



Media Release

For immediate Release

Announcement of East Coast Park Concept Plan and Singapore's first Cable Ski Park

(16 November 2005) – East Coast Park (ECP) may see many new enhancements to its access, circulation, activities and amenities over the next few years as outlined in the ECP Concept Plan proposed by the National Parks Board (NParks). Members of the public can view the exhibition and offer their views on the ECP Concept Plan at ECP Area C3, or online at www.nparks.gov.sg from 16 November 2005 to 2 January 2006. Apart from the proposals that will enhance ECP in the longer term, NParks also announced that Singapore's first Cable Ski Park will open in early 2006 at East Coast Lagoon.

East Coast Park Concept Plan

The 185-hectare ECP currently draws about 7 million visits annually and is the largest and most popular beach park in Singapore. To enhance park users' experience, NParks is proposing several major developments under the ECP Concept Plan. During the announcement, Mr Kong Yit San, Director of Parks, NParks, explained: "East Coast Park was developed some 30 years ago. While NParks has over the years continually upgraded the basic amenities in the park, it is timely that we now rejuvenate the park to meet the increasing demand for the use of this park. To this end, we conducted a survey with 500 park users to identify some key considerations in enhancing the park, and prepared a comprehensive Concept Plan that would improve the accessibility, connectivity, activities and amenities across the park. To ensure that proposals are in line with park users' needs, we are now seeking public feedback on the Concept Plan."

Enhancement of Accessibility and Connectivity in ECP

The proposals in the Concept Plan that would enhance accessibility and connectivity within the park include the following:

- A) Development of a Pedestrian Garden Link
- B) Enhancement of the entrances of existing underpasses

- C) Conversion of existing carparks into Bermed Carparks
- D) Introduction of a People Mover System within the park

A) Development of a Pedestrian Garden Link

The proposed Pedestrian Garden Link would connect Marine Parade Central across East Coast Parkway to ECP (Area C) and improve accessibility to the park. The Link would also allow visitors to enjoy a lush garden ambience when walking along the link to the park.

B) Enhancement of the entrances of existing underpasses

The entrances of existing underpasses and the area surrounding it will be landscaped.

C) Conversion of existing carparks into Bermed Carparks

The conversion of existing carparks into Bermed Carparks (underground carparks constructed within a landscaped profile) would increase the number of parking lots at ECP (possibly up to 500 more), and complement the park ambience.

D) Introduction of a People Mover System within the park

NParks is exploring to introduce a People Mover System (e.g. buses, trams, buggies) that would link key activity nodes and enhance connectivity within the park.

NParks, together with the Land Transport Authority, will conduct a traffic impact study to assess the feasibility of these enhancements, as well as the overall needs of park users.

Proposed Gardens, Recreational Activities and Lifestyle Amenities

Under the Concept Plan, NParks will also look into developing a multi-generational garden to cater to the needs of all age groups for recreation, and a Visitor Centre that would serve as a one-stop information and service centre for park users.

NParks will also explore working with partners to offer more recreational activities and lifestyle amenities for outdoor sports, games, leisure, food & beverage outlets, etc. It is proposed that weekend events and festive flea-market activities be organised to inject vibrancy into the park.

NParks welcomes public feedback

Members of the public are welcome to offer their suggestions on the type of activities and amenities they would like to see at East Coast Park, as well as their views on the Concept Plan at ECP Area C3, or online at www.nparks.gov.sg from 16 November 2005 to 2 January 2006. NParks will assess the feasibility and market demand of the ideas submitted, as well as the overall needs of park users. NParks will announce the outcome of this public consultation exercise in mid 2006.

Phased Development

The implementation of the proposals in the ECP Concept Plan will be carried out in phases to allow visitors to continue using park facilities with minimal disturbances. The developments are scheduled to begin in 2007 with estimated completion in 2010. The total cost of proposed development is estimated to be about S\$160million.

Singapore's First Cable Ski Park

Together with the announcement of the ECP Concept Plan, NParks also announced that Singapore's first Cable Ski Park, Ski 360°, will open in early 2006 at East Coast Lagoon (ECP, Area E), as part of the continuous upgrading plan for ECP. For cable skiing or cable wakeboarding, participants are pulled by an overhead cable instead of a boat. Complementing the water-sport facility will be a restaurant and wine bar, pro-shop, and shower and toilet facilities.

Ski 360° is developed by TTJ Leisure Pte Ltd and costs about S\$2million. TTJ's Business Development Manager, Mr Roy Teo, said: "Children aged 7 and above with adult supervision and adults of all ages are welcome to participate in cable skiing and cable wakeboarding as long as they do not have a fear of water. Also, the participants would be required to wear life jackets at all times."

He added: "Waterskiing and wakeboarding enthusiasts will be pleased to know that cable skiing and wakeboarding would cost less than when using a boat. The costs for one hour tickets at Ski 360° will range from about S\$35 - \$45 compared to the hourly rental of a boat which cost between S\$80 - \$120. The costs have yet to be finalized. We will announce this at a later date."

Mr Derek Leong, Vice President, Singapore Waterski and Wakeboard Federation (SWWF), is excited about the opening of Singapore's first cable ski facility. He said: "It has always been a dream of the SWWF to have an inexpensive avenue for the masses to try and take up wakeboarding and waterskiing. The opening of Ski 360° will allow more people to enjoy this sport as it is more affordable. Students can also be encouraged to participate in wakeboarding and waterskiing East Coast Lagoon, which will provide us a larger talent base."

The cable will run counter-clockwise around the lake and is powered by a variable speed electric motor that will maintain speed between 24 to 58 kph (58 kph is the top speed used by boats in waterskiing tournaments). Up to 8 skiers or wakeboarders can participate at the same time on one cableway, and up to 30 participants can ride the cable ski in an hour.

After it is opened, TTJ Leisure and the Singapore Waterski & Wakeboard Federation will be exploring to host national and international cable waterski and wakeboard events at Ski 360°

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