

Shanghai aims to become a 'city in the parks' by 2025

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Celine Chanut
From France

Hu Min

It is an ideal afternoon for Russian student Vika and her friend when they can spread a piece of cloth on the beautiful lawn at Jinxiu Cultural Park in the Pudong New Area.

With a gentle breeze, fresh air and the fragrance of grass, they enjoyed a leisurely weekend in a laid-back and relaxed atmosphere.

Vika, who has been in Shanghai for seven years, brought some books to read while her friend took a nap. It only took Vika five minutes to walk to the park from her home.

“It is a good place to enjoy nature,” she said. “I really like walking, and the park is big for walks.”

The expectation of the public for more green spaces has become a reality step by step.

“A ‘park city,’ where residents will see flowers when they open windows and greenways when they walk out, is the pursuit of Shanghai,” said Deng Jianping, director of the

Shanghai Greenery and Public Sanitation Bureau.

Celine Chanut, from France, who has been in Shanghai for a couple of years, is another witness to the changes.

She still remembers there were only a few greenery options near her place when she arrived in Shanghai some 10 years ago.

But now, she can easily take a stroll on a greenway near her home on Tianshan Road in Changning District.

“Shanghai is a well-balanced city, nicely split between green areas and buildings,” she said. “Big changes are obvious along Suzhou Creek and Huangpu River. I like walking by the side of the river.”

Chanut, who has a pet dog, said she hoped that the city would have more green spaces that are pet-friendly.

Shanghai will open 120 new parks every year until 2025, raising the overall number of parks in the city to more than 1,000.

At the end of last year, there were 532 parks in the city,



Along Huangpu River, a number of greenways have mushroomed, injecting new vitality into the area. — Dong Jun

including 103 pocket parks, which are small in size and tucked away among high-rises or along streets.

The city will have an additional 60 pocket parks, 30 urban parks and 30 countryside parks by the end of this year, increasing the total to more than 650.

“The goal is to make green

spaces accessible to all citizens,” said Deng.

According to Deng, several pocket parks will be built or refurbished in the downtown area, and about 50 community-based parks will be established along Suzhou Creek and Huangpu River by 2025.

“Shanghai will be transformed into a ‘city in the parks,’ with increased biological diversity and beautiful landscapes,” he said.

Deng said the parks would incorporate sports and cultural activities like music and art.

So far, 297 parks feature fitness and sports facilities such as basketball courts, soccer fields, tennis courts and locations for bodybuilding exercises and tai chi.

Shanghai has more than 1,300 kilometers of greenway, which is likely to increase to more than 2,000 kilometers by the end of 2035, the city’s greenery authorities said.



Jinxiu Cultural Park



A pocket park near Huangpu River