Green spaces that inspire

Parks are now centrally located to enable city folk to get a respite from work

By JADE CHAN
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WHAT do Hyde Park in London, Central Park in New York, and Hyde Park in Kuala Lumpur have in common? They are little oases in the midst of metropolises where city folk can get respite from the strain of urban living, enjoy some exercise, or do their work in an outdoor setting.

Parks located in the city centre play an important role in the development of an area. Kuala Lumpur has two such parks located in the city centre — Taman Tugu, which is under planning stages, and KLCC Park, which is still under development.

KLCC Park is popular among shoppers and office workers who wish to take a break amid its cooling greenery.

On the Taman Tugu project, Dr Osman said it will strongly support it and was discussing with Shamsudin Nassif to be part of the development team.

"It is high time Malaysia has its own Central Park," he said.

"Having a park in the city will allow people to enjoy the greenery and be able to relate to the culture and soul of the city," he said.

From beautification touch-ups to green spaces, Dr Osman noted that the trends in landscape development had greatly changed over the decades.

"Thirty to 40 years ago, landscape architecture was focused on bringing greenery to areas. It has since evolved into designing landscapes that are attractive to people," he said.

"This is a step further in creating environments that are designed to attract people to gather and enjoy the greenery as opposed to sitting with a river corridor or retaining ponds," he said.

"The economy as parks are usually linked to an increase in property values, and they also create an environment for urban farming to address the demand for housing and landscaping covered both horizontal and vertical concepts."

"In the planning stages of a development, an intelligent garden city concept as an underlying framework will serve as the master plan for landscape architecture in Malaysia for the next 50 years," he said.

"It is high time that Malaysia has its own Central Park," Dr Osman said.

"This will culminate with the Landscape Architect Summit to be held in Malaysia in 2017, as well as an international conference and competition to be held in Malaysia in 2016.

"We need to look into policies and certain frameworks for landscape development and green space. We also need to integrate new ideas, research and technology to move forward," added Dr Osman, who is also the dean of Universiti Putra Malaysia's Faculty of Landscape Architecture.

Talk on Managing Cancer

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) will have a Family Link Programme throughout May to help Mandarin-speaking caregivers understand better about their loved ones' mental health condition. The programme is free. For details, call 012-7706509 or email to admin@mma.org.my.

Qigong Class

A one-and-a-half day free Chinese Qigong class will be held at Sri Lankan Buddhist Temple, Lot 85, Jalan Lumpur Perdana, while there will be a right-lane closure along Jalan Kepong (sentral-bound and serdang-bound) from 7am to 7pm. This includes a slow lane closure along Lebuhraya Pintasan Dengkil/Perintis Putrajaya, Sentral-bound and serdang-bound, from 8pm to 6am daily to facilitate MRT construction works for the upcoming Sungai Buloh-Seremban line.

Traffic Matters

There will be daily lane closures along Jalan Kepong (sentral-bound and serdang-bound in front of Auto Market) until Apr 28, from 9pm to 6am daily to facilitate demolition of the pedestrian bridge as part of MRT construction works.

There will be a continuation of the two-lane closure from KM4 to KM10 on both directions of Jalan 701 and 703 on both directions of the Chinese-Malay Highway, from 10pm to 6am daily.

Night lane closures have been implemented along Jalan Kepong (sentral-bound) and Jalan 701 and 703 on both directions of the Chinese-Malay Highway, from 10pm to 6am daily to facilitate MRT construction works for the upcoming Sungai Buloh-Seremban line.

Traffic Matters

There will be a continuation of night lane closures in stages along Jalan Kepong (sentral-bound and serdang-bound) until May 15. Those who wish to make an alternate route may contact 012-273 7123 (V, Yana Sakaran), 016-276 7123 (V, Chee Ping). The talk will be conducted by two cancer survivors on how to overcome cancer and remain a long-term cancer survivor. To register, please send your name and email address to 016-608 7383 or 012-209 0437.

Mental Health

Malaysian Mental Health Association (MMHA) will have a Family Link Programme throughout May to help Mandarin-speaking caregivers understand better about their loved ones' mental health condition. The programme is free. For details, call 012-7706509 or email to admin@mma.org.my.

Free Eye Screening

In collaboration with OneSight Foundation, the Rotary International District 3350 action group on blindness prevention and tennis international will organise a free eye screening programme for nearly 3000 pairs of spectacles to nearly 3000 pairs of spectacles to nearly 3000 pairs of spectacles to nearly 3000 pairs of spectacles to nearly 3000 pairs of spectacles.

The free eye screening will be conducted on April 29 and 30. The classes will be conducted in English by a qualified instructor and experienced and简单 practice for the busy modern lifestyle. For details, call 012-480 8609 or 017-469 0130.