

Butterfly trail taking off at Orchard Road

GLAMOUR girls strutting down Orchard Road will face competition from the beauties of the insect world as the Butterfly Trail takes flight.

So far, 24 butterfly species have been observed around the trail, which features clusters of greenery selected to attract butterflies. The trail will run from the Botanic Gardens to Napier, Tanglin and Orchard roads.

Spearheaded by Nature Society (Singapore) and sponsored by property developer Far East Organization, it is expected to be completed by December next year.

It is hoped that 54 of Singapore's 280 butterfly species will be attracted to the area.

The second major stop was added to the trail yesterday at the Orchard Central mall rooftop and Penang Road Open Space, next to Killiney Road Post Office. The Nassim Road stop, opposite The St Regis Singapore, was launched in June.

There will be five major stops along the trail. The other three to be developed

are the area behind Ngee Ann City, the space opposite the Istana and a third at Stamford Green.

The Nature Society hopes that the 4km Orchard Road section is just the start.

President Shawn Lum said: "The challenge is to create stepping stones of green areas for the butterflies, green corridors through the city. The grand plan would be to have these trails across the island."

He added that Pearl's Hill City Park, behind Outram Park MRT station, and Mount Faber could be extensions to the trail.

Mr Anuj Jain, a project officer with the society, said the members hoped to entice the black and yellow common bird wing butterfly from the forests out into the shopping district and to designate it as Singapore's national butterfly.

A butterfly breeding garden was also opened on the rooftop of Orchard Central and is open to the public.

VICTORIA VAUGHAN



Students (from left) Poh Gin Teng, Somasundaram Alagu and Ho Ting En from Raffles Girls' School (Secondary) plant a tree yesterday at the Penang Road Open Space, part of the Butterfly Trail, which is expected to be completed by December next year. ST PHOTO: AIDAH RAUF