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Journalist	IMRAN HILMY	AdValue	RM 39,067
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 117,201



Upcoming park: Cyclists and joggers use the lane near the piece of land along Sungai Pinang that will soon be transformed into a green park. — LIM BENG TATT/ The Star

More urban *green lungs*

The Penang government has earmarked a 1.2ha space along the Sungai Pinang riverbank for a neighbourhood park to provide yet another public avenue for recreation and relaxation. It is expected to be ready by July next year. >3

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Riverside park in the pipeline

RM1.6mil green project to be built along Sungai Pinang



Chow (front) doing a walkabout around the vicinity after performing the groundbreaking ceremony for the upcoming neighbourhood park in Lebuah Sungai Pinang 7 in Penang.



A cyclist passing by the empty plot of land in Lebuah Sungai Pinang 7 that will be converted into a green neighbourhood park.

By **IMRAN HILMY**
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RESIDENTS living in apartments nearby Lebuah Sungai Pinang 7 in Penang will be able to enjoy their very own recreational park soon.

The 1.21ha (3acres) park costing RM1.6mil is located along the Sungai Pinang river bank and next to an apartment and vacant land.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said the pilot project by Penang Stadium and Open Area Corporation (PSDKLPP) was part of the state government's efforts to increase recreational and public amenities at empty spaces in urban areas with scarce land area.

"The objective of this project is to convert available empty spaces to a neighbourhood park in town that has various leisure amenities and which can be used by people living around the area," he said at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Lebuah Sungai Pinang 7 neighbourhood park on Sunday.

He said residents can indulge in

healthy activities once the park opens next year.

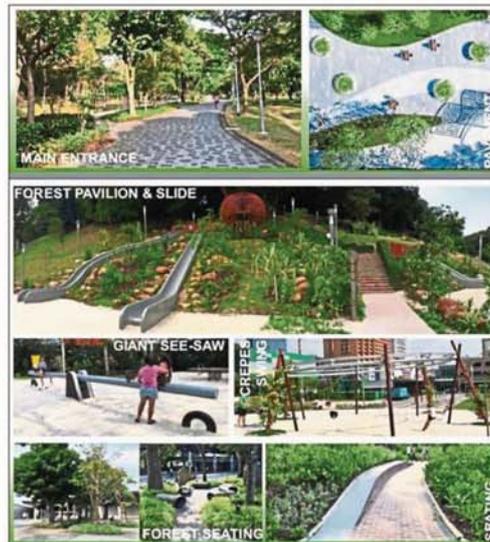
Chow said the project was mooted during the budget presentation of the state legislative assembly sitting in November last year.

The project is expected to be completed in July 2021 and will be equipped with various amenities including 100 car parks.

It will have nine main components including a trees bank which will have trees originating from the state such as Jelutong, Ara, Penaga Laut and Malayana being planted there.

Other components will be a therapeutic park, an open square, a silver garden, Forest Theme Astaka, garden exercise equipment, a recreational field and a butterfly farm.

Earlier, state sports and youth committee chairman Soon Lip Chee said PSDKLPP personnel had gone to the Forest Research Institute (FRIM) to gather support and cooperation in an effort to create a unique neigh-



An artist's impression showing the green concept and amenities to be built at the neighbourhood park.

bourhood park.

"During our visit, we managed to get tree saplings that are native to the state, and will be planted at the neighbourhood park," he said.

Soon, who is PSDKLPP chairman, believes that the park will not only be a destination for recreational and sports activities, but also a place where visitors can learn about trees native to Penang.

Present during the groundbreaking ceremony were Jelutong MP RSN Rayer, Sungai Pinang assemblyman Lim Siew Khim and north-east district officer Rosli Halim.

Meanwhile, Chow urged the public to always adhere to the

standard operating procedures (SOPs) as advised by the government in an effort to prevent being infected by the Covid-19 virus.

He noted that there was no other way to avoid getting infected other than adhering strictly to the SOPs.

"It shows how important is the SOP in acting as a "vaccine" at this stage in our efforts to prevent and curb the virus outbreak," he said.

Chow added that enforcement teams would not hesitate in shutting down any business premises found flouting the SOPs.

He said enforcement operations so far in the state had been consistent with premises inspected recording a 99% compliance rate.