

MEDIA FACT SHEET C

NPARKS-ITE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Intended to strengthen landscape education in Singapore, this collaboration between the National Parks Board (NParks) and the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) will develop a pipeline of skilled professionals and invigorate the sector with new, younger talent.

NParks is working with ITE to equip the next generation of landscape professionals with knowledge and skills in technology and digitalisation. This aligns with two levers of transformation under the Landscape Sector Transformation Plan (LSTP):

- Introducing new technology to raise industry standards and efficiency
- Training the workforce to improve skills and professionalism

The MOU will cover:

- Joint development of a pool of skilled professionals for existing as well as new careers in the landscape industry, including developing a Student-Run Parks Framework to enhance learning experiences in landscape training
- Provision of internship experiences and progressive programmes in the landscape industry (whether within NParks or through identification of NParks' partners) in areas such as diagnostic arboriculture, flora and fauna monitoring, nursery operations and Building Information Modelling (BIM) in landscape
- Provision of study awards to students in the *Nitec* in Urban Greenery and Landscape and *Higher Nitec* in Landscape Management and Design programmes or related programmes
- Facilitation of curriculum development of ITE programmes in the landscape discipline by incorporating key developments, adoption of digitalisation and new mechanisation and technologies, where possible.
- Facilitation of capability building and transfer of knowledge through joint study visits, projects, master classes, lectures, workshops, Continuing Education and Training courses and Train-the-Trainer programmes, where possible

Student-Run Park at Bedok Town Park

ITE is the first Institute of Higher Learning (IHL) to implement the Student-Run Park initiative, and Bedok Town Park has been identified as the pilot site for this.

A Student-Run Park is a park that is set up as a live lab for students to gain first-hand experience in landscape design, horticulture and arboriculture management as part of their course of study. This will enable them to acquire and hone industry-relevant skills in a real workplace environment. The student-run park will also be a platform for students to test out new technologies and innovative solutions in landscape management. This is part of efforts to develop a pool of skilled professionals for the industry, through the adoption of technology and digitalisation.

The pilot project has involved students from the *Nitec* in Urban Greenery & Landscape and *Higher Nitec* in Landscape Management & Design courses since September 2018, and is included as part of their curriculum. Students conducted a site evaluation for the management of Bedok Town Park and presented their proposals to NParks earlier this year. The students have also been trained by NParks on the use of automation and technology in arboriculture and horticulture management. These include the use of drones to conduct tree inspection, as well as the deployment of the sonic tomograph and wood resistance micro-drill to assess the condition of trees.

From July to December 2019, the students will be taking charge of the landscape management tasks at Bedok Town Park. They will be at the park two to three times a week, spending at least half a day for each session.