

MEDIA FACTSHEET E

Rifle Range Nature Park

The 67-hectare Rifle Range Nature Park is located at the southern end of Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. As a buffer park, Rifle Range Nature Park will help to reduce visitorship pressure on Bukit Timah Nature Reserve by providing interesting alternative venues for the public to enjoy nature-related activities. The development of this nature park is part of a holistic approach to strengthen the conservation of the biodiversity in Singapore's nature reserves.



Map of the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and the surrounding Nature Parks that act as buffers to the Reserve (Picture credit: National Parks Board)

NParks and the Friends of Bukit Timah will sensitively enhance the forest habitats of Rifle Range Nature Park and provide different groups of users with an alternative recreational node. The new plans will be carried out sensitively and the park is expected to be completed in 2020.

Being next to the nature reserve, Rifle Range Nature Park provides complementary forest habitat for biodiversity from Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. Surveys indicate that native flora species growing in the nature reserve can be seen at the fringe of the nature park. Visitors may be able to chance upon native fauna species such as the Sunda Pangolin (*Manis javanica*) and Horsfield's Flying Squirrel (*Lomys horsfieldii*). Native crabs, frogs, fishes and snakes can also be seen in the slow-flowing sandy streams.

Ideas to sensitively enhance Rifle Range Nature Park

Visitors will be able to experience the canopies of a regenerating secondary forest through a Sky Garden. It is an elevated walkway that provides a seamless experience from Beauty World to the Sin Seng Quarry.

The former Sin Seng Quarry will be sensitively enhanced to support the rich biodiversity in the area. The quarry was once one of the deepest quarries in Singapore (55 metres at its deepest point), but has since been backfilled. It will be transformed into a freshwater habitat with a look-out point for visitors to appreciate marsh birds.

Hiking trails with varying levels of difficulty will also be added to give visitors a chance to learn more about the history of quarrying in Singapore and the heritage highlights within the site. These include a rare glimpse of remnants of a kampung that used to be located at the fringe of the quarry along Rifle Range Road, such as steps leading to old houses, and old fruit trees and shrubs associated with kampung plantings in the 1960s.

Aerial rope bridges across Rifle Range Road will be provided to allow animals to move safely between Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and Rifle Range Nature Park. The first such bridges in Singapore, they aim to restore the ecological connection between the two forest habitats. Such bridges will allow for the effective exchange of native animal genetic materials, thereby increasing their long-term survival chances.

In addition to the existing vegetation which are home to arboreal animals, the regenerating secondary forest will be planted up with native plants to attract more biodiversity found within Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. The diversity of species will build up a thriving ecosystem for their long-term survival.

Other habitat enhancement efforts include installing nest-boxes for animals that hole in nests such as flying squirrels.

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Artist's Impressions



Artist's impression: Sky Garden (Picture credit: National Parks Board)



Artist's impression: Park entrance (Picture credit: National Parks Board)



Artist's impression: Freshwater habitat (Picture credit: National Parks Board)



Artist's impression: Aerial rope bridges (Picture credit: National Parks Board)

Biodiversity at Rifle Range Nature Park

 <p>Photo credit: Holly Siow, National Parks Board</p>	<p>Horsfield's Flying Squirrel (<i>Lomys horsfieldii</i>)</p> <p>The Horsfield's Flying Squirrel inhabits primary and secondary forests. It feeds on fruits and insects. Due to its nocturnal habits, flying squirrels are rarely observed in Singapore. The squirrel is classified as Endangered due to habitat loss.</p>
 <p>Photo credit: Cai Yixiong, National Parks Board</p>	<p>Malayan Colugo (<i>Galeopterus variegatus</i>)</p> <p>The nocturnal Malayan Colugo is a solitary species, with extensive skin membrane which extends from its neck to forelimbs, side of body, hind limbs and encloses its tail to facilitate gliding between trees. Its diet includes leaves, shoots and flower buds.</p>
 <p>Photo credit: Francis Yap</p>	<p>Asian Fairy Bluebird (<i>Irena puella</i>)</p> <p>The Asian Fairy Bluebird can be found in primary and secondary forests as well as adjacent scrub. Males are mostly black, and have brilliant blue crown, back, rump and undertail coverts. Females are duller, with mostly turquoise-blue plumage and blue-black wings.</p>



Photo credit: National Parks Board

Sunda Pangolin
(*Manis javanica*)

The Sunda Pangolin is a nocturnal animal which feeds on ants and termites using its sticky tongue. Although it is mainly terrestrial, it also climbs trees, and often seeks shelter in burrows. When threatened, the pangolin curls itself up into a ball. Due to habitat loss and poaching, the mammal is classified as Critically Endangered.

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