

DAY ONE: 15 OCTOBER 2026, THURSDAY

TRACK 1: ARBORICULTURE / HORTICULTURE

TRACK 2: PLAY / RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

9:00

OPENING REMARKS

9:30 Introduction and Application of SS 724

Synopsis

Tan Chin Peng, Deputy Director - Streetscape, NParks

Insights from NParks Nature Playgardens

This presentation introduces NParks' Parks for Health (PfH) framework and Nature Playgarden (NPG) as a therapeutic landscape that benefits children's overall well-being. It examines the end-to-end value of nature play spaces — from design and implementation to maintenance and programming — and what this means for the landscape industry. The session closes with a call to industry partners to raise the bar in curating richer, and more meaningful nature play experiences for communities.

Nur Syuhada Limat, Deputy Director - Design, NParks

10:30 Working Safely Outdoors: Managing Risks in Landscape & Arboriculture

In an increasingly connected and transparent world, strengthening organisational safety culture requires linking structured risk governance with dynamic field intelligence. This presentation builds on the established foundations of safety management — from the Enterprise Risk Management framework and performance monitoring to multi-channel stakeholder feedback — while addressing emerging challenges and opportunities.

The session explores how AI technologies are transforming site audits and hazard identification, creating greater operational visibility alongside new risk governance demands. Complementing technological innovation, the presentation emphasises frontline empowerment and the workers' role as the first line of defence.

Ken Lee, Director - EPRM, NParks

Public Park and Playground Safety for Landscape Architects and Designers

This session will present a visual synopsis of the current best practices and design trends that have emerged in North America and elsewhere around the world focusing on a list of current American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) Test Methods, Practices, Guides, and Performance Standards for various recreational facilities.

Learning Outcomes: What you should know in today's market to protect YOU whether you are the owner, designer/landscape architect, installer, safety compliance inspector, and most of all the public.

Ken Kutska / IPSI

11:30

LUNCH

13:00 Tree Risk Assessment: Practical Risk Factors Calibration

This interactive field workshop is designed to improve the consistency, accuracy, and defensibility of tree risk assessments through practical calibration of the three core tree risk factors: Likelihood of Failure, Likelihood of Impacting, and Consequences of Failure. Participants will assess a variety of trees by presented photos, compare their evaluations with peers, and discuss the rationale behind different risk ratings.

Guided by the instructor, the session will explore how tree defects, site conditions, target occupancy, and environmental factors influence risk assessments. Emphasis will be placed on reducing subjective variation, improving professional judgment, and applying a consistent methodology aligned with industry best practices.

Through hands-on exercises, group discussions, and instructor-led calibration, participants will strengthen their confidence in making objective, evidence-based tree risk management recommendations that are both technically sound and practically defensible.

Samuel Ma / ISA

Inclusive Play

Synopsis

Judy & Magical Bridge

14:00 Rooted in Place: Singapore's Native Plants in the City

Singapore is one of the greenest cities in the world, but how well do we really know the plants that make it so? This talk makes the case for looking more closely at what has always grown here — and why Singapore's native flora deserves a more prominent place in how we plan, design, and manage our urban green spaces.

Native plants are not just an ecological choice. They are species that have evolved over thousands of years in Singapore's specific conditions — its soils, climate, light, and rainfall patterns. Understanding where they come from and how they grow in the wild gives us valuable insight into how they perform in the city, and how to use them more effectively and sustainably in urban landscapes.

Through a curated selection of native species — from swamp forest trees and coastal climbers to pioneer shrubs — this talk explores the relationship between natural habitat and urban application. Live plants will be brought in for a hands-on show-and-tell, giving participants the opportunity to see and engage with the species being discussed up close.

Ng Xin Yi, Senior Manager - Native Plant Centre, NParks

HDB Play Values Framework

The HDB Play Values Framework represents a significant enhancement to public playground design. Launched as part of HDB's commitment to creating holistic living environments, this framework shifts from traditional equipment-focused playground planning to a comprehensive child development-centred approach.

As play is fundamental to children's physical, social, and cognitive development, HDB developed this framework in consultation with early childhood specialists, healthcare professionals, playground specialists, parents and children. The framework establishes clear guidelines for playgrounds in precinct and in parks to promote diverse play experiences that support children's overall growth and well-being.

Derek Loei, Principal Landscape Architect, HDB

15:00

TEA BREAK

15:30 The Living Landscape: From Design Intent to Long Term Performance

Good design does not, on its own, deliver successful landscapes. The true measure of landscape performance lies in how spaces establish, adapt, function, and continue to thrive over time. Yet gaps often remain between design intent, implementation realities, maintenance practices, and long-term stewardship.

This session explores how the landscape industry can better align the full landscape value chain; from concept and specification through to construction, maintenance, operations, and landscape maturity. Drawing from professional practice and industry ground sensing, it reflects on the practical challenges shaping landscape outcomes today, including maintainability, plant resilience, biodiversity aspirations, operational constraints, manpower realities, and climate responsiveness.

As demands on our landscapes continue to grow, stronger collaboration between designers, contractors, and maintenance teams becomes increasingly critical. The session shares perspectives, lessons, and opportunities to move beyond short term project delivery towards healthier, more resilient, and enduring landscapes for Singapore.

Yvonne Tan, President, Singapore Institute of Landscape Architect

15:30 - 17:00

Fireside with Singapore Playground Social Media Influencers

Synopsis

16:30 From Design to Maintenance: Closing the Gap in Landscape Performance

Green walls and green roofs are increasingly recognized as essential components of sustainable urban infrastructure, offering innovative solutions to mitigate the environmental impacts of rapid urbanization and climate change. Beyond enhancing the aesthetic value of buildings, these living systems improve thermal performance, reduce the urban heat island effect, enhance air quality, support biodiversity, and contribute to effective stormwater management. Their successful implementation, however, requires careful planning, appropriate system selection, and a commitment to long-term maintenance.

This presentation examines the principles, applications, performance, and maintenance requirements of green walls and green roofs from a landscape industry perspective. It compares the various green wall and roof systems, discusses key design considerations, and highlights the importance of selecting suitable plant species, growing media, irrigation systems, and structural support. Particular emphasis is placed on the operational challenges commonly encountered, including irrigation failures, drainage issues, waterproofing integrity, structural loading, plant health management, pest control, and lifecycle maintenance. The session also explores best practices for inspection, preventive maintenance, and performance monitoring to ensure the longevity and effectiveness of these green infrastructure systems. Practical recommendations and industry case examples will illustrate how well-designed and properly maintained installations can deliver significant environmental, economic, and social benefits throughout their service life.

Designed for landscape architects, arborists, horticulturists, urban planners, facilities managers, engineers, and landscape maintenance professionals, this presentation aims to provide practical knowledge and actionable strategies for successfully implementing and managing green walls and green roofs. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of how these living systems contribute to creating resilient, sustainable, and climate-responsive urban environments.

Khaja Nazimuddeen, General Manager (Horticulture), Changi Airport Group

Little Day Out, Fix Our Playground, SassyMama

DAY TWO: 16 OCTOBER 2026, FRIDAY

TRACK 1: ARBORICULTURE / HORTICULTURE

TRACK 2: PLAY / RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

9:00 Soils for Urban Landscapes

Synopsis

Dr Philip Varughese, Principal Scientist - Plant Science & Health, NParks

10:00 Enhancing biodiversity through landscaping: lessons from Mandai Wildlife

Landscaping is increasingly expected to contribute to biodiversity conservation, but not all interventions deliver the intended ecological outcomes. Using the Mandai Rejuvenation Project as a case study, this lecture explores how ecological principles have been applied across a variety of landscape interventions within a wildlife destination located adjacent to the Central Catchment Nature Reserve.

Examples range from major initiatives such as a wildlife overpass and habitat restoration to smaller-scale efforts including forest corridor planting and pollinator-friendly landscapes. Drawing on implementation and monitoring experience, the lecture will discuss the ecological rationale behind these initiatives, evaluate their effectiveness, and share lessons from both successes and shortcomings.

Participants will gain insights into opportunities, limitations, and key considerations for integrating biodiversity objectives into landscape design and management.

Chua Yen Kheng, Assistant Vice President - Ecology, Mandai Nature

11:00 Plants Identification and Nursery Management

Synopsis

To be determined

Playground Site Visits

12:00

LUNCH

13:00 Beyond Green: Building Urban Landscapes that Survive, Perform and Create

Urban landscapes today must do more than look attractive. They must withstand rising temperatures, intense rainfall, labour constraints and increasing maintenance costs—while delivering measurable benefits for biodiversity, human well-being, climate resilience and business performance. This practical and interactive session challenges landscape professionals to rethink a fundamental question:

Are we simply maintaining plants, or are we managing living infrastructure?

Using the ROOTS Framework, participants will explore how to:

- design climate-resilient and resource-efficient landscapes;
- reduce water use, plant replacement, waste and operating costs;
- measure plant survival, biodiversity, cooling and user benefits;
- apply sensors, digital platforms and AI while preserving horticultural judgement; and
- develop higher-value, outcome-based landscape services.

Through live mobile activities, real-world landscape scenarios and instant AI-generated insights, attendees will diagnose sustainability risks, prioritise interventions and test practical solutions together. Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of emerging opportunities in sustainable urban horticulture, a practical sustainability scorecard and a 90-day action plan that can be applied to an existing project, maintenance contract or business operation. This is not about making landscapes look greener. It is about making them more resilient, measurable, innovative and valuable.

Danny Condecido, CEO, SusTek

14:00 The Journey of a Nurseryman: Cultivating a Legacy for Future Generations

The Journey of a Nurseryman: Cultivating a Legacy for Future Generations is a personal and professional reflection by Alan Burnell, President of the Australian Institute of Horticulture, tracing more than five decades in horticulture—from his childhood in his family's cut flower nursery in Hampshire, England, to national industry leadership in Australia. Alan shares the experiences that shaped his career through nursery production, both as an owner and a manager, retail garden centres, controlled environment growing, New Zealand landscapes, fern nurseries, Kentia palm production, interior plantscaping, advanced tree brokering and major public landscape projects.

Throughout the presentation, Alan reflects on the lessons that deepened his understanding of plants, people, business and place, with a particular focus on the importance of matching plants to the microclimates in which they will thrive. He challenges horticultural professionals to communicate the true value of horticulture beyond the dollar, recognising its economic, social and environmental benefits. The presentation concludes with a call to cultivate a lasting legacy by planting for future generations—and encouraging others to plant trees in whose shade they may never sit.

Alan Burnell, President, Australian Institute of Horticulture

Water Quality Management Principles

This presentation provides aquatic facility operators, maintenance teams, and public health professionals with a practical guide to the safe operation and maintenance of spraygrounds and splash pads in line with Singapore aquatic facility guidance. A focus on industry best practices and real-world case studies will be used to illustrate operator success. Participants will review daily operational checks, filtration and circulation performance, cleaning practices, and documentation needed to support safe public use. The session will emphasize on-site testing for pH and free residual disinfectants before opening, using proper test kits, collecting samples correctly, and keeping proper records for the appropriate time period. For spraygrounds, splash pads, and other aerosol-generating water features, sampling should be taken as near as practicable to the spray nozzle or water feature so results reflect actual user exposure. Water quality discussion will include maintaining effective free chlorine residuals according to regulatory limits, understanding the pH range of 7.2 to 7.8 for reopening after incidents, and recognizing how pH affects disinfection performance. The presentation will also introduce calcium saturation balance, including calcium hardness, alkalinity, pH, temperature, and dissolved solids, to help prevent corrosion, scaling, cloudy water, and premature equipment wear.

Bob Bradley, CEO, Aquatic Consulting & Educational Services LLC

Aquatic Facilities Licensing - Observations, Current state of Compliance Synopsis

NEA Representative, Group Discussion with Bob Bradley, Terrence Lei

15:00

TEA BREAK

15:30 Park for Health Synopsis

Tan Pei Qin, Senior Manager - Therapeutic Horticulture, NParks

NRPA CPSI Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Requirements

The Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) certification, administered by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), now allows certified inspectors to renew their certification through continuing education rather than only retaking the exam.

Patrick Lee & Ken Kutska

16:30 Therapeutic Landscapes and Horticulture: Nature-Based Approaches to Health

Therapeutic landscapes, including therapeutic gardens, are becoming increasingly common in Singapore's social and healthcare settings. These spaces are designed to support well-being by providing restorative environments that encourage meaningful engagement with plants, nature, and outdoor spaces.

When combined with therapeutic horticulture, therapeutic gardens can offer structured opportunities for people to participate in plant-based activities that promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Activities such as planting, pruning, watering, and harvesting can support relaxation, focus, social connection, and a sense of purpose.

Research suggests that gardening and nature-based activities can help reduce stress, improve mood, support mental clarity, and build resilience. In healthcare and community contexts, they may also complement broader care, rehabilitation, and wellness programmes.

This presentation explores how therapeutic landscapes and therapeutic horticulture work together to create supportive environments for healing, inclusion, and everyday well-being. It invites participants to discover how connecting with plants and nature can become a powerful and accessible tool for wellness in Singapore's urban context.

Tham Xin Kai, Programme Lead - Landscape & Architecture, NAFA-UAS

Playground Safety for Landscape Architects and Designers Synopsis

Antonio Malasak / IPSI

DAY THREE: 17 OCTOBER 2026, SATURDAY

MAIN CONFERENCE

8:30	REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST NETWORKING	
9:30	Training, Calibration & Practical Application	Samuel Ma, President Elect, ISA
10:00	Showcase #1 by Black & Decker	
10:30	New Zealand Arboriculture Framework	Richard Wanhill, Arb Innovations
11:00	Showcase #2	
11:15	Australian Institute of Horticulture Experience	Alan Burnell, President, AIH
11:45	WSH Insights: Impact and Innovation	WSHC Representative
12:00	LUNCH	
13:30	GOH Arrival @ Temasek Polytechnic	
13:35	Welcome Address by LIAS	Jacqueline Allan, President, LIAS
13:45	GOH Opening Speech	Mr Alvin Tan, Minister of State, Ministry of National Development
14:00	MOU Signing - AIH x LIAS	
14:10	MOU Signing - TP x LIAS	
14:20	Presentation of Awards by GOH	
14:40	Keynote Presentation	
15:00	Visit of Showcase and Skills Station	
15:00	TEA BREAK	
15:20	PWM/PWCS Programme and Schemes	NTUC
15:40	Transforming WSH Through Technology: Current Innovations and Future Trends for the Landscape Industry	Soh Zhen Yao, Manager - WSH Technology, WSH Institute / Ministry of Manpower
16:00	Workforce Transformation for Landscape Sector	Lee Hau Bin, Manager, Skills & Workforce Development Agency
16:20	Closing by LIAS	
16:30	End of Conference / Industry Networking	