

Cat 4 Resource Development

Group 4-57
BioDiversity Learning Trails@Botanical
Gardens

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Abstract

Biodiversity Learning Trail@Botanical Gardens is a project dedicated to help the public to develop an interest and appreciation of Singapore's biodiversity and contribute to the conservation of our natural heritage. It is a project that collaborates with NParks to create a biodiversity-themed guided trail in botanical garden and is meant for the Neighbourhood/community around the park. A guidebook will be created to help a trail guide to properly facilitate the tour. The guidebook will have a comprehensive amount of information about the biodiversity in each spot of botanical gardens and has a route marked out. The collaboration with NParks allow us to further expand our target audience and even help us in completing our objectives. Furthermore, there is a chance for it to be selected and set onto the NParks website to be one of their official trails.

1 Introduction

1.1 Rationale

The need to appreciate and preserve the biodiversity in Singapore is ever more important. The public is slowly disconnecting from nature around them and there is a steady lack of contribution to conserve our national heritage from our citizens. This might be detrimental towards our development as a country.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of this project is to...

- Collaborate with Npark and Create a biodiversity-themed guided tour in botanical gardens
- To help the public to develop an interest and appreciation of Singapore's biodiversity and contribute to the conservation of our natural heritage.
- Help people clock in 10,000 steps in a day in a more fun and interesting way (national steps challenge)

1.3 Target Audience

The target audience is the neighbourhood and community around the park

1.4 Resources

The resources created in this package is as guided tour script that is available online and offline and a Guidebook meant for participants.

2 Review

Surprisingly, not many trails at botanical gardens are free or even available out of NParks own website and even so are solely only meant for children or families to enjoy botanical gardens.

The article "Talk a walk and smell the flowers in singapore" By Samantha Boh from Straits times states "We really want to connect and engage with the people, to allow them to discover and understand what we have in our parks and gardens, and to encourage them to take ownership and concrete actions to protect the flora and fauna in our garden city" This shows that Ms Samantha Boh believes that Singaporeans can develop ownership and the appreciation for our biodiversity if they go outdoors and discover the floral and fauna of nature parks which is exactly what our project aims to accomplish. To add on Mr Lee Kuan Yew has mentioned in 1995 that ""I have always believed that a blighted urban landscape, a concrete jungle destroys the human spirit.

We need the greenery of nature to lift our spirits." this highlights the issue that he believed that nature (eg. Greenery and flowers etc.) are important in Singapore as it helps preserve the human spirit compared to concrete and a fully urban landscape thus showing the importance of preserving the biodiversity and green areas in Singapore and

what better way to do it than helping Singaporeans to develop a responsibility and appreciation for it.

3 Methodology

3.1 Needs Analysis

NParks have approached us to do the trail at Botanical Gardens due to the fact that it recently became a UNESCO world heritage site and a trail is much needed to create a deeper appreciation of the heritage in Botanic Gardens.

3.2 Development Of Resources

With this idea at hand, my group went out to plan a biodiversity trail and concurrently collaborate with the official NParks Organisation to do just so. We have been to the basic core module training programme and specialised theme training programme provided by NParks to be properly equipped with skills and knowledge about creating biodiversity themed trails. Once we finished writing a script for the trail, we had it vetted by NParks which is unfortunately still going on however, we have already sought their approval for the trail during the second training module on the day itself.

3.3 Pilot Test

We conducted two pilot tests with the first one carried out on 6 July and lasted approximately one hour with a small sample size of 8 participants. We had members of the public as well as mediatech hwa chong students who were interested in the floral and fauna in botanic gardens to join our tour to experience first hand the astounding tranquility the eco lake to the amazing herbs and spices found exclusively at the park.

During this period in between, a guide book was printed and completed for the ease and a more convenient experience for the guides of the tour. The Second Pilot test was

conducted two weeks after at 4 August with a sample size of 18 students this time. At the end of the trail a survey was conducted and 100% of the participants enjoyed their time there and indicated they have developed a deeper interest and appreciation for the unique biodiversity in Singapore. 61% of the participants also admitted it was their first time actually fully experiencing the park. Thus, we concluded that this project is majoritively successful in helping people develop a better understanding of the park as well as making them more aware of the biodiversity around them.

4 Conclusion

This Project has allowed me and my group mates to learn a variety of skills ranging from teamwork to social skills. We have learnt fieldwork skills like effective communication with strangers we never met before, observation skills and investigation skills which are mainly practical skills hard to learn in the classroom. We have also been urged to use our teamwork, Critical thinking and creativity when planning out the trail together as a team and worked together to overcome challenges posed against us. An example would be during the training modules where we were given tasks to complete in order to advance to the next section of the module, at first we tried to solve the problem hastily and this led to us being frustrated and failed in succeeding in completing it the first time, however we started to discuss together and worked with other students from other schools as well as getting help from the green council members which joined us in the module and in the end we managed to complete it in time and move on with the next task.

Our group was also faced with the challenge of getting people to join our trail as people were first reluctant to join or even hear about our trail. This caused difficulty in getting a bigger sample size during our first trail but as the second trail came along, things were moving more smoothly. All in all, this project has been enriching and very educational

for not only the participants of our trail but including ourselves as we now have a better understanding and appreciation for Singapore's vast but very unique biodiversity.

5 References

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