

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSTB272**

**(Question Serial No. 2493)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

To beautify the cityscape, the Government will focus on the development of the Shing Mun River and Yuen Long Nullah into flower viewing hotspots. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

- the details of such developments, including their specific locations and the species of vegetation to be planted;
- the estimated expenditure;
- the anticipated completion times;
- whether the Government has assessed the impacts of weather conditions on such developments, given that riverside locations are exposed to stronger wind during extreme climate conditions like typhoons. If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

To dovetail with the “Shining City Project” as mentioned in the Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has, since mid-2023, planned for phased delivery of cityscape beautification projects in areas along the Shing Mun River and around Yuen Long Nullah to develop such areas into flower viewing hotspots by extensively planting flowering trees and shrubs, thereby further enhancing the quality of cityscape and riverscape.

The scope of the beautification project along the Shing Mun River will mainly cover its northern shore in vicinity of the amphitheatre and viewing terrace of Sha Tin Park, and its southern shore along the section between Sand Martin Bridge and Shing Mun River Promenade Garden No. 1. Under the project, flowering trees such as *Bauhinia variegata* and *Tabebuia chrysantha*, various species of flowering shrubs and herbaceous perennials

including Cosmos, Begonia, Angelonia, Tagetes, Antirrhinum, Ipomoea, Petrea and Hibiscus will be planted at the said locations.

The beautification project for areas around the Yuen Long Nullah will mainly include planting of flowering shrubs and plants such as *Bougainvillea spectabilis* and *Bougainvillea glabra* at the roadside flowerbeds from Long Ping MTR Station to Ma Tong Road, as well as setting up a floral archway at an appropriate location near the roadside flowerbeds outside Long Ping MTR Station, where a collection of riotous flowers, such as Bougainvilleas, Cosmos, Angelonia, Hydrangea and Begonia, will be planted in creation of an arcade adorned with flowers. Besides, the LCSD will place flower racks and pots on both sides of the Nullah for planting Bougainvilleas to further enhance the quality of the landscape, thereby developing the site into a flower viewing hotspot.

Such 2 beautification projects are anticipated to be completed in mid-2024. The estimated expenditure will be approximately \$10 million, covering the costs related to the removal of senescent *Acacia confusa*, transplant of some trees and plants to make room for enhanced landscaping layout, formation of flowerbeds, provision of gardening features such as floral archways and rockeries, purchase and planting of flowering trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials, as well as maintenance work.

In planning for the beautification projects and selecting plant species, the LCSD has strictly adhered to the guideline of “Right Plant, Right Place” issued by the Development Bureau by selecting those species suitable for planting in light of the actual circumstances and conditions. The LCSD will conduct inspections on growth of trees, carry out maintenance work and implement risk mitigation measures as appropriate before wet season. The LCSD will also make immediate tree inspections after inclement weather to check their conditions and carry out maintenance work as necessary.

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