

Waterfront Lifestyle Development Milestones

- 1977 – Then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew shares vision of Singapore becoming a beautiful garden city with a clean river flowing through it. Singapore River clean-up programme commences
- 1987 – Singapore River transformed into a clean, pollution-free, stench-free water body. Marine life returns to the river.
- February 2004 - Public Utilities Board allows sailing at Lower Seletar Reservoir; recognizes that our reservoirs, the reservoir parks and the Central Water Catchment reserve as a valuable recreational resource. PUB will continue to work closely with Singapore Sports Council to introduce more water-based activities in our water bodies.
- June 2004 – Marina Barrage Project commences. To be completed by end 2007, project will dam up Marina Bay to form a reservoir for drinking water. Reservoir will offer opportunities for lifestyle, recreational and sports activities in the heart of the city.
- March 2005 – Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew launches the start of the construction of the Marina Barrage. Besides acting as a tidal barrier to separate the Marina reservoir from the sea, barrage will also enable Singaporeans to enjoy a variety of water sports like canoeing and water skiing all year round.
- March 2005 – Launch of The Paddle Lodge, the new kayaking centre at MacRitchie Reservoir. PUB will look into introducing more water-based activities in other reservoirs such as Bedok, Pandan, Upper Seletar and Lower Seletar.
- July 2005 – The Urban Redevelopment Authority unveils the new “Marina Bay” brand, focusing on people and how they explore, exchange and entertain in the Marina Bay area. URA actively encourages the staging of public events and celebrations on and around the water.
- August 2005 – Public Utilities Board launches Waters Programme to nurture ownership of water resources. Individuals or groups can “adopt” and take care of any of the nine reservoirs, five reservoir parks and about 30 waterways available and organize activities in and around the waters.
- February 2007 – PUB unveils plans for islandwide transformation of Singapore’s waters. Plans will see utilitarian infrastructural assets such as drains, canals and reservoirs transforming into clean and beautiful streams, rivers and lakes teeming with life and vibrancy.
- June 2007 – Announcement of new Sports Hub to include water sports centre. New proposals to include plans to make Kallang Basin a more attractive area for water sports and recreational activities.

August 2007 – WaterFest Singapore 2007 brings water sports and the waterfront lifestyle closer to Singaporeans with a range of water sports and water-related activities during 6-week long festival.

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“Our waterways should do more than just meet our water needs. They should also enhance our living environment and lifestyle... In the past we protected our water resources by keeping people away from them; now, we will bring people closer to water so that they will enjoy and cherish it more.”

- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong,
at the ABC Waters Exhibition on 6 February 2007