

Changing faces of Kallang River and Sungei Whampoa

Enhanced connectivity and accessibility under ABC Waters Programme

Singapore, 22 January 2017: New viewing decks along the Kallang River (Upper Boon Keng Road to Sims Avenue) are set to become the latest landmark in the area. In PUB's first Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters (ABC Waters) project to be opened this year, the agency has drawn inspiration from the past. Its viewing decks adopt a design synonymous with the mast of early sailing vessels, which were often seen unloading cargo along the river during the 19th century. This 320-metre section of the river now also features an upgraded promenade that enhances connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as rain gardens and plantings along the waterway.

ABC Waters @ Kallang River (Upper Boon Keng to Sims Avenue) was officially opened today by Guest-of-Honour, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Communications and Information; Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs; Minister-in-charge of Cyber Security; and Adviser to Jalan Besar Grassroots Organisations.

ABC Waters design features such as two rain gardens that detain and cleanse rainwater runoff naturally before discharging the runoff into the river, have been introduced. While improving water quality in Kallang River, it also enhances biodiversity in the neighbourhood. In particular, trees and shrubs that attract butterflies have been planted onsite to add colour, vibrancy and biodiversity in the neighbourhood. These plants include Canna, Yellow Cow Wood, Hanging Lobster Claw, Cola de Paloma and Rose Myrtle.

As part of the facelift, PUB also upgraded an existing 3-metre wide park connector to a 15-metre wide promenade, complete with a new ramp that enhances accessibility to nearby residential blocks.



Roof decks adopting a mast-like design



Upgraded promenade that boosts connectivity



Colourful rain gardens that cleanse runoff



New ramp that enhances accessibility

Already, the community is abuzz with excitement over how to utilise the new recreational space. Kong Hwa School, has come forward to be the first adopter, with intentions to design a new ABC Waters Learning Trail at this site to augment the curriculum for their students. "In our efforts to inculcate care and concern for the community and environment within our students, we are happy to leverage our adoption of ABC Waters @ Kallang River as a platform for environment and citizenship education, as well as Values in Action¹. The ABC Waters design features, such as the rain gardens, coupled with the tradition and significance of the Kallang neighbourhood, make for great learning opportunities and reinforce character and citizenship education beyond the classroom," Mr Jerry Yang, Subject Head (Character and Citizenship Education), Kong Hwa School.

Another adopter, Kolam Ayer Citizens' Consultative Committee (CCC), has committed to hold various grassroots events onsite to promote community bonding. "This ABC Waters project will provide an Active, Beautiful, Clean and conducive environment for residents to enjoy, exercise or gather with their families. It is also a platform where residents can meet and mingle with their neighbours, as well as participate in the various activities planned and spearheaded by the Kolam Ayer CCC, such as Breakfast by the River, Active Mobility Patrol & Citizens' On Patrol and Mid-Autumn Festival", Mr Kwa Soon Yau, BBM, Chairman, Geylang West Community Club Management Committee & Vice Chairman, Kolam Ayer CCC.

Other adopters of this ABC Waters project include Geylang Methodist Secondary School, who would be using the site as an outdoor classroom to supplement their Geography curriculum, and Waterways Watch Society, who will be patrolling the site on bicycles and promoting environmental responsibility and stewardship to the public.

ABC Waters @ Sungei Whampoa

Further upstream at Sungei Whampoa, which flows into Kallang River, another ABC Waters makeover awaits residents. Along a 450-metre stretch of Sungei Whampoa between Kim Keat

¹ Values in Action (VIA) are learning experiences that support students' development as socially responsible citizens who contribute meaningfully to the community, through the learning and application of values, knowledge and skills. VIA fosters student ownership over how they contribute to the community. As part of VIA, students reflect on their experience, the values they have put into practice, and how they can continue to contribute meaningfully.

Road and Central Expressway (CTE) has been enhanced by PUB to provide a new social space for the community, while bringing them closer to the blue waters.

At the node adjacent to the Whampoa Community Club (CC), PUB has created a cozy spot within a compact space for residents to enjoy some quiet moments. With a lookout deck and a boardwalk that connects residents from the neighbourhood, communal bonding and interaction will be enhanced as the community uses the plaza for various social events.

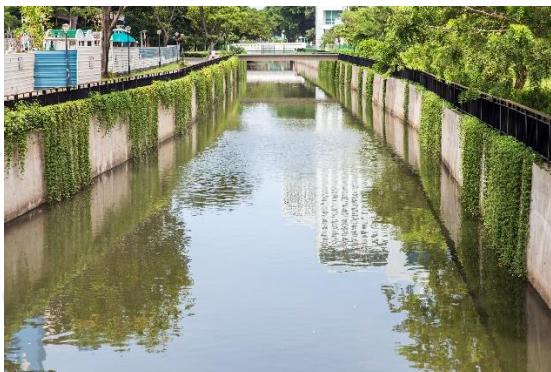
A rain garden is in place to cleanse rainwater runoff from the Whampoa CC using specially-selected plants and soil media before discharging into Sungei Whampoa. Together with the lush landscaping along the canal, greenery in the neighbourhood is enhanced while residents and students gain opportunities to learn about how ABC Waters design features like rain gardens help to improve water quality and promote biodiversity. This project is slated to be officially opened in late February and is the second ABC Waters project² to be completed along Sungei Whampoa.



Lookout deck to take in the scenic views



Boardwalk that brings residents closer to water



Dressing up canal walls with lush greenery



Rain garden that cleanses runoff and adds biodiversity

“ABC Waters @ Kallang River and Sungei Whampoa are really about building for the future. Both projects were planned to be integrated with upcoming development works in the vicinity, including housing and social infrastructural ones. Residents will benefit from the additional communal space, which will provide unique and picturesque backdrops for events. As both Kallang River and Sungei Whampoa flow into the Marina Reservoir – a source of water supply, we hope residents will help to play their part in keeping the waters free from litter so that all

² The ABC Waters projects along Sungei Whampoa are at the following locations: 1) St George’s Lane (CTE to St George’s Lane) and 2) Kim Keat Road to CTE.

of us can enjoy cleaner, clearer waters and a better living environment”, said PUB’s Chief Sustainability Officer, Mr Tan Nguan Sen.

~ End ~

About PUB, Singapore’s National Water Agency

PUB is a statutory board under the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. It is the national water agency, and manages Singapore’s water supply, water catchment and used water in an integrated way.

PUB has ensured a diversified and sustainable supply of water for Singapore with the Four National Taps (local catchment water, imported water, NEWater, desalinated water).

PUB calls on everyone to play a part in conserving water, in keeping our waterways clean, and in caring for Singapore’s precious water resources. If we all do our little bit, there will be enough water for all our needs – for commerce and industry, for living, for life.

About PUB’s ABC Waters Programme

The ABC Waters Programme was launched by PUB in 2006 to transform Singapore’s water bodies beyond their utilitarian purpose into beautiful and clean streams, rivers and lakes, creating a vibrant City of Gardens and Water. Over 100 potential locations have been identified for implementation by 2030.

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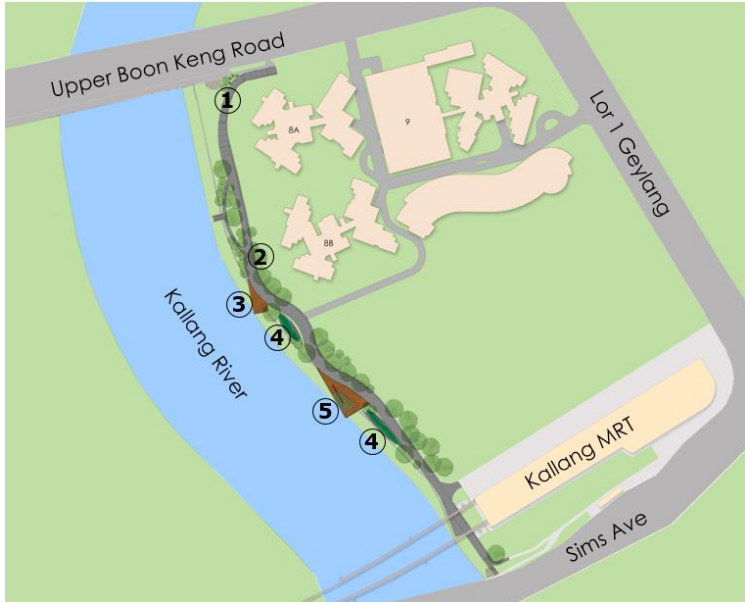
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ABC Waters @ Kallang River (Upper Boon Keng Road to Sims Avenue)



- ① Ramp
- ② PCN
- ③ Viewing Deck
- ④ Rain Garden
- ⑤ Viewing Deck with Shelter & Seating

ABC Waters @ Sungei Whampoa (Kim Keat Road to Central Expressway)



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