Colour Palettes

For the colour scheme of each development, it is recommended to use:

- Building Facades: 2 primary colours, 1 or more secondary colour(s), and 1 or more accent colour(s)
- Precinct Facilities: 1 or more accent colour(s)



Examples of the application of colour palettes on facades

Neighbourhood Scale Layers

Summary of Colour Palettes for Ang Mo Kio

Based on the 'Bridging Nature and Communities' town theme, the suggested colour palettes of the 3 distinct areas in Ang Mo Kio are inspired by elements of the sub-themes. Please refer to each area for the details of its suggested colour palette.

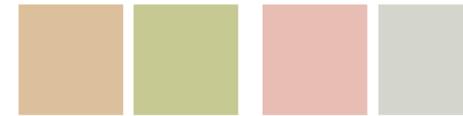


Ang Mo Kio (Central)
Delightful Urban Valley

Primary Colours



Secondary Colours



EAST

WEST

Accent Colours



Ang Mo Kio (South)
Gateway To The Parks



Ang Mo Kio (North)
Learning Gardens



Ang Mo Kio (Central) – Delightful Urban Valley



Ang Mo Kio Town Centre located in between the Town Garden East (foreground) and the Town Garden West (right side in the background)



Tomato sculpture at Ang Mo Kio Central Heights



Artist's impression of the Ang Mo Kio MRT interchange station



Honeycomb facade at Mayflower MRT Station entrance

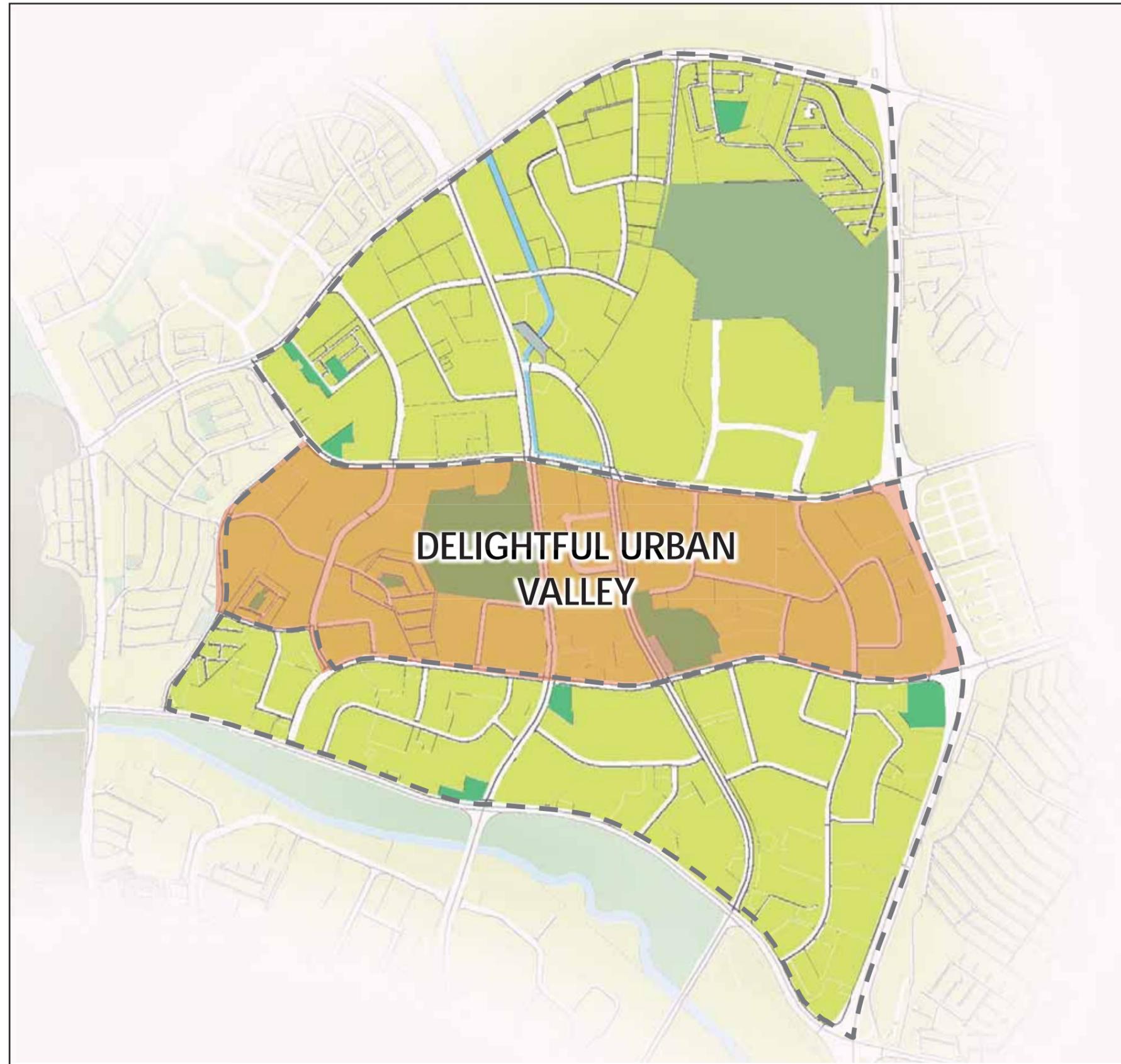
Sub-theme and Concept

Ang Mo Kio (Central) is home to several delightful public spaces, marked by signature design elements which have become familiar features welcoming residents home. Some examples include the Tomato sculpture at Ang Mo Kio Central Heights, and the perforated "lantern" design of the MRT station entrances.



| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| TOWN CENTRE | CONNECTION | VIBRANT |
| HIGH-LOW FORMS | DELIGHTFUL URBAN VALLEY | HILLOCKS |
| GARDEN LOOP | | TOWN GARDENS |
| COMMERCIAL HUB | WONDROUS | UNDULATING |
| | | MODERN |
| | | 40 |

Ang Mo Kio (Central) – Delightful Urban Valley



Sub-theme and Concept

Planning and Design Considerations

- Transform Ang Mo Kio Town Centre into a vibrant hub by enhancing pedestrian accessibility to the surrounding Town Gardens, key facilities and community spaces with the following strategies:
 - a) Strengthen existing corridors and enhance accessibility to the Town Centre, by providing a comprehensive and seamless pedestrian network
 - a) Rejuvenate surrounding facilities and community spaces to enhance the vibrancy of the Town Centre

Ang Mo Kio (Central) – Delightful Urban Valley



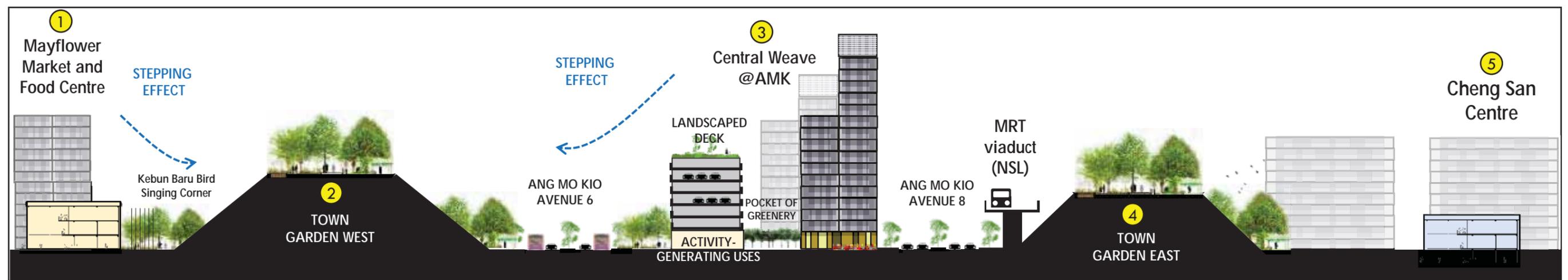
The residential blocks at City View @ Cheng San (background) form a visual contrast with the natural terrain at Town Garden East on the right of Ang Mo Kio MRT Station



Artist's impression of Central Weave @ AMK from Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8

Form and Massing

- Use of contrasting high-low building forms (residential blocks and multi-storey car parks)
- Create landmarks such as tower blocks to front key facilities and community spaces



Section AA'

Ang Mo Kio (Central) – Delightful Urban Valley

Public Spaces

- Creation of intimate-scaled public spaces enveloped in a naturalistic environment and lush greenery with multi-generational facilities
- Introduce new pocket parks or community nodes to enliven the spaces and provide opportunities for residents to bond and interact



Artist's impression of the redeveloped existing playground near McDonald's at Town Garden West with nature playgardens to connect children to the natural environment



Artist's impression of the new linear park between Ang Mo Kio Polyclinic and Blk 730 with therapeutic gardens and wellness facilities

Ang Mo Kio (Central) – Delightful Urban Valley



Artist's impression of the play corridor along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6 as part of ROH works

Streetscape and Urban Edge

- Distinctive urban edge along main roads with greenery and play elements
- Active and porous streetscape along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6 to tie in with the North-South Corridor sidewalks
- Sheltered pedestrian connectivity or verandah between residential blocks to strengthen urban edge along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8

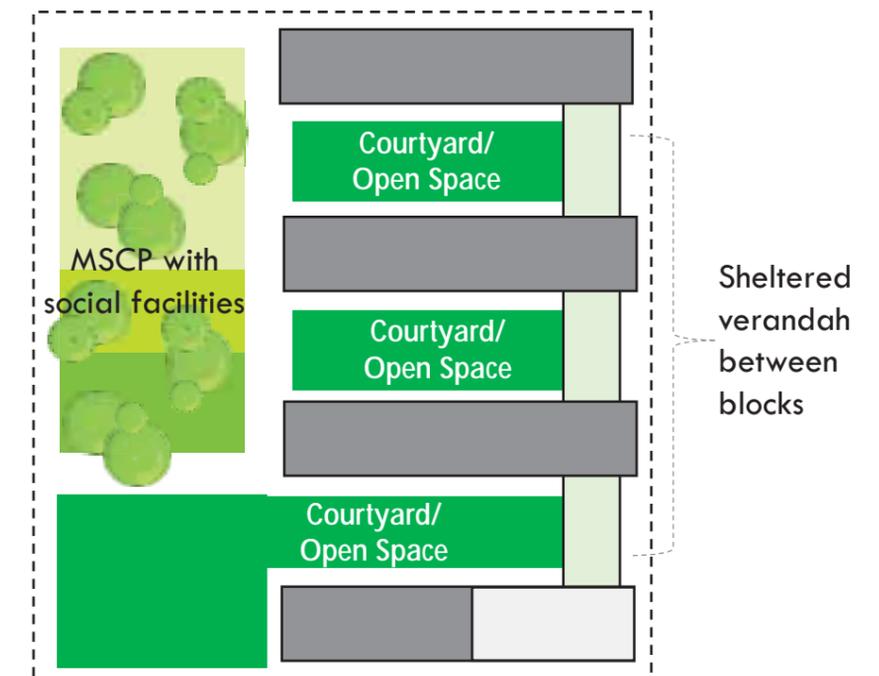


Diagram showing sheltered connectivity/ verandah between blocks along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8

Ang Mo Kio (Central) – Delightful Urban Valley

Colour Palette

In line with the ‘Delightful Urban Valley’ sub-theme, the suggested colour palette for Ang Mo Kio Central consists of rustic brown and green tones. These reference the colours of a natural valley.

Additional accents of red and terracotta create a warm and welcoming environment for residents and visitors while paying homage to Ang Mo Kio’s name and origins.

Facade and Roofscape

- Layered roof forms could reference the topography of central Ang Mo Kio
- Robust vertical facade elements could express the grounded nature of the earth



Primary Colours

Unify the identity of the area, and form the main base of the colour scheme
(choose both primary colours)



Secondary Colours

Complement the primary base colours
(choose 1 or more secondary colours)

EAST



WEST



Accent Colours

Highlight certain architectural features, such as fins, ledges, canopies, spandrels, selected parts of gable end walls, etc.

(choose 1 or more accent colours)



Artist's impression of Central Weave @ AMK, with layered roof forms



Facades with distinct red vertical elements in Blks 112 – 118 at Ang Mo Kio Avenue 4

Ang Mo Kio (Central) – Delightful Urban Valley

Landscape Approach



From left: Trees and shrubs with coloured foliage planted at the entrance of Ang Mo Kio Polyclinic; layered shrub planting creates the illusion of mounds (example from Buangkok Square Mall)



From left: *Lagerstroemia floribunda*, *Cynometra lenticellata*, *Cyrtophyllum fragrans*, *Kopsia singaporensis*

Landscape spaces can accentuate the undulating topography of the area (e.g. terracing, use of ABC Waters design features*) if there are opportunities to do so. Layered planting will also create different visual depths.

Planting Concept

- Feature planting, incorporating species with red or pink hues, used at key nodes (e.g. entrances, facilities) and along main thoroughfares
- Shade trees to supplement feature trees
- Trees and shrubs layered at different heights

Suggested Tree Species

The following list is intended as a guide for tree species selection and is not meant to be restrictive.

Feature Trees with Red/ Pink Foliage or Flowers

- *Lagerstroemia speciosa* (Rose of India)
- *Cynometra lenticellata* (Silk Handkerchief Tree)
- *Cratoxylum maingayi* (Derum)
- *Amesiodendron chinense*

Trees with Red Hues (along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3, 5 and 6)

- *Lagerstroemia floribunda* (Malayan Crape Myrtle)
- *Elaeocarpus mastersii* (Small-leafed Oil-fruit)
- *Syzygium zeylanicum* (Spicate Eugenia)

Shade Trees

- *Dyera costulata* (Jelutong)
- *Pometia pinnata* (Island Lychee)
- *Cyrtophyllum fragrans* (Tembusu)

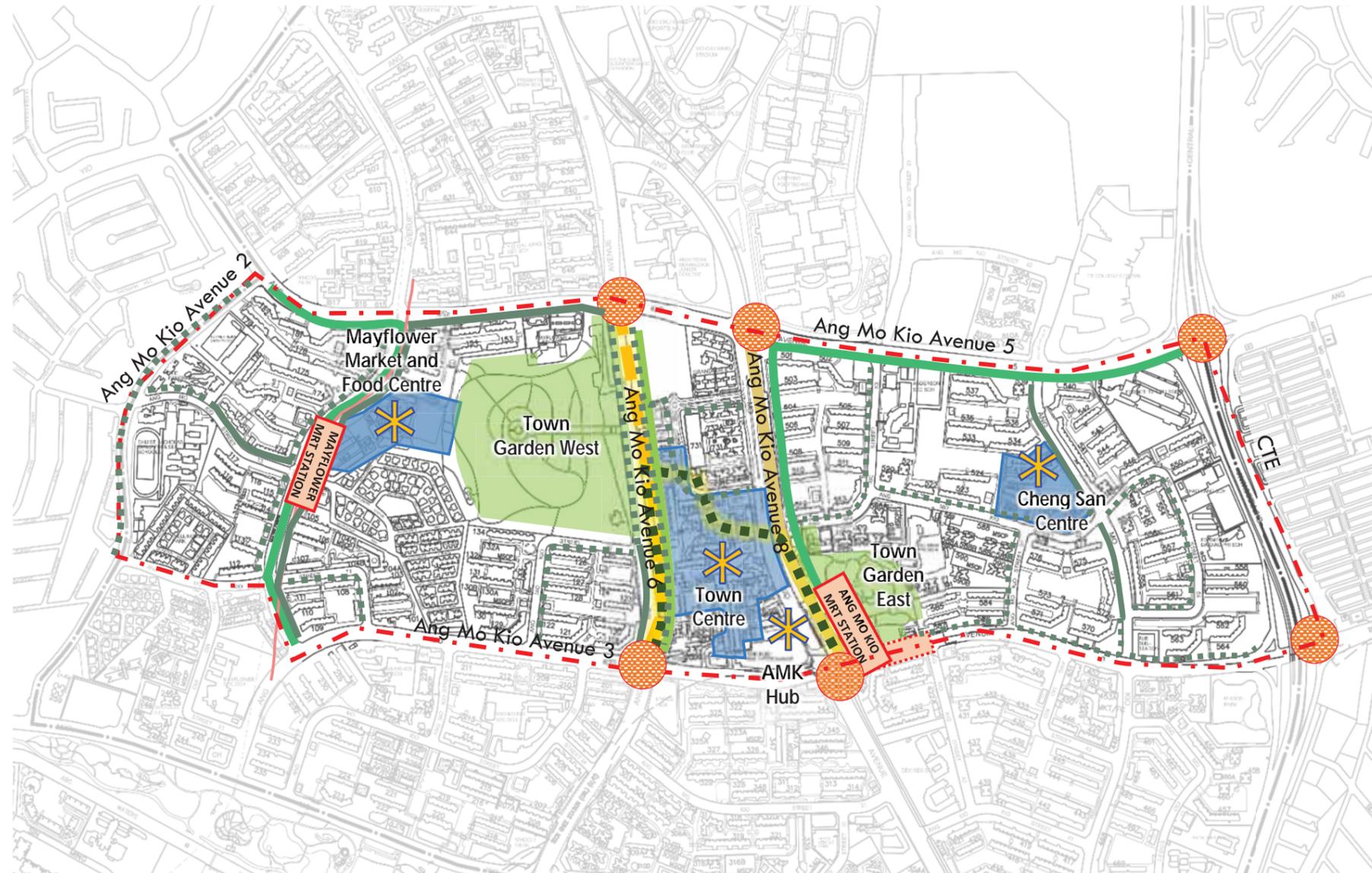
Understorey Trees

- *Kopsia singaporensis* (Singapore Kopsia)
- *Diospyros tristis*
- *Calliandra tergemina* var. *emarginata* (Red Powderpuff Plant)

* Refer to [PUB's ABC Waters Design Guidelines](#) for more information.

Ang Mo Kio (Central) – Delightful Urban Valley

Overview of Key Urban Design Considerations



Transport

EXISTING PROPOSED

MRT Station

Facilities

Neighbourhood/ Commercial Centre

Parks and Waterbodies

Park

Park Connector/ Cycling Path

Key Corridors

North-South Corridor

Park-to-park Connector

Nature Way

Linear Park

Garden Loop

Key Nodes and Junctions

Landmark

Key Junction

Ang Mo Kio (South) – Gateway to the Parks



Artist's impression of a new walking and cycling bridge across Marymount Road to improve connectivity of Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park

Sub-theme and Concept

The southern area of Ang Mo Kio is surrounded by large tracts of greenery such as the Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, Lower Peirce Reservoir Park and is close to the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. This creates a green gateway into Ang Mo Kio Town along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1.



ORGANIC GREEN CORRIDOR CURVILINEAR
HEALTH and WELLNESS GATEWAY TO THE PARKS SOUTHERN FRINGE
BY-THE-PARK CLOSE TO NATURE
ENTRY SUSTAINABILITY and GREEN

Ang Mo Kio (South) – Gateway to the Parks



Sub-theme and Concept

Planning and Design Considerations

- Design of developments along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1 should consider the gateways into Ang Mo Kio Town
- Ensure seamless connectivity to Garden Loop, a key pedestrian spine that connects residents to facilities (e.g. Town Centre) and greenery (e.g. Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, Central Catchment Nature Reserve)
- Create a tranquil residential environment that has naturalistic, organic community spaces

Ang Mo Kio (South) – Gateway to the Parks



View of Teck Ghee Vista fronting Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park



Ang Mo Kio Court – vibrant courtyard with lush green spaces

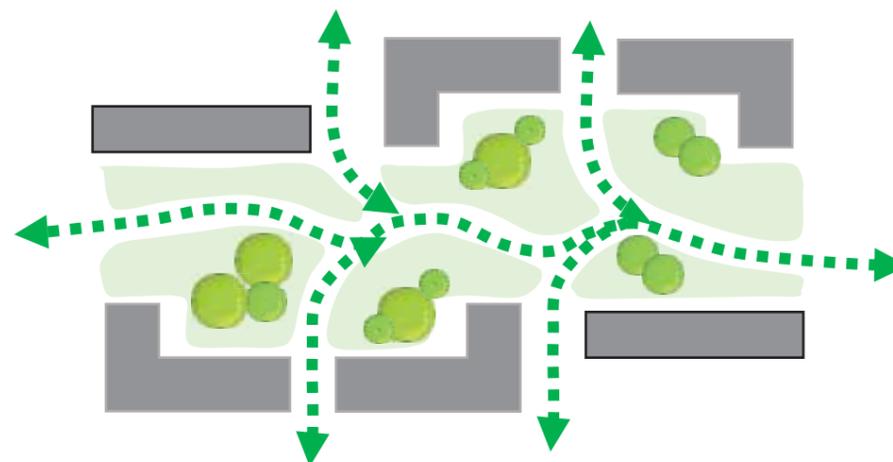


Diagram showing continuous courtyards between blocks created by interlocking urban forms

Form and Massing

- Developments fronting the surrounding parks (i.e. Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park/ Lower Peirce Reservoir Park) shall adopt a terracing or staggered form, stepping down to capitalise on views and create a distinctive urban skyline of high and low blocks that generates a sense of orientation
- Use of courtyard forms with soft edges of nature and *kampung* living
- Avoid wall-like massing by maintaining visual and physical porosity between blocks

Ang Mo Kio (South) – Gateway to the Parks

Public Spaces

- Use of porous and voluminous ground spaces that leads to social nodes or well-landscaped and vibrant open spaces
- Architectural elements such as welcoming spaces or plazas should signify the entrance and provide a distinctive character of the area

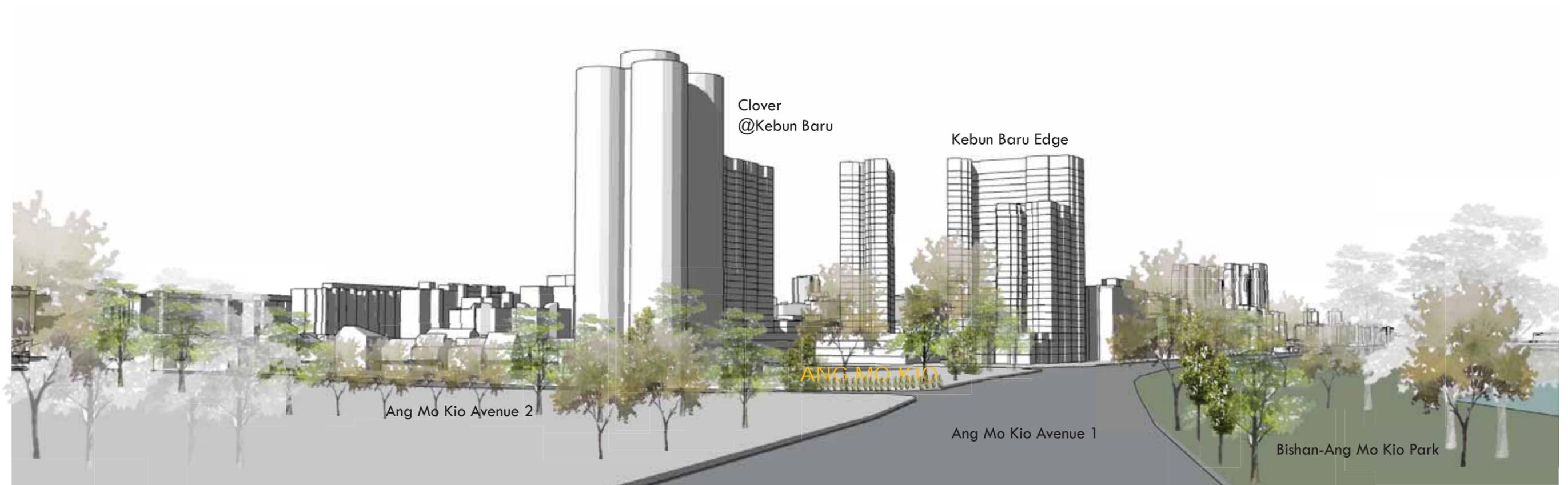


Artist's impression of the upgraded spaces of Teck Ghee Square (left) and Chong Boon Centre (right) with possible features like sheltered seating and new flooring treatment

Ang Mo Kio (South) – Gateway to the Parks

Streetscape and Urban Edge

- Verdant landscaped edge with community nodes/precinct facilities located along the Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park to create a porous and organic streetscape with sensory features, which synergises with the park uses
- Entrance points to the parks should be seamless and have good wayfinding towards the parks
- Creation of lushly landscaped and serene walking paths to extend the tranquility of the parks into the neighbourhood



Artist's impression of the building skyline view at the junction of Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1 and Avenue 2

Ang Mo Kio (South) – Gateway to the Parks

Colour Palette

In line with the ‘Gateway to the Parks’ sub-theme, the suggested colour palette for Ang Mo Kio South has cool shades of green and blue which reference the lush landscape of Bishan-Ang Mo Kio park.

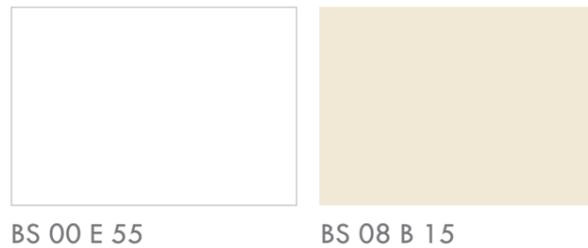
Soothing silver and grey tones also reflect the surrounding urban fabric while providing a calm and unassuming backdrop to nature.

Facade and Roofscape

- Facade and roof designs could be articulated with organic forms to highlight the close proximity to water and greenery
- Nature-related motifs and patterns could be used to enhance the visual identity of Ang Mo Kio South as a gateway to the parks

Primary Colours

Unify the identity of the area, and form the main base of the colour scheme
(choose both primary colours)



Secondary Colours

Complement the primary base colours
(choose 1 or more secondary colours)



Accent Colours

Highlight certain architectural features, such as fins, ledges, canopies, spandrels, selected parts of gable end walls, etc.
(choose 1 or more accent colours)



Horizontal bands in shades of green and grey as displayed in the artist's impression of Kebun Baru Edge



Sculpted wavy facade fins of varying sizes in Teck Ghee Parkview

Ang Mo Kio (South) – Gateway to the Parks



From left: Wide canopy trees along a jogging track (example from Park Aquaria); meandering landscape space with mixed planting (example from Blossom Spring @ Yishun); flowering species used to highlight the roof garden entrance (example from Alkaff Vista)



From left: *Millettia pinnata*, *Cratoxylum cochinchinense*, *Cratoxylum formosum*, *Saraca declinata*

Landscape Approach

Relating to the surrounding parks, proposed landscape spaces can be more organic and meandering with a naturalistic quality.

Planting Concept

- Trees with spreading canopies around key facilities and pathways
- Species with finer leaf blades and soft textures
- Mixed planting in naturalistic groupings
- Use of bright ornamental flowers as accents
- Species with flowers and foliage that have reddish hues along main thoroughfares

Suggested Tree Species

The following list is intended as a guide for tree species selection and is not meant to be restrictive.

Trees with Wide Canopies

- *Millettia pinnata* (Seashore Mempari)
- *Pometia pinnata* (Island Lychee)
- *Filicium decipiens* (Fern Tree)

Trees with Fine Foliage

- *Cratoxylum cochinchinense* (Red Mempat)
- *Cratoxylum formosum* (Pink Mempat)
- *Dalbergia latifolia* (Indian Rosewood)

Trees with Bright Flowers

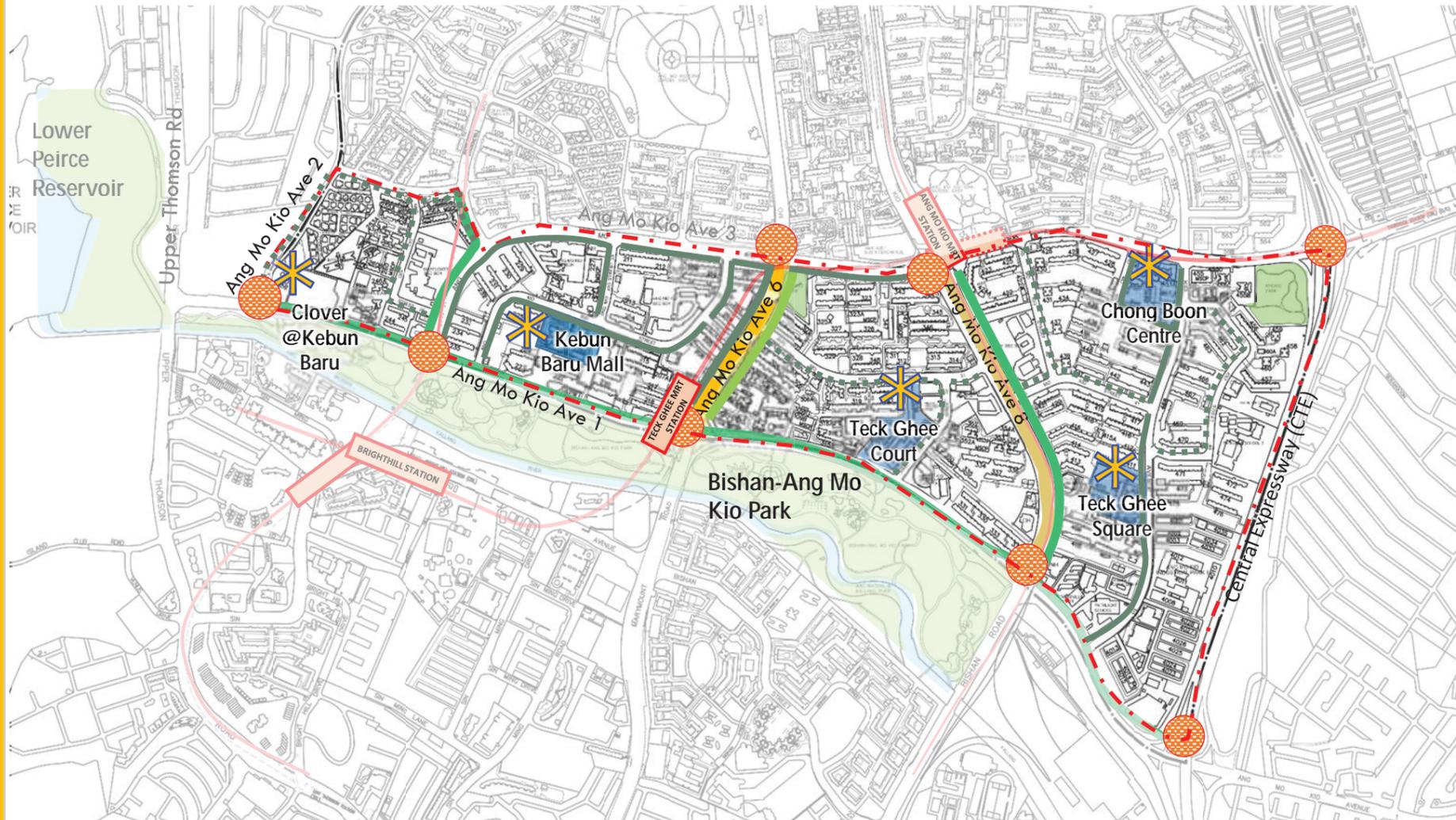
- *Saraca declinata* (Red Saraca)
- *Dillenia excelsa* (Purple Simpoh)
- *Xanthostemon verdugonianus* (Red Penda)

Trees with Red Hues (along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3 and 6)

- *Lagerstroemia floribunda* (Malayan Crape Myrtle)
- *Elaeocarpus mastersii* (Small-leafed Oil-fruit)
- *Syzygium zeylanicum* (Spicate Eugenia)

Ang Mo Kio (South) – Gateway to the Parks

Overview of Key Urban Design Considerations



Transport

EXISTING PROPOSED

MRT Station

Facilities

Neighbourhood/ Commercial Centre

Parks and Waterbodies

Park

Waterbody

Park Connector/ Cycling Path

Key Corridors

North-South Corridor

Park-to-park Connector

Nature Way

Linear Park

Key Nodes and Junctions

Landmark

Key Junction

Ang Mo Kio (North) – Learning Gardens



Rubber plantations at the turn of 20th century



Rubber seeds at Town Garden East



Artist's impression of JTC Space @ Ang Mo Kio



ITE College Central

Sub-theme and Concept

The theme takes reference from Ang Mo Kio's gambier and rubber plantations in the past, and how agriculture has evolved into opportunities for potential industry-academia collaboration. This transformation is due to the industrial area's proximity to educational institutions such as the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and Polytechnic.



Ang Mo Kio (North) – Learning Gardens

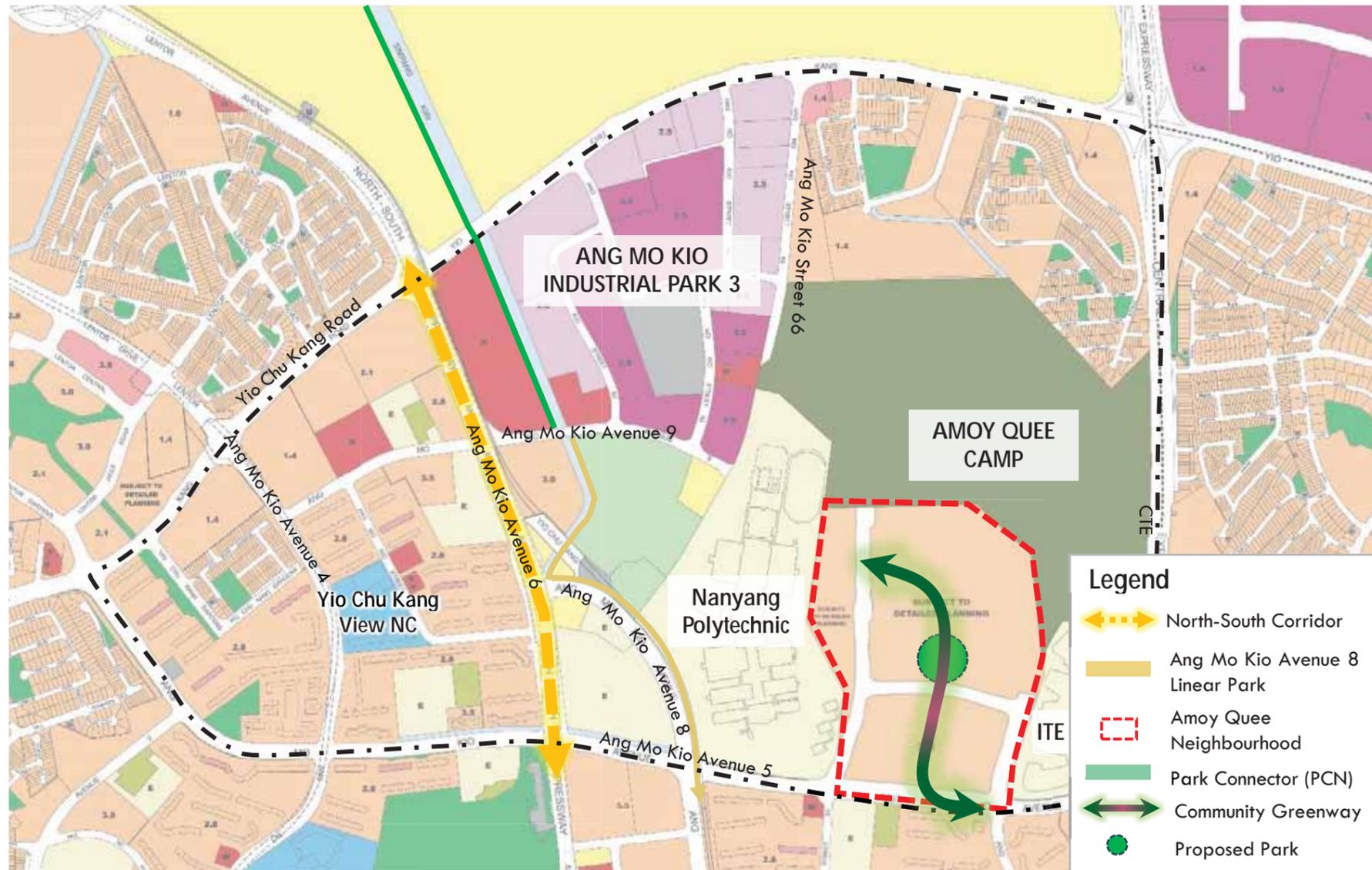


Sub-theme and Concept

Planning and Design Considerations

- Enliven public spaces or community nodes by introducing a wide variety of facilities
- Create a sense of place/ interactive environment that is conducive for gaining knowledge through experiencing and reflecting

Ang Mo Kio (North) – Learning Gardens



Public Spaces

- The Community Greenway is conceived as a key pedestrian spine that connects the surrounding facilities (i.e. Nanyang Polytechnic, Institute of Technical Education) with the community spaces and precinct greens in housing parcels
- Activity nodes for active and passive recreational uses such as jogging and cycling, as well as gathering spaces and conducting educational trails, can be planned along the Community Greenway

Ang Mo Kio (North) – Learning Gardens



Streetscape and Urban Edge

Park Connector Treatment

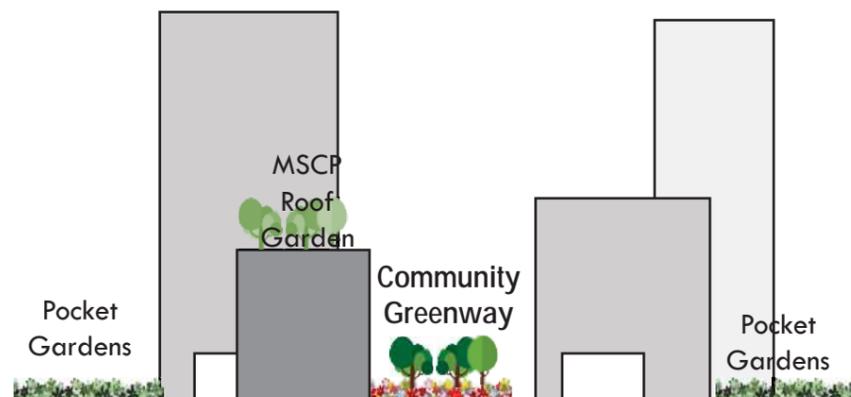
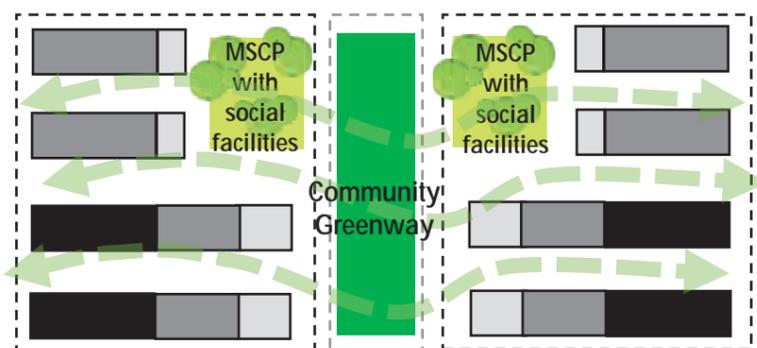
Developments to have precinct green spaces which seamlessly connect to surrounding neighbourhood parks and park connectors i.e. Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5 park connector.

Community Greenway Treatment

- Street furniture or lush landscaping along the Community Greenway could enhance the user experience

Form and Massing

- Light or porous forms to create a pleasant and conducive learning environment
- Terracing typology for blocks flanking the Community Greenway, stepping down where possible to create a friendlier and more human-scale pedestrian environment, while maximising views towards the key pedestrian spine and proposed park



Diagrams showing key pedestrian spines (Community Greenway) and pocket gardens to bring greenery into the precincts

Ang Mo Kio (North) – Learning Gardens

Colour Palette

In line with the ‘Learning Gardens’ sub-theme, the suggested colour palette for Ang Mo Kio North adopts complementary shades of yellow and orange which reflect a creative and youthful learning environment.

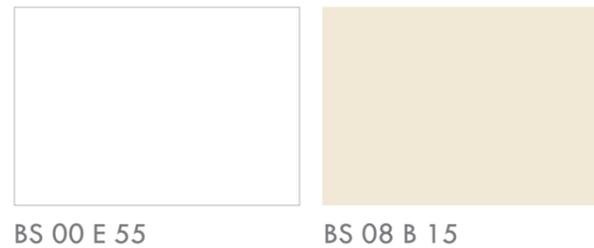
Brown and green accents commemorate the plantations of the past, while beige and grey tones reflect the industrial developments in Ang Mo Kio North.

Facade and Roofscape

- Facade patterns and roofscape designs could be abstractions from educational and technology themes
- Colorful academic motifs could be utilised to create a youthful and energetic identity for Ang Mo Kio North

Primary Colours

Unify the identity of the area, and form the main base of the colour scheme
(choose both primary colours)



Secondary Colours

Complement the primary base colours
(choose 1 or more secondary colours)



Accent Colours

Highlight certain architectural features, such as fins, ledges, canopies, spandrels, selected parts of gable end walls, etc.
(choose 1 or more accent colours)



Artist's impression of Yio Chu Kang Beacon with a pronounced white facade with grey accents inspired by bookshelves



Varying tones of energetic yellows as seen along Blks 641 – 643 at Ang Mo Kio Avenue 4

Ang Mo Kio (North) – Learning Gardens



Clockwise from left: Straight trunk trees accentuate the linear spatial configuration (example from Buangkok Tropica); trees and shrubs planted in neat rows (example from Acacia Breeze); shrubs used to create an intimate pocket garden space (example from HortPark)



From left: *Syzygium aromaticum*, *Sterculia parviflora*, *Gardenia tubifera*, *Tristanopsis merguensis*

Landscape Approach

Designs can take a more formal organisation of spaces and urban garden character. Where possible, thematic pocket gardens can provide outdoor educational opportunities.

Planting Concept

- Regular planting concept in rhythmic clusters
- Straight trunk trees along avenues
- Use of shrubs to create pockets of enclosure
- Showcase interesting plant features (e.g. fragrant species, trees with peeling barks etc.)
- Species with flowers and foliage that have reddish hues along main thoroughfares

Suggested Tree Species

The following list is intended as a guide for tree species selection and is not meant to be restrictive.

Trees with Straight Trunks

- *Syzygium aromaticum* (Clove)
- *Garcinia atroviridis* (Asam Gelugor)
- *Hopea odorata* (Chengal Pasir)
- *Sterculia parviflora* (Common Sterculia)

Fragrant Trees

- *Tarennia fragrans* (River Tarennia)
- *Gardenia tubifera* (Golden Gardenia)

Trees with Ornamental Barks

- *Tristanopsis merguensis* (Hill Tristania)
- *Cratoxylum cochinchinense* (Red Mempat)

Trees with Red Hues (along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5 and 6)

- *Lagerstroemia floribunda* (Malayan Crape Myrtle)
- *Elaeocarpus mastersii* (Small-leafed Oil-fruit)
- *Syzygium zeylanicum* (Spicate Eugenia)

Ang Mo Kio (North) – Learning Gardens

Overview of Key Urban Design Considerations



Transport

EXISTING PROPOSED

MRT Station

Facilities

Neighbourhood/ Commercial Centre

Parks and Waterbodies

Park

Park Connector/ Cycling Path

Key Corridors

North-South Corridor

Park-to-park Connector

Simpang Kiri Riverfront

Nature Way

Linear Park

Community Greenway

Key Nodes and Junctions

Landmark

Key Junction

Contents

Town Scale

- Context and History
- Planning Principles
- Town Theme and Concept
- Pedestrian and Cycling Connectivity
- Park and Waterbodies
- Key Corridors
- Key Nodes and Junctions
- Heritage Elements
- Art Elements
- Broad Landscape Theme

Neighbourhood Scale

- Sub-themes and Concepts
 - Form and Massing
 - Public Spaces
 - Streetscape and Urban Edge
 - Colour Palette
 - Facade and Roofscape
 - Landscape Approach

Precinct Scale

- Precinct Facilities
- Playgrounds
- Street Furniture
- Wayfinding
- Covered Linkway Design

Precinct Facilities

Precinct facilities include structures like precinct pavilions, shelters, trellises, drop-off porches, and precinct markers.

Here are possible ideas of how precinct facilities could be designed to express the respective sub-themes.

Ang Mo Kio (Central) Delightful Urban Valley

Design Considerations

- Terracing or undulating forms
- Rustic design with warm welcoming tones
- Use of heritage and cultural motifs



Artist's impression of an integrated linkway bridge in a rustic design with earthy tones (example from Kovan Wellspring)



A shelter with an undulating roof (example from Treelodge@Punggol)

Precinct Facilities

Ang Mo Kio (South)

Gateway to the Parks

Design Considerations

- Porous and organic forms
- Use of naturalistic materials in cool, neutral tones
- Use of nature-related patterns and motifs



A spiraling trellis mimicking natural organic forms (example from Marsiling Greenview)

Ang Mo Kio (North)

Learning Gardens

Design Considerations

- Simple and clean geometric forms
- Use of modern materials
- Use of educational and technology motifs



A precinct pavilion with strong geometric form and modern materials (example from St George's Towers)

Playgrounds

Playgrounds are one of the key facilities in our housing precincts. They are commonly co-located with adult and elderly fitness facilities to form a 3-Generation (3G) playground to foster inter-generational bonding.

Themed playgrounds are opportunities to contribute to a unique precinct identity, enhance wayfinding by serving as nodes or landmarks, and also form part of the social memories of residents. The design of themed playgrounds can draw reference from the area's sub-theme, character, heritage or historical context.

For larger playgrounds in neighbourhood parks and common greens, inclusive elements could be incorporated within the playgrounds to cater for children with special needs. Nature play spaces, sensory gardens or lawns can also be incorporated for a greater variety of learning experiences.

Design Principles

Value and Variety of Play

Playgrounds should have sufficient play values to activate the cognitive and motor skills of the young, spark their imagination, allowing children to learn through play and interaction with one another. Playgrounds in adjacent precincts and parks should not be repeated to ensure variety among the playgrounds.

Creating Identity

Playgrounds can help in creating precinct identity, enhance wayfinding and also form part of the social memories of HDB residents.

Practicality

Practical considerations for playgrounds include space to accommodate play equipment and their safety zones, meeting safety standards, maintainability and cost, particularly with customised playgrounds. For a more comfortable play environment, playgrounds should be sited in areas shaded by buildings during the anticipated times of usage, or adequately sheltered by larger trees.

Playgrounds

Ang Mo Kio (Central) Delightful Urban Valley

Design Ideas

Terrains and levels, colourful, whimsical designs that reference local heritage elements



From top: Brightly coloured play structure is sculpted to create different levels (example from Jurong West Park); existing dragon playground along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3

Ang Mo Kio (South) Gateway to the Parks

Design Ideas

Botanical-themed (e.g. plants, flowers), birds, insects or other park critters (e.g. squirrels)



From top: Ladybird playground (example from Everspring Park @ Yishun); playground with flower and leaf motifs (example from Tampines N2 Neighbourhood Centre)

Ang Mo Kio (North) Learning Gardens

Design Ideas

Education or industrial-themed (e.g. books, machinery, science and technology)



Clockwise from top: Bulldozer play equipment (example from Simei St 1); gears incorporated into play structure (example from Bishan Street 23); industrial-looking climbing tower (example from Meadow Spring @ Yishun)

Street Furniture – Seating

Seating is found in various locations within the precinct, such as community living rooms, etc. They are used for rest, people and activity-watching, social interaction, and can also be used for exercise.

Design Principles

Aesthetics

The design of the various seats in the precinct can draw reference from the area’s sub-theme.

Adequate Weather Protection

Seating in sheltered but unenclosed spaces like precinct pavilions, should be placed such that they are adequately shielded from rain.

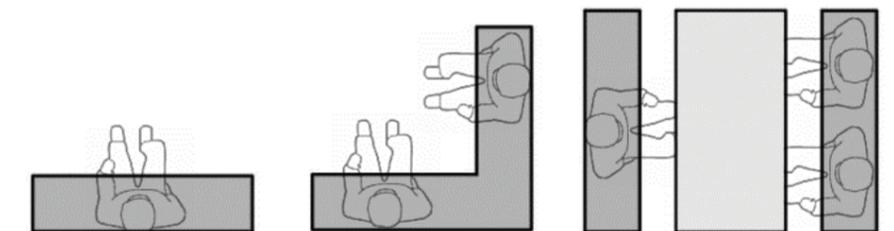
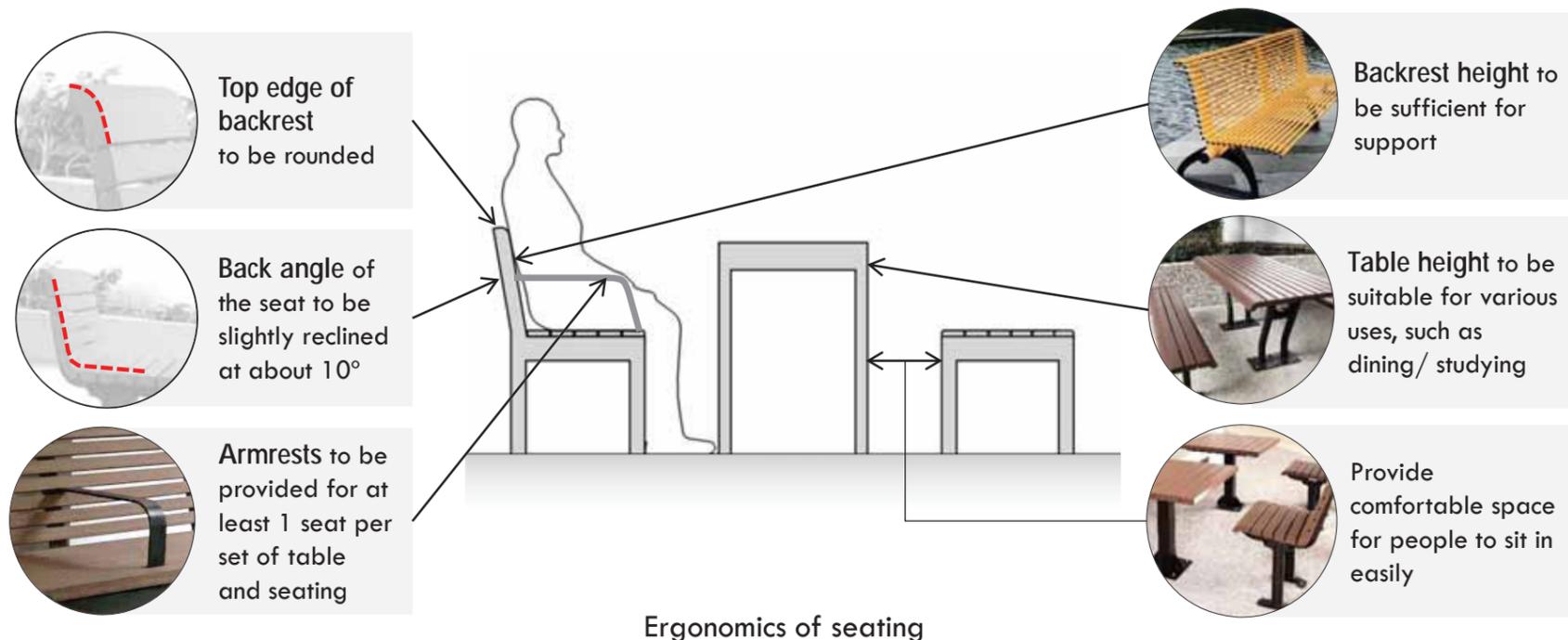
Universal Design

It is important to consider the needs of children, elderly, and users of different heights and abilities, to ensure a user-friendly and inclusive design.

- Provide a variety of seating arrangements, to facilitate different levels of social interaction
- Place along pedestrian routes at regular intervals as specified in BCA’s ‘Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment’
- Proprietary systems recommended for better ergonomics
- Cater to different heights
- Benches with exercise elements should be provided at non-dedicated fitness areas to encourage residents to do simple exercises
- Space for wheelchair users

Maintenance

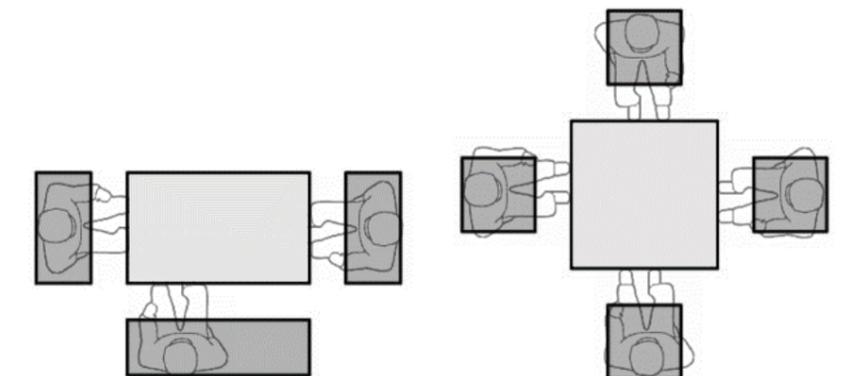
- Proprietary systems are generally easy to replace
- Select materials that are durable against weathering and vandalism (e.g. avoid natural wood, recommended to use metal with wood grain finish, powder coated metal etc.)
- Place seating in the landscaped areas on paved surfaces to avoid the need for grass cutting below



Individual seating for resting and solitary moments

L-shape seating for views and small group conversation

Face-to-face seating for conversation



3-sided seating creates greater intimacy and opens up towards views

4-sided seating for social gatherings and interaction

Variety of seating arrangements for different uses

Street Furniture – Outdoor Lighting

Besides its functional purpose, the choice of outdoor lighting also lends ambience and character to the space.

Selection Principles

Function and Aesthetics

The selected light fixtures should serve the purpose intended for its location either for functional or ambient lighting. It can also complement the design of the development and reinforce the identity of the precinct. In addition, the placement and colours of the various types of outdoor lighting within the development should be carefully chosen and coordinated.

Driveway/ Service Road

The light fixtures should have the appropriate lux level for the safety of both drivers and pedestrians. The choice of these light fixtures contribute to precinct identity as they usually envelop the development along the service road.

Hardcourt

The light fixtures should provide sufficient lighting levels for the activities/ games intended at the hardcourt, while not causing glare to the users and the residential units in the surrounding blocks.

Landscape/ Playground

The choice of light fixtures should create a welcoming and relaxed ambience in these spaces, and also contribute to the unique character of the precinct.

Covered Linkway/ Precinct Pavilion

Light fixtures selected should be well integrated with the design of the covered linkway and precinct pavilion structure, and also be functional for the usage of the space.

Maintenance

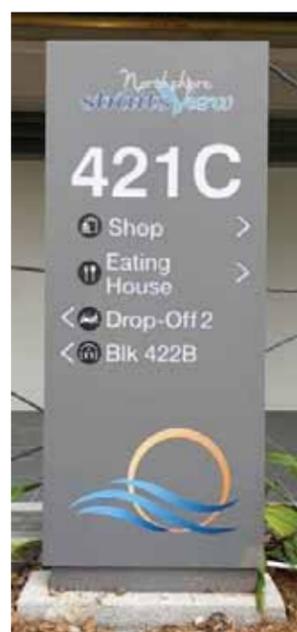
Easy maintenance of the light fixtures and cost-efficient replacement of parts is recommended.

Wayfinding

A clear wayfinding strategy is important so that users can find their way around the precinct easily.



Use of simple motifs, colour and tile bands for wayfinding



A precinct map and block entrance signage (example from Northshore StraitsView)

Main Circulation Route

Demarcate the main circulation route through the blocks connecting to the key nodes (e.g. lift lobbies, community living rooms, drop-off porches, etc.):

Clarity and Aesthetics

- Use visual cues such as tile bands, motifs, column and wall painting
- Use clear and consistent floor demarcation
- Use simple floor patterns, avoid dark colours and avoid using too many colours to reduce confusion, in particular for persons living with dementia
- Design and colours should complement the overall design concept

Sense of Familiarity

- Consider placing distinctive design features (e.g. motifs, sculptures, murals, etc.) that relate to the site's heritage and context as well as to serve as familiar references for persons living with dementia

Maintenance and Safety

- Use materials and floor finishes that are easy to maintain and replace
- Avoid using floor finishes that would be slippery when exposed to rain

Signage

There are various types of signages in a precinct, such as precinct maps, and directional signage. They should be designed with reference to the 'SS 599 Guide for Wayfinding Signage in Public Areas'.

Aesthetics and Identity

- Design the various signage in a precinct for consistency in aesthetics and precinct identity

Legibility and Clarity

- Use appropriate font sizes for the intended viewing distance and avoid cursive fonts, to ensure that the font is legible
- Use pictograms/ motifs that are easy to recognise and not too abstract
- Ensure good colour contrast between the font and the background
- Provide well-lit signage so it can be clearly seen at night

Location

- Locate signage at key decision points along the pedestrian and vehicular flow to give clear directions.
- Ensure signage are not blocked from view

Covered Linkway Design

Covered linkways provide shelter and can be found extensively in the built-up environment in our towns. Hence, the design of covered linkways should recede into or match the surroundings and existing contexts (in terms of profile and colours), rather than stand out. Only at appropriate areas where the intention is to create a gateway, can covered linkways be designed as features. The following design principles apply to covered linkways within HDB precincts.

Design Principles

Neat and Elegant Design

Columns are only provided on one side of the linkway for a more seamless walking experience. Services such as M&E conduits and junction boxes should be detailed to be integrated with the design and hidden from pedestrian view. Added attention should be paid to details such as the column stumps, light fixtures, roof edge, location of the grated drains, interfacing details between the linkways, high links, drop-off porches and buildings. Neutral colours and shallow roof profiles are recommended. If necessary, block numbers, directional signage, floor patterns and other visual cues are encouraged to be included to improve wayfinding.

Adequate Weather Protection

Width \geq to height is recommended for linkways, to minimise rainwater splashing.

Lighting Ambience

Lighting should be pleasant and non-glaring. Placement of light fixtures should avoid lights shining directly at pedestrians', cyclists' and motorists' lines of sight.

Materials

Materials used should be commonly available in the market, and easy to maintain or replace.



Covered linkway in a new HDB precinct



A covered linkway added to an existing HDB precinct has block numbers to help in wayfinding (example from Blk 618 Yishun Ring Road)



Careful interfacing between linkways and a new drop-off porch added to an existing HDB precinct (example from Choa Chu Kang North 7)

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Ang Mo Kio Town Council

- Page 14, top: Artist's impression of pedestrian mall in Ang Mo Kio Town Centre.

Land Transport Authority

- Page 14, bottom second from left and Page 24, bottom right: Artist impression of the North-South Corridor (NSC) along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6.
- Page 19, bottom left and Page 48, top: Artist's impression of a new walking and cycling bridge across Marymount Road to improve connectivity of Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park.
- Page 30: Artist's impression of wider and barrier-free paths and crossings for a more pleasant environment.
- Page 40, bottom second from left: Artist's impression of the Ang Mo Kio MRT interchange station.

Gretchen Liu Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

- Page 10, bottom left: Gambier Plantation in 1890s.

Singapore Land Authority collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

- Page 11, base map: Singapore Provisional Issue by Survey Department, Singapore, 1953.

National Archives of Singapore

- Page 10, top: Survey map inscribed to Colonel Butterworth by Samuel Congalton, and J. T. Thomson 1846 (Additions to 1855).
- Page 10, bottom middle: Vegetable Farming in 1900s.
- Page 10, bottom right and Page 56, top left: View of para rubber plantation in Singapore, 1900s.
- Page 11, bottom right: *Kampung Amoy* Quee.

National Parks Board

- Page 27, right: Artist's impression of the activity nodes at the peak of the hill at Town Garden West.
- Page 29, bottom left: Nature Way along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5.
- Page 34, bottom left: *Lagerstroemia floribunda*. Photo credit: Patricia Yap, NParks Flora and Fauna Web.
- Page 34, bottom second from left: *Elaeocarpus mastersii*. Photo credit: Ang Wee Foong, NParks Flora and Fauna Web.
- Page 34, bottom third from left: *Syzygium zeylanicum*. Photo credit: Patricia Yap, NParks Flora and Fauna Web.
- Page 34, bottom right: Artist's impression of proposed streetscape planting along Ang Mo Kio Ave 3.
- Page 43, bottom left: Artist's impression of the redeveloped existing playground near McDonald's at Town Garden West with nature playgardens to connect children to the natural environment
- Page 46, bottom left: *Lagerstroemia floribunda*. Photo credit: Patricia Yap, NParks Flora and Fauna Web.
- Page 46, bottom second from left: *Cynometra lenticellata*. Photo credit: NParks Flora and Fauna Web.
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- Page 54, bottom second from left: *Cratoxylum cochinchinense*. Photo credit: Patricia Yap, NParks Flora and Fauna Web.
- Page 54, bottom second from right: *Cratoxylum formosum*. Photo credit: Ang Wee Foong, NParks Flora and Fauna Web.
- Page 54, bottom right: *Saraca declinata*. Photo credit: NParks Flora and Fauna Web.

- Page 61, bottom left: *Syzygium aromaticum*. Photo credit: Boo Chih Min, NParks Flora and Fauna Web.
- Page 61, bottom second from left: *Sterculia parviflora*. Photo credit: Jessica Teo, NParks Flora and Fauna Web.
- Page 61, bottom second from right: *Gardenia tubifera*. Photo credit: Jolene Lim, NParks Flora and Fauna Web.
- Page 61, bottom right: *Tristanopsis merguensis*. Photo credit: Ang Wee Foong, NParks Flora and Fauna Web.

Jurong Town Corporation

- Page 56, bottom left: Artist's impression of JTC Space @ Ang Mo Kio.

SportSG

- Page 31, Image 6: Artist's impression of Ang Mo Kio Swimming Complex.

JYHa LLP

- Page 71, right: Careful interfacing between linkways and a new drop-off porch added to an existing HDB precinct (example from Choa Chu Kang North 7).

LOOK Architects Pte Ltd

- Page 65, right: A precinct pavilion with strong geometric form and modern materials (example from St George's Towers).

Image Credits

Chen Yanyi

- Page 13, bottom right, Page 19, top, and Page 32, bottom left: Town Garden West, where original vegetation and terrain from the area and paths from the former Cheng San Road had been retained.
- Page 31, Image 2: Town Garden West.
- Page 40, bottom right: Honeycomb facade at Mayflower MRT Station entrance.
- Page 56, top right: Rubber seeds at Town Garden East.

Edmund Koh

- Page 13, bottom left and Page 32, top right: Kebun Baru Bird Singing Club is one of the last few remaining bird singing corners left in Singapore.

Joshua Ang

- Page 33, top left: Local rendition of the *Mona Lisa* eating durians, at the Town Centre.
- Page 33, bottom left: Mural at the Ang Mo Kio Town Centre by Merchants Association.
- Page 33, bottom right: Mural at the Ang Mo Kio Town Centre with references to tomatoes and bird singing.
- Page 33, top right and Page 40, bottom left: Tomato Sculpture at Ang Mo Kio Central Heights.

Lye Pok Min

- Page 71, middle: A covered linkway added to an existing HDB precinct has block numbers to help in wayfinding (example from Blk 618 Yishun Ring Road).

Rebecca Sng

- Page 46, from top left to right: Trees and shrubs with coloured foliage planted at the entrance of Ang Mo Kio Polyclinic; layered shrub planting creates the illusion of mounds (example from Buangkok Square Mall).
- Page 54, from top left to right: Wide canopy trees along a jogging track (example from Park Aquaria); meandering landscape space with mixed planting (example from Blossom Spring @ Yishun); flowering species used to highlight the roof garden entrance (example from Alkaff Vista).
- Page 61, clockwise from top left: Straight trunk trees accentuate the linear spatial configuration (example from Buangkok Tropica); trees and shrubs planted in neat rows (example from Acacia Breeze); shrubs used to create an intimate pocket garden space (example from HortPark).
- Page 67, left column from top: Brightly coloured play structure is sculpted to create different levels (example from Jurong West Park); existing dragon playground along Ang Mo Kio Ave 3.
- Page 67, middle column from top: Ladybird playground (example from Everspring Park @ Yishun); playground with flower and leaf motifs (example from Tampines N2 Neighbourhood Centre).

- Page 67, right column clockwise from top: Bulldozer play equipment (example from Simei St 1); gears incorporated into play structure (example from Bishan St 23); industrial-looking climbing tower (example from Meadow Spring @ Yishun).

Tan Xiao Li

- Page 45, bottom right: Facades with distinct red vertical elements in Blks 112 – 118 at Ang Mo Kio Avenue 4.
- Page 53, bottom right: Sculpted wavy facade fins of varying sizes in Teck Ghee Parkview.
- Page 60, bottom right: Varying tones of energetic yellow as seen along Blks 641 – 643 at Ang Mo Kio Avenue 4.

*Fulfilling **Dreams**, Building **Homes**, Creating **Communities***

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