

# NATURE WALK @ TAMPINES ECO GREEN



On 22<sup>nd</sup> July, brother Teh K P and I joined a group from the Jurong Central Community Sports Club on a trip to Tampines ECO Green for a short Nature Walk. It was simple enjoyment of a relaxing time of fellowship with each other while having a good morning exercise and exploring a place we had never

been to before.



The Tampines ECO Green is just a modest patch of nature preserved and surrounded by housing blocks within the Tampines HDB Estate. For nature lovers who lament the destruction of nature by man and its replacement by concrete jungles, the small patch of green for people to enjoy some

nature recreation observing the flora and fauna in their natural habitat is little consolation. Reason: Even this small patch of nature's greenery is being encroached on by fresh construction work (as you can see in the picture). It dawned upon me how ravenous man is in his urge to destroy nature in favour of man-made conveniences.

In 2014, Pope Francis said about destruction of the natural environment:

"To destroy creation is to say to God, 'I don't like it.' "

"This must be our attitude toward creation: safeguarding it. If not, if we destroy creation, creation will destroy us. Don't forget that!"

How will we be destroyed by our destruction of creation?

The pressure of relentless population growth in Singapore demands more nature's space to be vacated for human constructions. There might be little or no nature's green left for our near-future generations to reflect on God's creation (the beauty of life in all its forms) – when all they can see become man-made and all the knowledge they have is about the works of human unimaginativeness. Therefore, they become hindered from understanding, "through creation

[nature], the greatness of the love of God and his profound relationship with every creature."

"The Bible tells us that God's revelation through nature and through Scripture each have their place. The natural world gives plain evidence of the glory and power of God. (Psalm 19)" - *Holman Concise Bible Commentary*

Go ye, therefore, to study nature and not restrict yourself to Scripture solely. There is much we can gain spiritually to know God through His creation. Those of us who don't have the prospect of travelling abroad to smell the roses of nature, we still can explore the diminishing nature here in Singapore a.s.a.p. before they disappear into concrete.

*John Lee*