

Legislative Council Panel on Housing

Development of Choi Hei Road Park a community park converted from an abandoned quarry

Purpose

This paper is to brief Members on the development of the Choi Hei Road Park adjoining Choi Fook Estate and Choi Tak Estate, being a part of the comprehensive development of Choi Wan Road public housing development in the Jordan Valley area.

Background

2. The Jordan Valley area, originally an old quarry standing on the fringe of the densely populated Kowloon Bay region, has been transformed into homes for 35 000 people living in 13 000 flats in 17 domestic blocks in three public rental housing developments, namely Choi Ying, Choi Tak and Choi Fook Estates, collectively known as Choi Wan Road public housing development. Given the barren and rugged nature of the quarry lands, the Housing Authority has determined to develop and integrate the whole area with a “green theme” to reduce the urban heat island effect, and strengthen connectivity between different platforms.

3. The master plan of the development features a grand U-shaped green belt which runs from east to west. In particular, Choi Hei Road Park is a major “green connector” linking Choi Tak and Choi Fook Estates. The Park is linked to the Choi Tak Shopping Centre which, with its stepped garden and landscaped terrace, also forms an integral part of this green eco-walk. The concept of the area made use of the formed platforms as district open space (DOS) to provide a range of recreational facilities to cater for different needs of residents. The location plan of the DOS is shown at **Annex 1**. With Members’ support, we sought funding of \$181.6 million from the Finance Committee in February 2008 for the construction of the open spaces which commenced in August 2008 and were completed in January 2010.

The Choi Hei Road Park

4. Choi Hei Road Park with an area of about 13 560 m² provides a theme garden with a meandering leisure walking trail and sitting-out facilities,

a children play area, an elderly fitness area, a Tai Chi garden, a foot massage path, water features and ancilliary facilities including toilet and management office blocks. The location and facilities of the park are shown at **Annex 2**.

5. Choi Hei Road Park is located on an elongated sloping platform between public housing developments with a level difference of about 35m. The site is barren granite bedrock with very little natural vegetation. Its northern part is also occupied by a 12 metre wide drainage reserve serving the Choi Wan Road development. These significant site constraints posed challenges to the design.

Design Objective and Features

6. The design objective for the Choi Hei Road Park is to create a green belt linking the neighbouring public housing estates with accesses for the disabled and various amenity facilities, and to reinstate the environmental quality of the ex-quarry site as a “Green Connector”. The main features are

- (a) **Leisure walking trail** – To overcome the large level difference on the site and avoid disturbing the existing services under the drainage reserve, a meandering leisure walking trail has been designed with the use of ramps and steel bridges integrated with external steps for convenient access for park users. We have made use of the meandering path to create viewing stations and platforms for various uses and activities. The trail is 660 m long and extends throughout the entire park. We have taken into consideration pedestrian circulation in the disposition of recreational facilities, with respect to the adjoining shuttle lift towers, footpaths, and residential developments to provide an effective circulation network between the park, surrounding housing blocks, and public transport hubs;
- (b) **Conservation of existing natural granite** – The design theme of a “Geopark” has been adopted to conserve the natural granite, which is a rock type commonly found in Hong Kong. Indigenous granite specimens and information boards are displayed along the walking trail. Apart from introducing granitic rocks, they also help visitors to appreciate the beauty of the rocks and enrich their understanding about geo-conservation and geology;

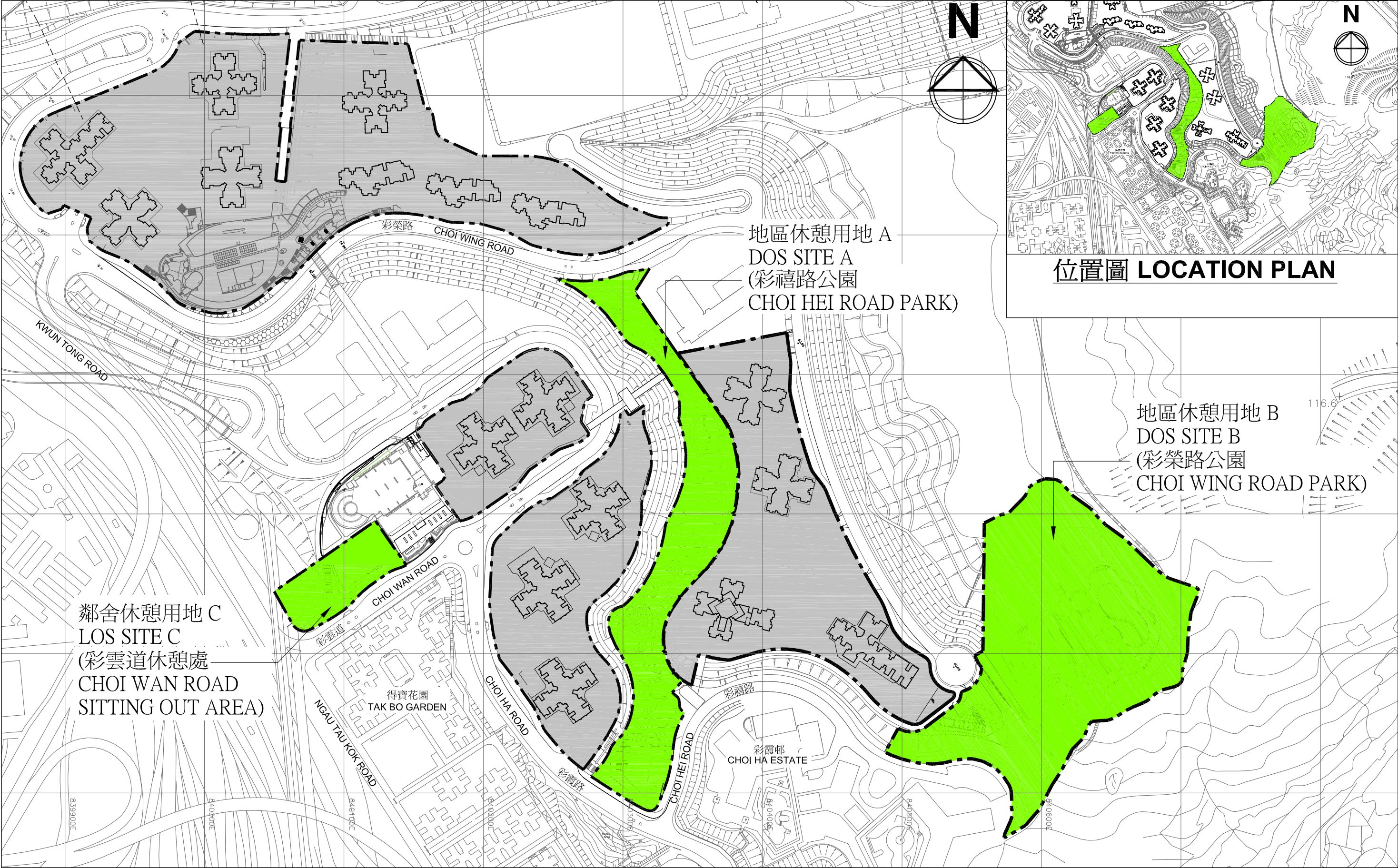
- (c) **Extensive tree transplanting** – Mass tree and shrub planting have been provided along the periphery of the Park offering shade and amenity areas for visitors. In particular, the project has included 91 mature trees including *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, *Lagerstroemia speciosa*, and *Crateva religiosa* which were transplanted from another public works project. Planting in an ex-quarry site, is a particular challenge. After site formation, the DOS site was largely barren with no vegetation and there was a distinct lack of a topsoil layer. We remove top 900 mm existing bedrock for pre-design tree planting locations, backfilled with decomposed granite and soil conditioners for later-stage planting works. This measure enabled us to carry out large tree planting for screening and amenity tree planting at strategic locations. We have created localized soil mounds for massive tree and shrub plantings for a series of spatial effect to the sloping site; and
- (d) **Sustainable design** – The design of the public toilet blocks made best use of natural lighting and ventilation to reduce energy consumption. Greening opportunities have also been maximized by having at-grade planters inside the public toilets and roof greening to building blocks. Solar lamps at key locations provide necessary illumination as well as promoting environmental awareness.

7. Since its opening for public use in July 2010, the Park has been well received by the public, becoming a popular recreational area in the district as well as a “Green Connector” linking the housing clusters situated at different platforms.

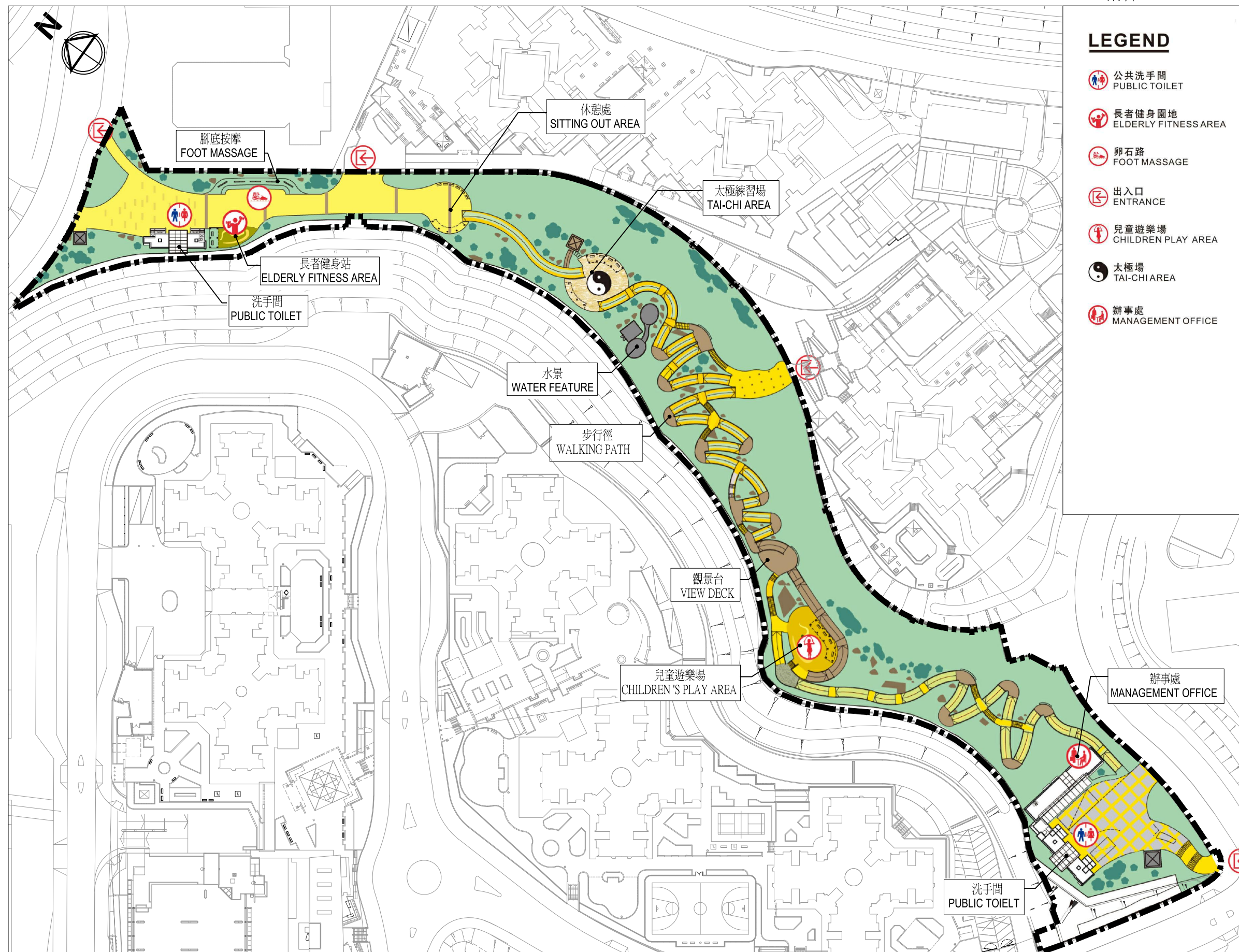
Way Forward

8. We will continue to liaise with other Government departments to deliver housing-related infrastructure projects to meet the public housing production programme for green and healthy living and reduction in urban heat island effect, which in turn contribute to the sustainable development of Hong Kong.

Transport and Housing Bureau
December 2011



毗鄰彩雲道公共房屋發展項目的地區及鄰舍休憩用地 - 位置圖
DISTRICT AND LOCAL OPEN SPACES ADJOINING CHOI WAN ROAD PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
- LOCATION PLAN



LEGEND

-  公共洗手間
PUBLIC TOILET
-  長者健身園地
ELDERLY FITNESS AREA
-  卵石路
FOOT MASSAGE
-  出入口
ENTRANCE
-  兒童遊樂場
CHILDREN PLAY AREA
-  太極場
TAI-CHI AREA
-  辦事處
MANAGEMENT OFFICE

彩禧路公園 - 平面圖
CHOI HEI ROAD PARK - LAYOUT PLAN