



# TURNING PASSION

## FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION INTO A CAREER

### DID YOU KNOW?

Prince's regularly maintains the parks and highways within the South West District, such as Choa Chu Kang Drive, Choa Chu Kang Park and Tengah Nature Way.



Using greenery to divide the road and pedestrian walkway along Choa Chu Kang Drive.

### JOBS GALORE

Landscaping is broader than you think! Besides plant care technicians, arborists and horticulturists, the industry also requires professionals such as:

- Architects
- Designers
- Engineers
- Administrative professionals

**M**ANY ASSUME THAT LANDSCAPING MERELY INVOLVES PRUNING TREES UNDER THE SCORCHING SUN, but there are actually a variety of other skills required for this profession. Take for example landscape design and installation company, Prince's Landscape & Construction. The company, which has been sprucing up residential, industrial and commercial buildings with greenery for the past 50 years, employs more than 400 staff. To uphold its product and service delivery standards, the company's employees undergo a rigorous training and development programme. Some courses — such as those on worksite arboricultural support, and on chainsaw safety and maintenance — are conducted in-house and accredited under the Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) framework.

### BLOOMING IN A GREEN-SECTOR JOB

As the public becomes more eco-conscious, there is an increased interest in green-sector jobs. "Working with greenery is a largely untapped source of career opportunities among today's younger generation, but it is very promising. Landscaping jobs are not just about planting trees under the hot sun; the possibilities are endless," says Ms Earla Janice Aquino, Corporate Communications and Creative Manager at Prince's. In fact, working with greenery is an often underrated career option. Besides the diversity of job roles, there are opportunities to work in different work settings, both outdoors and indoors, as well as locally and abroad. Several research studies, including one by the Institute for European Environmental Policy that reviewed

You can have an exciting career in companies in the business of keeping our city green.



Above: A manicured landscape along Tengah Nature Way.



Right: A fitness corner among the lush greenery of Choa Chu Kang Park.

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*Ms Earla Janice Aquino,  
Corporate Communications and  
Creative Manager at Prince's.*

over than 200 academic studies, found that close contact with nature is also linked to better mental and physical well-being.

"A person without landscaping knowledge can start as a plant care technician with us. He or she will then be given the opportunity to undergo on-the-job training and in-house courses to upgrade their skills," explains Ms Aquino. Through Prince's Career Progression Scheme, plant care technicians can — with continuous training and experience — be promoted to supervisors and eventually project managers.

### ON THE LOOKOUT FOR TALENT

At the South West SkillsFuture Advice & Green Career Roadshow held on 21 January 2018 at the Hong Kah North Community Club, Prince's was one of the participating employers from the green sector. Residents and jobseekers saw for themselves how high the demand for green-sector jobs is, as more than 200 job openings ranging from landscaping to waste management were offered that day. **B**

**➤ GREEN IS IN!**  
Aspiring to be a green builder? As part of the Building and Construction Authority (BCA)'s Sectoral Manpower Plan, various initiatives are available to boost the employability of individuals in the built environment sector. In addition to structured internships and ITE scholarships for students, one can:

- Undergo the SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Programme, a work-study scheme for fresh ITE and polytechnic graduates.
- Apply for the SkillsFuture Study Award, open to working professionals.
- Tap on their SkillsFuture Credits and choose from 300 built environment courses, such as BCA Academy's Diploma in Facilities Management and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts' Diploma in Design (Landscape and Architecture).

For more information, visit [www.skillsfuture.sg](http://www.skillsfuture.sg).

