Greater Rustic Coast

The new 50km Greater Rustic Coast belt running along Singapore's northern coast is part of the Draft Master Plan 2019 (DMP19) unveiled recently by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA). The segment stretches from Changi to Lim Chu Kang and is part of a future key recreational corridor, which includes the Round Island Route, Rail Corridor, Kallang River, Coast-to-Coast Trail, Bukit Timah-Rochor green walk as well as a growing network of park connectors. It will link areas of heritage, biodiversity and recreation and allow visitors to experience numerous settings along its length. In future, a total of 1200ha more parks and park connectors will be added. The Master Plan is a statutory land-use plan that guides Singapore's development in the next 10 to 15 years and is reviewed every five years.

The Trail Has Three Distinct Attributes

1. A place teeming with biodiversity. Singapore's northern coast, including the northern offshore islands, is home to many species of hard corals and reef fish, which contribute to its rich coastal ecosystem. This area also has the largest patch of mangroves that can be found on mainland Singapore.

2. A place to rest. The Lim Chu Kang Park is part of a future key coastal recreation spot. In future, a total of 1200ha more parks and park connectors will be added. The park offers a splendid view of the waterfront from Beaulieu House which was formerly a coastal holiday home for a plantation owner. It later became a residence for high-ranking officers of the British Royal Navy and houses a restaurant today.

3. A recreational, laidback heartland. In the early days, coastal kampong dwellers and the seafaring orang lauts lived along the Strait of Johor. Today, migratory waterbirds, including shelduck and seaview plover, dot the northern coastline.

A Place of Military and Industrial Heritage

Singapore's strategic location helped it play a pivotal role as the British Empire's stronghold in Asia. Military installations were constructed to guard against the threat of Japanese invasion, and the area has a rich history, with a number of key sites still standing.

1. CASHIN HOUSE

Built in the late 1930s by prominent landowner Joseph Cashin, Cashin House is one of the sites where the Japanese Imperial Army first landed on Feb 8, 1942. After the war, the house was used as a military hospital and will have a few amenities for visitors to enjoy.

2. SUNGIE BULOH WETLAND RESERVE

One of Singapore's four nature reserves, it lies along the East-Australian Flows and is a site of international importance for migratory birds.

3. KRAJAN MARSHES

One of Singapore's largest freshwater marshes, it is home to more than 150 species of birds and 54 species of butterflies. Head up Raptor Tower for a birds-eye view of the entire area.

4. SINGAPORE RACOURSE

More recreational activities and community spaces will be introduced for visitors to have fun in this space.

5. MANDAI MANGROVE AND MUDDYFLAT

Ecologically linked to the Sungel Buloh Wetland Reserve, this area will open in mid-2022 as a nature park. Experience a close-up view of migratory shorebirds feeding on silt within this 72ha wetland.

6. YISHUN DAM

Built in 1983, the dam created Lower Seletar Reservoir, one of the largest water sources in Singapore. It also provides a magnificent view of the reservoir and is a famous spot for picnics and barbecues today.

7. JALAN KAYU

A bustling community today, Jalan Kayu was originally a road constructed in 1928 to connect Seletar Airbase and Seletar Hills Estate. It served many servicemen who stayed there as well as in nearby settlements.

8. PUNGGOL POINT

A historical spot with a sombre past, this area was where about 400 Chinese civilians were massacred during World War II. With the opening of Punggol Point Park and the injection of new homes in the future, it looks to a new beginning as a popular coastal recreation spot.

9. CONEY ISLAND PARK

Officially opened in 2015, the 55ha park is a splendid rustic gateway. Environmental considerations were kept in mind to retain the character during development, such as using casuarina timber from uprooted trees for park signage, benches and exhibits. Explore the southern perimeter via a new park connector.