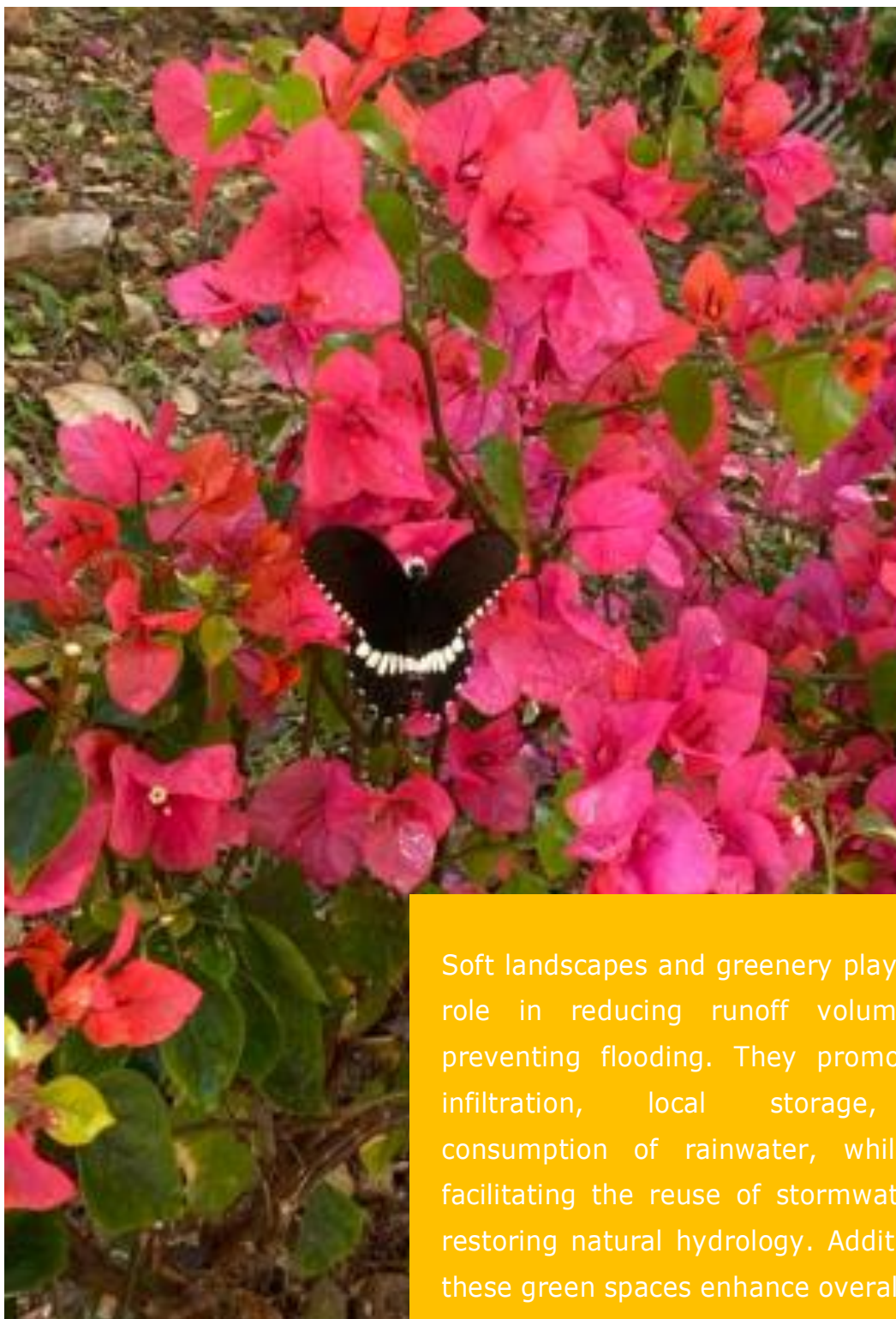


## LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGY



Soft landscapes and greenery play a vital role in reducing runoff volume and preventing flooding. They promote the infiltration, local storage, and consumption of rainwater, while also facilitating the reuse of stormwater and restoring natural hydrology. Additionally, these green spaces enhance overall green coverage, provide recreational areas, and mitigate urban heat island effects. Furthermore, they improve connectivity to green spaces and support biodiversity.

## SPECIES – FLORA AND FAUNA

### Natural Habitat

A mix of flowering trees and shrubs were planted on campus to create a more comfortable and relaxing environment for staff and students to enjoy and help attract different species of fauna including butterflies, birds and bees.

### Conservation and Preservation

166 native trees were planted behind HSUHK Jockey Club Residential Colleges (RCs), Yuen Campus in the spring of 2024 to compensate for problematic trees. With a view of increasing biodiversity and ecological values on our campus, 14 species of native trees with flowers including 秋楓 *Bischofia javanica*, 樟 *Cinnamomum camphora* and 鐵東青 *Ilex rotunda* etc were chosen. Additionally, the tree planting initiative mitigated the soil erosion on the slopes behind RCs.



*Bischofia javanica* (秋楓)



*Ilex rotunda* (鐵東青)



## MONITORING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Our arborist and the landscaping team carry out routine tree inspection and pest control to identify any early symptoms of deterioration in trees and prevent pest diseases on trees. Sometimes, advanced assessment (Level 3) including Tomograph and Resistograph for the trees are used to detect, measure and visualise the wood structure of the concerned part of the trees to assist in determining their overall structural conditions. Meanwhile, regular tree pruning is carried out in order to promote strong and stable tree structures.



- Beautification works including the replacement of old/dead shrubs in different areas are conducted in the winter. It provides visual interest throughout the seasons and develops the habitats for fauna.



- Training for Organic Farm Users

On the first day of training, our staff introduced new applicants to the theory and information related to planting. From the outset, they engaged in practical learning activities, including weeding, sowing, watering, and pest control. By the end of the training, they will acquire the basic knowledge needed to manage a plot effectively.





- Introduction of electric tools in the Landscape Team

Two new electric lawn trimmers were introduced for trimming the lawn, replacing the previous petroleum-powered option. This change significantly reduces noise and air pollution during operation, and also helps lower the campus's carbon footprint.



- EcoTrail Programme sponsored by Hang Seng Bank

The University is fully committed to driving the EcoTrail Programme, including offering of guided eco-tours of our campus and production of online educational information, all in line with the shared objective of promoting environmental sustainability and biodiversity in our natural environment. These tours would be led by trained student docents, who would have the opportunity to practice and deepen their knowledge of the flora and fauna on campus.

In academic year 2023/24, 2 EcoTrail Tours were held for participants, including staff, students and alumni of the University and invited guests and staff of Hang Seng Bank. The response from participants was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the effectiveness of the tours in educating the community about the university's sustainability practices and the rich biodiversity present on campus.



- Bamboo

Bamboo is known as a fully sustainable plant in development because it sequesters up to 12 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> gases per hectare and releases over 35% oxygen to the atmosphere which is an environmentally friendly material for innovation construction and development.

- i) Bamboo in Plantation

For better protection of our environment, it is suggested planting much more different bamboo species, in addition to planting trees and shrubs, would promote biodiversity and awareness of the public because the growth condition of bamboo is much simpler and thus its growth rate in general is ten times more rapid than trees. This characteristic of growth in bamboo results in the restoration of our ecological condition.

Most of the [bamboo species](#) are planted around the Southern side of the Residential College, part of the bamboos are planted around the main campus areas and on the roof top of the academic buildings.



## ii) Bamboo in Construction

Bamboo is also a renewable material being used as the primary material for furniture, flooring, acoustic wall panel, decking, etc. throughout campus where applicable. This principle has also been applied to the new building, Creative Humanities Hub.

