



Kallang river before

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Bishan Park and Kallang River

Singapore

Bishan Park is one of Singapore's most popular parks in the heartlands of Singapore. As part of a much-needed park upgrade and plans to improve the capacity of the Kallang channel along the edge of the park, works were carried out simultaneously to transform the utilitarian concrete channel into a naturalised river, creating new spaces for the community to enjoy. This project is part of the Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters (ABC Waters) Programme, a long-term initiative to transform the country's water bodies beyond their functions of drainage and water supply, into vibrant, new spaces for community bonding and recreation.

At Bishan Park, a 2.7 km long straight concrete drainage channel has been restored into a sinuous, natural river 3 km long, that meanders through the park. Sixty-two hectares of park space has been tastefully redesigned to accommodate the dynamic process of a river system which includes fluctuating water levels, while providing maximum benefit for park users. Three playgrounds, restaurants, a new look out point constructed using the recycled walls of the old concrete channel, and plenty of open green spaces complement the natural wonder of an ecologically restored river in the heartlands of the city. This is a place to take your shoes off, and get closer to water and nature!

Client: Public Utilities Board & National Parks Board

Engineers: CH2M Hill, Geitz & Partner

Expertise: park, community participation, river restoration water sensitive urban design

Design: 2007 - 2010

Construction: 2009-2012

Area: 62 ha / 155 acres





before



after

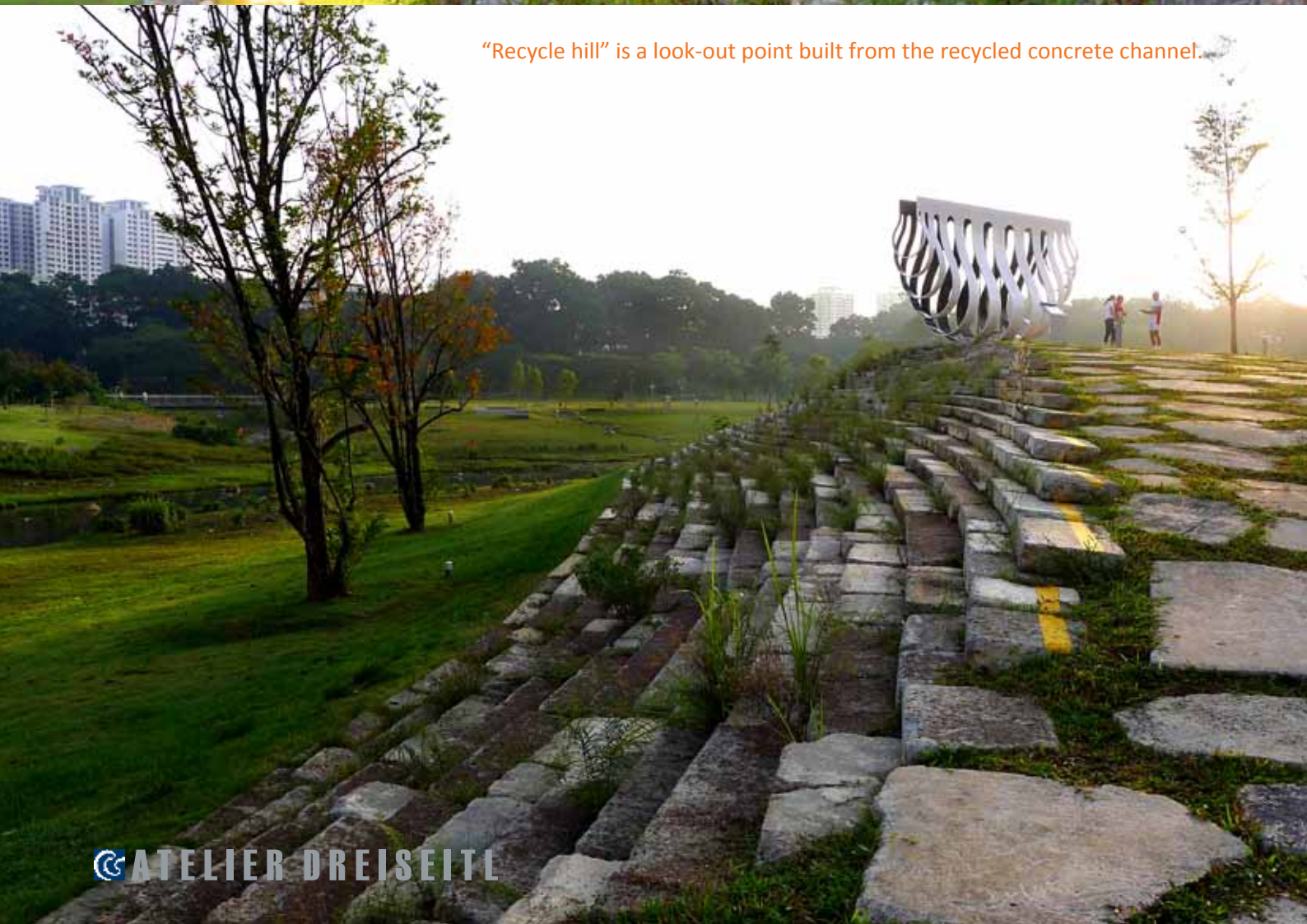


For the first time, people can get up close to Kallang River. "Recycle hill" is in the background, a look-out point built from the old concrete channel.





“Recycle hill” is a look-out point built from the recycled concrete channel.



3 new playgrounds create fun space for kids to test their boundaries in a funky, natural environment.



Important features of the old park where enhanced, including lots of space for tai chi and exercise groups.



New informal river crossings and bridges connect neighbourhoods which have been separated for years by the old concrete channel.





Biodiversity has already increased by 30%. 66 species of wildflower, 59 species of birds and 22 species of dragonfly have been identified in Bishan Park; not bad for a city park.



