

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD
Country Parks 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 country parks.

2. Background

2.1 Since the designation of the first batch of country parks including the Shing Mun, Kam Shan and Lion Rock Country Parks in 1977, this year is the 40th anniversary of the establishment of country parks. At present, a total of 24 country parks and 22 special areas covering some 44,300 hectares of land area have been designated for the purposes of nature conservation, countryside recreation and outdoor education.

2.2 To facilitate the public to visit and enjoy our country parks, various facilities including barbecue pits, rain shelters, picnic areas, campsites and toilets are provided. In addition, extensive networks of hiking trails, footpaths and family walks are also established to provide access to different parts of country parks for visitors to enjoy the scenic beauty and appreciate the nature and biodiversity. Country parks have been very popular for all sectors of the community and a total of 13 million people visited country parks in 2016.

2.3 To commemorate the 40th anniversary of country parks (CP40), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will organise a series of events from April to December 2017 for the public to participate and celebrate this special occasion.

3. CP40 Celebration Programme

3.1 The theme of the celebration programme is “Country Parks Our Legacy”. It signifies that the Government and the public will join hands to cherish this legacy for nature conservation, countryside recreation and outdoor education, and pass it to our next generations. Relevant partner organisations such as hiking associations and green groups will support and assist in the celebration programme.

3.2 Events planned for the CP40 celebration programme are listed below. More details of the events are given in the Annex.

- (a) Hiking and Planting Day – public tree planting event at Kam Shan and Tai Lam Country Parks;
- (b) Plantation Enrichment Project (PEP) – collaboration with partner non-government organisations to carry out tree planting and maintenance work at PEP sites with public involvement;
- (c) Excursion with Experts – guided tours led by experts of AFCD and partner organisations to explore the biodiversity, geology, war relics and cultural heritage of country parks;
- (d) “Country Parks 40th Anniversary” Roving Exhibitions;
- (e) Nature’s Secret Talk – public lectures about the history and interesting stories of country parks;
- (f) “Joy” us Hiking – a series of hiking events in different country parks;
- (g) Trail Maintenance Workshop – engaging the public in carrying out hands-on maintenance work of hiking trails;
- (h) Go Green Family Camping – a large scale camping event for families with young children; and
- (i) Tai Tong Fun Carnival – a fun day for the public to enjoy in the countryside while appreciating red leaves.

3.3 In organising these events, AFCD will take the opportunity to promulgate to the participants the concepts of biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability, “Leave No Trace” and “Take Your Litter Home”.

3.4 To publicise the celebration programme and encourage public participation, AFCD will launch a range of promotional activities, through the CP40 thematic website, press releases, production of videos, advertorials, banners and posters, roving

exhibitions, e-newsletters and social media. Partners and supporting organisations will also assist in spreading the message through their networks and connections.

4. Advice Sought

4.1 Members are invited to comment on the events planned for the CP40 Celebration Programme.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
April 2017

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Under the theme “Country Parks Our Legacy”, the CP40 celebration programme will showcase the significance of country parks in nature conservation, countryside recreation and outdoor education. Details of the events are as follow:

(a) Hiking and Planting Day

AFCD will organise the “Hiking and Planting Day” on 9 and 23 April 2017 to raise public awareness of nature conservation and tree preservation. Since the designation of the first batch of country parks in 1977, AFCD has been managing the country parks to protect the diverse fauna and flora and tree planting has been an important conservation work in country parks. The celebration programme will be kick-started with “Hiking and Planting Day” held in Kam Shan Country Park, one of the first batch of country parks. The public will take part in nature conservation work by planting a seedling of native tree species in the Plantation Enrichment Project site, and contribute to enhancing the biodiversity of the country parks.

AFCD will provide seedlings and tree planting tools to participants joining the “Hiking and Planting Day”. The country parks volunteers will also provide guidance and technical support to the participants. Details are as follows:

Date	Location
9 Apr 2017 (Sun)	Kam Shan Country Park (Roundabout of Golden Hill Road)
23 Apr 2017 (Sun)	Tai Lam Country Park (Tai Lam Chung Country Trail)

(b) Plantation Enrichment Project

Whilst exotic plantations established in the early stage of afforestation are proven to perform particularly well in land rehabilitation and soil erosion control, they have been facing some problems such as dead, aging, lack of growing space and slow natural regeneration of native plants, etc. Hence, AFCD launched the “Country Parks Plantation Enrichment Project (PEP)” in 2009 to increase

biodiversity and ecological value of exotic plantations. Enrichment measures include thinning of aging exotic tree species, planting of native tree seedlings and post-planting maintenance such as weeding, adding fertilizer and pruning. Major native species planted include *Liquidambar formosana*, *Machilus* spp., *Polyspora axillaris*, *Schima superba*, etc. Based on the results of our field investigation in the pilot PEP sites, these habitat enhancement measures could effectively enhance the diversity of plants in the PEP sites.

This year, AFCDD will launch a pilot scheme by inviting partner NGOs to carry out tree planting and maintenance work at PEP sites while AFCDD will provide technical support. The partner NGOs will engage different sectors of the community and the public in support of the nature conservation work.

(c) Excursion with Experts

In May to December 2017, AFCDD will organise a series of guided tours led by experts of AFCDD and partner organisations to explore the biodiversity, geology, war relics and cultural heritage of country parks. The activities involve both land and boat tours, as well as daytime and evening tours, and will bring about fascinating outdoor experience to participants. Participants will also visit the workshop and nursery of AFCDD to know more about the management and conservation work of country parks.

(d) “Country Parks 40th Anniversary” Roving Exhibitions

Starting from June 2017, AFCDD will organise roving exhibitions in 6 popular shopping malls to promote the Country Parks 40th Anniversary. The history and milestones of country parks over the years as well as the rich natural assets and magnificent sceneries of country parks will be manifested through photos, videos, virtual reality videos, games and other exhibits.

(e) Nature’s Secret Talk

AFCDD will conduct 6 sessions of public talks from June to August, 2017. The topics cover the history, war relics, biodiversity, sceneries and interesting stories of country parks.

(f) “Joy” us Hiking

To promote hiking fun, AFCDD will organise a series of six hiking events from October to December, 2017 in different country parks. Apart from hiking, side events would be organised to promote nature and biodiversity conservation and

appreciation, as well as to promote the amenity value of country parks. It is also a celebration event for the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.

Details are as follows:

Date	Location	Route & Distance for Whole Journey
8 Oct 2017	Tai Tam and Tai Tam (Quarry Bay Ext.) Country Parks	Tai Tam → Eastern Nature Trail → Quarry Bay (Around 6 km)
22 Oct 2017	Plover Cove Country Park	Wu Kau Tang → Lai Chi Wo → Sheung Ha Mui Tin → Wu Kau Tang (Around 13 km) (Escape route is provided at Lai Chi Wo)
5 Nov 2017	Tai Lam Country Park	Tai Lam Chung Reservoir Main Dam → Tai Lam Nature Trail → Sham Tseng (Around 9 km)
19 Nov 2017	Lantau South Country Park	Pak Kung Au → Lantau Trail Section 2 → Nam Shan BBQ Area Site No 1 (Around 6.5 km)
3 Dec 2017	Shing Mun Country Park	Shing Mun Reservoir → Jogging Trail → Reservoir Walk → Pineapple Dam Nature Trail (Around 8.7 km)
17 Dec 2017	Sai Kung East Country Park	Sai Wan Pavilion → Sai Wan → Pak Tam Au (Around 12 km) (Escape route is provided at Chek Keng)

(g) Trail Maintenance Workshop

Like veins in the wilderness, networks of hiking trail in country parks connect nature with human in all directions. AFCD will carry out trail maintenance workshops in November and December, 2017 for the participants to learn about the cause and impact of soil erosion on the trails, management and maintenance method, as well as understand the importance of trail conservation and how to use them in a sustainable way. Since labour work such as use of digging tools and heavy lifting is required for trail maintenance, participants must be physically fit adults with good outdoor experience, and attended the trail maintenance briefing seminar.

(h) Go Green Family Camping

Camping has become a popular outdoor activity in recent years. To promote the environmentally friendly outdoor activity, AFCD and Scout Association of Hong

Kong will jointly organise the “Go Green Family Camping” in West Dam of Sai Kung East Country Park on 25-26 November, 2017. The event is targeted to families with young children and is expected to accommodate 1,000-1,200 participants. Participants will take delights in outdoor activities, e.g. night show, stargazing, guided tour, workshop and other family activities. Through the activities, the event aims to promote environmentally responsible outdoor practice. A series of videos will be produced to promulgate waste reduction during camping. The event is also a celebration event for the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.

(i) Tai Tong Fun Carnival

AFCD will organise a 2-day carnival from 31 December 2017 to 1 January 2018 in Tai Tong, Tai Lam Country Park. A closing ceremony cum outstanding volunteer award presentation ceremony will be held on the first day of the carnival as a finale of CP40 Celebration Programme, and prizes will be presented to volunteers and supporting organisations. The carnival features a series of outdoor family activities. The public could also take the opportunity to admire red leaves in Tai Tong Sweet Gum Plantation and celebrate the new year with families and friends.