

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Hong Kong Trail 40th Anniversary Celebration Programme

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to brief members on the programme to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Hong Kong Trail.

2. Background

2.1 Hong Kong Trail, established in April 1985, was one of the four long-distance hiking trails managed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). The trail has eight sections, with Victoria Peak as the starting point, traversing the Hong Kong Island from west to east, ending at Big Wave Bay. It spans across five country parks, namely Pok Fu Lam Country Park, Lung Fu Shan Country Park, Aberdeen Country Park, Tai Tam Country Park and Shek O Country Park. Spanning approximately 50 kilometres with a total elevation gain of about 1 400 meters, Hong Kong Trail is regarded as the most hiker-friendly among the four long-distance hiking trails in Hong Kong. Owing to its proximity to urban areas and with convenient transportation, each section of the trail offers unique characteristics and is especially suitable for tourists, families, nature enthusiasts, and novice hikers.

2.2 Hong Kong Trail showcases a rich diversity of landscapes, encompassing rolling hills, high-rise urban cityscape, wide coastal panoramas, quiet reservoirs, and meandering natural streams. One of the most frequently visited section is Section 1, where Lugard Road, built in the early 1900s, offers spectacular views of the Victoria Harbour and draws millions of visitors annually. It is also part of the “Four Peaks” green tourism project to be implemented by the Working Group on Developing Tourist Hotspots, which encourages tourists to explore beyond Hong Kong’s traditional attractions and deepen their appreciation of our natural beauty. In Section 8, the renowned Dragon’s Back has been recognised as the best urban hike in Asia, for its breathtaking views of Shek O Wan, the surrounding villages and pristine beaches.

2.3 Albeit in close proximity to urban areas, Hong Kong Trail encompasses diverse habitats with a host of animals and plants, some of which are species of conservation interest, such as Hong Kong Camellia (*Camellia hongkongensis* Seem.) and Hong Kong Primrose (*Lysimachia alpestris* Champ. ex Benth.). This highlights the trail's important role as a route for nature conservation and appreciation.

2.4 In addition to its diverse scenery and rich biodiversity, Hong Kong Trail also hosts an array of cultural and historic elements. These include Hong Kong's first reservoir, the Pok Fu Lam Reservoir, which was completed in 1863, and its historic structures that are declared monuments. The trail also houses relics of the World War II such as shelters and pillboxes, former industrial sites (including the world's first passenger cable car system), an obelisk dating back to the late 19th century, etc.

2.5 To commemorate the special occasion of the 40th anniversary of Hong Kong Trail, the AFCD is going to launch a celebration programme during the 2025-26 hiking season to encourage the public to visit Hong Kong Trail and appreciate its rich natural and cultural heritage. Targeting local residents and tourists, the programme will also enhance public awareness on hiking safety and hiking etiquette.

3. The Celebration Programme

3.1 “Unlocking Hong Kong Trail” Hiking Challenge

To encourage the public to visit Hong Kong Trail and learn about its rich biodiversity and historic heritage, and develop a caring attitude towards country parks, a hiking challenge campaign titled “Unlocking Hong Kong Trail” will be held from November 2025 to February 2026. Hikers will visit the eight sections of Hong Kong Trail at their own schedule according to their physical strength, experience and preference, and “unlock” the eight checkpoints set up along the trail. To “unlock” the checkpoint, hikers would need to answer a question about the fun facts of Hong Kong Trail by scanning the QR code at the checkpoint using their mobile phones. Hikers will be awarded a commemorative prize if they have completed the challenges at all eight checkpoints within the campaign period.

3.2 “Excursion in Country Park” at Hong Kong Trail

The popular “Excursion in Country Parks” guided tour series will be re-launched this year, with a focus on Hong Kong Trail. The AFCD will organise special

guided tours and workshops in November and December 2025 featuring Hong Kong Trail. Participants will be guided to explore Hong Kong Trail's natural landscape, historical sites, and biodiversity.

3.3 Trail Maintenance Talk and Workshops at Hong Kong Trail

The celebration programme also brings into focus an important component of country parks which is often neglected by visitors – the trail itself. In October 2025, there will be a public talk to share about the planning and management of hiking trails in country parks, with a special focus on Hong Kong Trail. Speakers will also introduce the biodiversity and historic boundary markers of Hong Kong Trail. Moreover, in collaboration with partnering organisations and through the Country Parks Trail Volunteer Scheme, a series of trail maintenance activities is going to be organised from October to December 2025. Volunteers will carry out trail repair works under the guidance of AFCD's experienced staff, who will share principles and techniques of trail maintenance. By participating in these hands-on activities, volunteers will not only experience trail maintenance work by the sweat of their brow, but also better understand the impact of human activities on hiking trails, and thereby the need to use hiking trails sustainably.

3.4 Country Park Volunteer Activities

The country park volunteers have been instrumental in supporting educational and conservation initiatives in country parks. To further promote the Hong Kong Trail 40th anniversary, the volunteer hiking patrol team will carry out patrols and collect litter along Hong Kong Trail, while actively promoting Hong Kong Trail to hikers during their patrol. Additionally, volunteers will also introduce the biodiversity and historical heritage of Hong Kong Trail to visitors through the roving photo exhibitions.

4. Publicity Plan

4.1 To promote Hong Kong Trail and encourage public participation in the celebration programme, AFCD will produce a series of short videos on visiting Hong Kong Trail which will be published on social media platforms. In addition, a series of social media posts and interactive games will be launched to further engage the public. Information on attractions along Hong Kong Trail will be published on the "Enjoy Hiking" website and hiking challenge campaign website. The celebration programme

will also be promoted through press releases, posters, collaboration with online celebrities, and through partner organisations' networks and connections.

5. Advice Sought

5.1 Members are invited to comment on the Hong Kong Trail 40th anniversary celebration programme.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
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