MEDIA FACTSHEET A – Preliminary design for Rail Corridor (Central)

From the series of community exhibitions and workshops in 2016, URA collected a range of suggestions on the Rail Corridor Concept Master Plan. The suggestions came from diverse groups, including residents, students, families, the elderly, the physically challenged, grassroot leaders, members of interest groups (eg. nature and heritage groups), and participants who are passionate about the Corridor.

On the whole, the community felt that the proposals could include sensitive enhancements to make the Rail Corridor more inclusive for people of all ages and abilities, while at the same time, build on its inherent attributes of nature, heritage and connectivity. They also wanted the Rail Corridor to be designed to provide a range of experiences that are relevant to the diverse communities and landscapes it threads through. These contributions have been considered and worked into the preliminary design for Rail Corridor (Central).

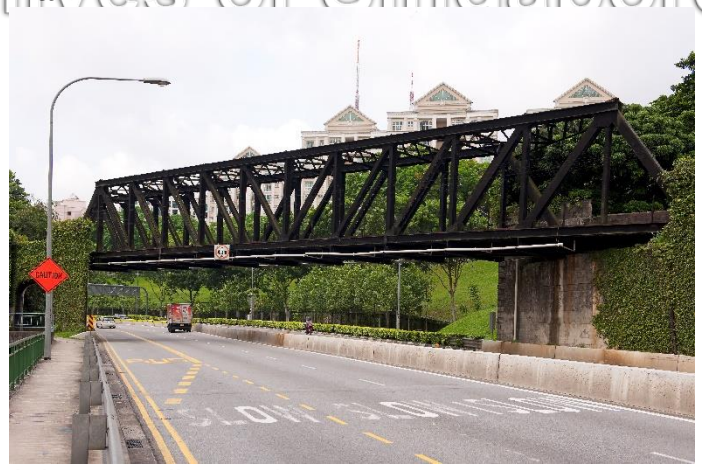
Three Key Themes for Rail Corridor (Central)

The preliminary design for Rail Corridor (Central) focuses on three themes, which will guide enhancement works along this stretch:

1) Heritage and Culture

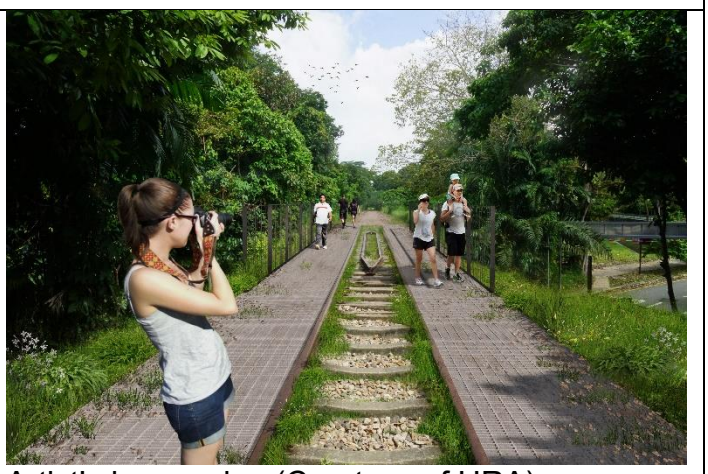
Rail Corridor (Central) is home to a number of former railway structures, such as the conserved Bukit Timah Railway Station and two conserved steel truss railway bridges. They are important physical markers of the former railway line and Singapore's railway history. Sensitive enhancement and restoration works will be carried out on these structures to ensure that the public can continue to enjoy them.

Heritage features

Conserved steel truss railway bridges will be strengthened	Across Upper Bukit Timah Road, near The Rail Mall  (Photo credit: URA)

National Archives of Singapore

Information accurate as of 21 October 2017. For more information, please contact Toh Wan Ting (NParks) at 9107 4938 and Humphrey Sew (URA) at 9733 3479.

	Across Bukit Timah Road and Dunearn Road, near Bukit Timah Railway Station  (Photo credit: URA)
Track of steel girdle bridge across Hindhede Road will be protected for safer crossing	 Artist's impression (Courtesy of URA)
Concrete bridge across Rail Corridor that leads to Singapore Quarry will be adapted for pedestrian use	 Artist's impression (Courtesy of URA)

National Archive

Information accurate as of 21 October 2017. For more information, please contact Toh Wan Ting (NParks) at 9107 4938 and Humphrey Sew (URA) at 9733 3479.

Bridge at Hillview removed previously will be replaced	 Artist's impression (Courtesy of URA)

2) Biodiversity and Greenery

As Rail Corridor (Central) is adjacent to several green spaces, there is opportunity to strengthen the ecological connection along this stretch through enrichment planting, to connect these currently fragmented green spaces, and allow wildlife to thrive. Distinct landscape experiences which complement the existing greenery and past heritage will be curated along Rail Corridor (Central) for visitors to enjoy.

Proposed landscape experiences

Ridgeline The Ridgeline will feature secondary forest species and provide a lookout experience.	 Artist's impression (Picture credit: NParks)
Rainforest The understorey vegetation along the Rainforest stretch will be enhanced with ferns and shrubs, and interplanted with primary forest species to enhance the green tunnel effect.	 Artist's impression (Picture credit: NParks)

<u>Kampung Garden</u> The Kampung Garden showcases forest fruit trees amidst a shrub layer with fruiting shrubs and butterfly attracting plants to add colour and variety.	 Artist's impression (Picture credit: NParks)
<u>Bukit Timah Railway Station</u> The area around the railway station will feature an orchard planted with kampung fruit trees to reflect the past landscape and include heritage shrubs to reflect the history of the Station Master's Quarters.	 Artist's impression (Picture credit: NParks)

Flora and fauna along Rail Corridor (Central)

Sunda Scops Owl (*Otus lempiji*)	 (Photo credit: Lim Sheau Torng)

National Archives

Information accurate as of 21 October 2017. For more information, please contact Toh Wan Ting (NParks) at 9107 4938 and Humphrey Sew (URA) at 9733 3479.

Laced Woodpecker (*Picus vittatus*)	 (Photo credit: Lim Sheau Torng)
Great Helen (*Papilio iswara iswara*)	 (Photo credit: Khew Sin Khoon)
Rumput Lilit Kain (*Centhotheca lappacea)*	 (Photo credit: Alex Yee)

National Archive

Information accurate as of 21 October 2017. For more information, please contact Toh Wan Ting (NParks) at 9107 4938 and Humphrey Sew (URA) at 9733 3479.

3) Recreation

The enhancements will ensure Rail Corridor (Central) becomes a hub for a range of recreational activities, and shared community space that caters to the needs of various users.

Track will be improved for all-weather use by different groups but kept rustic to complement natural surroundings	 Artist's impression (Courtesy of URA)

Conserved Bukit Timah Railway Station transformed into major community node

The conserved Bukit Timah Railway Station will be a major landmark of Rail Corridor (Central), embracing all three themes. It will be transformed into a major community node with a strong sense of history and spaces for the community to enjoy.

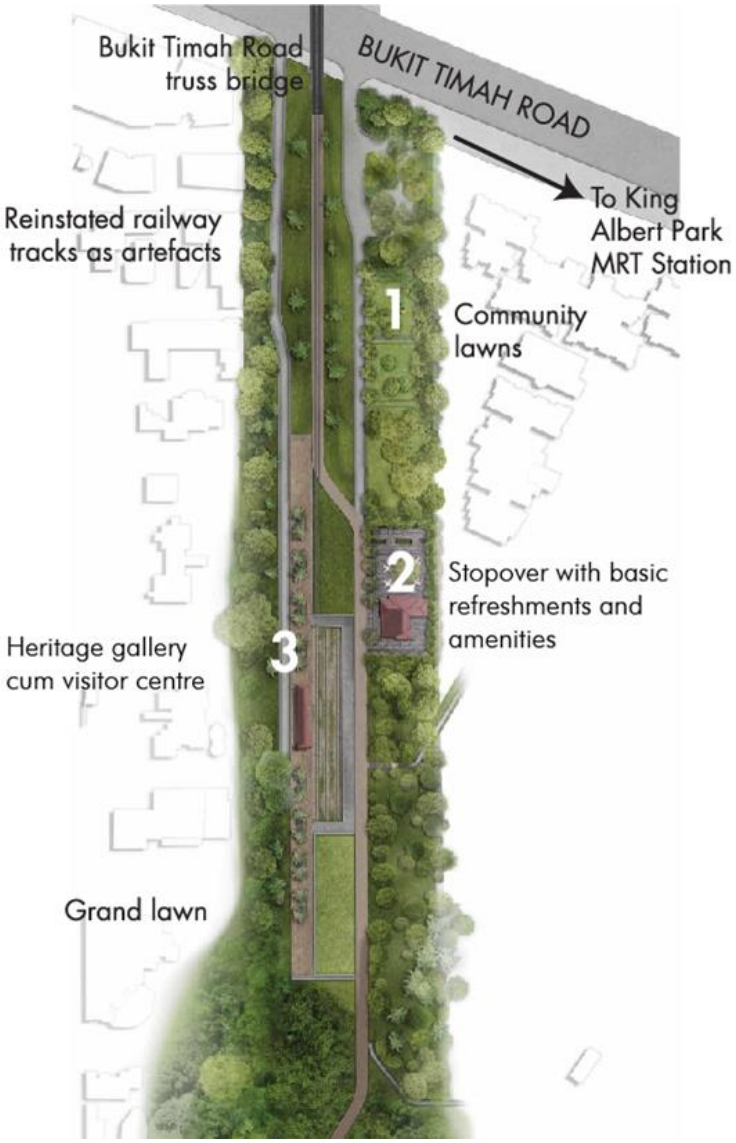
The landscape will have a "heritage garden" theme with plants that reinforce the old railway station's sense of place. Heritage buildings will be restored and repurposed for compatible uses. The conserved station building will be transformed into a heritage gallery serving as a visitor centre for people to learn more about the history of the railway station and Rail Corridor, while the Station Master's Quarters will be a convenient stopover providing basic refreshments and amenities for Rail Corridor users.

National Archives of Singapore

There will be ample open spaces for families and friends to gather and bond. This includes a community lawn that spans from the node's entrance to the Station Master's Quarters that provides generous space under shady trees for leisure activities. There will also be a grand lawn at the southern end of the old railway station that creates an intriguing gateway into the rest of the Rail Corridor.

There are also plans to creatively reinstate some salvaged railway tracks between the steel truss bridge across Bukit Timah Road/Dunearn Road and the old railway station, to recapture the route that trains used to run along. The public can suggest other suitable artefacts to be placed at this community node.

Information accurate as of 21 October 2017. For more information, please contact Toh Wan Ting (NParks) at 9107 4938 and Humphrey Sew (URA) at 9733 3479.



Overview of the Bukit Timah Railway Station Community Node (Credit: URA)

National Archives of Singapore

1. Community lawns that provide generous space for various leisure activities	

Information accurate as of 21 October 2017. For more information, please contact Toh Wan Ting (NParks) at 9107 4938 and Humphrey Sew (URA) at 9733 3479.

	Artist's impression (Courtesy of URA)
2. Station Master's Quarters will be repurposed as a stopover providing basic refreshments and amenities	 Artist's impression (Courtesy of URA)
3. Conserved Bukit Timah Railway Station building will be transformed into a heritage gallery cum visitor centre	 Artist's impression (Courtesy of URA)

National Archives of Singapore

Information accurate as of 21 October 2017. For more information, please contact Toh Wan Ting (NParks) at 9107 4938 and Humphrey Sew (URA) at 9733 3479.